

# Churchill Junior High School



October/November 2009 Parent Newsletter

Issue 2



*From the principal's desk.....*

Our student achievement continues to improve each year at Churchill Junior High School. One of the most important measures of improvement is the use of cohort data which compares the scores of the same group of students as they transition from grade to grade. As evidenced in the charts, our students, staff, and parents should be very proud of the academic achievements here at CJHS. It is much more difficult to raise test scores from year to year when they are already very good. It is much easier to raise scores when students are not performing to high standards in the previous years. In the upper chart are the group of student's scores on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test who just transitioned to Galesburg High School as freshmen. That class scored very well as sixth graders, and continued to show improvement each year while at Churchill. In their exit year of 2009, 90% of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students met or exceeded standards in reading, and 94% met or exceeded in math on ISAT. Those scores are well above the state averages and are a testament to the hard work of our teachers, the students, and parents in Galesburg. In the lower chart are the results of the students who are now in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Churchill. Their achievement scores rose in both reading and math as 82% of the students met or exceeded in reading and 91% met or exceeded in both math and science. The expectations for academic achievement and behavior are very high at Churchill and we will continue to strive for "Achieving Excellence Together"!!!!!!

*Bart Arthur*  
Principal

## Good To Great

### ● Cohort Comparisons (Class of 09)

● Test year	Grade level	Reading	Math	Science
● 2007	6 <sup>th</sup>	83%	89%	N/A
● 2008	7 <sup>th</sup>	83%	93%	95%
● 2009	8 <sup>th</sup>	90%	94%	N/A

● Reflects % of combined meets/exceeds

## Good To Great

### ● Cohort Comparisons (Class of 09)

● Test year	Grade level	Reading	Math	Science
● 2008	6 <sup>th</sup>	80%	89%	N/A
● 2009	7 <sup>th</sup>	82%	91%	91%
● 2010	8 <sup>th</sup>			

● Reflects % of combined meets/exceeds

**Individual ISAT results will be sent home with students' report cards on October 29. Take the time to discuss areas of strengths and areas for improvement with your child.**

## Parent Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, November 3 from 3:30 PM-7:00 PM**  
**Thursday, November 5 from 3:30 PM-7:00 PM**

Please contact the office at 342-3129 if you would like to schedule an optional conference with your child's teachers.

# FISH Winners



## August FISH Winners

Back row: Mrs. Hoehn (staff)  
and Tyler Esquivel (8th)  
Front row: Jacob McCrery (7th)  
and Cody Stokes (6th)

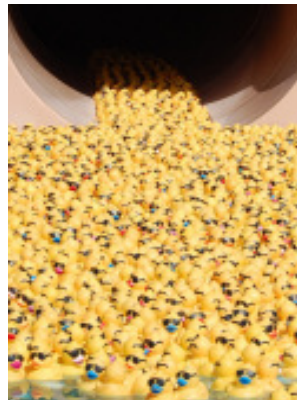


## September FISH Winners

Back row: Tanisia Savage (8th)  
and Mrs. Malcolm (staff)  
Front row: Destiny Zimmerman  
(6th) and Damen McPherrin (7th)

## All Our Ducks In A Row

The Galesburg Public Schools Foundation held their annual Rubber Duck Race on Sunday, September 13. This year Churchill sold 482 ducks (just 18 ducks shy of our 500 duck goal) and placed 2nd in sales. A percentage of each duck sold plus the \$400 second place prize money will go to help programs at Churchill. Additionally, Churchill receives money from the foundation for special projects including Reading @ The Crossroads. Way to go Churchill! Thanks to all who supported this effort.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Illinois passed a law effective July 1st prohibiting the use a wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone or on a highway in a construction or maintenance speed zone.

## Take Charge of Education and Help Churchill



When you use your Target Red Card, Churchill could receive a donation equal to %1 of your purchase. If you have a card, please make sure you designate Churchill as your school of choice. Thank you to those of you who have already enrolled.

## Important Dates

### October

- 7 Fundraiser Kick Off
- 9 No School Teacher's Institute
- 12 No School Columbus Day
- 16 Community Alumni Day
- 20 Fall Choir Concert 7 PM  
Picture Retake Day
- 23 End of First Quarter  
-1:55 Dismissal
- 26-30 Red Ribbon Week

### November

- 3 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30-7:00 PM
- 5 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30-7:00 PM
- 6 No School
- 11 No School Veteran's Day
- 25 1:55 Dismissal
- 26-27 No School-Thanksgiving  
Break

### December

- 18 1:55 Dismissal
- 21-31 No School-Holiday Break

### January

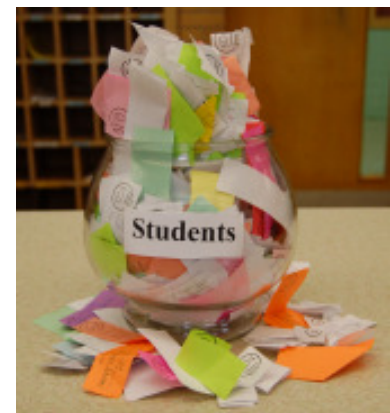
- 1 No School-Holiday Break
- 4 Back to School
- 14 End of Second Quarter
- 15 No School-Teacher's Institute
- 18 No School-Martin Luther King  
Day

### February

- 11 1:55 Dismissal-Teachers'  
Meetings
- 15 No School-President's Day

### March

- 1-12 ISAT Testing
- 19 End of Third Quarter
- 23 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30-7:00 PM
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30-7:00 PM
- 26 No School



The fishbowl overflows with slips containing the names of those students who practice the FISH Philosophy.

## ***New Faces at Churchill Junior High School***



**Mrs. Bower** teaches 2 sixth grade science classes. A Knox College graduate Mrs. Bower did an ACI internship in which she taught 4th grade students from North Lawndale and East Aurora (“The toughest job I ever loved!”)



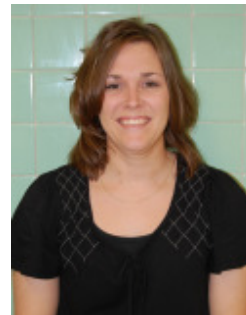
**Ms. Keenan** teaches physical education. She may not be a new face to all here at Churchill. She has taught at Churchill previously and we are very happy she is back. She also coaches 7th grade volleyball here at Churchill.



**Miss McKelvie** teaches math, English, and social studies in our special education department. She graduated from Northern Illinois University and student taught in St. Charles. She is the 7th grade volleyball coach 7th at Lombard.



**Mrs. Carlson** joins the sixth grade blue team as a reading and social studies teacher. She taught previously in Amboy, IL. A graduate of Western Illinois University, Mrs. Carlson’s husband is also a teacher.



**Mrs. Reynolds** joins the sixth grade blue team as a math and social studies teacher. She has taught previously at King and Nielson, South View Middle School in Danville, IL, and Bismarck-Henning Jr. High in Bismarck, IL.

---

## **Community Alumni Day October 16, 2009**

Did you go to Churchill? Would you like to see how things have changed? Would you like to see what happens each day in our classrooms? Here’s your chance.

On Friday, October 16th, we invite you to come and visit us. The day will begin at 9:30 with coffee and rolls with Mr. Arthur, our principal. He will take the opportunity to share some of the amazing things and accomplishments of our school. You’ll then get a chance to visit classrooms and see our teachers and students in action. You could even go to class with your child or grandchild. We’ll even offer you the opportunity to have lunch in the cafeteria.

If you would like to join us or would like more information, please call the District 205 office at 343-5717 by October 13th to sign up.



### **COOKIE!**

October 7th starts our annual Churchill fundraiser. The money raised from this fundraiser is used for field trips, special programs, FISH awards, and ISAT shirts. This year we will be selling cookie dough and Katherine Beich products. Money will be collected at the time of the sale, with delivery November 19th. Turn in dates will be October

13, 16, and 20th. Students have the opportunity to win lunch cut passes, free dance admission, and a chance to spin the money wheel. In addition there will be a party for the advisory with the highest percentage of sales and a special opportunity for the top sellers.

**Show your Churchill  
spirit and pride**

**Churchill T-shirts  
are for sale  
in the office  
\$10**

# Parent Access to Skyward

Churchill Junior High School is pleased to announce that we are implementing a new product called Family Access by Skyward, Inc. Family Access is a secure internet based website that will allow you to easily keep track of nearly everything your student(s) does while at school. Among other things, this new service will allow you to view your student's attendance, grades, schedule, food service balance, progress, emergency information, and it will even allow you to view your student's next year's courses. Family Access is a free service and will be available to all parents with children enrolled in the district. The link to Family Access can be found on the Churchill home page at <http://www.galesburg205.org/churchill/>. In order for you to begin using Family Access, you will need to provide an email address and sign and return the form that was sent home with midterms. By doing so you are authorizing Churchill Junior High School to provide you with your unique login and password.

We are very excited about how Family Access will help you stay informed about your student's progress and hope that we can use this tool to create a stronger relationship between parents and our school community. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bahnks ([tbahnks@galesburg205.org](mailto:tbahnks@galesburg205.org)) or Mrs. Seigny ([kseigny@galesburg205.org](mailto:kseigny@galesburg205.org)) at Churchill Junior High School, 342-3129.

## Additional 2009 ISAT Data

6th grade	Reading	Math	Writing
AW	0	1	4
Below	28	24	28
Meets	102	115	141
Exceeds	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>
% Meets/Exceeds	<b>84%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>86%</b>
7th grade	Reading	Math	Science
AW	0	2	3
Below	26	8	9
Meets	95	91	91
Exceeds	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>
% Meets/Exceeds	<b>82%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>
8th grade	Reading	Math	Writing
AW	0	2	8
Below	17	9	48
Meets	134	107	118
Exceeds	<b>26</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>29</b>
% Meets/Exceeds	<b>90%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>74%</b>

## Important Demographics

### Climate and Culture Change

- Fights in 2004-05 school year=52
- Fights in 2005-06 school year=18
- Fights in 2006-07 school year=16
- Fights in 2007-08 school year=11
- Fights in 2008-09 school year=7

### Students feel safe at Churchill and in their neighborhoods

- 90% of 6th graders
- 86% of 8th graders