

Churchill Junior High School



December 2007

Parent Newsletter
Issue 3

January 2008

Churchill Steps Up!

Two groups at Churchill recently helped organizations outside of our school. The sixth grade blue team collected over 150 cans for the FISH food pantry. Churchill Builder's Club raised \$337 dollars for UNICEF. The money will be used for the orphans of Swaziland. The children are orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic. The three advisories raising the most money were Mrs. Bice's with \$67.77, Mr. Cheesman's with \$33.75, and Mrs. Allison's with \$32.75. Good job Churchill students!



Charles Purifoy, Tori Bledsoe, Alexia Main, and Micaela Creech load canned goods into the FISH truck.



Blas Nache, Sophia Moreno, Kelsey Nemeth, Deanna McFarland, Taylor Bloomgren, Morgan Petri, Alex Pacheco, and the Builder's Club collected funds for UNICEF.



September FISH Winners

Back Row: Mike Harms (7th), Morgan Petri (7th), and Ashlee Gibson (8th) Front Row: Angel Peterson (6th), Emily Nelson (6th) Marlon Beal (8th) and Mrs. Willems (staff)

Absences Do Matter

A widely accepted principle in education is that student absences from school are costly to student learning. In fact, there is recent research that shows that the most significant factor to student achievement on tests like ISAT and PSAT are the patterns of student attendance.

Student attendance also generates funds for our schools. In fact, each day a single student is absent from school costs Galesburg C.U.S.D. #205 \$80.00 IN LOST STATE AID. In addition to that, due to State of Illinois regulations, when a student is tardy or leaves early for as little as 45 minutes the District is required to count them absent for half of a day, costing the District \$40.00 IN LOST STATE AID.

We realize that some absences are unavoidable, but please make sure that your child or children attends school on time whenever possible. Some tips to help us all:

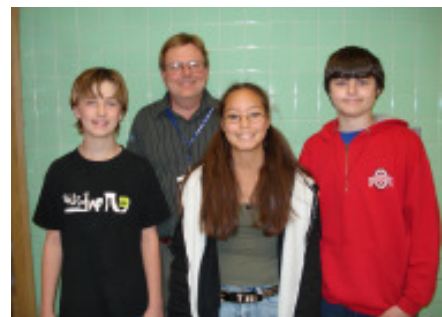
Schedule family vacations for times other than the established school calendar.

Make doctors appointments before or after school.

Focus on getting your child or children to school early as opposed to "right at the bell".

If your child is sick in the morning but feeling better by noon, bring them back to school.

Good attendance is everyone's business. Working together our students can achieve more and our District can maximize its resources.



October FISH Winners

Chance Hengehold (6th), Mr. Ferreter (staff), Winter Garr (8th) and Evan Kelly (7th).

Bicycle Rodeo Held



As another school year began, parents and community members were concerned about the biking habits of students in Galesburg. On October 25, Officer Ingles and Officer McLaughlin of the Galesburg Police Department instructed Churchill Junior High students on the importance of bicycle safety. The students were given an opportunity to complete a “bicycle rodeo” or obstacle course as part of the training. With this knowledge students will be safer when riding to and from Churchill.

Churchill Found Drug Free

On Friday, October 18, 2007 the Galesburg Police Department, with the assistance of the Knox County Sheriff's Department, conducted a police canine search of Churchill Junior High. The search was conducted as a continuing effort by the Galesburg Police Department and District #205 to provide a safe, drug free environment in our schools. The search was a success in that no contraband or drugs were found. The Galesburg Police Department and District #205 are partners in many aspects and future searches can be anticipated.

If you are a parent or guardian of a student who District #205 does not provide transportation to and from school and you are transporting your child to school because you feel a safety or hazardous conditions exists, you may be eligible for reimbursement from the State of Illinois. For more information, please contact the Regional Superintendent's office prior to February 2008.



You may obtain information on registered sexual offenders living within the school district on the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.stateil.us/SOR

Important Dates

December

- 10 7th & 8th grade band concert at GHS 7:30 PM
- 17 Choir Concert 7 PM
- 21 1:55 Dismissal
- 22-31 No School-Holiday Break

January

- 1-2 No School-Holiday Break
- 3 Back to School
- 10 End of Second Quarter
- 11 No School-Teacher's Institute
- 21 No School-Martin Luther King Day

February

- 14 1:55 Dismissal
- 18 No School-President's Day

March

- 3-14 ISAT Testing
- 14 End of 3rd Quarter/1:55 Dismissal
- 18 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 PM
- 20 No School Parent Teacher Conferences 7:45-11:11:15 AM
- 21-28 Spring Break



Churchill Fundraising Winners

(left to right)

- 1st prize – Micayla Eisle
- 2nd prize – Mitchell Fischer
- Drawing winner – Alexis Lummis
- 3rd prize – Talya Squires

Did you know that Churchill has a great website?

You can check the school calendar, read the school newsletter, see what is being offered for lunch, contact teachers, and get helpful hints to make your child's year more successful.



Visit us at www.galesburg205.org/churchill



A New Bluestreak

Mr. Brad Mowen joins the Churchill staff as a full time outreach worker. We previously shared an outreach worker with Lombard. Mr. Mowen’s main focus is working with students with attendance and tardy problems. A native of Roseville, Mr. Mowen attended Western Illinois University where he majored in physical education and sociology. He was a 4 year starter on the men’s volleyball team and coached the WIU Women’s Club volleyball team. He is married and enjoys sports, the outdoors, and being involved in his church. Welcome Mr. Mowen.



Churchill Assemblies

On October 18, Churchill students and faculty had the opportunity to listen to Greg Forbes Siegman who wrote the book *The First Thirty*.



After graduating from college, Chicago native Siegman became a substitute teacher in Chicago’s public schools. After seeing two of his African-American students treated poorly by a nearby customer, Greg was moved to action. He started the BrunchBunch.com Program— bringing adults and students together over brunch on a weekly basis. After the first 70 brunches, Greg created The 11-10-02 Foundation, named after his 30th birthday and his belief young people can do anything.

The First Thirty is the story of one simple man’s dream to bring the world together for milkshakes, and the thirty lessons learned from the setbacks and successes he experiences along the way. It is a story about embracing rejection, celebrating creativity, chasing dreams, working hard, choosing a college (and making the most of your time there), starting a business (and sustaining it), overcoming obstacles, addressing intolerance, shattering stereotypes, starting small, thinking big, giving back, connecting dots, understanding the impact of the ripple effect...and always listening to your Grandma.



Siegman shared his story with Churchill students and challenged them to make a difference in the world-even if it was just one small thing.

Churchill students and faculty viewed “Behind the Faces” at an all school assembly on September 28, 2007. The show was very powerful and dynamic in the creative way that it taught young people how to choose their friends. It separates friends into three categories: Foolish, Plastic, and the Real. The show covered a very difficult subject - bullying. One story in particular was about a young middle school girl who was bullied and ridiculed. She had plastic friends who called her horrible names and rejected her in severe ways. She ended up taking her life. The show did not picture any of the actual bullying or graphic visuals of the girl. It was mainly the testimonies of her parents, brothers, and real friends. We believe very strongly that this story made a lasting impression on students about the damage their words and actions can cause to another student. Bullying must stop in our schools. We are very proud of the climate and culture at Churchill Junior High School, but we will continue work to educate children on how to treat everyone with respect. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your support in this effort.

Copies of Churchill’s 2007 Illinois School Report are available in the Churchill office or on the Churchill webpage <http://www.galesburg205.org/rc/2007/churchill.pdf>

Churchill staff members do not report for morning supervision until 7:35 AM.

During periods of rain, snow, cold or bad weather, we open the doors at this time. Please make sure your children do not arrive too early.

Unless students are with a teacher, they are to leave the building after school by 3:05 PM and should be off school grounds by 3:15 PM. Please make arrangements accordingly.

Churchill Front Drive

The driveway in front of Churchill is now one way. Please enter through the south entrance only. Parking is allowed on the east side of the drive only. Do not park on the sidewalk. For the safety of our students, the driveway in front of Churchill will not be open to cars from 7:30-8:00 AM and from 2:45-3:15 PM. We appreciate your cooperation.

New Safety Measures in Place at Churchill

In an effort to keep your children safe, new security systems were installed at district schools. Visitors to the building must now be “buzzed in.” At the main Churchill entrance, there is an intercom box on the north (left hand side wall). When you press the button, one of the secretaries will ask you to identify yourself and to look at the camera which is on the ceiling a few feet to the right. After identification, you will be allowed to enter the building and are to report directly to the office. All visitors will need to sign in, and get a visitor’s badge to wear while in the building. Please do not be offended if you are asked for your badge. We are just doing our best to protect your children.



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