

Churchill Junior High School



January-February 2009

Parent Newsletter

Issue 4

We have some wonderful opportunities to help your child if you have access to the internet.

You can now access your science and social studies books on the internet.

To access your social studies book book:

- Go to www.glencoe.com/ose
- In the box under student access code,
 - ➡ 6th graders enter FFDD59430E (that is a zero not an O)
 - ➡ 7th graders enter A4D6A07288 (that is a zero not an O)
 - ➡ 8th graders enter C404594807 (that is a zero not an O)
- When your book appears, click on Table of Contents. If you click on the chapter you are doing, you can find specific sections. Click on a section and you will go to the pages from your book.
- This will allow you to look and read pages from your book on-line.



To access your science book:

- Go to www.pearsonsuccessnet.com
- In the boxes under Already a SuccessNet User?, enter your user name and password.
- Your user name is your first and last name. Your password is your ID number. You should have registered with your science teacher.
- When your book appears, look at the section at the left of the screen. If you click on the chapter you are doing, it will open the sections. Click on a section and you will go to the pages from your book.
- You may now read the pages of your book. If you click on the icon that looks like a speaker, the pages will be read to you. If you click on the vocabulary words, the definition will appear. Some worksheets are available, as well as video clips to enhance the reading.

Study Island



- Study Island is an on-line program that helps students prepare for the ISAT test using a fun approach. Students attempt to earn blue ribbons by answering questions correctly. This can be done in a test mode or by playing games.
- To log in go to www.studyisland.com. Type in your user name (for example: JWayne@cjhs). Your password is your id number.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the teachers.

**Copies of Churchill's 2008 Illinois School Report
are available in the Churchill office
on the Churchill webpage, or at
<http://www.galesburg205.org/rc/2008/Churchill.pdf>**

Fish Winners



November Fish Winners

Left to Right: Kate Schlake (7th), Mrs. Hoehn (staff), Michael Balmer (8th), Michelle Peppers (6th)



December Fish Winners

Left to Right: Logan Oakley (7th), Quinton Swanson (8th), Skylee Markward (6th), Ms. Pepple (staff)

MLK Essay Winners



(Left to Right) 1st Runner up – Hilary Crowl, 2nd Runner up – Lyric Harris, 1st place – Desirae Coleman, 3rd Runner up – Mason Dean

Churchill Gives Back

Both Student Council and Builder's Club coordinated events which helped the community of Galesburg. Builder's Club sold candy and candygrams after school to earn money which was then used to buy items for those who are less fortunate. The Student Council held their annual canned food drive. These were given to Safe Harbor Crisis Center. Thank you to all who supported both of these efforts.



FEARLESS

Churchill students were treated to an assembly on December 16 entitled "Fearless." The assembly, through a multimedia approach, talked to students about dealing with and conquering their fears.

Churchill Front Drive

The driveway in front of Churchill is one way.
Please enter through the south entrance only.
Parking is allowed on the east side of the drive only.
Please 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.

Important Dates

January

- 12 Author Visit: Sarah Weeks
- 15 Parent Child Book Club 7 PM
- 16 End of Second Quarter
No School-Teacher's Institute
- 19 No School-Martin Luther King Day
- 30 Illinois Young Author Book Deadline

February

- 10 Churchill Spelling Bee Preliminary Round 3 PM
- 11 Churchill Spelling Bee Finals 2:10 PM
- 12 All School Dance
- 16 No School-President's Day

March

- 2-13 ISAT Testing
- 20 End of Third Quarter
- 26 Parent Teacher Conferences-PM
- 27 No School
Parent Teacher Conferences-AM
- 31 Author Visit:
Marion Blumenthal Lazan

April

- 6-13 Spring Break

May

- 25 No School - Memorial Day

June

- 3 No School-Institute Day
- 4 Report Card Day 10 AM-Noon
- 5 Emergency Day
- 8-10 Emergency Days

In accordance with NCLB standards, we are providing notice to all parents that they have a right to review their child's teacher's certification and degree qualifications. If interested, please contact the Galesburg CUSD #205, Office of Human Resources, 932 Harrison Street, Galesburg, Illinois 61401.

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.

ISAT 101

We've all heard that the ISAT tests are being given, but do you know what the ISAT tests are? Here is some helpful information to better understand the ISAT test and how your child do his or her best work.

What is it?

Standardized tests have been used to measure student achievement and ability for many years. Over the past few years, due to the passing of No Child Left Behind legislation, these tests have become more important than ever. All schools in Illinois are judged by how well their students perform on the Illinois Standard Achievement Test, and severe consequences will be imposed on schools when students do not meet standards.

What should parents be asking about standardized testing?

When will the tests be given? March 2 – March 13, 2009 at Churchill Junior High

What areas are being tested?

Subject areas tested in Illinois are Math, Reading, and Science. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will take three sessions of Math and Reading. The 7th grade students will take two sessions of science. The 6th and 8th grade students will take 2 sessions of writing.

How will the results be used?

To measure how well our students have learned the standards in math, reading, writing, and science as compared to other children in Illinois.

How and when will I get the results?

Normally, we send results home with the students with their first quarter report card each year.

What can I do at home to prepare my child?

In the months preceding the test:

- Find out when the tests are to be given. Write the dates on your calendar and avoid scheduling appointments or trips during these times.
- Ask your teachers what you can do at home to help your student prepare.
- Encourage your child to read. The easiest and best way to prepare your child for doing well on tests is to read often, and then discuss what they read.

Right before the test:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Provide a good breakfast.
- Have your child dress in layers - kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- Don't be too anxious. Say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best." Your confidence will be contagious.

On the DAY of the test give your child these tips:

- Skip a question and move on if you don't know the answer. You can always come back later. Maybe you will be ready to answer that question then.
- Always answer the questions. An educated guess may be correct. No answer will always be wrong.
- Check your answers carefully. Make sure the numbers of your answers correspond to the numbers of questions on the test.

Great Website for ISAT samples:

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/isat.htm>

Free Internet Websites to help your child with math homework:

Ask Dr. Math - <http://mathforum.org/dr.math>

CoolMath Algebra - www.coolmath.com/algebra/

Frank Potter's Science Gems - Mathematics - www.sciencegems.com/math.html

Reading at the Crossroads II

On November 18th, the students and staff were treated to a day with Esme Codell. Author of the books, *Sahara Special* and *Tales of A Fairy Godmother*, Ms. Codell's enthusiasm for reading and writing certainly rubbed off on everyone. Ms. Codell was greeted by artwork and projects done by students prior to her visit. She shared her tips for writing with all 3 grades, and 15 lucky students joined her for a special lunch.



In the evening she spoke to the community about reading and signed autographs for those in attendance.

Ms. Codell was equally enamored of Galesburg, as witnessed by a posting on her blog site www.planetesme.blogspot.com. "During spring and fall, sometimes I tour, and every now and then I discover a real gem of a place. This week I spent some time in the middle schools of Galesburg, Illinois for an exemplary and

inspiring "Reading at the Crossroads" initiative, which involved the adoption of my book SAHARA SPECIAL throughout the curriculum, culminating in school visits, a community presentation, lunch with students and an evening with educators. I was so very, very impressed at how Juanita Scott and her energetic team checked every single box possible on the to-do list that would ensure a great author visit." This is only part of what she wrote. To see the entire glowing recommendation, go to her website. You will need to click on the 2008 and scroll down to see what she wrote on November 21, 2008.

On January 12, the next author in our yearlong program will arrive. Sarah Weeks is the author of the book *So B. It*, which each child received a copy of to read and keep. On her website, www.sarahweeks.com, she says "As for how I write my books and what the best thing is about being an author – I think I'll answer the second question first. The best thing about being an author is that I get to spend all day doing what I like best – writing. From the time I was a little girl, the two things I enjoyed most were music and writing. I still feel that way. Sometimes when I'm working on a book I completely lose track of time and when I finally stop

writing I look out the window and am amazed to find that it's dark outside. Other times, when I feel blocked and the ideas aren't coming, I do my housecleaning instead, or bake cookies, or okay, I admit it, veg out in front of the TV for a while until I feel like writing again." We look forward to her visit.

Both of these visits are part of a cooperative yearlong focus on literacy.

Teachers and administrators from Galesburg District #205 in cooperation with Galesburg Public Schools Foundation are pleased to partner for Reading @ the Crossroads II. Money for this project has come from Galesburg Public Schools Foundation, Galesburg Community School District #205, Galesburg Community Foundation, and the Illinois Reading Council.

