

Churchill



Chatter

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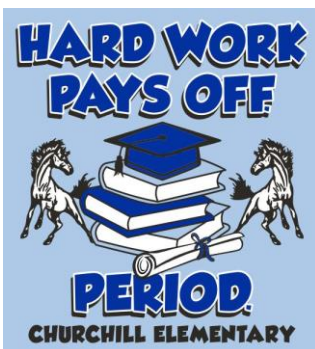
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"Churchill Chatter"

"Churchill Chatter" is a monthly publication for all students, parents and staff of Churchill Elementary School. Please submit any news items to Pam Werling at pwerling@sd308.org



<https://www.facebook.com/churchill308>



Principal Notes

Hello Churchill Families!

Every month you will be receiving a newsletter from the school called *The Churchill Chatter*. This will be another form of communication. (As you know we also communicate through Facebook, a weekly email called Churchill Connections and the website.) The purpose of the monthly newsletter is to include information from other groups of people, particularly teachers. The Churchill Chatter will be sent out the first Friday of the month through our Peachjar program.

Well, we've gotten off to a great start this school year! The teachers spent the first few days of school building relationships with students, getting to know them and having them do fun activities to get to know their classmates. At this point, the teachers have begun the curriculum. Hopefully you were able to make it to our Curriculum Night in order to learn some specific information about the different subjects your son or daughter will be learning this year. If you weren't able to make it, please know that our teachers will always do their best to answer any and all questions you have. Feel free to email or call us at any time. We have a 24 hour communication policy, so expect an email response or phone call within 24 hours of your initial email or call.

As I said to our staff at our opening Institute Day, being a parent is the most important (and hardest) job in the world! I know from my own experience as a father that it can be challenging, but it's also extremely rewarding to be a part of your kids' lives!! I mention this because I want you to know that we will always do our best to keep your son or daughter safe, while helping them grow academically and socially.

We developed a "Why?" in regard to "why" we all come to work at Churchill Elementary. It is: "*We believe in utilizing a system of effective instructional strategies at Churchill to help our students become goal-oriented individuals who are focused on becoming productive members of society through furthering their education beyond high school.*" We will always work to maintain this as our focus when working with our students.

I look forward to making this year the best ever at Churchill through partnering with all of you!

Mr. Piatek
Principal
Churchill Elementary School
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From the Art Room...

The start to a new year brings busy artists in the art room, and students are getting into the fall spirit in their art creations:

Kindergarten students have been learning about the many tools used in the art room. In September the students are celebrating “International Dot Day” inspired from the book ‘The Dot’ by Peter Reynolds. To celebrate students will be making bright colorful Dot inspired art designs.

1st grade have been creating fall themed artworks. Combining watercolors and crayons in their artwork, first graders created happy fall scarecrows with many fall theme details. Students learned how shapes are used to create many different details on the scarecrows body.

2nd grade learned about the famous artist Henri Rousseau, and his exotic jungle paintings. Second grade students then created their own Rousseau inspired artworks with large jungle cats surrounded by many jungle plants and hidden animals.

3rd grade students have learned about the colorful art of Talavera Pottery designs from Mexico. Third graders will be making Talavera inspired art designs with a sun and moon theme incorporating warm and cool colors in their work.

4th grade students learned about the life and art of American artist Romero Britto. Students have been creating Britto inspired works of art using various patterns and bright eye catching colors.

5th grade students will be creating colorful line landscapes inspired from Canadian artist Ted Harrison. Student will be exploring how lines can create a visually interesting landscape.

Marker Recycling in the Art Room

Did you know that those old dried out markers can be transformed into clean-burning fuel? Crayola Corporation has launched a green initiative “Crayola ColorCycle” that encourages K-12 schools throughout North America to save their old dried up markers to send in to be recycled into useable energy. This year in the art room we are continuing to collect old dried up markers to contribute to this environmental friendly cause. If you have any old markers you would like to donate please send them with your child to school to be add to the donation box in the art room. Any marker brand can be donated, including dry erase markers and highlighters. One box of markers can create enough energy to cook and egg, make toast, and brew a pot of coffee! Let’s see how many markers Churchill can collect this year to continue to help make a positive environmental difference!

Heidi Miller, Art Teacher

PE Department Update

Welcome back to a new, exciting, and fun-filled school year. During the first month of school we have already covered some interesting activities. We started the year talking about moving in our own space and exercising safely around others. After we learned the basic procedures in class we discussed new units and activities that will be added this year.

Recently 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have learned the rules of flag football. We covered how to pass and catch the ball effectively and ended the unit with throwing games. K, 1st, and 2nd grade have learned how to catch scarves, eventually working up to trying to juggle. All students participated in a throwing unit with activities like Make It, Miss It, Move it! and the Ladder Game.

Brittany Lindeman (630-636-3857)

Tom Clason (630-636-3848)

Churchill P.E. Teachers

Enter the Reading Lounge

We are so excited to introduce the new Churchill Reading Lounge!! We have turned a partially used classroom into a comfy, cozy, relaxing and WONDERFUL place for kids to read! Mrs. Caffarello will be introducing it to every class in the next two weeks. Then, teachers can sign up for a weekly time to take their students there to sit together and read. If you're in the school in the next few weeks, stop by Room 116 to take a peek at this beautiful new space for encouraging the love of reading!





Notes from the Music Room

The school year is off to a great start, and September has arrived! It's starting off pretty warm, but I'm looking forward to some cool, crisp fall weather!

The students in Kindergarten – 4th grades have been having lots of fun keeping the steady beat during the last couple of weeks by playing instruments, creating hand jives, playing movement games, and singing many fun songs. The 5th grade students have been working on rhythms including sixteenth notes and combinations of sixteenth and eighth notes.

During the month of September, the Kindergarten classes will continue learning some fun songs and experiencing early music concepts through movement, dramatizing stories, and creating sound effects with instruments. The first graders will be finishing their unit on steady beat and beginning to learn about quarter notes, paired eighth notes and quarter rests. The second grade classes will be reviewing the notes/rests learned in first grade and learning how to create, perform and notate rhythms using half notes and whole notes. The third grade students will also begin reviewing the rhythms that they learned in second grade and adding the dotted half note, half rest and whole rest. The fourth graders will be going even further and adding sets of four sixteenth notes and combinations of sixteenth and eighth notes. Fourth graders will also be learning traditional notation on a staff with measures and time signatures as they write their own rhythms.

The 5th graders will be learning how to count rhythms using a numbering system that will continue into Jr. High band and choir. In a couple of weeks, they will begin working on their musical which is a tribute to our nation's veterans and will be performed for family and friends on Monday evening, November 12th at 7:00 p.m., and at a Veterans Day assembly at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 12th, for our staff, students, and veteran guests. Each family is encouraged to invite any veterans or active duty members of the military that you know to the morning activities on November 12th. We will also again be collecting donations for Operation Care Package to support those members of our military who are currently serving overseas during the holidays. Detailed information about these activities will be sent home with your students during the month of October. This is such a great event to honor those who have served or are serving our country to protect the freedoms we enjoy. I hope that you will all mark November 12th on your calendar and plan to attend. Please watch for the details to come home with your child around the middle of October!

“To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.” (Aaron Copland, American composer, 1900-1990)

Julie Van Camp, Music Teacher

September Dates to Remember

Monday, September 10 – 6:30 pm, Mutual Ground Presentation at The Wheatlands Elementary School

Wednesday, September 19 – 6:00-7:00 pm, 5th Grade @ Feed My Starving Children

Friday, September 21 - **NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE** (Teacher Institute Day)

Wednesday, September 26 – Culver's Night (4th Grade serving)

Grade Level Reports

First Grade is so excited to begin our new year. The children have been working hard to learn our new routines. Some things we've been working on are reviewing our Kindergarten high frequency words, learning short vowel sounds, and understanding number sense concepts. We're working to build stamina for working independently on reading and writing. We were excited to celebrate the birthday of Clifford the Big Red dog by wearing red and singing a special song for him.

Third Grade has been busy in our first month of 3rd grade. In math we worked on mastering understanding of place value, rounding, and addition with regrouping. Subtraction with trading will complete the skills covered in our first unit. In reading we have been working on narrative writing that includes a sequence of events that characters must go through to solve a problem. We have also been working on incorporating dialogue and temporal words within our writing. In reading, we have read several narrative pieces including *The Lemonade War*, *The Case of The Gaspin Garbage*, and *Thundercake*. Through these works, we have focused on characters' motivations for their actions and what character traits are revealed by these actions. We have also practiced supporting our ideas with text evidence. In social studies, we have been learning skills to read and create maps, as well as some basic geography. Most of all, we have been building community and learning about each other as a class. We are excited for all the wonderful learning we have to come this year!

Fourth grade is thrilled to be rolling out the new AVID program. We are committed to helping our students empower themselves and get organized to better prepare them for all future challenges. It is also very exciting to begin the roll-out of our new Amplify science curriculum! The students have been enjoying exploring the world of "waves." We look forward to working with our students and parents to make this school year amazing!

News from the LRC



There are many exciting things happening in the LRC this month! Kindergartners and First Graders are learning how to properly take care of library books, and how to use a shelf marker. Second graders are working on finding "Just Right" books. Third graders are learning how to navigate the different sections of the library. Fourth and Fifth Graders are working on becoming proficient with using the online catalog, and adding to their reading list titled "Books I Want to Read." In addition, we are featuring books about football and cheerleading, extreme sports and careers, and bats, owls and spiders.