



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 1

September 14, 2009

Calendar of Events

September:

9/20 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

9/23 Market Day Pick-Up at PV

9/24 Open House for Prospective Families 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (tell your friends) and Parents Night 6 to 8 p.m.

9/28 PTO/HSCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., PV

October

10/1 Career/College Fair for juniors/seniors

10/6 Grandparents Gathering, 9 a.m., CV

10/8 Grandparents' Day, PV

10/12 Columbus Day--School Closed

10/17 All school yard sale, CV

10/18 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

10/19 Spiritual Emphasis Day at Camp Manatawny; 5th Grade to Paradise Farms

10/21 Market Day Pick-Up, 6:30 p.m., PV

10/27-10/30 Middle School Trips

SEE www.coventrychristian.com for sports schedules! Go Eagles!

One in Spirit and Purpose

"Make my joy complete by being one in spirit and purpose."

Philippians 2:2

This school year's theme verse comes from the Biblical book of Philippians. We are focusing on verses 3 through 11, but will be utilizing the entire chapter all year long as we call each other back to a single-minded purpose: to glorify God by having the attitude of Jesus Christ. In our first chapel service of the 2009-10 school year, I spoke to the students about attitude. In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul encourages us to consider others before ourselves just as Jesus Christ was in the habit of doing. I challenged the students to adopt the attitude that says, "It's not about me."

It is my prayer that we will all grow in the grace of humility over the course of this school year. It won't be easy. We are hard wired to be concerned first and foremost with number one, with ourselves. To live above that attitude takes nothing short of a commitment to Christ. As Jesus Christ, perfect and sinless, full of all of the power and holiness of God, went to the cross, enduring the ridicule, scorn, and violence of those who were not worthy to look upon his face, as he marched to that cross for sinful, ungrateful folks like you and me, he proclaimed, "It's not about me but about doing my Father's will. It's not about me but about those I love and came to serve."

This school year, like all others, will bring conflict. It will bring difficulties--social, academic, and personal. In whatever this year brings our way, I have challenged our students and teachers to deny the temptation to focus on ourselves at the expense of others but instead to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to consider what those around us may need in the midst of those challenges and conflicts.

We want school spirit at CCS to be about so much more than beating our rivals on the athletic field or about warm feelings toward a place we call home. School spirit at CCS should be a spirit worthy of the name we bear as a Christian school. May we truly be a Christian school this year by being one in spirit and purpose in a commitment to having the attitude of Christ. Let's commit to first having that attitude ourselves and then to instructing our young people in humility and service to others. I hope you will join me in praying for this spirit in our school this year. May God bless us as we seek to please him in our 26th year of service to our Coventry kids.

Before and After School Policy Reminder

Every school year the same questions are pondered regarding secondary school students being in the building before 7:30 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m.

To keep things safe and simple, one policy will consistently be followed for the 2009-2010 school year. All students arriving before 7:30 a.m. must report to the office for extended care. This will be available for students 13 and older at 7 a.m. Younger students may report to the preschool entrance in the back of the building as early as 6 a.m. All students not picked up by 3:00 p.m. must report to the library for the secondary school after school care program.

Since the supervision required both before and after school does represent an increase in responsibilities for our secondary staff, parents will be charged per the extended care fee schedule for both supervision and care given before 7:30 a.m. and after 3 p.m. If you need to see this schedule, please let us know. Of course, as with all rules, there are some exceptions. Students who have specific after-school activities to attend will, of course, report to those and will not be charged for extended care. If this presents a difficulty for your family, please let us know so that we can work together to find a satisfactory arrangement for you. This policy exists not to make life difficult but to make sure our students are safe and doing something productive while on our campus.

Use Renweb to Support Your Child's Education

To better support parents and students in their pursuit of academic excellence, we will continue to use Renweb, an online gradebook and communications system. When you log onto Renweb, you will find homework listings, important documents, announcements, course syllabi, web resources, and progress reports that you can customize and print for each of your children. To access Renweb, we will need to have your current email address in our system. To get to your child's personal pages, go to www.renweb.com. Click on the "Parents Web" tab on the left side of the screen. Enter "ccs-pa" for the school code. If you are a first time user with your current email address, you must click on the "First-time User" tab. If you have used Parents Web before using your current email address, simply enter your email and password from last school year. Parents and students will be able to see the gradebook for all of their child(ren)'s classes each and every day, from the comfort of their homes. This means that parents can easily check to see if their students are really completing all of their work on time, what their grade was on the last test or quiz, and what the current grade is for the class. It's like having a daily report card at your fingertips.

In order for you to use this program, we must have an accurate email address for you in our database. Please send an email to debbiebeck@educatingforlife.com. Include your child's full name in the message. Thank you.

Plan Now for Middle School Class Trips

6th, 7th, and 8th grade class trips are scheduled for the week of October 27-31. 6th and 7th grades will have their trip October 29-31, and 8th grade will be gone October 27-30. You will be receiving detailed information about your child's trip this week. There will be fundraisers this year to help you pay for your child's trip, but some will happen after the trip. Please begin planning accordingly and letting teachers know if you are interested in chaperoning. If the cost is prohibitive for you family, please let Mr. Fisher know so that we can try to make arrangements. While we want to avoid "putting trips on accounts," we are able to explore a payment plan for your child's trip. We are working to reduce the cost of class trips and are considering major modifications to the 8th grade trip for 2010-11. If you have ideas and input, let me know. The prices below are estimates based upon previous year's costs. The exact price will be sent home in the near future.

6th and 7th grade trip (combined) to Black Rock Retreat for their Outdoor Education Camp(Mrs. Price)
--The program will focus on nature studies and teamwork skills. This will be a 2-year program that alternates between an earth science (geology, weather, astronomy, etc.) and life science (ecology, water, animal habitats, wildlife identification, etc.) curricula. This is a three day/two night trip. The total cost of the trip, which includes all food, transportation, lodging, and educational programs will be between 120.00 and 150.00. Look for much more information to come home this week.

8th grade trip to Boston (Mr. and Mrs. Shipman):

--\$450 (\$100 per chaperone plus cost of meals)

--Oct. 28-31

--Plymouth Rock, Mayflower II, Plymouth Wax Museum, Paul Revere House, Freedom Trail (Old North Church, Copp's Hill Burial Ground), Bunker Hill Museum, USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), JFK Museum and Library, Duck Tour of Boston, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Quincy Market, and more

Parents' Night and Open House September 24

Parents' Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at both campuses. The purpose of this event is to give parents an opportunity to meet teachers, get acquainted with their child(ren)'s schedule and to tour the school. All parents are encouraged to attend. This is really not a night for conferences about student progress since there will be no privacy and teachers will want the opportunity to meet lots of parents, which does not allow for conferencing. If ever you want to conference with a teacher, simply give them a call to set something up. Open House is for prospective families and students to visit the school to see what CCS may have to offer their children. If you know anyone whom CCS may serve, please let them know about our Open House, which will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the same day, September 24. Open house is really not for current CCS families but for guests.

Spiritual Emphasis Day October 19

Spiritual Emphasis Day is scheduled for Monday, October 19. All students will go by bus to Camp Manatawny for a day of classes and activities centered around spiritual and moral themes. This will be a dress down day, and lunch will be provided. Students who live close to camp may be dropped off at camp instead of school but should not report before 8:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$10 per student. A permission slip will be coming home soon. Please remit payment with that. If you have any questions, give us a call.

Not Too Early To Begin Planning for Grandparents' Day

Grandparents are important to us at Coventry Christian Schools. We recognize the invaluable role that they play in educating our students for life. The Pleasantview Campus Grandparents' Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 8. Invitations will be sent out shortly, but since oversights sometimes happen, please be sure to extend an early invitation to your grandparents.

PTO Gives You a Chance to Have a Voice!

The first PTO meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantview campus. PTO is for all parents, teachers, and others who are a vital part of our school community. PTO exists to serve our children by raising funds for activities, projects, and purchases that enhance the education our children receive at CCS. The PTO has an annual budget in the tens of thousands, and those who come to meetings vote on how to spend those monies on our students. If you want to have a voice, come to the meetings! This year we are adding the subtitle (which may eventually become the new name of our PTO), Home, School, Community Association (HSCA) to emphasize the connectedness, partnership, and teamwork we want between all facets of our school community an local community at large. Don't miss your chance to get involved.

7th Grade Fossil Trip October 5

The 7th Earth Science class will be taking a trip to Swatara Gap State Park on Monday, October 5. In years past, we have had an annual caving trip, but due to a strange disease that is killing eastern brown bats, all caves are currently off limits in this part of the country until farther notice. However, we have been looking for a fall fossil digging location and have found one. Look for a permission slip to come home soon.

11th and 12th Grades to Attend College and Career Fair

The juniors and seniors will attend the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce Career and College Fair at the Gilbertsville Fire Company on Thursday, October 1. A permission slip with more information will come home before the trip.

Instrumental Lessons Available

Students in grades 5 through 8 will attend an instrument demonstration and information session with Mr. Jack Rusin, our band instructor, on Thursday, September 17. Older students may participate in band, but the information session is intended to generate interest among younger students who have not yet had lessons. If you are interested, please ask your child for the information they receive on Tuesday. We will also email information home. An instrument rental meeting will be held at the Coventry campus on Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m. Lessons will and practices will begin on Wednesday, October 7.

Open Gym for Girls' Basketball

The first of several open gym sessions will be held in the Pleasantview campus gym from 3 to 4:30 on September 16. Other open gym dates will follow and will be announced at the first meeting.

College Planning Seminar for CCS Families October 20

The first of many opportunities we will be providing to support you as your children approach their college years will be held on Tuesday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the chapel at the Pleasantview Campus. The seminar is free and is open to all secondary families.

Juniors Take PSAT Wednesday, Oct. 14

The juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14. The PSAT serves as a practice test for the SAT and gives students an idea of how they will score on the SAT itself. It will provide you with a guide for areas that will need the most preparation to improve for the official SAT in June and again next fall. Following the PSAT, students will be given information and resources for studying for the SAT itself. Students scoring in the 99th percentile will qualify for National Merit Scholar Awards. Stay tuned for more college support to come.

Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday				
Tuesday	Math Quiz	Chapter 1 Science Test	Chapter 1 Science Test	
Wednesday				Chapter 1 Science test
Thursday			Social Studies review/ ch. 1 test	
Friday	Test-Leigh Botts story and vocab.			
Monday, 9/21				

High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday			Brit. Lit. Quiz	Stewardship/Math 121 Test
Tuesday	Planet X Project due			
Wednesday				
Thursday	Chapter 1 Science test			
Friday				
Monday, 9/21				