



# CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates:

**April 2017**

**April 14 - No School**

**April 19 - 8:30 State of the School**

**April 24 - MAP Spring Testing (all week)**

**May 2017**

**May 3-5 Student  
Overnights**

**May 18 - 11:00 Graduation**



*Cumberland Academy*  
of GEORGIA

"An Exceptional School for Exceptional Students"

# CYCLONE SPIRIT

**From the  
Headmaster -  
Debbi  
Scarborough**



Is it just me or is spring the busiest season of the year? We have certainly been keeping up a good pace at Cumberland. We are still energized by the overwhelming support of our parents, board and their friends at the HATS OFF fundraiser on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The big winners of the evening were our students, as we were able to raise the funding for renovation of the aging commercial kitchen into a "living laboratory" called What's Cookin'. The project will hopefully begin this summer. Kitchen renovations always take longer (and cost more) than expected. Stay tuned.

We were thrilled recently to have Board Member, Manny Arora, invite 3 former NFL players to speak to our students. These guys spent a good bit of time answering questions, posing for photos, signing autographs, taking one on one and even took the kids outside for some training exercises.

The time is approaching for Cumberland's overnight adventure trips. These are well thought out experiences for our kids to teach independence. For many kids in the past it was their very first solo outing. We are constantly challenging our students to step out of their comfort zone. Many are reluctant as the bus pulls away, but all return with huge grins of satisfaction.

Save the date of May 18, our tenth graduation day. This year we are thrilled to have the most graduates in our history. When you see a senior around the campus, give them a pat on the back. Their future looks very bright.

**From the  
Principal -  
Don Sasso**



I have written countless newsletters in my 45+ years in education. This one is special because it will be my last, as the end of June will bring my retirement. It amazes me when I look back and think of all the students, families, colleagues, and schools with which I have been associated during my career in Connecticut, in Spain, and in Georgia. A career in education requires professionalism, however it goes well beyond that, to that which is very personal. I have asked myself, "Have I truly made a positive difference in the lives of the students with whom I have worked?" A few years ago I received an email from Donna, a student I taught while in Connecticut. She became a teacher, and as a professional development activity, she was to reach out to a teacher who had impacted and influenced her. She wrote me and told me she wanted me to know that she had become a teacher because of me. Wow, education is certainly powerful, personal stuff! After announcing my retirement to the Cumberland students, several of them have said to me, "Mr. Sasso, I'm going to miss you next year." Those simple words have meant the world to me. I read a professional article several years ago which asked whether, as a school Principal, it was better to be feared or loved. After examining the question from many different perspectives, the author concluded that it was better to be loved. If this is a small part of my legacy, I have made a positive difference.

# From Your Teachers

**Pioneer  
Coordinator -  
Ms. Morgan**

Please remember to have your student arrive on time and well rested for MAP Testing.

As we enter the last stretch of the school year, the Pioneers continue their quest to add new skills and experiences to their academic and life skills tool boxes. Volunteering at the Atlanta Food Bank and visiting the INK Museum offered enriching opportunities to grow and interact in the world around them. Upcoming trips to the Atlanta History Museum (April) and Camp Twin Lakes (May) will round out an amazing year!

A Bouncy Ball experiment to test chemical changes, learning about taxation without representation (American Revolution), and practicing those all important math facts for multiplication and division have kept the synapses cracking in these young, growing minds this quarter! Fractions are on the horizon, so start the discussions when slicing pizza and making cookies! Comprehension and main idea are the focus in reading – ask your child some who, what, when where about the books they are reading. Comprehension effects all of the disciplines, so mastering this skill will certainly help them succeed overall.



**Navigator  
Coordinator -  
Mrs. Mensing**

In a month, Navigator crew will blast off to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. We have a lot to keep us busy as we close out another amazing school year – we are finishing our fiction writing and getting ready to publish in Writer's Workshop; John Steinbeck's classic, The Grapes of Wrath will be our final Contemporary Literature focus and will include a depression era cooking activity!

Math and science activities will continue to build on the concepts that have been introduced throughout the year. Fractions, geometry, probability and Pythagorean Theory are topics these kids will tackle and successfully complete by year end. Weather, the solar system and stars, organ systems of the body, electricity and magnetism are all on the science docket. Let's hear it for STEM!!

Literature classes will be completing lots of hands on projects to relate to Holes (by Louis Sachar) and Wednesday Wars (by Gary Schmidt). Historical and marketing activities will help students relate and interact with these popular and poignant reads.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Atlanta and a study of Africa will take us to the end of the year in Georgia Studies and Geography.



Please remember to have your student arrive on time and well rested for MAP Testing.



# From Your Teachers

**Explorer  
Coordinator -  
Ms. Zierten**

Please remember to  
have your student  
arrive on time and  
well rested for MAP  
Testing.

**Spanish classes are going muy bien! We will continue learning and USING our Spanish skills in conversation, reading and research. The year end project will be a partnering effort to research the diverse provinces of Spain.**

**History and Civics continue to focus on America, past and present, and the roles we play as Americans with rights and responsibilities. Our year end project will be a research and presentation of famous people in history. We hope you will come and enjoy these presentations.**

**In our Math classes, we are focusing on the fundamentals and the importance of attention to details of mathematical problems. Applying real world situations such as paychecks, architectural tools such as blueprints and the probability of outcomes bring math to life.**

**Science topics have included environmental activist, Urbanization, and gravitational forces. Expect some conversations on satellites and how they impact our every day lives.**



**Career Prep -  
Mr. Sentell**



**And in Mr. Sentell's Career Prep Program, the students continue to diligently learn true working skills and attitudes at their many vocational sites, including Goodwill, the Sandy Springs Community Assistance Center, Publix at Abernathy Square, the Keep North Fulton Beautiful recycling center, the GAP at the Mall of Georgia, and Salud! Cooking School at the Avalon/Alpharetta Whole Foods.**

**Beginning this spring, our Career Prep team will begin working at the YardHouse. This restaurant is so supportive of our school and very excited to have our students learn restaurant skills.**



# From Your Teachers

## Counselor's Corner

Your students have been busy sharing ways that they are demonstrating **COURAGE** at school. Whether it be through speaking in front of class, peer mentoring, making a college visit, or a new friend, our Cumberland students are embracing the theme wholeheartedly.

As we journey into April, the theme will change to **MINDFULNESS**, which is simply *awareness*. To help reduce anxiety, counselors will be encouraging students to take one minute to concentrate and fill their mind with what is happening right now. Worries seem to disappear when we take just a minute to notice what we can hear, smell, feel or see. There is a lot to notice in nature during these beautiful Spring months. For the month of May we will focus on Responsibility as a theme and encourage students to help out where they can over the summer break. This can mean chores or jobs around the house, in the neighborhood, or in the community. We will be exploring ways with your students to be helpful.

Our counselors have noticed growth in your students this year socially and emotionally. Our observations include increased levels of greetings, eye contact, emotional control, and flexibility. We have students that have discovered coping strategies that work well for them; 4-7-8 breathing, drawing, riding the exercise bikes, or color therapy. We are so proud of our students who are forging new friendships and making social plans on weekends. Thank you, parents for encouraging and supporting your student through another successful year at Cumberland!



## Technology Mrs. Liang

I found out recently that Google doesn't call it's trainers "trainers". Instead, they are called "Lead Learners". When I heard that, it instantly clicked for me as a new mindset. I'm not the middle school Geography teacher, I'm the Lead Learner for Social Studies. My job isn't to stand in front of a room and tell kids stuff they can look up for themselves. My job is to create opportunities for them to learn and grow. It's an ethos that infuses my work every day. The students all know that I'm always looking for new things to try in class. When I get back from a conference I usually have some really awesome new project idea I want to try with them. I model every day my willingness to experiment, to fail with grace and to grow alongside with them.

As part of that growth mindset, I've been working on my Google certifications. While there was a certain amount of studying involved, most of my learning has been hands on, alongside your students as I've tinkered with new tools and given them new projects. This paid off immensely, as the Level Two exam was performance based, asking me how I'd complete a particular task using a tool. Having this certificate gives me confidence that I fully understand how to integrate Google Apps in my classes, and that I can assist my colleagues as they learn how to do this as well.



# There's More...

## Barks from Haley



- Thank you to all attending the HATS OFF spring fundraiser. The event was so fun thanks to an amazing group of parents who worked hard to create a great evening for all! HATS OFF to y'all!
- Well done Explorer students who participated in job training over spring break at Yard House.
- Congratulations to the high school students who received their drivers permits (and learners).
- It's that time of year, we have many Navigator students who will "rise up" to become Explorers (high school).
- Haley would be barking for each and every Graduate. Job well done!
- We had an amazing group of 50 volunteers from LexisNexis who gave their time and energy helping beautify Cumberland inside and out. We are so grateful for everyone's time and energy and we love our new look!!



## Sports & More!

We love to see students try new things. With sports, especially, getting the courage to try a sport or any sport is hard. So, when we see our spring track and field team show up with half the team being new to the sport, we just say "yes!" and call that a major victory for Cumberland. Our students have taken to track and are enjoying the feeling of accomplishment of training and competing.

Don't forget to sign up for the basketball summer camp. If your student has not ever played basketball, this is a fantastic way for them to try the sport. If you have a basketball competitor, have no fear, we will challenge them. Camp dates are July 17-21 and the camp will have drills and team building plus the all-star event!





**Cumberland Academy of Georgia  
2016-17 Graduates**

**Austin Keisling (Valedictorian), accepted to  
Georgia State**  
**Michael Rafeedie (Valedictorian), accepted to  
Reinhardt University**



**Eli Smith, currently working at Chick Fil –A &  
accepted to Georgia State**



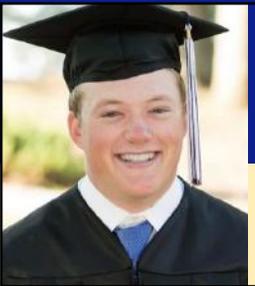
**Nick Lawson-McDougald, undecided**

**Jeffrey Clos, accepted to University of Alabama**

**Flynn Becker, waiting college acceptance**



**Aubrey Hickson-Smith, currently working at  
Chick Fil –A**



**Caslin Broady, awaiting Atlanta Technical  
College**



# Make An Impact....

.....on these amazing students.....



- \* Please use your Publix & Kroger card
- \* Save your BOXTOPS
- \* Amazon Smiles (name Cumberland as the charity )

Thank you!



650 Mt. Vernon Hwy NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

**Label for sending in the mail**

*Cumberland Academy of Georgia specializes in the needs of children with high functioning Autism, Asperger's, ADD, ADHD and other learning differences. The mission of the academy is to provide a safe, supportive, educational environment in partnership with faculty, staff, students and parents. The Cumberland family embraces the uniqueness of every child by challenging and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Our academic and social curriculum encourages the development of life skills essential in becoming self-sufficient adults.*

# April 2017

Cumberland Academy of Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Spring Break School Closed	6	7	8
9	10 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice	11 EDP until 4:30 HS Championship Meet at 8 at Mill Springs	12 EDP until 4:30 MS Championship Meet at 3 at Independence	13 Girl Talk EDP until 4:30 MS Championship Meet at 3 at	14	15
16 Easter Sunday	17 EDP until 4:30	18 EDP until 4:30	19 EDP until 4:30 Brown Bag State of the School 8:30-9:30	20 EDP until 4:30	21 Spirit Wear Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	22
23 / 30	24 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	25 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	26 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	27 Girl Talk EDP until 4:30 Game Club	28 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Last Bowling	29

# May 2017

Cumberland Academy of Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	2 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	3 Spring Trips No After School Activities	4 Spring Trips No After School Activities	5 Spring Trips No After School Activities	6
7	8 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	9 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	10 EDP until 4:30 Basketball Clinic	11 <b>Girl Talk</b> EDP until 4:30 Sports "Banquet" All Sports	12 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Last Tae Kwon Do	13
14	15 No After School Activities	16 No After School Activities	17 No After School Activities	18 <b>Graduation and Awards Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.</b> (all students participate)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			