



Special Shamrock Gala Edition

FEB/MARCH 2018

# CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



FEB/MARCH 2018

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/16 Parent Conference  
*PARENTS ONLY PLEASE*
- 2/19-20 No School
- 3/12 Teacher Workday
- 3/17 Shamrock Gala
- 3/19-23 MAP Testing
- 3/31 Noon Dismissal



## LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER Debbi Scarborough

I'm not Irish but am very lucky. What luck we all have to be blessed with these students. Each day I observe growth in areas parents never thought they would see. I had a parent in my office the other day who never thought they would see their child walk into school excited to learn. Never that is, until the student came to Cumberland.

We always look forward to hearing where our seniors are going next year. If you happen to be in the building, check out the wall in the high school side. We list all the accomplishments of our high school students: part-time jobs, drivers licenses and college acceptances. We announce these accomplishments in the morning during announcements. The student stands a bit taller with their peers cheering them on!

The Cumberland kitchen is so close to completion! Each time I walk into the space and see a change I

silently thank those of you who gave financially to this project and to the Capital Campaign. We were "lucky" to receive the nod from a foundation that donated graciously to our campaign. Friends of Cumberland, thank you!

Students have been traveling to field trips at the High Museum, the Booth Museum, the Dekalb Farmers Market, Chastain Horse Park and so many after school sporting events. As our special students learn so well experientially, we look for opportunities to take a classroom into the community. And that brings up a need-for a new bus! Therefore, the party of all parties, the Shamrock Spring Gala, will have the proceeds going to a new bus for all students. Come join us for a very worthy cause!

*Debbi Scarborough*



Cumberland Academy  
of GEORGIA

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



## DOUG LONG

“How rewarding it is for students to see growth in themselves. I enjoy watching students and complimenting them on making positive choices. One such student.....”

...was in a classroom and another student was having a challenging moment with a teacher. Instead of watching the situation unfold, the high school student stepped up and spoke up to his peer. He advocated for himself, other students and the teacher in the classroom. That is a giant step for this young person. We talk about life skills and social skills constantly with the students. As an educator, it is beyond rewarding to watch these students find a voice, their own voice, and to use it for the good of the school.

Our students are special indeed, and we expect, in fact demand, much from them. At this stage in the school year we have already had snow days and schedule changes. We work with students on re-acclimation after snow days and days off and stu-

dents continue to grow in flexibility and positive attitudes. Additionally, I see friendships continue to grow and develop.

On occasion, I have the pleasure of meeting prospective parents of a new student. I hear over and over these parents are seeking a school where their child can make a friend. And, I hear over and over, my child at Cumberland has made his/her first friend. It's so evident in the hallways at Cumberland that students are making great social strides which yields new friendships and social growth by forming new friendships.

That makes for a beautiful day.





# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## PIONEER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Morgan

The Pioneers have had a great start to the New Year. Our Literacy classes are completing their first chapter book this year. Some of our students have started reading “A Cricket in Times Square” and a “Covered Wagon Girl.” While other students will work on short stories.

What is “The Great Mail Race”? Cumberland students are excited to participate by sending letters to various schools in America. Students in those schools will also send letters and students will hear from students all over the country.

Our Social Studies classes have started the World War II unit. The unit will emphasize the origins of the war, the course of the war and how it impacted America. To reinforce this historical unit, The Pioneers plan to visit the Jewish museum.

Science is currently learning about cells and the classification of living things. The students look forward to some hands-on experiences while diving into this unit. The Pioneers are continuing to build on academics and explore new concepts for further growth.

## NAVIGATOR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Mensing

Is there any other more iconic book for a middle school student than “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain? Books come alive in Literature classes while reading this and other novels such as “Rain Reign” by Ann M. Martin or “When you Reach Me” by Rebecca Stead. Students have the opportunity to discuss and analyze these novels while working on diction and sentence structure as well.

The Chinese New Year is a favorite time of the year in Geography class as it will coincide with the focus on Asia. In addition to studying the topography of Asia, students will study culture, religions and language of this continent. A special field trip to a Chinese restaurant will reinforce academics as well as social skills.

Math may be a challenge for some students, but Mrs. Mensing is always available after school on Tuesdays for extra tutoring during Extended Day. Mrs. Mensing’s classes are all working on higher level Math skills by tackling difficult problems in each class such as fractions, algebraic equations or unknown variables.



# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## EXPLORER COORDINATOR

Ms. Zierten

As Literature and Composition classes follow the Georgia Performance Standards, students core focus is on creating and researching projects which will coincide with novels read like "Esperanza Rising", "Frankenstein" or "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian". Presentations will reinforce papers and classroom discussions. In some classes, students will use a creative flair to create monster narratives, cartoon story maps or character journals.

The 10th graders took the Pre ACT and others will be taking the ACT in February. We have MAP Growth testing in March also.

World Geography students are learning about the Civilizations of East Asia including China, the Mongols and Chinese Culture and early Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia. As students learn of these civilizations, the art/music appreciation classes will

be learning about the composition of a symphony. "Lucky" students, they will visit the High Museum for a special tour!

Students are about to do some work with protractors and measuring devices in the discussion of similarity and certain rules that preserve congruence. Algebra classes have been studying unit cost in advance of learning how to comparison shop as young adults. Another group of students will assess the merits of the Metric System vs. ODS. What does ODS stand for?....ask your child!

There's still more to come like the Explorer high school dance on Thursday, March 22. This is a super fun high school event not to be missed.



## CAREER PREP

Mrs. McCracken & Mr. Jones

Students began at Chastain Horse Park experiential outdoor classroom. Career Prep students toured the facilities and were introduced to the giant animals we will be working with this year. This experience brings so much opportunity for students to learn and grow as we develop relationship with the horses. It was an information filled day but an exciting one as well. Students look forward to weekly visits to Chastain Horse Park.

The Career Prep program has added Khan Academy to its academic core program. Khan Academy is an online math program that helps supplement students' education with practice exercises, materials and videos. The program is level to each stu-

dent's individual needs and allows the student to learn and work at their own pace. The program also allows the teacher to assess the students' progress and revisit lessons.

Cumberland Café is a fantastic business model. Students are learning cash management, etiquette and cleanliness as part of the "store" lessons. Thank you to Panera and Davinci donuts for weekly donations. Please join us on Fridays for a breakfast bite!





# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER- Val Schwan, *Your Cumberland Counselors*

In February, our Cumberland Counseling theme will focus on FRIENDSHIP, and in March we will work on COURAGE. Many times, these two themes go hand in hand. Our counselors work on a daily basis with students strengthening connections and guiding them through the ups and downs of adolescent friendships.

As important as friendships are, they do not always come naturally. Cheryl Somers, MA, NCC writes "the good news is making friends boils down to a series of skills that can be learned." Cheryl shed some light on this in her article, "6 Ways to Help Your Teen Make and Keep Great Friends," and includes small talk as a learned skill. Parents are advised to practice having light, casual conversation about music, outside activities, or homework.

Kindness, the most basic behavior learned in kindergarten, remains the basis of successful adult relationships. Also helpful is reminding your student to listen and be interested in other people's lives. Extending and accepting invitations will help your child feel connected and strengthen their sense of belonging. It is also very helpful for parents to talk about the difference between a peer that you sit next to in class and a friend who really understands and values you. If your student is struggling with friendships, remember that there is hope in working with them on the skills they need to succeed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our counselors with questions or concerns.  
Warmly ~ Val Schwan

## SCIENCE- Mihkel Allpere, *Experiential Learning Coordinator*

Spring is right around the corner, and it is one of my favorite times in the Science curriculum. Classes have learned the foundational building blocks and students can now take that knowledge and apply it in so many ways. This means one thing: fully immersive hands on projects!

Getting our hands dirty is not only a fantastic break from the usual curriculum; it is so much more than that. We apply the experiential learning model in all of our sciences. Middle School sciences are about to undertake some of their largest challenges yet: Earth Science Students will become the School Meteorologists for a month and present the weather during morning announcements. Life Science will be learning dissection skills starting with plants and culminating in squid dissection, and the Physical Science students will be building roller coasters to explore Newton's Laws of Motion.

The high school sciences are consistently exploring detail oriented labs and experiments where the final result is always a new discovery. Experiential Learning is a system in which any learner reflects on a concrete experience or knowledge, compares it to new experiences or knowledge, comes up with a new approach to the subject, and then tries to apply it to create a new experience. This cycle can lead to trial and error, but in the end it always creates lasting memories of a subject.



From the fish hatchery in the fall to the school garden in the spring, we apply this "learning by doing" outside of the classroom as well.

# THERE'S MORE...

## BARKS FROM LUCKY

- Cumberland received a grant from a foundation that requests anonymity. We are so grateful to this foundation for the generosity and demonstration of faith in our students, staff and school.
- What's Cooking? Check out our kitchen! Many hands went into the making of our new life skills training center. Students will learn how to measure, cook and clean up after themselves (promise!). Freshens friends, thank you so much for your support!
- Shamrock Spring Gala committee, you all have prepared a great event! What a wonderful group of parents. Cumberland is so grateful to you!
- Special thank you to our breeder friend, Cindy Donahue, who has entrusted Cumberland to find the perfect home to a perfect little black lab puppy. Come meet this little puppy at the Shamrock Gala!
- Cumberland collected shoes for children and adults and donated them to Samaritans Feet. Friend of Cumberland, Ron Hunter, (Head basketball coach for Georgia State) spoke about his organization during graduation last year.



## SPORTS & SCHOOL CLUBS

**We've got some kinda spirit! Girl Talk, Spirit Week, Basketball, Track & Golf!!**

What great Cyclone spirit we have! Basketball players felt the whole school support from the pep rally on "Blue Out" Day. Mr. Allpere won the prize for best blue on that day. The week finished with a patriotic red, white and blue day!



Girl Talk is going strong with Miss Samantha and Mrs. Anna. Thank you to our special guest from Fox Sports, Jessica Cox!

Cumberland is home to some talented players. Check out all the choices there are to participate in sports in spring like Golf & Track! Go Cyclones!!

# FEBRUARY 2018

Cumberland Academy of Georgia



Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

■ FEB/MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 EDP Screen Free Game Club Musical Theater Club	2 Spirit Wear No Café Bowling Tae Kwon Do	3
4	5 EDP MS-A & B Game at Cottage	6 EDP MS- A & HS Game @ Howard Art Club	7 EDP No Basketball	8 EDP HS Game @ Howard Musical Theater Club Journalism Field Trip to High Museum	9 EDP	10
11	12 EDP No Basketball	13 EDP MS/HS combined Basketball practice Final	14 EDP Girl Talk	15 EDP Screen Free Game Club Musical Theater Club	16 Parent/Teacher Conferences— Student Holiday	17
18	19 Winter Break	20 Winter Break	21 EDP	22 EDP Musical Theater Club	23 Casual Dress Tae Kwon Do	24 ACC All Star Game @ AASD noon- 6 Sat Series to Warm Springs, GA
25	26 EDP Track Practice	27 EDP Track Practice	28 EDP Girl Talk			

# MAKE AN IMPACT

On these amazing students!



Please use your Publix and Kroger cards

Save Your BOXTOPS for the next competition!

Amazon Smiles (name Cumberland as the charity)



For those of you who signed up for GOAL, you are superstars! Thank you!



Wear something green, bring someone lucky and come to the Cumberland Spring Gala!

You could win a Big Green Egg

Drink a green beverage or

Dance your best Irish jig

**LET'S ShamROCK**  
**FOR OUR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS**  
Join Us to Celebrate Our Spring Gala  
Honoring Cathi and Manny Arora

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*When?* Saturday, March 17, 6:30 PM  
*Where?* 650-A Mount Vernon Hwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30328 | 404-835-9000

Casino games

Irish Whiskey tasting

Great food!



*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.*