

CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



April/May2018 IMPORTANT DATES

4/20 - Rise Up Day

5/2- 4 - Overnight Trips

5/17 - End of year
Celebration &
GRADUATION

LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER Debbi Scarborough

Are you like me, a fan of HGTV? My favorite part of the half hour programs is the reveal. The reveal is when we are reminded of the “before” of the project and then TA DA.....Please stop in one day and see our new kitchen living lab at Cumberland. We will be thrilled to show you how fantastic this area looks.

We have some new smiling faces at Cumberland thanks to a brand new group of families. While this is the largest number of students we have ever had on campus, we also added several new faculty members to accommodate the growth. The good news is the new students already know how to say “Go Cyclones”! What a great, big school we have!

It's trying hard to be Spring. To coax it along, we will take a group “out to the ballgame”. SunTrust Park is still new to many of our kids and that alone will be an adventure. Going to a baseball game includes a lot of socialization and requires a good deal of cooperation on everyone's part.

It's not too early to SAVE THE DATE. May 17 will be Graduation Day at Cumberland. This is a whole school event with all students participating. Please plan to attend; it will encourage your student to see you here and it will encourage you. Looking forward to seeing you here!

Debbi Scarborough

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DOUG LONG
Principal

*“I didn’t have a good day today....I had a GREAT DAY!”
B.M, a new student*

Optimism. When I walk through the halls at Cumberland, this is what I see. I look at the eyes and see hope and dreams for events coming up in the lives of the students. Our students have a bright future, and it shows in their smiles.

So much of the optimism in the school is based on the quality of teaching that occurs in the classrooms. Teachers use “Best Practices” which is a researched based teaching method. They teach to the strength of the student and hone in on the academic areas that need reinforcing. Cumberland teachers are magnificent, truly.

Each fall and spring, Cumberland uses MAP testing to give us an assessment of each individual students’ growth. Part of the challenge

with these special students, is overcoming the fear of taking a standardized test. This spring we had one high school student who was very fearful of just taking the test. Teachers worked with the student until the day to take the test. The good news is: he sailed through it! A great first step for him.

With academics taking first chair at Cumberland, it’s also a joy to watch kids try a sport for very first time. Fresh on the course is the new Cumberland golf team. We are looking for the first student who gets a hole in one. Our track team produced some personal best times this spring, which is fantastic.

Lots of amazing events happen here each day. It’s not surprising that there also is a lot of optimism. See you at Graduation!



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

PIONEER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Morgan

At this juncture in the school year, the Pioneer students have begun reading various chapter books in Literacy class. Additionally, students have been using their creative juices to develop projects based around the books.

Experiment Friday is a new Science program that will begin this spring. Students have already started experimenting with a little gardening. Parents, check in with your budding scientist about their next experiment.

There are lots of mysteries going on in writing as kids have started writing mys-

tery stories. Students are excited to share their stories with you soon. In conjunction with our writing, we've been learning and writing about the importance of civil rights. Students are studying individuals involved in the Civil Rights Movement and their effect on society.

We are looking forward to our Spring Overnight Trip at a camp in Covington, Georgia. This camp will be perfect for our special student population, and we have great adventures planned!



NAVIGATOR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Mensing

Our Navigator group is growing this spring. We are excited to welcome Will, Max, Brian, and Owen to our family. The new students will give everyone the opportunity to practice our pragmatic skills and to make new friends. Peer relationships can be tricky; any practice navigating interpersonal skills is helpful. The last 2 months of the school year are going to be extremely busy and fun. After spring break students have the opportunity to hang out with Mr. Allpere and Mrs. Liang at a game store after school on April 12th. On April 19th, students can grab an ice cream and "chill" at the park after school. Both of these opportunities are fundraisers for the school, please contact Mrs. Mensing for further details.

On Sunday, April 22nd we are going to take over SunTrust Park with the help of Fox Sports. Students will get to ride the FOX bus and sit as a group. More information and permission slip to come!

Navigator students will be busy in the classroom completing units of study and end of the year reviews. Students will use the kitchen to roll sushi after a unit on Japan. The end of the year, students will design their own island nations as a culmination of information learned during the year.

All Cumberland students attend an overnight to encourage independent skills. The Navigators will travel to Chattanooga where they will enjoy a packed schedule of much to see and do.



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

EXPLORER COORDINATOR

Ms. Zierten

What a wonderful time the Explorers are having. We have been delving deep into curriculum and practicing our skills and habits of responsible student high school learners. These strategies serve us well now and are beneficial lifelong practices. We have also had many meaningful and informational visits both on and away from our school campus. The World Geography Classes had a wonderful presentation by Ms. Belinda Horne, one of our school counselors. She shared with the classes about her travels to South Korea. The classes were studying all about Asia and it was a perfect extension to their learning.

Explorers had the opportunity to visit a college campus recently. They traveled to Kennesaw State University and visited the Disability Services Department of the Kennesaw



Campus. They discovered the many opportunities that Kennesaw State University had to offer. After a very informative presentation the students had the opportunity to tour the campus followed by lunch in the campus dining.

The Shakespeare Tavern touring troupe visited Cumberland for an afternoon performance that wowed Explorer students. This show, replete with romance, tragedy, comedy, stage combat, and music, taught Explorers how the language of Shakespeare lingers on the modern tongue.



CAREER PREP

Mrs. McCracken



This has been an exciting 2018 for us. We began going to Chastain Horse Park every Monday. The growth, responsibility and accountability students have shown since the program started has been amazing. At the beginning of the program, they were hesitant and even afraid of horses. Students are now able to care for the horse: grooming, cleaning stables, guiding, riding and even directing the horses through an obstacle course. What a great experience for the students.

Career prep students also visit the Dogwood Forest Assisted Living Community. The social interaction and engagement the residents have with our kids is amazing. Cumberland students engage in many areas at Dogwood. Our colleagues at Dogwood tell us there are residents that would not participate in activities until our students slowly guided them into participating. That is beautiful.

Career prep senior, Andy Poppens, has begun his job with the Atlanta Braves as part of their promotions staff. He has attended an orientation and had an awesome experience learning his new job.



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Val Schwan,
Director of Counseling

As we journey into spring, our Cumberland Counselors will be working with students on themes of **Mindfulness** and **Flexibility**. For the next two months we will be teaching students more about these themes along with strategies for managing emotions and reducing stress levels.

Mindfulness can be described as paying attention to something in a particular way, on purpose, in the present moment. It can be as simple as using our five senses to notice what is happening around us. Our counselors will be talking with students about breathing slowly; smelling the roses on the inhale and blowing out the candles on the exhale. Gratitude talk at school, in the car, or at the dinner table is another way to practice mindfulness. Taking a moment to notice the good in our lives can be so uplifting.

During May, counselors will focus on teaching our students **Flexibility**, and how to adapt positively to people and situations around them, from the classroom to the workplace to casual settings.

Our counseling staff would like to wish Mrs. Anna Scheidt the very best as she prepares for the birth of her first baby. We extend a warm welcome to Kristin Simmon-Lowman, LCSW, who joins us in April.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mihkel Allpere, Experiential
Learning Coordinator

The science department is in full swing with spring classics! This is the time of year where we culminate all of our classes with the projects of fame, the ones that are asked about reverently at the beginning of each year. It started with the 8th-grade Physical Science Roller Coaster Project and is quickly followed by the infamous Squid Dissections.

Squid dissections directly follow the unit on Animal adaptations and body plans and allow our students a hands-on experience discovering the organ system of a creature we do not commonly encounter as well as practice the observation and procedures needed for life science. Two of everyone's favorite parts of the dissections are usually the beak and the eye.

It's always a fantastic time and this year the students were ready and prepared. The most professional group I have had since working at the aquarium.



THERE'S MORE...

BARKS FROM LUCKY

ShamROCK GALA was a blast. Thank you to the GALA committee for all your hard work!

Special thank you to Valery Voyles for your donation of a new van and Steve Raymond Chevrolet for helping to replace the stolen parts on our bus!



Welcome to our newest faculty! We are glad you are a part of Cumberland.



SPORTS & SCHOOL CLUBS

Cheer? Basketball? Game Club? Spirit Club? You bet!

Track and field was a successful season with several personal bests. To celebrate all sports, we hold an end of the year sports banquet on May 9th at 3:30. All sports participants are invited including bowling. There will be a spring Basketball clinic, from April 9th to May 8th on Mondays and Tuesdays. This is a skill based clinic to help develop basketball skill, awareness and technique.

Watch out world! The new Cumberland golf team is in full swing. Students have been improving swings and some are so excited about the sport they purchased their own equipment. The end of April will be the final tournament.

Bowling is an ever growing club with a lot of student participation. Older and younger students are grouped together on teams for mentoring opportunities. One student is approaching a 200 score. Way to go!



APRIL 2018



Cumberland Academy of Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Spring Break No School	3 Spring Break No School	4 Spring Break No School	5 Spring Break No School	6 Spring Break No School	7
8	9 EDP Basketball Clinic Cheeseburger Bobby's	10 EDP Basketball Clinic Art Club Jason's Deli	11 EDP Golf Chick fa la	12 EDP Golf Musical Theater Club Pizza Day	13 Spirit Wear No Café Bowling Tae Kwon Do Pasta	14
15	16 EDP Basketball Clinic Cheeseburger Bobby's	17 EDP Basketball Clinic Art Club Jason's Deli	18 EDP Golf Chick fa la	19 EDP Golf Musical Theater Club	20 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Bowling Tae Kwon Do Pasta	21
22	23 EDP Basketball Clinic Cheeseburger Bobby's	24 EDP Basketball Clinic Art Club Jason's Deli	25 EDP Golf Chick fa la	26 EDP Golf Musical Theater Club Pizza Day Screen Free Club	27 Spirit Wear No Café Bowling Tae Kwon Do Pasta	28
29	30 EDP Basketball Clinic Cheeseburger Bobby's					

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION & GRADUATION-May 17 @ 11am



ANNUAL GIVING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Annual Giving

Please support Cumberland

by collecting BoxTops

And using your free PUBLIX card.



Capital Campaign

WE DID IT! Thank you to the Staff, Board of Directors, Donors and Foundations that helped us reach our goal. Each time we walk into the building in the morning, we are grateful for our school!



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.