



CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

December 2016

January 2017

Important Dates:

**December 9 - Students vs
Faculty Basketball Game**

December 16 - Noon dismissal

**December 19-January 3 -
Holiday Break**

January 16 -No School

**January 19 -Ten Year
Anniversary & Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony**



Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA

"An Exceptional School for Exceptional Students"

CYCLONE SPIRIT

**From the
Headmaster -
Debbi**



Beautiful. Each and every day I see students who display beautiful virtues, and today was a perfect example. I had a middle school student stop by the front office after morning announcements. In his hand were some dollar bills. He very quietly told a staff member, "I got some money from my grandma for being on the honor roll. Please take some of these dollar bills for the school." It's beautiful to see a student who loves his school and even more beautiful to see a student with a kind, loving heart. Need a holiday moment? Come by and visit with our Cumberland students.

*On a sad note, Cumberland said goodbye to a very faithful staff member, Haley. She is greatly missed by all the students and staff. Haley's Barks will still continue in her honor-see page 6. For 10 years she brought only joy and barks to all, she was happiest here on campus. We will be having some 4 legged friends from Happy Tails come visit this month and Cumberland will have another, maybe Haley II, at some point in the near future. Thank you to all for all your kind thoughts....

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.
2017 is going to be the best!

**From the
Principal -
Don Sasso**



We are well into the holiday season and we wish you and yours happiness, good company, great food, and the laughter of family and friends as you enjoy the spirit of the season together. 2017 promises to be an extraordinary year in that our country will inaugurate a new President. Also, on August 21, 2017, my 46th wedding anniversary, there will be a total solar eclipse visible across the USA for the first time in 99 years!

We hope that the New Year will bring good health, good times, and good fortune to your family and to those that are close to you.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

From Your Teachers

**Pioneer
Coordinator -
Ms. Morgan**

This fall, the Pioneers experienced a Native American Pow Wow. The students were taught how the Native Americans lived long ago, watched primitive skill demonstrations, and listened to stories of old. A couple of our students were able to participate in a special Native American Dance. We also enjoyed working as a community to create our Stone Soup. In addition to learning historical information, students learned the importance of sharing and working together to make something great.

On December 14, we plan to have a little holiday fun at the Center for Puppetry Arts. Students also look forward to our holiday party. In the midst of all this fun, the learning will continue. Ms. Morgan's group will continue drilling our way through multiplication in Math and using descriptive language to create their colorful stories in Writing. Mrs. Lipshutz's group will continue working on addition and subtraction. In Writing, they are learning the steps to write an essay.

January brings a new year and a fresh start with new exciting things to learn. Pioneers will begin taking Social Skills trips to learn etiquette and experience appropriate behavior in various social situations. We are also planning to spend time serving the needy by volunteering at Atlanta Food Bank.

**Navigator
Coordinator -
Mrs. Mensing**

Holiday time always flies by, and this year is no different. Our Navigators were very busy in November. Students traveled to the Carlos Museum, out to Arabian Mountain and to the Capitol building. Most of our Navigators practiced presentation skills by writing step by step directions in Mrs. Abramson's class. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a yummy brunch with our friends before break. The upcoming months will be as fast paced as we learn how authors use humor to address serious topics like segregation or childhood cancer. Mr. Allpere will share volcano videos with the school once the 6th graders have completed their projects. 8th graders will have a greater understanding of the Trail of Tears. Unit rate, proportionality, slope and solving equations is all that Mrs. Mensing can talk about! Boy are the math students learning to use their new Envision Math curriculum to its fullest. The new year will ring in new topics of learning like foreshadowing, laws of motion, and learning more complex computer programming skills.

Before our winter break, students will have the opportunity to participate in a secret pal gift exchange. It is always a fun activity. Don't forget to turn in the permission form and your child's wish list. We will have our holiday party on December 16th (remember that is a noon dismissal). Please be on the lookout for a "Sign-up Genius" email requesting donations for the holiday party.



From Your Teachers

**Explorer
Coordinator -
Ms. Zierten**



The Explorer's have been busy and will continue their track of learning and growing as we come to the end of another year! From building vocabulary and integrating video, drama and text into literary studies to studying force, mass, and gravity and their effects on the free fall of an object in Physics, the students are actively engaged in learning. Of course, math challenges abound in the study of systems of equations, inductive and deductive reasoning and factoring polynomials. Taking advantage of history as it happens, our students have been studying the election process and the history of elections in the United States. Not to be left out, we are also continuing our studies of the World theater, focusing on African civilizations and the early civilizations of the Andes and the Turkish and Russian Empires.

Our Future Prep Class had an amazing time visiting Reinhardt University's Campus. They had a student led tour and then had the opportunity to dine in the Campus Dining Hall. The visit ended with a Q & A Session with the Director of Student Academic Support Services and the Beyond Access B.O.L.D. Program.

Much, much more is happening including exciting explorations, critical and creative thinking, teamwork and questioning skills as our students continue to explore and discover the world in which they live.



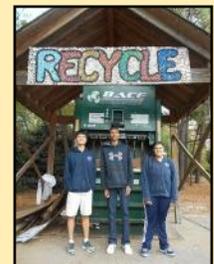
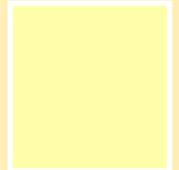
**Career Prep -
Mr. Sentell**



Mr. Sentell's students are always hard at work learning powerful job and social skills through their hands-on, supervised work visits at the The GAP at the Mall of Georgia, the Sandy Springs Community Assistance Center, the Keep North Fulton Beautiful recycling center, Salud! Cooking School, and the Publix at Abernathy Square. Coupled with Ms. Swearingen's morning consumer-related academic work, the students are a part of one of the most well rounded, special education high school vocational preparatory programs in the Atlanta area!

AMERICAN LITERATURE

The high school students have read, examined, and deeply analyzed masterfully written nonfiction and fiction literature under Mr. Sentell through their reading of the nonfiction masterpiece, *Longitude*, by Dava Sobel, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Road*, by one of America's greatest novelists, Cormac McCarthy. The students are also at work on some brilliant short stories by J.D. Salinger and Flannery O'Connor, while building an immense book of vocabulary works pulled from everything they read. They've also contributed to the school's literary magazine, "The Pioneer," set to be published before the holiday break, with a wonderfully imaginative chapter-per-student novelette, *Miss Trixie*.



From Your Teachers

Counselor's Corner

kindness
INSPIRES
kindness

Happy holidays from your Cumberland counselors! As we enter into the festive holiday season of family gatherings, we express gratitude and practice time-honored customs of giving and receiving. At the same time, we can also be challenged with the busyness and stress that can come with the joyfulness. Perhaps it will help to keep the following in mind:

- Count your blessings--holiday time is an important time to realize all of the gifts we have been given via the gift of our children.
- Keep expectations reasonable and take time for yourself.
- Give yourself permission to request & allow help from others.
- Try to build in as much routine as possible.
- Try to not over-schedule.

We want to thank you for your generous food donations which we delivered to Sandy Springs Community Assistance Center earlier this week. Your gifts were gratefully received.

Our Counseling theme for the month of December is Kindness. We would like to reinforce kindness with our students in the form of empathy and giving. Socks are among the most needed items at homeless shelters, yet among the least-often donated. During the first two weeks of December we will be collecting new sock donations. If everyone at Cumberland contributed one pair of socks, we would be warming 100 pairs of feet during the coldest months yet to come. Thank you for your part in helping us help others!

Technology



Cumberland's Computer Science program is growing! The Navigators are thrilled with our new acquisition of Ozobots. Ozobots are small robots that are easily programmed by beginning coders. They can follow lines drawn on paper, or be programmed on the chromebooks or iPads. The ozobots are helping us to cement the concepts we've covered in class, like algorithms, loops, and debugging. Computer science is a great subject for our students, as it teaches problem solving, perseverance and computational thinking.

Working with the Ozobots adds a layer of collaboration to that. Students work together to program the robot to dance or escape a maze. Collaboration, along with communication, creativity and critical thinking are important 21st century learning skills all students need. The Ozobots have really helped us develop these skills.

Have you checked out Newsela.com? It is an innovative tool for delivering high-interest, cross-curricular nonfiction texts to students, right at their reading levels. Several of our Cumberland instructors have used it in their classrooms and our own Jennifer Liang presented the benefits of Newsela.com at a recent conference regarding "Reading Across the Curriculum".



There's More...

Barks from Haley



Cumberland is so very sad to announce the passing of a very important member of the Cumberland family, Haley. Haley has been "on staff" here since the beginning of the school. In the ten years Haley has been at the school, she has helped so many kids. This was so evident as students made drawings, notes and created artwork to express their loss. The cards and notes flowed to the Headmaster, Mrs. Scarborough. One student wrote a poem:

**"Thank you for Haley and
Nothing has made me a kinder person than she has
Good qualities in her heart and
She has volunteered to help me in the time of need.
Now she is in a better place.
Good girl, Haley, Good girl."**



More! Barks from Haley

Barks from Haley will continue in our newsletter! We are so grateful to all the families who expressed kindness and sadness over Haley's passing. As Haley gave to students, her joy at helping her Cumberland family continues. Families have asked where to make a donation in her honor so we have started the Haley Scholarship Fund.



Sports & More!



To the Hoop!! It's basketball season and the Cyclones are off to a great start! The Middle School team has learned a lot about perseverance and endurance as they had recent back to back games in which the second game ended in a tie in the last exciting minutes of the game! The High School team is very close to their first win – with a little more practice and experience that “W” will be all ours. Our most improved player is currently Jeffrey who has become an amazing center! Close behind him are Edmond and Aiden C. who both had career high points in our game last week. Please come out and support the Cyclones – the games are a lot of fun and the players respond so well to the support of cheering fans.



Don't forget our Faculty/Student Basketball Game on December 9th! The Faculty is looking forward to regaining the title this year, so don't miss out on this fun (and entertaining!) annual event that brings out the kid in everyone! New this year, our sponsor of the event, Quest Orthodontics, will be providing a raffle prize during half time. Must be present to win! And check out those cool t-shirts—thank you Quest Orthodontics!! Our cheerleaders will be in great form for the game. Cheer will practice their skills at cheer camp, December 10. Goooooo Cyclones!



End of Year

With 2016 in our rear view mirror, many generous people give to charities. We hope you will consider these young faces and the beautiful spirit of Cumberland if you choose to give at this time.

Your tax deduction will go toward Thursday pizza day, science equipment and music therapy to name a few places. Your check can be addressed directly to Cumberland or a donation can be made through our website, www.cumberlandacademy.org

Thank you wonderful family and friends of Cumberland! Happy 2017!



Make An Impact....



Now is the time to complete your **GOAL Scholarship Tax Credit** form for 2017!

Remember: this is a redirection of your state taxes to scholarships. Individuals can apply for \$1,000, married couples can apply for \$2,500, and business owners can contribute up to \$10,000. Please go to www.goalscholarship.org and complete the Paperless Process. Remember to list **Cumberland Academy of Georgia** as your school. It's fast and easy! Please contact Valerie Laura if you have any other questions - valerie.laura@cumberlandacademy.org

Thank you to the new Cumberland donors:

Manubir & Cathi Arora
Hugh & Tonia Austin
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650 Mt. Vernon Hwy NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

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DECEMBER 2016

CUMBERLAND ACADEMY OF GEORGIA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 3:30 HS BB Game @ Howard Chess Club until 4:15 EDP until 4:30 Chess until 4:30 Screen Free Game Club	2 Casual Dress Cumberland Cafe Tae Kwon Do Bowling Party	3
4	5 EDP until 4:30 HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	6 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	7 EDP until 4:30 4:00 MS BB Game @ Swift	8 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 4:00 HS BB Game @ Home vs. Center Chess Club until 4:15 EDP until 4:30 Screen Free Game Club	9 Basketball Attire Cumberland Cafe Student/Faculty BB Game. 1:00 Dismissal following the game.	10 Saturday Series Andersonville
11	12 EDP until 4:30 HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	13 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	14 EDP until 4:30 3:30 MS BB Game @ Mill Springs 5:00 HS BB Game @ Mill Springs	15 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 drop off at Club-51A 4:00 HS BB Game @ Home vs. Center Chess Club until 4:15 EDP until 4:30 Screen Free Game Club	16 Casual Dress Noon Dismissal No After School Activities	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Holiday Break			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			No School			

EDP = Extended Day Program MS = Middle School HS = High School BB = Basketball

JANUARY 2017

CUMBERLAND ACADEMY OF GEORGIA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Holiday Break School Closed	3 Teacher Work Day School Closed	4 Classes Resume EDP until 4:30 MS Basketball Practice until 4:30	5 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 EDP until 4:30 Chess Club until 4:15 Game Club Cheer until 4:30	6 Spirit Wear Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	7
8	9 4:00 HS BB Game @ Home vs. AASD EDP until 4:30	10 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	11 EDP until 4:30 MS Basketball Practice until 4:30	12 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 4:00 MS BB Game @ Home vs. Waldorf EDP until 4:30 Game Club	13 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	14
15	16 MLK Day No School	17 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	18 EDP until 4:30 4:00 MS BB Game @ Home vs. Cottage 5:15 HS BB Game @ Home vs. Cottage	19 Ten Year Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 EDP until 4:30 Game Club Cheer until 4:30	20 Spirit Wear Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	21
22	23 EDP until 4:30 MS BB Game at 3:30 at Mill Springs HS BB Game at 4:45 at Mill Springs	24 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	25 EDP until 4:30 4:00 MS BB Game @ Home vs. Mill Springs 5:00 HS BB Game @ Home vs. Mill Springs	26 Girl Talk 8:00-8:30 EDP until 4:30 Game Club Cheer until 4:30	27 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	28 Saturday Series "Who Let the Dogs Out" trip to Athens
29	30 4:00 HS BB Game @ Home vs. Howard EDP until 4:30	31 EDP until 4:30 MS APAC BB Tournament Starts				

EDP = Extended Day Program MS = Middle School HS = High School BB = Basketball