



# CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

**February 2017**

**March 2017**

## **Important Dates:**

**February 9 GISA Spelling Bee**

**March 18 HATS Off Party**

**April 19 Brown Bag Series**

**April 21 High School Dance**

**May 3-4 Student Overnights**

**May 18 Graduation**



*Cumberland Academy*  
of GEORGIA

**"An Exceptional School for Exceptional Students"**

# CYCLONE SPIRIT

**From the  
Headmaster -  
Debbi**



This time of year sports fans are already talking about brackets and the Sweet 16. Our Cumberland Cyclones are getting a good bit of chatter as well. We had very high student participation in the pep rally when our basketball team did a traditional break the banner run onto the gym floor. Of course, every team needs a cheer squad and Cumberland has a very enthusiastic team of cheer leaders.

Thanks to Coach Rodney Carlock the players also each got a personal video and a team photo taken in jackets and ties, just like the professional players. We appreciate the support of our parents and staff when the kids participate in sports.

You may have noticed some print press coverage of our recent 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ribbon Cutting for our renovated entrance. We were honored to have guests from the community, our parents and our Board of Directors to help us mark a very special occasion and celebrate our tenth year of operation. We can virtually feel the arms of the City of Sandy Springs around us as the city center becomes a reality, within walking distance of our school.

We will begin a therapeutic equestrian sessions at Chastain Horse Park for our elementary students. Research models are clear that horseback riding can promote self-confidence, and can build self-esteem. Also, we are happy to announce a partnership with Pace Academy's high schoolers who will volunteer to work with our kids to help tutor and develop new friendships.

Be sure to save the date of Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for our yearly fundraising party. H(helping) A(all) T(to) S(succeed) =HATS, our theme this year. Plan to be here for the fun, wear your happiest hat and come for an amazing evening.

Bundle up, put another log on the fire and enjoy this precious time with family. The days will be longer soon and the family will scatter. Spring will be here before we know it.

**From the  
Principal -  
Don Sasso**



Well to this point we have had a relatively mild Winter. Being originally from New England, that is certainly one of the aspects of the South that is most appreciated! As I write this Atlanta is all abuzz with the upcoming Super Bowl appearance by the Falcons. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have our first Super Bowl championship.

As you may know, I am currently recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Old athletic injuries had come back to haunt me. It has been a humbling experience. I must give a "shout out" of appreciation to my wife, who in just a few weeks has earned the equivalent of a nursing degree, and also a crash course in valet and chauffeur service. Upon my return to school, I received many hugs and "welcome back" greetings from our students. It was very heartwarming for me. Well it's now February and Spring will be here soon.

**Be nice and stay away, snow and ice!**

# From Your Teachers

**Pioneer  
Coordinator -  
Ms. Morgan**



The Pioneers are off to a great start for the new year! We are pleased to welcome a new student, Thomas Bayman. This student has transitioned into our group well and is a great addition to the Pioneers. We are currently focusing on memorizing multiplication math facts and applying that knowledge to two digit multiplication problems. Our project in literature is to create our own book - it will even be available for purchase on line when we have completed it! An exciting partnership is being explored with the Chastain Horse Park. The students have enjoyed our visits and are looking forward with much anticipation to future opportunities to work with the horses. Many students weren't too sure about getting on a horse so there were many first experiences with our day at Chastain.



**Navigator  
Coordinator -  
Mrs. Mensing**

Already in 2017, our Navigator family has grown by 3. We are so excited to get to know our new friends Aaron, Evan and Jeremy. They are great additions to our classrooms.

We look forward to meeting with parents for conferences in February and March. This is a great opportunity to discuss progress, areas of concern and next year's schedule. Please contact Mrs. Mensing to schedule a conference. There is so much left to learn this year. Some of Mrs. Bishop's students are reading a sci-fi fantasy, Cinder and others are reading the western classic True Grit. Mr. Allpere's class will demonstrate their mastery of the Newton's laws by creating their own roller coasters! His life science class will study body systems in preparation for their upcoming squid dissection. Mrs. Liang's Geography classes are studying West Africa this month. We are studying the impact of the recent Ebola outbreak, as well as the unique and colorful culture of this region. Georgia Studies has begun our study of the Civil War. Our anchor text for this unit is Ken Burn's groundbreaking documentary "The Civil War".

Mrs. A's class will be working on the art of persuasion with persuasive essays. Mrs. Mensing's youngest class will take on Fractions later this month. She knows with hard work they will master these skills.

# From Your Teachers

**Explorer**

**Coordinator -**

**Ms. Zierten**



As a reminder, Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on Friday, February 17, 2017. Please be sure to sign up via the "SignUp Genius" if you are interested in scheduling a conference with your Explorer Teacher Team.

Our PACE PALS Program began on Monday, January 30th, 2017, with an Orientation for our PACE Students. Cumberland Academy of Georgia students will work with the PACE students every Monday from 3:30-4:30pm. The PACE Students are excited about starting. The program will be great for our students to engage with and form friendships with students from other schools. Additionally, students will receive reinforcement in areas they may need extra assistance.

From the classrooms: History is alive and well in our classes as Explorer students are researching and discovering about the past in American and World History Classes. The European Renaissance and Reformation, Empires of the World and the effects of Westward Expansion are all topics being tackled. In Civics Class students are discovering the Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of being an American Citizen. They are also gaining a deeper understanding of our Supreme Court and our US Constitution. Early Civilizations students are currently studying Greece. Physics class is discussing Potential and Kinetic energy, the differences in each and what they mean. High School Math class is reviewing some aspects of business math in advance of each student setting up a company. Quadratic equations and geometric proofs are also a part of this challenging curriculum. Environmental Science class has been studying ecosystems. In particular we have had lively discussions about the differences among the various biomes of the world.



**Career Prep -**

**Mr. Sentell**



The Career Prep Program students are showing remarkable gains in understanding how valuable their vocational work can be for them. They're deeply enjoying the supervision they're getting at Publix, and responding to the job requirements of a big and popular company.

Students travel well to our various vocational sites while listening to Mr. Sentell's role-play instructions and encouragement. The camaraderie between the students in the group is steady and satisfying. The vocational work visits to the Sandy Springs Community Assistance Center, the Keep North Fulton Beautiful recycling center, the GAP at the Mall of Georgia, and Salud! Cooking School continue with great enthusiasm ... because they're working!



# From Your Teachers

## Counselor's Corner

Our counseling theme for the month of February is **FRIENDSHIP!** Counselors will be talking with your students about making and keeping friends, emphasizing that both are a lifelong skill. At times it may be tricky for them to understand the difference between a friend and an acquaintance. A simple explanation is that an acquaintance is someone you might say hi to or speak briefly with. Friendship is bigger and better! There is a connection that is meaningful and spending time together is the most important thing. Listed below are a few ways to help your student with making a friend:

- Invite someone over after school.
- Join clubs or sports that interest you and meet others who like the same things you do. Bowling can be so much fun!
- Make a plan to see the person during the weekend.
- Plan a pizza party with another family!
- Smile and say HI - Smiles make you seem friendly and approachable.
- Look at a person's face or eyes - When you look at others faces, they feel like you are interested in them and what they are saying. People like being respected.

In March we will explore **COURAGE** as our theme. Many thanks to all who used **KINDNESS** and donated socks during December. We collected 166 pairs for a North Fulton homeless shelter and are keeping 166 pairs of feet warm!



## Technology- Jennifer Liang

While every parent (and teacher) is concerned about internet safety, Cumberland takes a unique approach to keeping students safe. Although students have a safety net via a firewall, teachers are continually monitoring and teaching the students how to keep themselves safe while using today's technology. One such program, Digital Citizenship, is monumental in assisting safe classroom technology skills.

Cumberland Academy is certified as Digital Citizenship School. This means that we have made a concerted effort to explicitly teach Digital Citizenship as part of our comprehensive social skills program. Digital Citizenship teaches our students to apply the lessons they learn in the "real" world to online situations. Six of our teachers and counselors are Digital Citizenship Certified Educators, and I've completed additional training as a Digital Citizenship Ambassador.

Recently, I had the privilege of hosting a webinar on "Digital Citizenship and Autism" for Common Sense Education. Several hundred educators and parents joined me online to learn about Cumberland Academy's unique Digital Citizenship program. Our program emphasizes teaching Digital Citizenship as a social skills deficit instead of punishing students for transgressions. We work hard to embed these skills in our classrooms and daily routines, as well as explicitly instructing our students during our weekly Friday Rotations. I also spoke about some of the special challenges our students face regarding online identity, privacy, and safe interactions.

The webinar is archived at <http://home.edweb.net/webinar/teaching-students-autism-digital-citizenship/>.



# There's More...

## Barks from Haley



Mrs. Liang can't be more proud of her geography bee participants: Devin Puryear, Mackenzie Baldwin, Luke Hensel, Caleb Alexander, Jacob Slutzky, and Cormac McCabe. Congratulations to first runner-up Trey Mitts and Geography Bee "Queen" Perri Schwartz.

Mrs. Abramson was astonished with the awesome performance of all our Spelling Bee participants, especially Matthew Rios, Kennedy Quinn, Cormac McCabe, Jason Mittelstedt, Trey Mitts, Aaron Jackson and Sophie Moon and Pioneer participants Price Austin, Thomas Bayman, and Connor Mc Nerney, who demonstrated their spelling finesse in front of more than 40 peers. Kudos to our alternates Ben Turner and Perri Schwartz and a big round of applause to Devin Puryear and Sam Drobos for winning the bee. We know you will represent our school well in a few weeks at the GISA Spelling Bee.

Mr. Allpere is so impressed with Caleb Alexander and Ben Turner's tenacity when researching Weird Plant of the day.

Congratulations to the Cumberland cheer team for competing in the Georgia World Congress Center!

## Sports



Our basketball teams have improved tremendously throughout this basketball season and we are excited about their development physically and mentally. They have continued to work hard each day at practice to improve their skills & communication. Both teams have faced challenges this year but collectively, they have made many positive memories for the Cyclones basketball program this year. For example, in previous years, Cumberland played against a team that was far and away the best team in the league. Last year, we were beaten by a long shot. This year, with this basketball team, we were one point—only one point—from being tied with that team. What a great improvement!

The players are continuing to accept these challenges with positive attitudes & sportsmanship and have inspired other students to take on interest in the basketball program for next season. Our middle school team has 25% more players than last year! These teams are young, enthusiastic and many of their players will be returning on next year's roster.

On January 25th, we had our first ever Homecoming Pep Rally! The cheerleaders cheered and as each player was introduced the student body went wild with excitement! We look forward to taking the league by storm. Go Cyclones!!

# One Great Event !

## HATS OFF

**SAVE THE DATE**

# Hats Off

TO TEN YEARS  
*Spring Fundraiser*

**HELPING ALL TO SUCCEED**

HONORING TRISHA BELL

*Saturday, March 18, 6:30 pm*

Cumberland Academy of Georgia is an exceptional school for special needs students. We host a gala each year to raise funds for our school.

**Join us for a festive evening with dinner, dancing and gaming.  
Best hat wins a prize!**

To purchase tickets, visit [www.cumberlandacademy.org](http://www.cumberlandacademy.org)  
or call us at (404) 835-9000

 **Cumberland Academy**  
GEORGIA

 Thank you to our sponsor:  
Savannah Bourbon Company

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Bruce Schindler	Taki Skouras	Caroline Cohen
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## The HATS (Helping All To Succeed) Party

Before Cumberland was a school, a few wonderful donors came together for the first fundraiser. The theme that year was HATS (Helping All To Succeed). See pictures below.

In celebration of that very first year and the 10 year anniversary of Cumberland, this year will have the same theme, HATS OFF.

Parents, donors, Board Members and friends of the school start looking for your most prized hat and join us! Tickets are available on the school website.

See you March 18 at 6:30!



# Make An Impact....



10th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Spelling Bee Champs

Spirit Week



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.

# FEBRUARY 2017

CUMBERLAND ACADEMY OF GEORGIA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 EDP until 4:30 MS APAC Tournament at Cottage	2 <b>Girl Talk 8:00-8:30</b> EDP until 4:30 Cheer until 4:30 4:00 HS Home Game	3 Falcons Rise Up Spirit Wear Today Cumberland Cafe Tae Kwon Do Bowling	4
5	6 EDP until 4:30 HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	7 EDP until 4:30 Combined MS/HS Basketball Practice until 4:30	8 EDP until 4:30 HS Basketball Playoffs/Tournament at home at 4:00	9 EDP until 4:30 Game Club Cheer until 4:30	10 Casual Dress Cumberland Cafe Brown Bag Lunch Tae Kwon Do Bowling 4:00 HS B'ball Tourn.	11
12	13 EDP until 4:30	14 EDP until 4:30	15 EDP until 4:30	16 <b>Girl Talk 8:00-8:30</b> EDP until 4:30	17 Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School	18
19	20 Winter Break	21 No School	22 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice this week only on Weds. and Thurs. until 4:30	23 EDP until 4:30 Game Club Track Practice	24 Spirit Wear Cumberland Cafe Tae Kwon Do Bowling	25 Driver's Ed 9:00 - 3:00 Saturday Series Helen and Sautee- Nacoochee 9-6
26	27 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	28 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice Until 4:30				

# MARCH 2017

CUMBERLAND ACADEMY OF GEORGIA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 EDP until 4:30	2 <b>Girl Talk 8:00-8:30</b> EDP until 4:30	3 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	4 Driver's Ed 9:00 - 3:00
5	6 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	7 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	8 EDP until 4:30	9 EDP until 4:30 Game Club HS Track Meet at 4	10 Spirit Wear Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	11 Driver's Ed 9:00 - 3:00
12	13 Teacher Work Day No School	14 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	15 EDP until 4:30	16 <b>Girl Talk 8:00-8:30</b> EDP until 4:30	17 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	18 Driver's Ed 9:00 - 3:00 <b>HATS Gala</b>
19	20 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	21 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	22 EDP until 4:30	23 EDP until 4:30 Game Club HS Track Meet at 4	24 Spirit Wear Cumberland Café Brown Bag Lunch Tae Kwon Do Bowling	25 Driver's Ed 9:00 - 3:00
26	27 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	28 EDP until 4:30 Track Practice until 4:30	29 EDP until 4:30	30 <b>Girl Talk 8:00-8:30</b> EDP until 4:30	31 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Tae Kwon Do Bowling	