

CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



Dec/Jan 2018 IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/8– Students vs. Faculty Basket ball Game
- 12/15– Noon release
- 12/15– Deadline for GOAL
- 1/3– Students return Semester begins



LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER Debbi Scarborough

We have had a busy and productive fall! We offered a special training program for our students, designed to teach them how to safely navigate the web. Teaching digital citizenship allows our students to learn a way to connect and collaborate online, in a safe way. Responsible use of digital products and systems is key to kid's who have such a keen interest like our study body. We are proud to say, we are the only special needs school in Georgia to offer this program.

We were able to invite our next door neighbors from the senior retirement facility over for a trick or treat event. Parents would be proud to know how gingerly our kids handled these guests. They were respectful and

made healthy conversations with them; it was a treat for everyone.

We hope most of you have had a chance to meet our newest student, Lucky. He is finding his way around the school and making friends easily. He is an easy going kind of dog and already has a posse of students following him.

As 2017 closes and 2018 begins, I think about the potential each student has. I see them growing, maturing and becoming independent. This brings me great joy! Thank you for the opportunity to work with your amazing children.

Happy Holidays!

Debbi Scarborough

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DOUG LONG
Principal

“We can’t thank you enough for setting up the interview and helping (the student) prepare for the job! While he’s a little nervous about becoming an “adult,” he couldn’t be better prepared. And that’s thanks to all of you!”

D.P, parent

We had all been enjoying the balmy weather over the past couple months, though the calendar has turned to winter. We suddenly are looking for our scarves, hats and gloves. Just like the weather gets a bit more difficult, so do academics as the year progresses. Students are rising to the challenge.

To demonstrate the width of experience offered at Cumberland, let me share one of our science projects which included fish eggs arriving (via UPS!) which were carefully monitored by students in the Cumberland fish hatchery. Eggs led to young fish which mirrored science lessons. After several weeks of feeding and growing, students got to take the young adult fish to the Chattahoochee for release into the wild. What a great experiential lesson for our students.

We want our student body to be offered all the typical passages of high school to include ACT testing, college visits and career readiness. Even for those who have not made future plans yet, it is good to be exposed to the testing and to get to meet some of college advisors who have visited our campus. We enjoy sharing Cumberland with the outside world and to connect students with opportunity.

In tandem with college or career visits, our parents have the opportunity learn through our Brown Bag series. Cumberland arranges a variety of experts to discuss topics relating to our student population. These series are intended to assist parents with our mutual goal of nurturing independent young adults.

We look forward to an equally successful 2018!



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

PIONEER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Morgan

The Pioneers have been busy this year. While we have a wide range of reading levels among the Pioneers, all students are enjoying the chapter books we are working on in class. We are reading *Holes*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and stories from *Imagine It*. The classes have been learning about foreshadowing, contractions, and having fun with palindromes. Students are also using their writing skills to develop an effective outline.

Force and motion are always a part of the Pioneer world, and this winter we will study those properties in Science. In addition to learning about motion, we will be in motion as we take a field trip to reinforce our life skills lessons in service and giving back to

our community. Each year we visit the Atlanta Food Bank and each year we learn something different from the experience.

Part of our elementary experience is learning how to organize our school work. One of our goals for the next few months is to improve our executive functioning skills. Our Pioneer teachers will be reinforcing various concepts to help each student achieve individual goals.

We look forward to continued success with our students!



NAVIGATOR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Mensing

As 2017 comes to a close, the Navigator group is excited about our accomplishments and our upcoming resolutions for the New Year. This is the time of year to celebrate your child's accomplishments: their gains in independence, their strides in collaborative skills and sportsmanship, or perhaps their greater perseverance and coping skills. We hope you see the same gains at home that we observe at school.

A new year brings new academics. Mrs. Bishop will begin short stories and poetry. In Geography, students are mastering Google Keep to assist with a research project on Australia. The completion of the unit will be to create and deliver presentations to the class. Additionally, students will work on a multi-sensory project on Japan and have a celebratory lunch around the Chinese New Year.

Students who are writing 5 paragraph essays will be

honing their abilities and will begin to work on the requirements of different styles of writing: narrative, informative, and argumentative essays. All writing classes will expand vocabulary and work on sentence structure.

Science classes are working on Chemistry with acids, bases, and solutions while other students will study development of life beginning with viruses, bacteria, and protists. Earth Science class will travel back through geologic time to study the history of our earth.

We look forward to an Exceptional second half to the school year!



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

EXPLORER COORDINATOR

Ms. Zierten

High school academics are in full swing. Students are creating presentations using Google technology, working in groups and making presentations. Additionally, Science classes are making great use of the new Science lab while reinforcing classroom learning. If you walk the halls of the high school, you may hear "Fiesta" coming from Spanish classes as they are working on a research project and will celebrate with a mock celebration. Meanwhile, some Literature students are creating vocabulary maps while other students are researching and presenting projects related the class novel which depicts immigration, ethnic diversity in the US, and The Great Depression.

The Bobby Dodd Institute sent a representative to speak with students. She led students in a discus-

sion to better understand all the job opportunities offered and shared the resources available for students to support job interests and placement services. Students were very engaged and asked interesting questions on finding and interviewing for a job. This was fantastic information for all the high school students as they begin to think about part-time employment.

High school students attended a seminar on how to appropriately work with law enforcement. A local police officer presented information on internet safety, driving safety and how to effectively communicate with law enforcement officers.



CAREER PREP

Mrs. McCracken

As part of the Career Prep program, students are responsible for planning, management and operation of Cumberland Café every other Friday. The experience gives the students real life experience in a work situation. Cumberland Café is pleased to announce Da Vinci Donuts Dunwoody and Panera Bread are now donating donuts and bagels to Café! Thank you to both Dunwoody businesses for supporting Cumberland and the Café.

More great news for the Career Prep program! Recently a donor has made it possible for the Career Prep students to begin equine therapy at Chastain Horse Park. Therapeutic riding uses equine-assisted activities for the purpose of contributing positively to



cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well being for people with disabilities. The equine therapy program is a tremendous benefit to our students. We are so grateful to the donor for this program!



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Val Schwan

In the spirit of kindness and giving this holiday season, our Cumberland Spirit Club is leading a **shoe drive** for the month of **December** to collect **new athletic shoes**. Our goal is to contribute 100 shoes to Samaritan's Feet for distribution in January in the Atlanta area. Ron Hunter, head coach of the Georgia State Panther basketball team, spoke at our Cumberland Commencement ceremony last May and inspired us to help Samaritan's Feet put more shoes on the feet of underserved children and adults. Involving our students to demonstrate kindness and think of others on a day to day basis is important to the counselors and staff at Cumberland. Doing something special for a stranger is big step toward "Paying it Forward", and we are proud to say that our students are involved and leading the way with kindness and giving!

As December will be the month to celebrate kindness, **January** will be the month to celebrate diversity and exploring different ways for students to honor the uniqueness in each other. This is a new counseling theme and we look forward to the positive outcome in students interactions.

Your Cumberland Counseling Staff wishes you a wonderful holiday season filled with love and joy! Happy January to all!



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Liang, Instructional Technology Specialist

Have you heard the news?

Hour of Code is coming! Hour of Code is coming!

Haven't heard of it? You soon will hear all about it from your student! Hour of Code is the world's largest learning event. Cumberland Academy of Georgia is in our third year of participation. During the first week of December, all students will participate in a coding challenge appropriate to their age and ability. Even our very youngest students can learn how to program a simple robot to get through a maze, while our oldest and more experienced students will solve more complex puzzles.

Coding and computer science is a great way to introduce our students to 21st Century job skills. While not all of our students will work as programmers, the problem-solving skills and ability to think logically will assist them in any field. Additionally, Hour of Code activities are designed to foster communication skills, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. These "Four C's" are now considered essential learning skills, just like the "3 R's" were in the 20th Century. Hour of Code is an exciting way of introducing these skills to our students.

Be sure to look for participation certificates in Thursday Folders!

THERE'S MORE...

BARKS FROM LUCKY

- Cyclone Parents, you all are the best. Each teacher and staff would like to express gratitude for the lunches you all have held for us. We are so grateful for your support in the classroom and so grateful for your kindness in the lunchroom!
- Move over world, here comes the Cyclone Spirit Club! Our fabulous counselor, Britani Wilson, has launched a club with, well, lots of school spirit! Students are enjoying selling shakers and spirit gear at games, creating banners for the team and selling Candy Grams which promote lots of school spirit during the week. Spirit Club is also supporting our Shoe Drive. Way to go!



Barks for Alumni

- Congratulations to our alumni Etienne Gouraige who made Deans List at SCAD.
- Congratulations to another alumni, Caslin Broady, who was recently hired to work part-time at Publix while attending Atlanta Technical College.

SPORTS & SCHOOL CLUBS

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



Cyclone basketball teams are working hard and it shows on the court. Well done Cyclone Basketball stars-each one of you. This season is the largest group of students to ever play basketball. Coach "C" says he has seen growth in the team and is looking forward to continuing the season after the break.

Look for the first ever Cumberland golf team this spring! More information to come!

Bowling is in full swing (pun intended). Students have developed quite a sense of healthy competition by bowling each Friday. Congratulations to Bryson F for enjoying the title of most strikes during the season.

DECEMBER 2017

Cumberland Academy of Georgia



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Lunch Provided Last Bowling Last Tae Kwon Do	2
3	4 EDP HS/JV Basketball Game @ Home vs. Howard	5 EDP Basketball Practice Cancelled due to Election Art Club until 4:30	6 EDP MS – A Basketball Game vs. Mill Springs Girls Cheer	7 EDP Art Club until 4:30	8 Spirit Wear No Café Student/Faculty Basketball Game at 12 with dis- missal following game	9
10	11 EDP HS Basketball Prac- tice	12 EDP MS/HS Combined Basketball Practice Art Club 4:30	13 Girl Talk 8-8:30 EDP HS/JV Basketball Game @ Home vs. Center Girls Cheer	14 EDP MS-A Basketball Game @ Home vs. Waldorf Screen Free Game Art Club until 4:30	15 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Noon Dismissal No After School Activities	16
17	18	19	20 WINTER BREAK	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 NO SCHOOL	28	29	30

MAKE AN IMPACT



If you pay Georgia State taxes, you can have a profound impact on Cumberland.

Sign up to re-direct your taxes to the Georgia Goal Scholarship Program. It will cost you only about 30 seconds of time.

Need help? Contact Valerie Laura or Jeff Twomley @404-835-9000.

****Special thank you to Hughes Media! Each employee signed up for GOAL!!**

Deadline is December 15.

Thank you to the Cumberland GOAL supporters.....Abramson, Arora, Beauchain, Bishop, Brooks, Burgess, Bushey, Carico, Caruso, Collins, Cook, Davis, Downs, Dudley, Howle, Hudson, Hughes, Jackson, Jetmundsen, Laura, Lee, Levy, Liu, Long, Mathis, Matos, Mensing, Meyer, Mittelstedt, Morgan, Osbourne, Perez-Rivera, Puryear, Roland, Sasso, Scarborough, Schwan, Smith, Stern, Tribou, Twomley, Varkey, Wilbanks & Wright

YEAR END GIVING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Year End Giving

Thank you to Mike Stern and Robin Howell for their year end giving.

There is still time! The Cumberland website will accept donations throughout December for 2017.



Capital Campaign

Thank you to a Cumberland family for your incredible support of the Campaign. Your generosity is inspiring.

Thank you Sentry Insurance for the donation of 30 computers.

We are so, so close!!! Please consider a donation to Cumberland to help us complete the match and finish out the Capital Campaign!



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.