

# CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



Dec/Jan 2019

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/7– Students vs. Faculty Basketball Game
- 12/18– Last Day of the Semester
- 12/19– Holiday Break Begins
- 12/31– GOAL Deadline
- 1/3–Classes Resume
- 1/19–Cumberland Rocks @ Hard Rock Cafe
- 1/21 –M.L. King Day; School Closed



## LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

Debbi Scarborough

We have had such a busy and gratifying fall! I am so proud of our graduating class of 2019, as many of them have already received acceptances to prestigious colleges that include Landmark College, the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Western Kentucky, and more. My heart fills with joy as I see each of them reaching their potential and preparing to enter the world as young independent adults.

A special thank you to all of our donors. Your contributions have allowed us to build a state of the art kitchen for students to practice life skills and allow more cross curricular activities. This year your support will help fund an outdoor classroom that will foster experiential learning, group projects, and additional life skills. As the year closes, we hope you choose Cumberland for your end of year giving.

Over this holiday break, we will work on some much

needed building improvements to our bathrooms and complete a deep cleaning that will benefit all during the cold and flu season. Making sure our students are in a safe and clean environment is our top priority.

We look forward to our Groovy “Woodstock” Gala in March, as it will be filled with funky music and tons of fun! So mark your calendars for March 23rd and we hope everyone will be able to attend. Also, don’t miss the “Cumberland Rocks” event on January 19th.

As 2018 closes and 2019 begins, I think about all the things we have to be thankful for. Please enjoy this special time with your families and I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season. Happy Holidays to all!

*Debbi Scarborough*

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**DOUG LONG**  
Principal

*"Wow, this is fantastic! It fills my heart to know (the student) is getting the help he needs to be self aware and on a more focused path. Thank you!"*

*~E.R, parent*

As 2018 comes to a close, in reflection, I am amazed at the growth and expansion in our faculty and program offerings since the beginning of this school year. The thought provoking and thorough responses we collected from our "Strategic Planning Survey", proved to be the genesis of two immediate Cumberland additions. One is our "Creating Futures" program which focuses on providing support and resources for our students beginning in the 8th grade and continues throughout high school and beyond. The second is the addition of Mr. Devyn Carter, our Executive Functions Coach. Many parents have expressed their excitement of having a teacher on staff who is devoted to helping their child with these skills.

As we continue to establish relationships within the community and cooperate partners like LexisNexis, the YMCA, and Fox Sports South, "Creating Futures" will be able to aid both students and alumni with resume building, career opportunities and college placement. We even had our first "College &

Career Fair" at the end of October and the turnout was amazing! Some great connections were made between representatives and Cumberland families. In house, Devyn Carter has been working diligently with students on improving their executive skills in continued preparation for independent living. Areas of emphasis include enhancing study skills, revisiting exams to improve grades, strengthening time management skills, organization skills, working memory, sustained attention, task initiation and goal-directed persistence. Students also learn about and discuss a wide range of academic topics with a particular emphasis on preparing for college. Mr. Carter is a former professor at Georgia State University and is also a Certified Positive Discipline Educator. We are so thrilled to have him!

Just like our tagline, we look forward to all of the "exceptional" things that 2019 will bring!



# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## PIONEER, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Carmon

The Pioneers recently traveled to the Tellus Museum in Cartersville to enhance their classroom learning. We were able to identify gems being studied in Science and pan for our own gems just like the original pioneers we discussed in Social Studies. Technology was incorporated into the trip and students were encouraged to film and commentate their experience as we toured. Ms. Irvin will be sharing those fun videos with parents soon!

To show our gratitude and in service of our community, the Pioneers made cards and delivered them to our neighbors at Insignia Senior Living and Memory Care Facility. The seniors there were so appreciative of the gifts and for visiting.

Thanks to Mr. Allpere, we're able to get a jump on the

subject of Life Science and learn about the life cycle of trout through the Cumberland fish hatchery. Our careful eyes were able to spot the famous two headed trout and we learned a great deal about how this mutation would likely impact its life expectancy.

We look forward to amazing discoveries and fun experiences in 2019!



## NAVIGATOR, MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Mensing

It's hard to believe the 1st semester is nearly complete! It will be a busy December in the classroom as we prepare to be exposed to new literary genres, experience live theatre performances and conduct project presentations in front of our peers.

The students are excited to begin working on their 2nd novel in Mrs. Bishop's literature classes. We love to hear when kids find a new book to cherish. In addition, writing classes are finishing their biography projects and have started to practice their presentations for December 14th. Students have really enjoyed learning more about famous people throughout history and exploring details surrounding their lives. Each student will share the stage with peers to act out a brief "scene" depicting what might happen if famous people from throughout history had a conversation.

The new year will also bring new enrichment classes for students. Navigators will be able to choose to take PE, Culinary Arts, Art, Digital Thinking or

Drama. Students will choose their final enrichment class in March and are really enjoying having some input in their schedule.

Geography students are going to tour the Carlos Museum and view South American artifacts and Mesoamerican items for a first hand experience of some of the topics reflected in the Mexico and South America Units of study.



All 8th graders are invited to attend the Spring City Theatre Company's production of Elf the Musical on December 12th. Elf the Musical is based on the beloved holiday film that follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. This play echoes the emphasis we place on self discovery and self confidence.

# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## EXPLORER, HIGH SCHOOL

### Mr. Downs

Explorer life continues to blossom at Cumberland. College-bound students spent time at West Georgia, enjoyed a visit from Landmark College, and surveyed several booths at our first annual college fair.

In the classroom, time has been well-spent listening and learning. The math classes have been active with students rising to the challenge of systems with multiple variables, comprehending the rules of triangles, and attempting to manipulate linear equations. Some of the term has been devoted to having our budding mathematicians approach the board and perform such work in front of the class. Meanwhile our Explorer scientists are busy learning about osmosis, writing chemical formulas and naming ionic and covalent bonds, and chemical reactions.

In World Literature, the students have been focusing on Magical Realism, reading stories from that genre by Latin American authors, writing essays about those stories, and scripting and illustrating their own creations involving elements of Magical Realism. We have just started to read *Life of Pi*, which also involves spectacular scenarios. Additionally, we have a book project underway which involves a book review, illustrated bookmark, and a presentation.

The recent midterm election has brought up several questions and emotions about the electoral college and whether or not it's fair. Our World History, American History, and Economics classes have all explored the history of voting in America as well as the voting practices of earlier civilizations. It is exciting to see how passionate our kiddos are about their politics.

The great thing about learning Spanish is how it connects a student to more people and places in the world. Our goal is not just to learn new vocabulary words, but also to connect those words to the larger aspects of Latin culture. We put together an amazing *Dia de Los Muertos* Festival complete with *Ofrendas* and a *Taco Friday*. We are currently focusing on travel and creating travel brochures to dream destinations in the Spanish speaking world. In the new year, we plan to incorporate a Mexican restaurant into our Friday rotations for real life application. The students are excited to share and show what they have learned and I am proud of their progress. *Nos vemos!*



## CAREER PREP

### Mrs. Fineman



So much learning has taken place in Career Prep, Life Skills and Culinary Arts this fall.

Career Prep continues to manage the student led Cumberland Café through menu planning, food prep, and procurement of provisions. Students in 5th period have been cooking a luncheon for their parents every other week, which has been great for everyone! In addition, students have worked on reading and writing skills (Anansi stories, myths, Cy and Medusa), math skills (household budgets, sequencing) and social studies (presidents and social responsibility). We also collaborated with Mr. McElderry's economics class on a 4C's project: Continents, Cultures, Cuisines and "Coin." We explored world cultures through the lens of food and agribusiness. Our collaboration will continue into the New Year, when we will study similar themes impacting closer to home, culminating our work in February during Black History Month. Our outings and field trips will continue to see opportunities to learn about jobs and partnerships in the immediate area.

Next semester, students in Career Prep will have science with Mr. Carter during fifth period and culinary arts sixth period. Life Skills has continued its work with fiscal responsibility. We have not only learned how to balance a checkbook (done with paper and pencil), but we have also considered budgetary decisions based on life choices. We collaborated with Ms. Liang, who showed us a really slick Google App for this purpose.

Culinary Arts has done such great work in every aspect of our cooking. We were fortunate to have a guest speaker in (a former restaurateur from Connecticut, California and Hawaii). He talked about his love of food and the logistics of restaurant operation.

We also did an in-depth study of soups, sauces and sautéing skills. In addition, we have enjoyed our classmates' food demos and written thoughtful critiques about their work. There will be a summative assessment ("final") at the end of the semester. More information to come.

Happy holidays and winter solstice from Career Prep, Life Skills and Culinary Arts!

# FROM YOUR TEACHERS

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Val Schwan,  
Director of Counseling

The month of November has given us many opportunities to show our **Gratitude** to others. The Pioneers visited our neighbors at Insignia Senior Living to brighten their day by giving them handmade holiday cards. Our Career Prep students wrote thank you notes to student and staff families of Veterans.

Our counseling theme for December is **Empathy**. By better understanding empathy, we hope our students will be able to experience what it means to feel emotions as they share in another person's joy or challenges. As part of our focus on



empathy, will be collecting **warm** items (socks, mittens, scarves, hats) for the homeless between December 3 and December 14. Look for the oversized stockings in the lobby to deposit your donations. We will also encourage our students to listen compassionately to their friends, family or neighbors during this season of family gatherings and celebrations.

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to highlight **Self Awareness**. Among other topics in January, we will focus on goal-setting. We look forward to continuing to support our students and their families in 2019!

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Liang,  
Instructional Technology Specialist

Hour of Code is here!

Hour of Code is an international learning event where students uncover something to love about computer science. Cumberland Academy of Georgia has been participating for 4 years and this event helped kick start our computer science programs that have now grown exponentially. Not only do we incorporate computer science, robotics and various STEM activities into our curriculum but we have the opportunity to partner with technology giants like LexisNexis.



During the first week of December, in celebration of the world's first computer programmer, Ada Lovelace, all students participate in a coding challenge appropriate to their age and ability. Even our youngest students will dive into technology and learned how to create surveys and questionnaires through Google Forms, while our oldest and more experienced students solve more complex puzzles. Coding and computer science is a great way to prepare our students for a world that is constantly incorporating new technological advancements into every facet of life. 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.

Be sure to ask students about what they did and look for participation certificates in Thursday Folders!

# THERE'S MORE...

## CREATING FUTURES

Shari Wright

"For S.T., working for Homewood Suites has been a game changer in his life." -parent of a Cumberland student.



While Cumberland has always assisted parents with a next stage after high school, Cumberland developed Creating Futures to broaden the reach into more opportunities for high school students and alumni. This fall, Creating Futures held a college and career fair. Colleges, support services and career opportunities filled the Cumberland gym. Lots of information was distributed to students and their families. Creating Futures wants to help each student dream big and bold and offers each individual the chance to work toward this dream. From high school part time jobs to ACT testing and college applications, Cumberland students will be challenged and pushed toward their next life step. We want to create a "game changer" for each student!



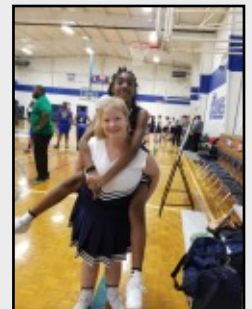
Check out the first alumni panel scheduled for January. Students and parents can hear from a panel of Cumberland alumni on "tips for the transition". See you there!

## SPORTS & SCHOOL CLUBS

### GO CYCLONES!



With plenty of intense drills, endurance exercises and team work, our Cyclone basketball teams are off to a great start! This season we have a lot of new players and are participating in the largest playing schedule to date. Coach "C" and Coach Twomley would like to recognize the newly established team mom group for bringing snacks and refreshments for our hard working players. The Cyclone cheerleaders have also been bringing their "A" game this season and have been there to support our players at every home game. Also, be on the lookout for signup information for the new bowling season starting in January.



Our fabulous Spirit Club and Ms. Britani organized our first "Movie Night" last month with a screening of the newly released "Incredibles 2." Not only did the kids have the opportunity to watch an "incredible" movie and eat pizza, they participated in a variety of activity stations and made ooey gooey slime. Needless to say the event was a hit and we look forward to the next "Movie Night" in the future!



# DECEMBER 2018

Cumberland Academy of Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 JV BB Game @Home at 4 PM EDP	4 Election Day EDP	5 MS BB Game @Home at 3:30 PM Girl Talk Drama Club EDP	6 Game Club Art Club EDP	7 Student vs Faculty Basketball Game @ 11 a.m. (Immediate Dismissal Following)	8
9	10 HS BB Practice EDP	11 MS BB Game @TCS at 3:30 PM/ JV at 4:30 PM EDP	12 Girl Talk MS BB Game @ Waller Park EXT at 3 PM/ JV at 4 PM Drama Club EDP	13 Game Club Art Club EDP	14 Casual Dress Spirit Club Cumberland Cafe	15
16	17 HS BB Practice EDP	18 Last Day of Semester MS BB Game @ MGW at 4 PM NO EDP	19 Holiday Break	20 Holiday Break	21 Holiday Break	22
23	24 Holiday Break	25 Holiday Break	26 Holiday Break	27 Holiday Break	28 Holiday Break	29
30	31 GOAL Deadline Holiday Break					



# 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. **Deadline is December 31.**

- We're very pleased to announce that we have partnered with Enviro-Master Services to help reduce germs and keep our school clean during the cold season! Enviro-Master Services is the world's largest company operating in the commercial hygiene service industry and thankful for their donation to our school!



- Congratulations to senior, Luke Hensel, for being accepted to Landmark College.
- Congratulations to senior, Thomas Smith, who has been accepted to Chattahoochee Technical College and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.
- Congratulations to another senior, Spencer Utt, for being accepted to Western Kentucky University and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

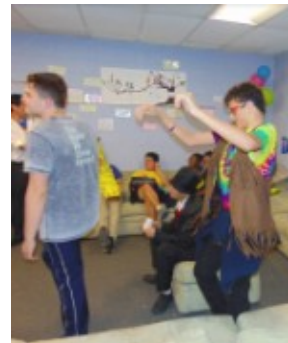
Thank you to the Cumberland GOAL supporters.....Burgess, Bushey, Collins, Dudley, Howle, Hudson, Long, Meyer, Smith, Tribou, Jackson, Stern, Lee, Matos, Chang, Moore, Osbourne, Rankin, Schwan, Arora, Brooks, Drobos, Mathis, Mittlestedt, Wheeler, Voyles, Twomley, Carico, Downs, Jetmundsen, Mensing, Beauchain, Laura, Telford, Wright, Manfredonia, Carmon, Fineman, Thomas, Ainsworth, Allpere, Gaddy, Arouh, Bayman, Bishop, Caruso, Cavanaugh, Falconer, Glee, Howard, Kelly, Long, Puryear, Reimer, Rios, Sasso, Scarborough, Slutzky, Wilbanks & Levy.

## WELCOME TO WOODSTOCK Annual Spring Gala

The Woodstock Gala is on it's way!

Save the date, March 23rd, as the annual party of the year is Woodstock themed. Dust off your hippie clothes. Rummage through your old things to find some flower power and get ready for a fun evening that helps our special school. Look for your invitation after the holidays!

*Thank you to our sponsors: Arant, Davis, Collins, Kelly, Haraszti, and Cavanaugh.*



*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.*