



Culbertson Elementary School Spring 2009

Newsletter

Principal's Message

In my last year as principal of Culbertson School, I want to share with you some final thoughts. I want you to remember what I said everyday at recess: "Work hard! Do your best! No goofing off!" Remember that Cougars R O A R: Respect Others, Always Read.

Remember that the most important thing that you can do with your life is to help others, just as others have helped you. Remember that a school is not cement and bricks. A school is people. We have been blessed with wonderful people at Culbertson!

Our teachers are outstanding, our parents are supportive and our students love learning. Thank you to everyone for making the past nineteen years the highlight of my educational career. It has been my privilege to be your principal.

Thomas Cook
Principal

Mrs. Reilly's Kindergarten Room 2

After working diligently all school year, the kindergartners are ready for summer vacation. On the last day of school the kindergarten students will take home their journal. They have been writing a sentence each day independently, and illustrating a picture to go along with their sentence. The children continue to practice correct sentence structure and phonetic spelling when writing.

During math the children are learning about addition and subtraction. We have also discussed making equal halves. During the summer the children should continue to practice these skills along with counting change and telling time using an analog clock.

On Monday, June 15th the kindergarten classes will celebrate our end of the school year party. We will watch a magic show and then the children will receive their kindergarten certificate. Thank you for a wonderful school year!

Dates

Tues.	September 8	First Day of 2009-2010 School Year!
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Nurse's Notes

June already! The year flew by. I wanted to take the time to thank each and every one of you for such a great first year for me here at Culbertson. I am looking forward to working with all of you again in September. Have a happy and healthy summer!

Trish Callow, RN
Culbertson School Nurse

First Grade News

The first graders in Mrs. Corle's and Mrs. Lebo's classes enjoyed an excellent field trip to Milky Way Farm in Chester Springs. The highlights of the trip were the robotic milking machine, petting the newborn animals, the hayride and, of course, the delicious ice cream that was manufactured on the farm!

This spring the children have been actively engaged in a most exciting science unit on organisms. They have prepared woodland terrariums and freshwater aquariums. These natural habitats have become homes for many interesting plants and animals. We are certain you have heard about them!

The children ended the year with their Sing to Read performance on Wednesday, June 3rd. In addition, they finished their published books and presented them to their parents at the Authors' Tea which took place immediately after the Sing to Read Program.

As the school year comes to a close and the summer begins, you may wish to visit Newtown Square Public Library and obtain a library card for your child. Each first grade student has worked so hard to learn to read. A weekly trip to the library for some interesting reading material will certainly help to maintain this momentum.

Have a restful summer and we'll see you in the fall.

First Grade Teachers

News From Second Grade

Our second graders have grown so much throughout the school year. Their math, writing, and reading skills are sharp and they are ready for third grade. We enjoyed our field trip to the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center to see "If You Give a Pig a Pancake". It was a magnificent performance.

In math we have completed units on time, data/graphs, geometry, measurement, fractions, place value, and three digit addition and subtraction. We will briefly introduce multiplication. Please review multiplication and division during the summer so they are prepared for third grade. The children are encouraged to frequently practice their basic math facts to improve their fluency.

During Social Studies students have compared Cinco de Mayo and Independence Day and they explored facts about Pennsylvania. We just completed the fascinating unit about the life cycle of butterflies. We had the opportunity to watch caterpillars grow into butterflies. Once they became butterflies we set them free outside. It was a fantastic learning experience. In health the children learned about how humans grow and how to keep our bodies healthy.

Last but not least, our second graders have been busy in the computer lab practicing their keyboarding skills with Type 2 Learn. Many students have completed the program and have moved on to explore some fun learning websites. They have also been sharpening their spelling skills using spellingcity.com and learning how to type a document using Microsoft Word. Thank you to the parents for sending in the flash drives. The students are now able to save all of their wonderful work!

It is a bittersweet moment to watch our second graders move onto third grade, but they are ready. Have a delightful summer and do not forget to find time to read, write in a journal, and practice some math facts in between your summer fun! It has been a fabulous year!

Mrs. Dougherty

Mrs. Milligan

Mrs. Seeds

News from Third Grade Rooms 17 & 18

We have been very busy this year in third grade. In Language Art, we have been busy reading our anthology and have done many culminating activities. Our classes read a book called Shark Lady. We have been working on

shark research and are practicing our typing skills. We are still working on our third grade spelling and will soon be coming to an end with our program. Both classes have done a lot of writing and even have some young author winners. We have finished writing our own Important Books. We are starting our poetry unit and will be making individual poetry books.

Our math classes are working on decimals and fractions. We are having a lot of fun with this. We have learned how fractions can be written as decimals. Please continue working on those multiplication facts. We really need to recall each fact 0-12 quickly. This will help us be prepared for fourth grade. Both classes did a neat project with geometrical designs. This helped us remember the different names of space figures.

Our Science classes are finishing up learning about the Rainforest and are getting ready to learn about rocks and minerals. We are proud of the Rainforest Presentations that each student did. They were very creative!!

In Social Studies, we are starting to learn about Economics in our Social Studies classes. Look for our vocabulary that we will have to know for a test.

Finally, we would like to thank all our parents for another successful year. We couldn't have achieved what we did without all your support. Thanks again and have a great relaxing summer.

Mrs. Cummings

Mrs. DeRosa

News From Mrs. Savchuck's Class

The students of room 16 have almost ended their year and what a year it has been! Our reading scores and levels have improved dramatically. We are writing better and remembering not to start sentences with "and" and "then"!

Our trip to Tyler Arboretum was a big hit and we learned a lot. We will never look at a dogwood tree quite the same again. We will be successful in fourth grade because we have learned that working hard doesn't hurt and that there is still so much to learn. This was a well-behaved class and a joy to teach and their teacher will miss them. Have a wonderful and safe Summer!

Mrs. Savchuck

News from the Fourth Grade

Our fourth grade study of Pennsylvania culminated with our visits to the Octagonal Schoolhouse and the Paper Mill. These historic visits were arranged by the Historical Society of Newtown Square and provided insights into our town long ago. The tour guides shared many interesting facts and stories with us that helped us gain a better understanding of our state and local history.

A half-day visit to the Octagonal School gave us a firsthand look at a school day in colonial times. We used quill pens, wrote on slates, and played colonial games at recess. We compared and contrasted colonial school days to our own school days at Culberston School.

Although we have spent a lot of time traveling this spring, we have continued to work hard in our classrooms. The teachers are very encouraged with our skills and reading accomplishments. We are completing our fifth unit in the reading anthology. We have become familiar with some wonderful authors and have become quite good at comparing and contrasting stories and films, analyzing characters, and summarizing what we have read.

It has been a fun and productive year, and the teachers and students look forward to a relaxing and restful summer. We encourage all students to take time daily to review the multiplication facts and practice division, multiplication and fractions. Be sure to read the fourth grade required summer reading books.

The Fourth Grade Teachers

News from Fifth Grade

The Fifth Grade is having a very busy spring. We have completed the rigorous PSSA testing and are gladly back to the regular fifth grade schedule. There was a big sigh of relief heard throughout the building when the tests were finally handed in.

Our math classes have been working on multiplying and dividing fractions and concepts of understanding how fractions and decimals relate to each other. We're sure you'll hear the echoes in the hallway from our classrooms stating, "You must always reduce fractions!" We will finish the year with a review and our year end assessment.

In science, the children are working in cooperative groups to investigate our new unit on "Motion and Design". In this exciting unit, the students construct a model vehicle. They

then conduct experiments that help them to understand how the vehicle's design effects its movement.

Our current social studies unit is named The Thirteen Colonies. We will soon be completing our focus on the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.

We are winding down in the area of Language Arts as well. With the completion of our final theme, there are end of the year assessments for reading and writing to be done.

The Fifth Grade recently took their class trip into historic Philadelphia. The highlight of the trip was an exciting ride on the "ducks". It was great fun and very noisy, but a terrific way to see Olde City and the river. We then took a walking tour of the historic area and learned new information about many of the significant buildings there.

As you can see, the last few weeks of fifth grade are extremely busy. Along with a full academic plate, the fifth grade has visited Paxon Hollow Middle School in preparation for next year. The entire fifth grade will picnic at the Brandywine Picnic Park early this month and of course, our Advancement Ceremony will end the school year on June 16, 2008.

The end of the year is almost upon us and we are looking forward to the last few weeks of our students' Culbertson career.

**Mrs. Dickey
Mr. Kuciapinski
Dr. Sweeley
Mrs. Vetter
Mrs. Hochhaus**

News from Room 19 Life Skills I

It's really amazing – we have reached the end of the year! This year flew by for us in Room 19. We were fortunate again this year to be awarded a Tiger Foundation Grant that allowed us to bake, have our Annual Thanksgiving Feast, take multiple field trips and print out pictures of these events to send home as memory keepers!

We also saw some personnel changes. Mrs. Fox was new to us this year and she has proven to be a tremendous asset to our classroom. Mrs. Jumper successfully completed her college work to become a teacher and has been placed in Mrs. DiBlasi's room to finish out the year. We congratulate her on her achievement and hope she has the opportunity

to practice her skills in the future. We also have Mrs. Manchio helping out in our classroom for the remainder of the school year and we welcome her to our room. Our children are very fortunate to have caring adults working with them to move them forward in their learning!

On a final note, this is my last year in Marple Newtown. I have had a wonderful career of 35 years in teaching. I've had the pleasure of working with superior principals including our own Mr. Cook. I consider myself most fortunate to have had the opportunities I've been given and I leave with many wonderful memories in my heart.

Ms. Crawford

Life Skills II, Grades 3-5

Greetings from Room 4!

The year is winding down but students are wound up, looking forward to the summer break.

We have been busy reading and working in our related workbooks. We have been reviewing currency and measurement and time.

We made puppets in O.T. and have finished out bags for our Fathers Day gifts!

We hope you and your families have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Jumper & Assistants

24 Challenge News

Culbertson's building level 24 Challenge Playoffs in 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades were held recently and congratulations to the following students who are grade level 24 Challenge Champs:

Grade 3 – Gabe Bryant and Courtney Barmes

Grade 4 – Julia Gloninger and Philip McCutcheon

Grade 5 - Seanna Corr and Julia Lynch

Special congratulations to Seanna Corr, 5th Grade, who represented Culbertson School at the Annual Delaware County 24 Game Tournament. The Math Competition, for students from fourth to eighth grade, was held at the Chestnutwold Elementary School in Haverford Township School District on Friday, April 24th and students from thirty four local schools participated in the math event.

Seanna exemplified excellent sportsmanship and citizenship as she faced fierce competitors at the math contest.

The 24 Challenge Playoffs for 2nd Grade will be held before the end of the school year.

We are very proud of all our mathematicians who worked so hard on 24 Challenge puzzles throughout the school year. 24 Challenge is a great way to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication and division computation facts while using reasoning and problem solving skills.

**Mrs. Naab
Teacher of Gifted Students**

Ask Mr. Cook

*Dear Mr. Cook,
We were wondering if there could be a Culbertson cleanup group to clean up the trash on Goshen Road and other areas. It will make a healthy environment.*

Lenny Sciulli

Dear Lenny,
That sounds like a great idea! I will pass it on to the next principal, Mr. Orwig.

*Dear Mr. Cook,
I do not want you to retire.*

Gwyn

Dear Gwyn,
Thank you for the kind words!

*Dear Mr. Cook,
This is the best school ever!*

Gavin

Dear Gavin,
I agree!

*Dear Mr. Cook,
This school rocks! I will miss you!! Can we have a crazy hair day?*

Kendall VanSon

Dear Kendall,
Thank you! We will have either Crazy Hair Day or Crazy Hat Day before the end of the year!

Dear Mr. Cook,

I love the new color of the playground!

Kristina Tsiouras

Dear Kristina,

Thank you for helping to pick out the color. Also, I want to thank Mrs. Lairdieson and the entire Culbertson family for raising the money for the new playground.

Dear Mr. Cook,

Please do not retire. You are the best principal I could ever know.

Joey Keffer

Dear Joey,

I really appreciate your kindness!

Dear Mr. Cook,

Please do not retire! I will miss you so much! I will miss you!

Kendall Schmidt

Dear Kendall,

I will miss you too!

Dear Mr. Cook,

This school rocks!! You are the best.

Emily

Dear Emily,

It's kids like you who make this school rock!

Dear Mr. Cook,

On the last day of school, can we have a pizza party?

Blake Tomasco

Dear Blake,

Class parties will be on the afternoon of the last full day of school (June 15).

Dear Mr. Cook,

I think you should not retire. I will miss you.

Aryana

Dear Aryana,

I will truly miss everyone at Culbertson.