

# March Parent Newsletter

CHESAPEAKE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

605 Providence Road, Chesapeake, VA 23325

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## Principal's Corner

CAS has a lot to brag about! Our mentorship of our students and our focus on each student's individual needs both behaviorally and academically, help our students move through the stages of our program. We were very proud of the number of students that reintegrated to their home school at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. In addition, school attendance is very important so we hold an attendance assembly every other month to celebrate our many students with perfect attendance! Our school also hosted an assembly for all of our students to celebrate Black History Month. Mrs. Sheila Arnold Jones came to visit us as Daisy Bates, the President of the NAACP in 1957. Lastly, thanks to the Police Department for their donations, our students have the opportunity to participate in monthly contests to win a bike!

Dr. Penny Schultz, Principal

## Office Notes:

### Farm Fresh:

Each time you shop at Farm Fresh you can earn money for our school.

Please see Ms. Stedman in the office for your Farm Fresh 1.2.3.4 swipe cards and use them every time you shop.

### Supplies:

Half the year is gone and many supplies are low. Kids may need new binders, loose leaf paper, and pens/pencils.

Teachers are getting low too and accept the following donations:

Tissue boxes

Hand sanitizer

Glue Sticks

White Board Markers

### Cold Rooms:

It is still cold outside and even when it is warm, the air conditioner is on and it is cold for the kids. White over-the-head sweatshirts (**plain and no hood**) or white thermal shirts are acceptable for them to wear so please consider buying one for your student.

## English

For the month of February our middle school students have continued strengthening their writing skills. The English department has focused on having the students add transition

words to improve the flow and quality of writing. The high school students will begin a poetry unit first focusing on the time period of the Harlem Renaissance.

E. Lewis and M. Moyer, *English*

## Reading

Does your middle grade scholar act as though he NEVER wants to hear a story read aloud anymore? Is she too cool to sit down for a bed time story? Reading aloud to children is of great value, at all ages. Please check out the following article about the importance of reading aloud.

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/05/14/why-reading-aloud-to-older-children-is-valuable/>

D. Deloatch, *Reading Specialist*

## Math

Top 10 Best Free Math Resources

<<http://www.edudemic.com/top-10-free-math-resources-web/>

Have your child “balance your checkbook” and “pay the bills” – involve them in the household budget.

Prepare them for life after high school:

Show your child

your lease or rental agreement, or other contracts such as cell phone/internet provider agreements

J. Kesner and G. Kirk, *Math*

## History

**9<sup>th</sup> grade:** The 9<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about the Ancient Eastern Civilizations of Persia, India and China and will then move into Ancient Greece.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be exploring the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. We will be investigating the causes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, the major battles/turning points in the European & Pacific Theatres and the effects of the Holocaust (in Europe & in the Middle East). The students will be invited to take part in a writing assignment about the Holocaust. We hope for your support.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Graders will be exploring the beginning of the American Revolution and how it unfolded across the United States. We will be looking at the key people & events that were part of this. If you can, please help our students with any information about local sites that were affected during the American Revolution.

L. Tsimba and S. Zegarelli, *History*

## Science

Sciences students are currently investigating the areas of classification, Newton’s Laws of motion and scientific reasoning. All science students are encouraged to review the learning objective of each lesson and ensure its understanding on a daily basis.

J. Doss and H. Seigle, *Science*

## **Library News**

CAS has been selected to receive a competitive grant from the American Library Association (ALA) to host a reading and discussion program for at-risk youth about teen violence and suicide.

As one of 75 *Great Stories Club* grant recipients selected from across the country, Ms. DeCamillis and Ms. Shields will work with a group of up to 10 students to read and discuss three books in which protagonists deal with issues surrounding teen violence, bullying and suicide.

M. DeCamillis, *Librarian*

## **Special Education**

Here are some links for your student to use to practice for the SOL writing exam that will be coming up in March. Even if your student is not taking the exam this year, it is still important that they practice their writing skills in order to perform well when they are being tested.

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/grammar/punctuation.htm>

<http://www.wartgames.com/themes/languagearts/comma.html>

<http://www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames/punctuation.html>

<https://sites.google.com/a/mpcsd.org/cline/grammar-games-for-kids>

H. Lucart and J. Walski, *Special Education*

## **Technology**

### **Internet Safety**

One of the goals of Chesapeake Public Schools is raising awareness about Internet safety.

We live in an exciting time where the world is at our fingertips. We can communicate and interact with people across the globe in real time, obtain information in a matter of seconds, share videos, pictures and so on. The Internet brings us many wonderful resources as well as many risks.

We feel it is important to remind parents of these risks and to provide some resources to help raise your awareness of how to better protect yourself and your children.

What are some risks found online?

- .. Cyber bullying
- .. Exposure to inappropriate content
- .. Online predators
- .. Identity theft
- .. Posting personal or inappropriate information

Educate yourself and talk to your children about these risks. Here are a few good resources where you can find current information:

<http://www.netismartz.org/Parents>

<http://www.safekids.com/safety-advice-tools/>

<http://cyberbullying.org/resources/teens/>

Nancy Bichara, *Technology Integration Specialist*

### **Recognition Programs**

All students are eligible for daily recognition with our MVP awards program. Each day, all students who have earned an MVP award are recognized.

Each month, one student will be chosen as the student of the month. Scorecards, behavior and attendance will all factor into the decision.

Every other month we have a Perfect Attendance Breakfast – parents will get prior notice of the date and are encouraged to join their student.

Periodically, students will have the opportunity to win a new bicycle, which were donated by the Chesapeake Police Department. Students will have the opportunity to win one of the bicycles by participating in various contests such as essay writing or meeting certain goals such as perfect attendance etc...

Students who have made it to the All-Star and Coach level receive special privileges such as being able to move about the building without an escort, social time, special trips, class helper, and recognition during lunch.

### **Behavior Team**

- \*When a student reaches the coach level, they are permitted to wear solid black shirts.
- \*Make sure to sign the bottom portion of your child's scorecard each night. This helps students keep their daily percentages up.
- \*Also, please check every day to see if your child has homework.

### **Quote of the Month**

*“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” -Aristotle*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR...**

March 6 – End of grading period (9-12)  
March 20-24 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade SOL Writing Test