

October 2009

Parent Newsletter

Custom Learning Academy

Learning Without Limits

This newsletter is written by Director, Lisa Crosby, M.Ed.
For news and information to parents of Full Time Students

New Academic Expectations Needs Parental Encouragement

Now that our routines are established, CLA students are learning to manage their time and produce their best quality work. Our staff is providing the tools that your student needs to grow their skills to be their academic best. This can be a challenging and frustrating period of change for some students. All students will benefit from their parent's support and encouragement this month. Each

student is learning what is missing in their strategies and being taught how to improve. Help



Individualized attention and timely feedback are key components in transforming student performance.

us by supporting this process and encouraging them! On Thursday, October 15th Daphne Hougard will be photographing student and class pic-

School Photos

tures with a natural setting near our school site. There will be retakes on Monday, October 19th. See details on your Friday Report on Oct. 16th to view photos.

The Basic Package*
Costs: \$25
1-5x7
2-4x6's
Sheet of Wallets

AND

1-5x7 Class Photo

*Additional prints may be ordered online (optional)

October Focus is on Organization and Productivity for Each Student

In September, students settled into daily and weekly routines that are carefully planned to maximize the rich learning environment at CLA. Music lessons are sched-

uled for each student, along with teaching time for each subject. P.E. with Joe is also an important part of the week. The drama with Marissa is also part of the kines-

thetic intention to assist students in their productivity by providing the outlet for movement and expression. Our learning environment has focused work-(continued on pg 2)

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Kindergarten Students Inspire our School



Elena Messner
Kindergartener of the Month

The Kindergarten class, led by Katie Bloom, are regular performers in our Friday Performance time from 2:30-3:00 each week! They are learning to believe in themselves and are developing the confidence by reading poetry, singing and performing kinesthetic movements. The older students comment to me regularly that

"If the kindergarteners can do it, so can I!" It is wonderful to see the joy that they give to parents, staff and fellow students at CLA. Bravo to them!

In addition, the circle time that Katie has developed over this first few weeks of school impresses students, parents and visitors who are lucky enough to see

this in action! Each morning the students review calendar, coin skills and math concepts, weather, United States geography and letter sounds learned thus far. Very impressive!

Lastly, when the Kindergarten students visit other classrooms, cannot help and smile by their enthusiasm and joy!

October Goals in Grades 3-6 Classroom

"When asked if they've been asked to redo an assignment, all students raised their hand."

In an inspirational student meeting on Monday October 5th, I discussed my goals for the students in this age group. When asked if they've been asked to redo an assignment, all students raised their hand. All students

have had a day where their work did not get completed. We discussed how to use time wisely and how to produce their best work. Examples were given, and students offered encouragement to each other. We also dis-

cussed slowing down to do quality work. Neat work was also emphasized. The students enthusiastically added other goals for themselves to promote a positive environment! Stop by and see the (continued on pg 3)

Snow Day Protocol

at CLA for 2009/2010:

We will be determining snow days by 7am in the morning.

If power is available, then I will send an email to all families at their billing email. If you desire multiple emails, send him your preferences. If there is no power, the teachers will begin a phone tree. Please jot down my home number if you would like to clarify:

Lisa & Tim Crosby 587-7695

October Focus is on Organization and Productivity for Each Student (con't)

ing times that are enhanced by the opportunities for movement and musical expression. Each student has a "cubbie" or "cube" that holds their books and belongings. These were set up uniformly for each student

with binders. Each student also has a portfolio of completed work. Students need to learn to maintain this organization. This month teachers are helping students stay organized. This is challenging to some, more than others,

and time outside of our planned routines may be needed to keep organized. Homework club time is perfect to give time to this project. Teachers will suggest when this would be helpful. Students feel less stress when organized!

5th Annual Family Holiday Photo Fundraiser

Daphne Hougard has been an important part in CLA's growth and success. Daphne has provided an annual fundraiser that has assisted with the needs of the school. She has also taken our marketing photos of which we get so many compliments! I will display some photos from my family from the last 4 years and others who have participated. Notice her magical use of light! My husband and sons have moaned and groaned in the past when I insist on getting

this photo done, and with Daphne they actually have fun and look forward to her positive energy in a unique setting. She photographs quickly and has a wonderful ability to relax all involved. Daphne welcomes extended family members and pets in the sitting, NO LIMIT to the number of people.

I encourage you to participate in this annual event that benefits our school and leaves you with a precious memory in pictures! Here are the details:

Family Portraits - Cost \$175

This includes:

- *25 min portrait sitting
- *\$25 worth of prints
- (From an online lab)
- * 3 digital files

See dates and times in the main office. Dates in late October and Early November available. Limited spots so first come first serve! Reserve your spot now!



Beca Herrington
Elementary Student of the Month
Great work ethic and kindness to all!

October Goals in Grades 3-6 Classroom (continued)

bulletin board for a list of the goals generated from that meeting.

Students told me they are enjoying their dynamic curriculum. They also told me that they like their teachers and they feel they get the help they

need to learn. Compliments to Lily and Mike W. for their passion and commitment to their class!

The discussion ended with previewing some items from the CLA Student Store. There was much excitement and enthusi-

asm!!! The Student Store will be a once a month event that students can use to purchase things with their CLA money earned that month. The next day the Student Store will be open is Friday, October 30th.

NEW:: To accommodate ANY Full Time Students' occasional need to complete work, the drop in rate for Hmk Club will be charged \$10/day. This is ONLY for full time CLA kids.

9 Week Conferences Are Being Scheduled Now for the week of October 26th

Conferences at CLA with parents will happen quarterly. The purpose of this meeting is to connect with each parent (or guardian) to share progress on goals established upon enrollment. Parents know their students grades weekly and also are informed of curriculum studied each week. So the

conference is a 20 minute time to discuss your student and our viewpoints of their progress. If you feel that our communication is extensive and have no questions or concerns, you may sign off on this opportunity. Some parents have been regularly checking in more than others, so some may feel this

unnecessary. Please know that this is for your information.

Please stop by the office and sign up for a conference time that suites your schedules with lan.

Communication is the key to serving each student's needs!

Thank you.



Galen Riggs, 12th Grade
High School Student of the Month
Great Leadership and work ethic!