



## Custom Learning Academy Newsletter

August 16, 2011

### Dates to Remember

**Labor Day Holiday:** 9/5

**School begins:** (Tuesday) 9/6

**Friday Performance:** 9/9, 9/16, 9/23

**Great Basin Science Camp:** September 27-30<sup>th</sup>

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### Get Excited for 2011/2012 School Year!

We are super excited for school to begin and the students to return from a fun summer break. School begins on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Remember, tuition and registration fee includes ALL student supplies so please DO NOT purchase school supplies for your student. Any supplies sent to school will be sent home. Thank you for your attention to that detail. If you want to contribute something for the school supply closet, please send a box of tissues, hand sanitizer, etc. *That* is always appreciated.

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### Back to School Beach BBQ

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Mark your calendar for the first Friday night of the first week of school. CLA will be hosting a Potluck Beach BBQ at the West End of Donner Lake! Get to know other parents and let the kids have a chance to swim and play together. More details to follow as the date approaches.

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## **Photo Day on the First Day of School:**

### **September 6<sup>th</sup>**

Please note that the first day of school is PHOTO DAY with Daphne, so come to school ready to get your photo taken! Here are a couple of tips to make your student's photo great: make sure your student does not wear anything with a logo or writing on their clothes, a solid color is best. Compliment how great they look when you drop them off! There will be a retake day scheduled sometime in October if necessary.

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## **Great Basin Science Camp: September 27-30**

*As a part of CLA's annual "Camping Trip" tradition, we will be participating in a Fall Outdoor camp conducted by Great Basin Science Camp. This experience will be filled with science, academics, and most importantly, FUN! Great Basin is a 4-day program, conducted near Zephyr Cove on Lake Tahoe, which includes field trips to Spooner Lake, a trip on a research boat taking students out onto the lake, and much more. The younger grades, K & 1, will be day campers while the older grades will be overnights. There is a 12-1 camp naturalist to camper ratio and the high school students will participate in Leadership Training as a part of their field camp. Students who sleep over stay in cabins on Great Basin's beautiful lake side acreage. The reason we do a yearly camp away from CLA is due to the idea that when students experience something new together, there is a unique, lasting bond formed between the students themselves as well as students and staff members. This has been a CLA tradition since 2008, and it is something that the children speak about throughout the school year.*

More information regarding the trip will be sent home as the trip approaches. Please visit Great Basin's website for information on the camp.

<http://greatbasin-os.org/about-us/>

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## **Sweatshirts and Yearbooks on sale in the office**

Did you order a sweatshirt, and not pick it up? Wish you ordered last year's yearbook? It's not too late! Sweatshirts and Yearbooks are available in the office. Sweatshirts are sold for approximately \$30 (depending on size), while yearbooks are being sold at \$25. If we do not have your size, we will order it for you in the first order in September!

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## **New Middle School and High School Science**

### **Teacher: Daphne Abrams**

Daphne is impressively East Coast educated with a Masters at Bank Street College of Education in New York. She has very strong content skills and is also a very nurturing, caring teacher. Daphne comes to us from Sage Ridge Private School in Reno and she is excited to become a member of the CLA's staff. She taught both Math and Science at Sage Ridge. She is a credentialed Science teacher and also brings very strong math and literacy skills to our school. She comes to us with 6 years teaching experience. Daphne will be teaching all of our science classes for grades 6-12, and will be our Open Learning Middle School teacher in the afternoons, as well as our Secondary Homework Club person from 3:00-5:30. Daphne's math skills are very strong through Pre-Calculus, so she is very capable in that role. (Marc Smith will move into private tutoring appointments after 3:00pm due to the after school tutoring demand we experienced this past year.)

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## **New Middle School and High School English**

### **Teacher: Christina Nemec**

We are so lucky to welcome Christina at our school to teach all middle and high school English classes. She comes to us with middle school and high school teaching experience, and has even taught English at University of California Irvine! She knows first hand what is expected in college, and is ready to propel our students into their potential this year. She is a mom of 3 kids, ages 4, 6 and 8, and really has an uncanny ability to connect with students. She has been teaching at CLA throughout this summer and I can't wait for you all to meet her.

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## **Congratulations to Janicke Stramer, our**

### **Foreign Language & History Teacher**

Congratulations is in order to Janicke! She has been offered a full ride scholarship to obtain her doctorate in Political Science at University of Nevada-Reno! This is an honor that she is very excited about. She will continue to be our History Curriculum Advisor as well as our French teacher for this upcoming school year, but she will not be with us full time, just on Fridays for French. She looks forward to becoming a college professor with her new doctorate, and I have always said that my students were so lucky to have Janicke teaching them such high quality history. We have an amazing History Curriculum that exceeds our National Standards goal. Our history program provides a sound comprehensive curriculum that prepares students with an informed perspective on our

current times and how they relate to the past. Janicke's expertise shows in our student's scores on their IOWA tests! We are lucky Janicke will continue to advise us on history curriculum moving forward.

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## **New History Teacher: Kevin Bixler**

With his teaching credentials and history major, Kevin comes to us well prepared to implement Janicke's successful curriculum for middle and high school students this year at CLA. Kevin is also an avid athlete, currently coaching Babe Ruth Baseball. He will be leading our middle school and high school PE classes with more structure this year. Kevin will also be teaching our Elementary Homework Club because he loves the younger students and has his K-8 credential.

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## **New Spanish & French Teacher: Maritza Chavez**

Maritza comes to us with a double major in French and Spanish with teaching credentials in both languages. She is also a native Spanish speaker and is very excited to take our Spanish program "to the next level" with her creative teaching approach. She loves to incorporate either singing and dance with her instruction of younger students and her project based learning with middle and high school students. Maritza coincidentally student taught with a previous colleague of mine, a phenomenal foreign language teacher at Spanish Springs HS. She is the perfect addition to our staff and we are so excited to have her!

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## **Eva Stamer: Taking over the German classes at CLA**

If you know that name, it is because Eva has substituted for Janicke for her German classes when her international speaking engagements took her away from teaching. Eva is a German teacher and also Janicke's mother! She is wonderful and is also a local artist. Please consider supporting her and other local artists this weekend. Here is an invitation from Eva to all of our CLA families

Dear Friends and Art Lovers!

I hope to see you at my booth next weekend at the Annual Tahoe City Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at the Boatworks Mall, 760 N. Lake Blvd. (Hwy 28) in Tahoe City.

I'll be there Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM along with lots of other great artists. Warm regards, Eva

[www.beautyonlocation.com](http://www.beautyonlocation.com)

<http://whereintheworldiseva.blogspot.com/>

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## **Immunization Update**

Please be advised that, beginning July 1, 2011, the California Department of Health is requiring ALL incoming 7th-12th grade students to be vaccinated for the Tdap (Pertussis Booster) or commonly known as "Whooping Cough."

Please visit the following link to view the letter that was sent to all schools. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/el/le/yr11ltr0201.asp>

Attached is a copy of the California Department of Health's official Immunization form. Please bring this form with you to the doctor when you go in for this booster.

Failure to receive the booster will result in delayed admittance to the 2011-2012 school year. Don't delay, get your shot ASAP!

Thanks for your attention to this.

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## **Trails and Vistas Field Trip (for 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders): Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

The mini art hike will include environmental studies with Sierra Educational Watershed Partnerships (SWEP), interactive drumming with Southern Californiadrummer, Norman Jones with Rhythm Child Network, storytelling with Cathee van Rossem St. Clair and an art station to create "Peace Day Cards" with local artists, including myself. We will also have Maria Jones with a team building project, and a dance site with InnerRhythms Dance Theatre. All of these fabulous artists will be placed along the beautiful shoreline pathway around Sand Harbor. The cost will be \$5 per student and we will need parent drivers for this field trip. More information will come home the first week of school. We are very excited to be able to participate in this very special event, parents, please consider joining your student on this field trip!

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## **NEW AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM: Spanish Immersion for Grades 3-5 or 6-8**

Maritza is excited to begin a new afterschool Spanish Immersion program for middle school kids (Mon-Thurs 3-4pm) and for elementary 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

grade students (Mon-Thurs 4-5pm). Parents can choose to have their student participate in the afterschool Spanish Immersion program for 4 hours per week with an additional \$150/mo. fee. (The cost for non-CLA students is \$360/mo.) This program will double the exposure to Spanish than is planned during the school day for the elementary level and offer an afterschool option we think some families may prefer. We will limit these classes to 12 students each who are able to commit for the semester. For the Middle School Students, they will earn a semester of high school Spanish 1 if they attend for one year, and that is the same as if they took it during the school day at CLA. We are very excited to offer this after school option for Truckee families, as it has been requested many times in the past and we did not have the staff member to dedicate to this request until we hired Martiza! Please help us spread the word, and for every student you refer to the program, we will offer you 2 weeks of the program for FREE or a 2 weeks of FREE Homework Club.

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## **PE Clothes at CLA for the Fall Quarter**

Please have students keep athletic shoes, shorts and t-shirt in their cubby to be ready for PE programs. Students in grades 3-12 should also keep a bathing suit in their cubby at all times for swimming opportunities. It is hard for a student to sit out of a fun PE day, but that is what will happen if your student is not dressed properly to play and have fun or swim! Thank you parents for your help in keeping your student ready for PE.

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## **Tuition Insurance for those with Late Payment History**

Unfortunately, being a small school, it negatively impacts our cash flow when families make late payments, so in the event of a late payment, we will require you to purchase Tuition Insurance, which will cost additional money, in the neighborhood of \$200 per school year. This will be discussed and implemented on an individual basis with each family, confidentially of course. We depend on timely payments for our payroll and fixed costs. Thank you for your understanding making your payments timely.

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## **Parent Seminars at CLA;**

**Seminar #1: Increasing the Team Approach  
for your Child's Academic Success**

Dr. Fred Meyling, originally hired to in-service CLA's staff during our training days on Decoding what Motivates Each Student, so that we can better reach and be effective academically with every CLA student. We thought parents would want this advantage too, so we will be hosting a seminar at CLA titled "Parenting for Effective Education."

Fred Meyling has been a trainer for "Corporate America" and education for over 18 years, helping teachers, students, and parents achieve their outcomes and reach their highest potentials. After breaking his neck and back in 1976, Fred learned to overcome all obstacles to be all that he can be. He passes on this wisdom through training seminars based on the fundamentals of behavioral psychology. Together with his former wife Kim, Fred, a paraplegic, has been training people in the MLM industry for over 12 years. They are famed for inspiring their clients to reach potential success in an accelerated manner.

Fred got his BS in Nursing from California State University in 1972.

Working as a nurse practitioner in his first career, he learned to care for and about people. After his injury, he reentered school at Cornell University and earned his Masters and PhD in Behavioral Psychology. Fred served in the Army, Special Forces and Special Operations and worked with JSOC at McDill AFB, where he utilized his behavioral psychology background.

Fred is also a pilot and loves sailing. He plans to make a "big voyage" through the Panama Canal in the future. In his spare time, he is busy running his for-profit and non-profit corporations. He frequently travels to California to see his six grandchildren.

**This seminar will begin at 6:30pm on August 31 and the cost is \$75/family.** For this price, one or both parents may attend. Please email [office@customlearning.org](mailto:office@customlearning.org) to reserve your seat. I want to encourage couples to attend together, as learning to identify motivations in our relationships with people is a wonderful communication advantage that will support all your relationships in your life! Note: we encourage you to share this with your friends, as CLA prides itself on being a community resource for family to promote academic success for ALL students in our community!

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## **Parents Please Make Reading our Newsletters a Priority**

We count on parents reading our newsletters for functional information for that month of school. These newsletters will come monthly in the first few days of the month. This initial one is arriving early to help you feel prepared for school beginning. Thank you for your attention to this email and for the monthly newsletters to follow for this school year. Also thank you for supporting our paperless communication.

Can't wait to see you all in September!

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