



## Custom Learning Academy Newsletter

January 4, 2011

A happy New Year to all!

### Dates to Remember

Friday Performances **MOVE** to Thursdays in Jan, Feb & March: 2:30-3:00

Friday P.E. in Jan, Feb, & March for K-8<sup>th</sup> Alternates between Sledding and X-Country Skiing

Monday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King Holiday- No School

Friday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>: End of Semester – Report Cards to follow

Feb 21-25<sup>th</sup>: Ski Skate Week Holiday – No School

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### Welcome New Students & Happy New Year 2011!

We are excited to welcome 15 new students to our CLA family this month, and here is a list:

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Sam Wood

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Momo Lloyd-Tucker, Tommy Eisenstat, Yuriy Syiek, Ben Anderson, and Evan Anderson

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Jordyn Jensen , Benjamin Syiek

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jack Wood, Ben Eisenstat

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Maxx Sallan, Aiden Lloyd-Tucker

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Megan Wood

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Natalie Seelenfreund

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## Staffing Updates for the Winter Quarter:

**Alex Gauvain** completed his master's degree in December at UNR in Education, Congratulations Alex! Now that Alex doesn't have to attend classes on Mondays, he will be available for Homework Club on Mondays, to round out his 4 day week in charge of that program. Alex will be working closely with all the elementary teachers in order to meet student's needs in his homework club program.

Another change in Alex's schedule is regarding his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes (Social Studies and Science). These 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes have moved to the morning times in order to allow the afternoons without interruption for the middle school students, grades 6-8.

In addition to these responsibilities, Alex will also be working with the "ski kids" doing independent work. Alex will be working in conjunction with the "ski kids" in order to prevent any disruption to the kids not on a unique schedule. Alex is available some morning hours for private tutoring, and as concerns arise, he is a resource we will utilize all year.

A congratulations is in order to **Mike Wryeman** who received a 5 year Service Award at our Holiday Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>! Mike began working at CLA five years ago on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. At that time, it was just Mike and I running all services as a team. Mike's valuable contributions to our school have served to help us grow as he continues to provide excellent instruction, creative lesson planning, working on our web page, and even teaching amazing art classes. In addition to all of the work that Mike does at CLA, he also puts in a large amount of time at Sugar Bowl. As always, Mike will take Fridays off in Jan, Feb and March to pursue his other job at Sugar Bowl. Jenn Peyser will be covering for Mike on Fridays throughout March in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade room.

In addition to **Jennifer Peyser** doing a fabulous job as our Art Teacher, she also is working 1-1 with students on Word Study, Elementary Language Arts, and Math Skills. She will be working some time each day in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade room (All day Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays) with the ski athletes curriculum coordination, and as a third person when that group is over 20 students in attendance. Jennifer will be curriculum coordinating with a few of the student athletes who are here for the winter quarter with Lisa's oversight. Jennifer is amazing with her teaching, organized record keeping, her connection with the kids, and her strong communication skills. We are very lucky to have Jennifer on our staff.

**Lindsay Kaye**, our esteemed American Sign Language Teacher, will be assisting in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade room as a part of her student teaching assignment for about 8 hours per week this month. We are excited to have Lindsay's help in that classroom as she will undoubtedly help the students keep organized and on top of their studies.

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## Yoga Continues by Age Group with Jaime

### Gemme:

Students in grades K-12 had exposure to Yoga techniques this fall, thanks to Jaime Gemme's generous offer to participate in our P.E. program. This winter quarter, we are dividing the groups up to continue their Yoga education by age group. The splitting up of the age groups will allow each group to reach their potential and allow Jaime to teach to their ability level. Jaime has a music filled Yoga experience planned for the younger group, then more challenging poses introduced to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade group, and advanced poses plus a rigorous yoga workout planned for the 6-11<sup>th</sup> graders! Please send kids to school in more flexible

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for the 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders. Please continue to collect in more winter clothing on their "YOGA DAY"! Thank you! The new Yoga times will be reflected on student schedules and are as follows:

All Yoga classes are taking place on Tuesday for all grade levels.

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## Parent Drivers Needed for Elementary Cross Country Ski Fridays in January:

Please email the Ian in the office at: [office@customlearning.org](mailto:office@customlearning.org) for your availability in driving (skiing optional) being at CLA from 1:10-2:40 on Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> or Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please include how many students your car can accommodate and your preferred date(s). Without support of parent drivers, we cannot transport all the kids needed, so please volunteer if you can. Thank you!

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## Space Changes over the Holiday Break & Homework Club Update:

To accommodate the growing enrollment, we have made some needed changes over the holiday break. Each student in grades K-5<sup>th</sup> has their own cubby for snow clothes. The Kinder kids should have a bag or backpack that can hang on the hooks below their cubbies. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders each have a cubby in the foyer, on the landing outside the door. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders each have a new cubby in the back of their classroom. The 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders have NEW cubbies in their classroom, labeled with names.

The teaching room with the Smart Board that the 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders used has been moved upstairs outside the music room. The small wall dividing that space has been removed to allow a larger classroom. All grades will have access to this learning station that can utilize the internet to teach students. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom now has both rooms for student's desks. Their library of books has been relocated upstairs also to allow more room as well.

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## Elementary Homework Club Update:

Elementary Homework Club will now be held upstairs in the 3 room suite of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Smart Board room. This is a larger space for kids to spread out afterschool. The larger desks in the smart board room allow all ages of kids to have their appropriate size desks. The glass room upstairs is a great asset for students afterschool that need to concentrate. Please know that Alex will be on duty in Homework Club Monday –Thursday 3:00-5:30pm for Elementary kids. Parents can email Alex details he may need to know at his email: [alex@customlearning.org](mailto:alex@customlearning.org). On Fridays, any elementary kids are welcome to stay for afterschool care with Marc on the "6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>" for games and indoor recreational supervision if needed. To enroll your student in Homework Club, please email or call the office and let Ian know your days that you would like to attend. Drop in students are welcome that day for any last minute needs, just call the office to confirm that plan. Also, parents please personally walk in and pick up students as you will need to sign them out. We do not allow kids to leave Alex or Marc's supervision without a parent to sign them out. Thank you!

**Afterschool Classes:** Drama (Mondays), Science Class (Wednesday), Art Class (Thursday) is still happening! Sign up by signing in on the clipboards in the Elementary entrance.

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## What to bring to school this winter quarter?

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Parents should make sure that students keep snow boots, gloves, hats and snow clothes to school each day. Each student should also have "indoor shoes" such as sneakers for Indoor use and for PE in the gym at Trout Creek. You are welcome to leave your snow clothes and extra shoes at school for convenience. Students will need their snow gear for outdoor p.e. with weather permitting. Teachers will notify you if student is unable to participate in p.e. due to inappropriate clothing. Thank you for your attention to these details!

**6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Students should keep yoga clothes and a bathing suit at school at all times. Students can also keep work out clothes if they like to incorporate work outs in their weekly routines.

**YOGA Days:** K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students can wear their school clothes to yoga, but it is helpful if students wear comfortable stretchy clothes to school on their yoga days! No dresses for girls please on yoga days. 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students should bring sweats or yoga pants and a t-shirt on yoga days!

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## Good News for Athletes at CLA: NCAA

### Accomplishment on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010:

The office received written confirmation of our application approval, submitted in July 2010 to the NCAA. CLA has been accredited by the National Collegiate Athletic Association! This means that if any of our students are eligible for a college athletic scholarship, then our courses will be recognized as qualifying for their academic requirements. In order for students to receive a college athletic scholarship, they must have the required academic course work in place during their 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade education from an approved school. When students are counseled for their coursework at CLA, these future goals are taken into consideration and we map out a plan that meets each student's goals. This is a onetime process that we just accomplished!

### More Good News for Athletes at CLA: Final Step to NIAA Policy Change

It is important that both elementary and secondary parents help us in this final step, please read! Dr. Putney, Principal of Truckee High School met with Ian and myself in August, 2010 when he took on his new role as principal. Steve Jennings, Superintendent, was in that meeting with us as well. We asked Dr. Putney to assist CLA in completing the needed steps to accomplish the policy change at the NIAA that is required to allow Private School students to participate in Public School Sports. To recap: In December of 2009, the TTUSD Board voted that ALL students residing in the district CAN PLAY in district sports as long as the league policies allow. There is a NIAA policy restricting only Private School Students because of some large private schools in the league in Las Vegas; these private schools have their own athletic programs to offer. After attending several NIAA board meetings in 2009 and 2010, I have made the board aware of CLA in Truckee and that we offer no athletic programs and that our district is in favor of our participating. It was recommended that we appeal for a "Rural Exclusion" to the private school policy that restricts us. We need a member school to submit the policy change to the NIAA, and to survey the community's opinion to show the level of community support for our students' participation. The district is currently welcoming home school students, and charter school students to their sports teams since the vote in Dec. 2009. This is a great victory for kids in our community to experience all that team sports can offer for their personal

community to experience an individual sports can offer for their personal growth! We could have accomplished this policy change at the October NIAA board meeting, but Dr. Putney respectfully requested that we not ask him to do this in his first months of his new role, and asked if we could wait until the next meeting, but he agreed to support our request with Steve Jennings's approval. That opportunity is now, and I will be meeting with Dr. Putney this month to that end. **WHAT CAN OUR CLA PARENTS DO?** Please talk to your friends and neighbors with students in our district to let them know that a survey will be forthcoming and explain our long process to this point and that no harm can come to our small community by allowing ALL students the right to participate in our Truckee Teams, both at the middle school and high school level. This is a very important step that will open the door for all kids in the future to participate! Thank you for keeping posted on this important goal for our students at CLA.

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## Help Support CLA and Sign up for Escrip!

Help support CLA some more by joining escrip, and begin earning money for CLA by making everyday purchases at Safeway. Please visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to sign up and link your Safeway card to our group number which is 500023370. The more people we get to join, the more money we make for our school, so sign up today!

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## Baby on Board!

Stacey Luna, our beloved 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is expecting a baby! Let's all wish many happy thoughts as she embarks on this new life adventure. Congratulations Stacey!

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## It's an Honor to be Invited...

Lisa has been invited by Dr. David Brown, Executive Director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (W.A.S.C.) to serve as a member on the Accreditation Visiting Committee, representing W.A.S.C. for NAWA Academy in French Gulch, California. This is a small private school located up near Mt. Shasta. Lisa will be serving for a 3 day accreditation visit in the first week of May. It is an honor to be asked to serve again! Lisa gets to help a school improve and learn by seeing another school's approach to education. She enjoyed the process when she was on the accreditation committee for Independence High School in the spring of 2009. This also helps her do a good job on CLA's upcoming Accreditation visit in the spring of 2012. Accreditation visits happen to every school that has that distinction in 3-6 year terms, depending on the discretion of the visiting team.

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## Parent Team Update:

Parent team meetings have been moving times to try to be most convenient for parents attending, and unfortunately one time is not likely to work for ALL.... It has been suggested to let the parent team meeting follow the performance time and meet on the first and third THURSDAYS of the month. These meetings will be kept to an hour and so will run from 3:00-4:00 pm. Elementary Homework club is happening and so kids have a place to be during the meeting. Please look for an email from the parent team email address ([parentteam@customlearning.org](mailto:parentteam@customlearning.org)) for directions on how to be a part of our online Wiggio scheduler where parents can keep informed as to what is happening with our group! Sprina Fundraising is on the agenda for this week. Thank you and hope

Spring & celebrating is on the agenda for the week! Thank you and hope to see you there!

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## CLA Hoodie Sweatshirts and Sweats:

CLA Hoodie Sweatshirts and Sweats to become available in January...we need 25 orders for our first batch to print! Look for a flyer and all the details for orders this month! Support CLA and be the first to order your hoodie sweatshirts and sweats!

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## Z Market Place Information:

CLA's cafeteria, aka "Z Market Place" would like to welcome new students to CLA, as well as Z Market Place. For new students that would like to place deli lunch orders, please place orders after morning drop off. Also, Z Market place offers an easy way to pay for lunch; Families are asked to set up a credit account that will automatically get deducted after purchases are made on account.

NEW additions to the menu: Pizza is now offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Hot soups are available daily. Grilled Cheese available daily. Gluten Free bread available daily.

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## SNOW DAY PROTOCOL:

On questionable snow days, there are three ways to check if school will be in session. 1) **Check the phone message**. Call 530.587.5470 after 7:00 am to see if we have school. If the message is no different than normal, than school is in session. 2) **Check your e-mail**. Check your e-mail after 7:00 am to make sure that school is in session. 3) **Check the website** by 7:00 am. On the homepage there will be a message declaring if school is closed. If there is no message on the site, school will be in session.

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## Scheduling:

Schedules are available for pick up at the front desk on the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade side. Please understand that the nature of CLA is to promote flexibility, and therefore schedule alterations are possible. I want to thank you in advance for understanding this aspect of CLA.

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Thank you for reading and being a part of our CLA family..... we especially appreciate the honor of educating your child. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Lisa Crosby, M.Ed.

Educator and Executive Director

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