



## Custom Learning Academy Newsletter

October 7, 2010

### School Reports Record Earnings

## Welcome to October!

We've all made it through September, and things are looking great at CLA. We are excited to report on a successful field camp experience with Peter Mayfield and the Gateway Mountain Center. A big thanks goes out to the parent chaperones; Jeff Partridge, Meg Fields and Michael Fields. Without parents like these, CLA would not be where we are today! Thanks to each and every family at CLA!

There are still items missing from the field trip. Missing items that I am aware of that have yet to be returned are as follows:

- 1 Black Northface Sleeping bag with initials written in red marker.
- 1 Small black back pack.
- 1 Pink and white head lamp

If you happen to notice any of these items in your possession please notify me by e-mail at [office@customlearning.org](mailto:office@customlearning.org)

Please read through this months newsletter for more exciting information.

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## CLA Open House; Octoberfest Style!

You are invited to an Open House on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-9:00pm. This event will overview your student's week and curriculum, as well as tour you through their classroom and their routine. During the open house, we will welcome interested families to learn about learning at CLA at each different grade level. It will also allow parents to further get to know each other at CLA as we want to celebrate our families and the support we feel from everyone!

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The schedule for the open house is as follows;

Kindergarten Presentation: 6:30-7:00

1<sup>ST</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades Presentation 7:00-7:30

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades Presentation 7:30-8:00

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades Presentation: 8:00-8:30

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades Presentation: 8:30-9:00

During the entire span of the Open House, there will be a parent social located in the middle school area, with an Oktoberfest theme serving beer, wine, and appetizers. Our German students will provide Oktoberfest history and decorations. Parents are encouraged to stop by after attending any grade level presentation that they are interested in learning more about.

Parents needing child care can plan on their student participating in a free art and story time led by our own Jennifer Peyser in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, for children from ages 6-11, younger children are welcome if a caregiver accompanies them to the art and story time to help them participate positively.

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## Parent Team Meeting Update

Our first Parent Team Meeting, held on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. During this meeting, the Parent Team put their brains together to come up with some potential fundraising ideas. As a result of this meeting, CLA is now fully enrolled in both, General Mills' Box Tops for Education, as well as Campbell Soup's Labels for Education. In addition to these two wonderful programs, CLA continues to take part in the ever successful eScrip program. In addition to these programs, CLA's Parent Team is working on hosting a Winter Fair theme fundraiser during the same night as the town of Truckee's tree lighting ceremony. Please look for an e-mail regarding all of our fundraisers in the near future.

If you are interested in joining the Parent Team, please shoot me an e-mail, or simply attend a meeting. We meet on the last Wednesday of every month.

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## Parent Volunteer Opportunities at CLA

Last year, the Parent Team debated implementing mandatory service hours from each family in the school as a suggestion from a family whose previous private school required hours. Many Private Schools mandate service hours in addition to tuition, but that has not been mandated in the past at CLA to date. After many Parent Team meetings last year, it was determined that many felt a 10 hour per year mandatory volunteer commitment was reasonable, and the option to "buy out" the hours was an option suggested and discussed. As Executive Director, I decided not to mandate the volunteer policy in this 2010/2011 school year, but to encourage this time commitment from each family. The opportunities to improve our school and contribute to school improvements will be communicated through this newsletter, and if a need at CLA strikes a skill or talent you possess, please consider donating your time. If this time commitment is made by many, we will certainly make progress that is very meaningful to your student and to the school. Some examples of parent involvement that would be beneficial to CLA are below;

**Carpentry Skills:** Building stabilizers for our indoor greenhouse and privacy wall for students, installing coat hooks for winter apparel, building storage for student store items.

**Holiday Party Planners:** Two parent Holiday Party coordinators are needed each month, beginning this month for the Elementary grades to assist teachers in planning holiday festivities.

**Community Service Coordinator:** Manage and organize local volunteer opportunities for CLA students to positively impact Truckee and coordinate with CLA administration and staff.

There is definitely not a lack of help that we can use at CLA. If any parent has an idea that would help improve the school, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are always open to suggestions.

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## Halloween Celebration at CLA

Students in the elementary grades enjoy dressing up for the holiday, but costumes and holiday dress up cause some interesting challenges for a school, as some costumes challenge families' personal comfort with violence, suitable dress, and overall appropriateness. It is also a concern that costumes may disrupt class, and will not allow for productive learning to happen while wearing them! With all that said we still encourage students to dress up on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, only with the discretion of their parents. Please make sure your student is dressed appropriately. **NO Knives, Guns, Swords, etc.**

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Thank you for reading! Have a great OCTOBER!

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