



## Custom Learning Academy Newsletter

September 2, 2010

### School Reports Record Earnings

## Welcome to the 2010/2011 School Year!

We are excited to be beginning this school year on Tuesday, September 7th. We have some exciting new changes, as well as new staff members. We are also very proud to announce that our IOWA test scores from last year were very successful across the board! Please look for our press release this month.

---

## Administration Update

Ian Madan continues as CLA's Director of Admissions and adds the role of Dean of Students to his title. Ian will assist Lisa in maintaining our culture of respect at our school and help us maintain student productivity.

In addition to this admin change, we have also hired a full time Controller, Skye Kubow. Skye brings experience in nonprofit accounting, as well as her comprehensive skills with accounts receivable, managing budgets, and cash flow to our team. Ian will be transitioning her to communicate client preferences and to make the transition seamless for our CLA families.

Marc Smith will also be helping with admin, as he will operate as our Special Projects Manager on the administration team. We are looking forward to having Marc on the admin team, as well as having him remain in the Homework Club position.

Lisa's role as Executive Director, as CLA grows, is requiring her to delegate more and more tasks each year. It is Lisa's commitment that each student achieves their best academic results this year. To accomplish this goal this year, Lisa is scheduled in each elementary classroom weekly, and in each secondary class twice monthly. This will allow her to manage her time evenly in all grades, and remain involved with each student's progress.

### IN THIS ISSUE

[Welcome to the 2010 / 2011 School Year](#)

[Administration Update](#)

[Elementary Teachers](#)

[Pool Party](#)

[School Hours and Packing List](#)

[Drop off / Pick up Protocol](#)

[Cell Phone Policy](#)

[Picture Day](#)

[Photo Fundraiser](#)

[Student ID Cards](#)

[Z Deli and CLA](#)

[Outdoor Education Field Trip](#)

[Dr. Bear Visits CLA](#)

[Communication at CLA](#)

[Parent Team](#)

Lisa, and the rest of the team, are looking forward to welcoming back returning families, as well as new families to our school!

---

## September Features CLA's Elementary

### Teachers

We are lucky to have a talented staff with some new faces to continue our successful elementary education at CLA. We will miss Lily Johnson, and Tiffany Michalka, who are both pursuing their educational goals outside of CLA. We wish Lily and Tiffany all the best and thank them for jobs well done last year!

Our new Kindergarten Teacher: Laurel Parker-Kennedy; Laurel's positivity and mild mannered demeanor will help catapult our Kindergarten class from blossoming learners to full fledged students! We are excited to have Laurel on our team!

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Katie Bloom, following her class up from last year, Katie will surely bring her enthusiasm to her class as they become big first graders.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Joanie Engel, following her class up from last year, is looking forward to another great year of learning!

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mike Wryeman for Math and Science and Stacey Luna for Language Arts and Social Studies

Laurel and Stacey are our new full time elementary staff members. They all hold K-8 Multiple Subject Credentials and very strong references. They are team players who all bring unique skills and experiences to our school.

\*NOTE: 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade content teachers will be featured in October's Newsletter

---

### Pool Party!

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> after school, and plan on joining us to meet and socialize with other CLA families during a pool party at Old Greenwood. This event is hosted by John and Dawn Evans, parents of Elijah (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Bella (2<sup>nd</sup> grade). We will send home details with your student on the first day of school. All full time students and their families are invited. See you there!

---

### School Hours and items to Pack

School hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents, please plan on walking your students to their classroom, with time to say your goodbyes by 9am. This will allow the teachers to begin on time on the first day of school.

#### To pack:

Lunch: Money for lunch at Z Deli, or a sack lunch.

Gym Bag: All students should have a small gym bag that contains: gym shoes, sweat pants, t shirt and bathing suit. This bag will be sent home on Fridays and should return on Mondays in order for students to participate safely and comfortably in P.E.

Lap Top: For students in grades 3-12, please remember your laptop. The teachers will send some feedback home on each student's computer and it's readiness for school use. Please make sure that each student has any version of Microsoft Word for school use. Remember, CLA tuition includes ALL school supplies, so no need to shop for anything else!

---

## **Drop off / Pick up Protocol**

### **Elementary K-5:**

Parents, please walk students into their classroom **and sign in** for the day. When picking up students, please plan on going to the classroom, **and signing them out**, at 3:00 p.m.

### **Secondary 6-12:**

Students will sign in themselves each day. Students will be required to sign out anytime they leave campus during the day, and sign back in when they return. The teacher at the front desk will remind them, but please also support this protocol as it verifies hour student's attendance each day.

---

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Students are allowed to bring cell phones to school, but they must be turned off in their backpacks during school hours. Students in grades 6-12 are allowed to turn them on during the lunch hour. All students who are unable to refrain from cell phone usage during class time will have a progressive discipline policy applied.

---

## **Picture Day: 9/7/10**

Dress well for your school picture taken by our own photographer, Daphne Hougard. (Please avoid logos on clothing for this picture day.) All grades will be photographed before lunch. Our basic picture package costs \$25 and includes a credit with Pictage to order your favorite photos in the sizes you desire. This is the minimum basic photo charge for all students. If you would like to order additional photos, as well as artistic oversized formats, they are available online at Pictage.com. All families will get an email directing them to see their student photos later in the first week. Daphne will be happy to work with each family on their photo needs and there will be a retake date if needed.

---

## **4th Annual Family Portrait Fundraiser**

Daphne will be sending home information regarding our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CLA Fundraiser for Family Portraits this first week of school. The photo shoots will happen on location in October & November. Support CLA and share this affordable professional family portrait opportunity with family and friends!

---

## **Student ID Cards**

Student ID cards will be issued by the end of the second week of school, using their school photos. Student ID's will be required to check out

using their correct photo. Student ID's will be required to check out school items. Please help your student have their ID at school by sending it in their backpack. This is good for a general identification purposes for your child. If an ID needs to be replaced, there will be a \$10 charge.

---

## **Z Deli and CLA**

Student ID cards will allow all CLA students to receive a 15% discount on all Z's Marketplace food items, plus, the back of the ID card will itemize restricted foods (like sugar or food dyes or other restrictions) and all allergies (so the Marketplace staff can double check food choices for safety). We will use the restrictions noted on your Student Information card and your registration packet. Please stop by Z's Marketplace to learn of their lunch program for the 2010/2011 school year. Parents need to order and pay for their desired lunch option directly with Z's Marketplace. The new owners are excited and looking forward to serving our students with an affordable healthy lunch program. They are open to your suggestions and your student's dietary needs.

---

## **Outdoor Education Field Trip**

In keeping with the theme of student bonding through outdoor education, CLA is offering a 3 day, 2 night field trip, with lodging located on Donner Summit. We will be sending a permission slip home with each student on the first day of school, including additional information as well as costs for the trip. Please RSVP for your student to attend by Friday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, so that we may secure their spot on the trip! Please submit your permission slip to your student's teachers, or directly to Ian.

---

## **Dr. Bear visits CLA**

Dr. Donald Bear, Lisa's personal professor, as well as the author of the nation's leading language arts curriculum, published by Houghton Mifflin visited CLA on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to provide an in-service for our teachers. He spent a very generous amount of his time reviewing all levels of the Language Arts Curriculum, going over in-house students with unusual literacy presentations, as well as in-servicing our staff from 3-5pm after school. The in-service presentation yielded a reference binder in my office designed for our needs and will be shared with our new staff to maintain our Language Arts Vision and effectiveness. Dr. Bear's presentation was a real treat!

---

## **Communication at CLA**

Parents please note that we use email to primarily communicate to our parents. We use the email preferences indicated in each student's enrollment packet to use your preferred email for each of the following:

1. Friday Reports on your student sent through Yahoo Mail.
2. Vertical Response News (like this newsletter and other announcements)
3. Quickbooks Invoices via email twice a month,
4. Flash Appointments to track meetings with admin or teachers or 1-1 tutoring.

Please make sure Ian has your best e-mail address, and that you are receiving all e-mails

Ian has your best e-mail address, and that you are receiving an e-mail from each avenue. Ian will be testing each of these this in the first week.

---

## Parent team at CLA

In listening to some feedback from our surveys, the parent team meetings will happen monthly on the **LAST** Wednesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Having a set end time will assure each parent to be home at a reasonable hour on a school night. Any unfinished business will schedule committee meetings to complete tasks as needed. This will promote timely efficient meetings. Ian will be attending these meetings representing the administration. Action items resulting from these meetings will require Lisa's approval to proceed with a time line, committee members and an action plan. This new time will allow me to include a monthly update in my newsletters each month. The meetings will offer child care by older CLA students wanting to volunteer to watch the younger students. We can also offer parents two remote options to attend; either by Skype, or by Web Cam.

We hope you take the opportunity to attend some, or all of the Parent Team meetings to support your child's school! You can also email any comments or contributions to [parentteam@customlearning.org](mailto:parentteam@customlearning.org) to have your input considered in any meeting! Read these newsletters to keep informed of what is happening at CLA Parent Team Meetings! The first meeting is Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7pm on the "big kids" side at CLA.

---

Thank you for reading, and we are excited to see you on Tuesday on our first day of school! Some CLA moms will be on site to offer a welcome cup of coffee to parents dropping off students. Please stop by and introduce yourself!

---

Learn more by visiting [CustomLearning.org](http://CustomLearning.org)

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

---

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Custom Learning Academy  
P.O. Box 9133  
Truckee, California 96162

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

