

HUSKY HEADLINES

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The goal of this monthly newsletter is to keep children, parents/guardians and CCA staff informed and connected.

To join the Communications Committee or submit content ideas for the newsletter, email us at ccahuskyheadlines@gmail.com

"Husky Headlines is a parent and student volunteer led newsletter to communicate school news."

Prevent the Summer Slide: Tips for Learning on the Go!

By: Talitha A. McGuinness

According to the National Summer Learning Association, many students will face 2-3 months' summer learning loss in reading and math, without programs or encouragement to keep their minds and bodies engaged. With these simple tips, you can help incorporate learning from your own backyard, or on the go at the park and in your community, and even on vacation.

***There's nothing better than exploring nature.** Now is the time to be looking for caterpillars and their chrysalis, or even tadpoles so that you can watch and teach your kids about this cycle of life. Some of these things can be found in your own backyard. If you're not where you can see living animals to study their growth and development, check out [Nature Gifts](#) to order butterfly kits, tadpole kits, and more. You and your kids can watch the cycle occur from the beginning phase to the end, resulting in critters and creatures all your very own!

***Visit your local market.** Spring and summer brings out the best in all of us, and especially the foods we eat. Farmer's markets are a great resource to explore and thankfully, have grown in popularity, even in some of the larger cities. Spend a Saturday morning combing through the vendors, exploring all of the varieties of fruits and vegetables grown local to you. Your kids can even learn about how they garden and why it's important to them. For some, it's still a large part of their livelihood.

You can also consider growing your own garden. Tomatoes, squash and cucumbers are among the easiest. Your kids can help plant, water and weed the garden, and then help reap the rewards by picking when they're ready to eat! This easily teaches about types of soils and how to enrich them, as well as how to grow your own food. There's a huge global responsibility lesson in that alone!

***Make plans to visit the patch.** There is nothing more delicious than picking and enjoying your own berries. Summer months are full of opportunities to enjoy strawberries, blueberries and more. Many farms even give tours, explaining their cultivation processes and how they help the local economy and communities by providing healthy, sustainable foods.

***Keep a journal.** For older kids, encourage them to keep a journal, writing about their summer experiences and especially any trips or travels you take. You could even pose a question each week to trigger their thinking outside of the box.

***Prevent boredom.** Hearing "I'm bored" over the summer comes with the territory of having kids. You can put them to work (find some chores until they find something else to occupy their time), or as them "Have you...B - been creative? O - outside play? R - read a book? E - exercised for 20 minutes? D - done something helpful?"

***Get to work.** Let them create a summer business. It may be a car wash service for the neighborhood, or even something as simple as a lemonade stand on the weekend. If you have an animal lover, let them walk and groom dogs. Are they good with younger kids? Let them help entertain at birthday parties. They may even be able to share a talent like face painting or singing & dancing!

No matter what route you choose, there are so many options to keep your kids moving and learning over the summer break!

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An Interview with Ms. Lindsey

I am a Charlotte native who moved to Concord in first grade. I graduated from Concord High (GO SPIDERS!). I have been married 13 years. My husband and I have two daughters who attend CCA. One is in 5th grade and the other is in 3rd grade. Our family has one dog, Phoebe, and a cat, Molly. In our free time, we enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and camping.

Where else have you worked?

I worked at a bank for about 4 years when I started working. I then became an office manager and accounting clerk before staying home with my kids. I became a substitute teacher for CCA in 2014 and just became the receptionist 3 weeks ago.

What draws you to this field of work and the administrative aspect?

There is no particular draw for me to administration. My close friends and family say it is a "gift for organization" that helps me excel in what I do. As for being in a school setting, I have always loved working around children, which is how I became a substitute teacher. I didn't have paid work experience with students until I came to CCA, however, I have been a children's church pastor and teacher for more than 10 years before then.

What was your favorite subject?

My favorite subject has always been math and science, chemistry to be exact.

What is your favorite children's play or book or movie?

I don't really have a favorite kids play, book or movie. I think if I did, I would say it is "The Lion King".

What was your favorite board game?

My favorite board game as a child was Candy Land. Today, my kids and I love to play Sorry during family game night.

What is a typical day like for you at CCA?

My typical day at CCA always looks different. However, the basics of my job are to warmly greet parents and guests when they first enter. I answer any questions I am able to and direct any other questions to the appropriate person. I also assist Ms. Angie when the nurse is out of the office.

What about your job is the most fun?

The most fun about my job is seeing the children, listening to their stories, and the hugs from them.

What are your summer plans?

We are still working on plans for this summer. Our main plans are to spend some time in Charleston, SC and Lynchburg, TN. We will also have some time at the pool and skating. Maybe even a trip to Carowinds.



book club or bust!

tips for starting a kids' book club

Have budding readers in your house? If they're anything like ours, they don't thrill at the thought of doing summer workbooks to keep things fresh for the coming school year, but the idea of a summer book club may be the ticket! Here are a few tried and true tips to help you along the way.

**Get families on board.*

The book club will work best if there are at least 3 families (including your own) participating. Since most schools end in May or early June and start back in August, this gives you at least 3 monthly times to meet. If you have younger children, you may want to meet twice each month since the books won't take as long to read, and you may even be able to cover more than one at each meeting. Each family gets a chance to host and select the book, which for the kids, is the best part. They can choose something with

their own special interests in mind and it's wonderful to see how animated they get during the book conversation.

**Let the kids lead.*

This works especially well if you have older kids (7 and up), so that they can choose the books they want to read, and then lead the discussion at the time of the book club. Many novels now include discussion questions in the back or online, so this is a great place to start for them. Parents can always jump in to help spur the conversation, too, but the kids should feel ownership and pride over what they're doing. Easy questions to start with might be to ask which character they most related to, how does their life differ from the story line, how did certain scenes make them feel, were there situations with which they could sympathize, etc.

**Encourage participation.*

It never fails that in a large group there will always be a few kids who are more outgoing than others. Encourage involvement by all participants by ___ games. If you have a beach themed book, take a beach ball and write questions on each stripe. As the kids toss it around to each other, they get to pick the question they feel most comfortable talking about.

**Go all out --- or not.*

We enjoyed hosting our book clubs, as we loved to create fun foods and decorations themed around whatever book the kids selected. All of the participants seemed to enjoy trying new things and just being part of the fun of it all. Whether you choose to serve simple, light refreshments or go all out, makes no difference. Just have fun with it and know that the kids will, too! ♦

An Interview with Mr. Brandy

I am from Cleveland, Ohio where people are very loyal which shows by the way we support our sports team whether we win or lose. So yes I am a Cleveland Cavs, Browns, Indians, and Buckeye fan. I was married for 10 years, but am currently a single dad of three great children Sydney 9, Savannah 7, and my son Shalon who's 5. All three are doing well at Huntersville Elementary, and my oldest daughter is a track star who has already competed in several marathons in Davidson and Huntersville, and my son has played baseball with 6 year olds when he was 4, and will be playing AAU basketball this summer for All-Ohio Red 2nd Grade team. In 2002 I won an award for Outstanding Leadership, I coached high school boys' basketball in Cleveland and Charlotte. I won coach of the year twice in Ohio.

Where did you go to college?

I attended Cleveland State University for undergrad, and then I attended Gardner-Webb University for my graduate program for Executive Leadership and obtained my principal license in December 2013.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I had an internship with a company called Montgomery & Watson and even though I had my own cubicle, donuts daily, company car I was bored and couldn't see myself working with anti-social people. I knew I wanted to become a teacher midway through college after coaching high school basketball in Ohio, and when I failed chemistry for the second time in college I no longer wanted to be a Civil Engineer.

Where else have you worked? Have you had any unusual jobs?

Before I became a teacher I was a supervisor at a market research company for six years called Marketeam Associates. The company collected data for research studies and focus groups for doctors, major corporations, and chemical companies. I was responsible for hiring and training new and current employees on company policies, and new materials that had to be presented to data collectors. This was my first job where I was in a leadership role, and I truly learned how to be a great leader and how to utilize my employee's strengths and weaknesses to get a job done, and deal with various attitudes and personalities.

If someone inspired you please tell us about that person

I've been inspired by several people. My children inspire me to be the best example they can have and see, my pastor inspires me to be the best person I can be for myself and others, The motivational speaker Eric Thomas inspires me to have the best drive and character ever.

What was your favorite subject?

My favorite subject was P.E., but if you want the politically correct answers I did really like geometry in 11th grade and physics in the 12th grade.

An Interview with Mr. Brandy (con't)

What is your favorite children's play, book, movie?

My favorite children's book is "Pete the cat" because he has an excellent attitude.

What is your favorite quote?

My favorite quote is "Winners make it happen, Losers make excuses" and You can be a fragrance or an odor."

What was your favorite board game?

My favorite board game is monopoly because I'm always the banker and I enjoy building an empire.

Do you play any instruments?

I don't play any instruments, but people say that I should play the piano because I have long fingers for the keys.

What are your favorite online learning sites?

My favorite online learning site is castle learning because I can create the assignment for the students.

What are your summer plans?

My summer plans are taking my kids to Disney, going to the beach, supporting the kids in their extracurricular activities, and hopefully helping out in an administrative role for next year.