

COS COB SCHOOL WEEK AT A GLANCE OCTOBER 10 - 14

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Our Open House is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 13. Please note that Kindergarten is presenting at 6:30 P.M. and K-Art at 6:00 P.M. Grades 3, 4 & 5 ALP will be available from 6:30-7 P.M. for parents prior to my general parent meeting in the cafeteria at 7:00 P.M.

Open House provides parents with an opportunity to meet their child's classroom teacher, and to learn about grade level curriculum. You will also have time to visit the specialists i.e. PE, Art, Music, Reading and Media in the Learning Commons and Innovation Space. This evening is not designed for individual student conversations; however, parents will have an opportunity to sign up for individual student conferences. Please remember that this evening is designed for adults only so please make arrangements for your children to remain at home.

There was a wonderful article in the Greenwich Times regarding bringing mindfulness to the classroom. If you missed it, here is the link:

<http://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/In-the-moment-9523533.php>

Last week I attended an EdLeadership Professional Conference along with several other Greenwich Administrators in Denver, CO. The conference focused on integrating the 4C's (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity) into education. It provided us with valuable tools and resources, which will be used when working with our staff to strengthen this focus as a school.

This week our teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5 worked on developing new and exciting ways to incorporate units of study that can utilize the Innovation Space and help support those 4C's (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity) with the guidance of Nancy Shwartz, Stephen Babyak and our District Coaches, Beth Cotter and Mike Reid.

Grade 3 attended Teacher's College on Wednesday to participate in a workshop on Readers Notebook and Writing About Reading. All of these wonderful TC staff opportunities directly enhance and support student learning and achievement.

Please remember, there is no school on Wednesday, October 12 in observance of Yom Kippur. Have a great weekend, and please keep good thoughts in mind for those who may be impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

Sincerely,

Gene

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE – October 13th

6:00-6:25 p.m. K Art Program Presentation-, Cafeteria (all welcome)

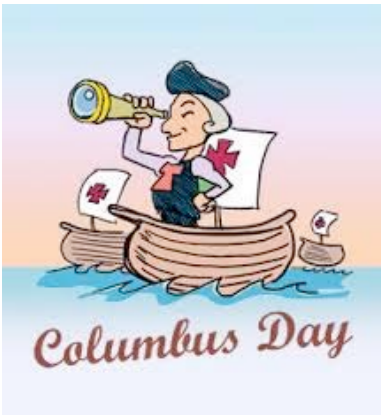
6:30-6:55 p.m. Visitations/Presentation of Kindergarten Program

6:30-7:00 p.m. Gr. 3, 4 & 5 Advanced Learning Program (ALP)

7:00-7:25 p.m. Welcome, Mr. Schmidt & Mrs. Oxer, Cafeteria

7:30-7:55 p.m. Visitations/Presentation of Grades 3, 4 & 5 Programs

8:00-8:25 p.m. Visitations/Presentation of Grs. 1 & 2 Programs



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day – School is in session.

Tuesday, October 11

Advanced Band Rehearsal, 8 a.m.

Cultural Café – Trummytones

Wednesday, October 12

NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 13

Chorus Rehearsal, 8 a.m.



Friday, October 14

Grs. 1 & 4 Parent Health Mtg., 8:30 a.m. in the Staff Lounge.

Congratulations to our 5th Grade Cover Contest winners! Thank you to everyone who entered - we were truly amazed by the students' creativity and talent.

Yearbook

Front Cover: Michael Orrico
Back Cover: Anabella Salamone

Directory

Front Cover: Sebastian Parra
Back Cover: Sofia Khan

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Join **Cos Cob Library** for a variety of events: 2nd-6th graders can meet [The Sweet Spot](#) author Stacy Mozer, October 15 from 3-4 p.m.; reserve a spot at [Book Wizards Book Club](#) for 4th-6th graders, October 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (pizza and beverages provided!); [Circuitry with Irum Kahn: A STEAM Program](#) for 3rd-8th graders with prior sign-up, October 19 from 2-3 p.m.; [Halloween Magic](#) on October 29 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The Greenwich Historical Society hosts **Fall Festival: Eye to the East** this Sunday, October 9, 12:30-3:30 p.m. with family friendly activities and tours of the Bush-Holley House. Enroll in advance to participate in the annual scarecrow-making competition! Visit [Fall Festival: Eye to the East](#) for details.

Last chance to RSVP to the **CMS Fall Fling**. Rising 5th grade parents are invited to join Thursday, October 20, 7-9 p.m. at The Water Club. RSVP to centralmspta@gmail.com.

FROM THE DISTRICT

The Board of Education is seeking community engagement to guide the recruitment and selection of a new Superintendent. Please share your thoughts through the following avenues:

Attend a community forum, hosted by search firm Ray and Associates, Monday, October 17, at 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Town Hall or 7-8:00 p.m. at Julian Curtiss School.

Complete a BRIEF online survey by Wednesday, October 19: [Survey / Cuestionario](#), OR

Volunteer in a Parent Focus Group, facilitated by Ray and Associates, Monday, October 17, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Board of Education/Havemeyer Building or 7-8:00 p.m. at Julian Curtiss School (in Spanish). To participate, submit your name, school, grades of children, email address and phone number to michael_antonaccio@greenwich.k12.ct.us by Wednesday, October 12. Participation to be confirmed via email by Friday, October 14.

FROM THE PTA

Prestige Fundraiser order forms are due to the school this coming Monday, October 10. This fundraiser is a great way for family and friends to prepare for the holidays while simultaneously supporting Cos Cob School. Contact Kristen Rossi, kristen.a.rossi@gmail.com, or Nicole Ehret, nehret1228@gmail.com, with questions.

CCS Open House is around the corner... We look forward to meeting you and sharing all the wonderful opportunities available to give back to the students and CCS community through the PTA. Join us on Thursday night!

Cos Cob School is fortunate to have been selected for the **Start 2 Save** program at the First Bank of Greenwich. Together with local merchants, the bank has offered a fun way to teach children about savings. Here's how it works:

- Open an account with as little as \$5, and the bank will match that first \$5, so your child will start with \$10 in their account (maximum of \$5 matching funds).
- Every time they visit the bank your child can spin a prize wheel and enter a raffle.
- Their money will earn interest and can be withdrawn at any time.

For each student that opens an account, the First Bank of Greenwich will donate \$5 to the Cos Cob School PTA. If 100 students participate, then our school will earn \$500! Please contact Nicole Ehret for further details nehret1228@gmail.com.

The **PTA Membership** drive continues. Membership dues provide programming, AFTERS, class trips, teacher appreciation and much more – no volunteer requirement. Please support our students and the CCS community and visit [PTA membership information](#).

The **CCS Directory** will be distributed shortly! Only families with a current PTA membership will receive a copy.

Looking for **Yearbook & Photography Volunteers**. Do you love taking and sharing photos? We are looking for additional volunteers to join the Yearbook & Photography Committee! We are especially in need of parents to cover 1st and 4th grade activities. If you are interested, please contact Kendra Petrone at coscobyyearbook@gmail.com.

Box Tops for Education collection has started! Send to school grouped in bags of 50 labeled with teachers' name. The top collecting class wins an ice cream party. Contact Chrissy O'Brien, cacob20@gmail.com, with questions.

Time is running out for discounted tickets through the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. Shows include Star Wars, the circus and the Olympic gymnastics team. Forms went out via email from the PTA - get them filled in or call Dan (listed on the forms) to purchase tickets. Contact Doreen Conte with questions, dorconte@gmail.com.

You can reach us anytime with questions or comments at pta.coscob@gmail.com.

Sheila O'Donnell & Phoebe Lindsay, PTA Co-Presidents 2016-2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Principal Schmidt to join the next **PTA Meeting**, Tuesday, October 18, 8:30-9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. Join the presentations and discussions on Smarter Balanced Assessment "SBA" tests, the school strategic improvement plan "SIP," district strategic plan and personalized learning.

Polar Express Pajama Party on December 9 – stay tuned for details on this exciting event

The Cos Cob School **Early Bird Club** is available every morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Please see the Early Bird tab in the PTA section of website, [Early Bird Club](#), or send a message to ccsmornings@gmail.com.



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program
410 Capitol Avenue, MS # 11EOH, PO Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
Telephone: (860) 509-7740 Fax: (860) 509-7785
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/>

November 2010

Green Cleaning Information for School Administrators, Staff and Parents

As concerns about chemicals in the environment grow, there is an effort to reduce the amount and type of chemicals people are exposed to every day. In light of this, a law was passed in 2009 by the CT legislature that requires schools to start a green cleaning program in the schools by July 2011. **School Districts need the cooperation of staff and parents to both comply with the law, and protect the health of students and staff.**

Public Act No. 09-81 (partial text)

AN ACT CONCERNING GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS.

On or before July 1, 2011, each local and regional board of education shall implement a green cleaning program for the cleaning and maintenance of school buildings and facilities in its district. No person shall use a cleaning product inside a school unless such cleaning product meets guidelines or environmental standards set by a national or international environmental certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Such cleaning product shall, to the maximum extent possible, minimize the potential harmful impact on human health and the environment.

On or before October 1, 2010, each local and regional board of education shall provide the staff of each school and, upon request, the parents and guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the school district's green cleaning program. Each local or regional board of education shall make such notice, as well as the report submitted to the Department of Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, available on its web site and the web site of each school under such board's jurisdiction.

No parent, guardian, teacher or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect.

This requirement means that the custodial staff will use cleaners that are less toxic. These green cleaners have been certified by an independent third-party (Green Seal: <http://greenseal.org> or Eco-Logo: <http://www.ecologo.org/en/index.asp>) to make sure that the health and environmental effects from their use are reduced.

This change will mean improved health for school occupants by reducing children's, teacher's, custodian's and other staff's exposure to toxic chemicals and asthma triggers that can be found in cleaning products. These include bleach, phenols, and ammonia often found in many over-the-counter general-purpose cleaners.

One important part of the law bans teachers and staff from bringing in their own cleaners, including sanitizers and disinfectants, or deodorizers, and parents (and parent groups) from sending in such products with their child/children. These products often have harmful ingredients that can cause health problems, especially for people with asthma and other respiratory problems. The best way to prevent germs from spreading is to use soap and water or, if unavailable, use the school approved hand sanitizer.

The facilities and custodial staff must be aware of all chemicals used in the schools. They have been trained to use the best cleaner for the situation/location. For example, they use disinfectants in the bathrooms, sanitizers in the kitchen and general purpose cleaners in the classroom. The nurse's office has a separate procedure. If there is a particular illness outbreak, then sanitizers and disinfectants may be used in areas that might be contaminated. Only the trained custodial and nursing staff should be handling disinfectants. It is recommended that the school provide teachers with small pump bottles (labeled with the product name and any health hazard) of the approved green cleaner to use in the classroom.

You should be able to find the following green cleaning information on your district's web site or by request:

- types and names of cleaning products that are better for the environment
- where such cleaning products are used in the school buildings and facilities
- schedule of when such cleaning products are used in the school buildings and facilities
- name of the school administrator, or a designee, for further information
- the statement prohibiting parents, guardians, teachers or staff member bringing in cleaners or disinfectants.

Moving to a green cleaning system will require cooperation from all members of the school community. The result will be a healthier school environment.

For more information on green cleaning, visit the following web sites:

- CT School Green Cleaning Products Law: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/Pa/pdf/2009PA-00081-R00HB-06496-PA.pdf>
- CT Department of Public Health: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/ieq>
- INFORM Cleaning for Health: <http://informinc.org>
- CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools: <http://www.pollutionfreeschools.org>
- Best Cleaning Practices Guidance for Infection Control: http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/lib/ctfluwatch/h1n1/72209/cleaning_schools.pdf

