



THURSDAY NOTICE

Important Dates

Thursday, Feb. 11 Parent/Child Book Club-3:30pm-4:30pm
Third Grade Strings Concert – 7:00pm
Friday, Feb. 12 5-Star First Grade Market – 10am-11:20am
ASM- Black History Shares Grades 1,3,4 – 2:00pm
YA- Grades 1 & 2 – 3:30pm
February 15-20 Winter Recess – School Closed
Wednesday, February 24 Overtime Athletics – 3:30pm
Friday, February 26 ASM – Grumbling Gryphans – 10:00am

The Columbus School Website is:

www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus

Check it out!

Reminder: The Thursday Notice deadline is every Tuesday.
Please email all submissions to Teri Gaberman, Parent
Coordinator at: gabermant@norwalkps.org.

All School Meeting

Friday, February 12th, 2:00pm – This program will feature Black History Shares by students in Grades 1, 3, & 4.
Friday, February 26, 10:00am – This interactive enrichment program will feature the amazing Grumbling Gryphons' performance of An Anansi Tale.

Five Star First Grade Market

The First Grade Market has been a HUGE success and will be open for its final day of business on **Friday, February 12th from 10:00-11:20am**. Come early for the BEST selection in fresh fruits and vegetables. Many thanks to all of our customers!!!

Adventures in Art

The Adventures in Art Program is back!!! Our new project for the 2009-2010 school year involves creating a myriad of murals throughout the hallways of CMS through the use of narrative art forms. Parents....We need your help to make this project possible!!! Please consider volunteering during your child's art class during the following dates: February 22-26 and March 26 – April 1st. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Adriana L'Archevesque at #203-840-9081 or Adriana@larchevesque.com.

CMS Family Directory Update

The deadline for **ALL** directory submissions is **Tuesday, February 23rd**. Please return the attached form to the Family Room. Submissions received after the deadline will not be included in the directory.

Columbus Lottery 2010

The Annual Columbus Lottery is officially underway! Columbus is an alternative public elementary school that offers a voluntary integration program which is open to all students in grades K-5 residing in Norwalk. Columbus operates on a modified Bank Street model program utilizing a Social Studies integrated curriculum. The program emphasizes self discovery and addresses the intellectual, social and emotional needs of the child. Columbus is designated a H.O.T. (Higher Order Thinking) School by the Connecticut Commission of the Arts. As a H.O.T. School, Columbus integrates art and music into the curriculum while also stressing the need for a democratic school setting and increased student achievement.

Using the restructured lottery system, incoming students are drawn based on their home-school district. Columbus' forty-four kindergarten seats will be filled by drawing applicants from twelve districts within the city of Norwalk. **Siblings at Columbus will be factored in by district before the lottery draw. The lottery application enrollment period closes on Monday, March 1st, 2010 at 4:00pm.** Applications are available at the Columbus Main Office or online at www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus and must be submitted in person or by mail to the school. **The Lottery Draw is scheduled to take place at Columbus on Thursday, March 18th at 7:00pm.**

Guided tours will be offered to parents by the Columbus Student Ambassadors during the lottery application period and will showcase the wonderful learning opportunities taking place at the school. Tours will begin promptly at 11:00am and will last for approximately one hour. The schedule is as follows: Wednesdays, February 24th, and March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 2010. Reservations are required for the guided tours. For further information or to make a tour reservation, please contact Teri Gaberman, CMS Parent Coordinator at #203-899-2840, ext. 118 or gabermant@norwalkps.org.



PTO Silent Auction Dinner News!!!

The PTO Silent Auction Dinner tickets are now on sale!!! The Auction Dinner will take place on Friday, March 19th at the Chatham Manor on Connecticut Avenue in Norwalk. Ticket prices are \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. This year, we have a GREAT selection of auction items!!! We'll be auctioning Sporting Event Tickets, Massages, Zoo and Museum Tickets, Birthday Parties, Summer Camp Opportunities, Gym Memberships, Lessons for all sorts of activities and even Pizza Parties with Norwalk's Chief of Police, Mayor Moccia and Senator Bob Duff. Too many auction items to list, so come and have some fun at this year's auction!!! For information, please contact Amy Comunale at #203-981-7025 or Kathie Oberst at #203-247-0172

School Delays and Closings



To find out the latest information regarding school delays and closings during inclement weather, please watch TV channels 3, 6, 8 or 12; listen to local AM and FM radio stations; check the NPS website: <http://norwalkpublicschools.org>; or call the **Norwalk Public Schools Hotline at #203-854-4123**.

Before and After School E-Care: The YMCA E-Care program is not open when school is cancelled due to weather or when there is a delayed opening or early dismissal.

Cafeteria Note: Breakfast will not be served to students when there is a delayed opening.



DISTRICT BUDGET NEWS

The Common Council will be meeting to set the cap on the District Budget on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010. This is not a time to talk about Columbus School and our needs BUT it is a time to come out and support the Norwalk School Budget as a whole. There will be other opportunities to show support for our school.

Parent Volunteers Needed!!!

Parent Volunteers are needed to help organize the Resource Room. Interested parents may contact Miss Judy or Miss Joan. Many Thanks!!!



Spirit Wear Corner

Pajama Day is Coming! Get your Columbus Flannel Pajama Pants before they're sold out! Check out photos and download a form from our website <http://portal.norwalkps.org/schools/cmcs/Pages/CMS1.aspx>

Yearbook Corner

Calling ALL Artists!!! – Want to see your artwork in the yearbook? Clip art originals wanted for clubs, activities, events, class pets and more! Send them in along with your name and Room# to the Family Room Yearbook Mailbox. (Parents will need to sign a release if your work is accepted). Good Luck!

WANTED: Photos of ALL student and school-wide activities for the yearbook!!! Please forward all photos to Lorraine Gordon at gordon55@optonline.net. **REMINDER:** Parents of **ALL** Fifth Grade Students – Please send in your child's baby picture for the yearbook. Personalized messages to your fifth grader for the yearbook are available. For details, please see the attached flyer. Yearbooks are on sale through April 1st.



News from the Art Room

Mrs. R is looking for donations of gently worn men's shirts or smocks for the students to wear during art projects. Please send them in with your child or drop them off to Mrs. R. Many Thanks!!!



Young Astronauts

Young Astronauts in Grades 3 and 4 will meet on Friday, March 5th at 3:30pm in the gym. Young Astronauts in Grades 1 and 2 will meet on Friday, February 12th at 3:30pm in the gym. For information on the Young Astronauts Program, please contact May Lou Buswell at #203-847-7209.

YA Newsflash!!! Young Astronaut Mission Mice are now available for adoption by Columbus families. Please contact Mr. Pearce in Room #266 if you are interested in adopting these fine critters!!!

Save the Date!!!

Young Astronauts Annual Baked Ziti/Bingo Dinner Fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 12th from 6:15pm-8:30pm. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

Irish Dancers – Take Note! – Mr. & Mrs. Murtha, along with friend David Paton will be sharing a program of Irish music at the All School Meeting on Friday, March 19th at 10:00am. If any students take Irish dance lessons, or took lessons last year with Mrs. Murtha in ECHOes or participated in the Second Grade World Cultures Dance Program and would like to do a step or two at their live Irish music program, please contact Mrs. Murtha at 203-854-5541 or sdmurtha@sbcglobal.net.



Music News

I am looking for parent volunteers to help the fourth and fifth grade classes write their own Industrial Revolution and American Revolution Blue Songs. It would be helpful if you play an instrument or sing since the students will be creating their own lyrics and melodies. If you are interested in helping out with our Blues Unit, please contact Mrs. Goldberg. Class times are as follows:

Grade 4: Miss Betsy & Miss Michelle – Tues. 9:30 – 10:15am
Mrs. Restrepo & Mrs. Larusso – Fri. 11:45-12:30pm
Mrs. Marabella & Mrs. Zielinski – Wed. 2:30-3:15pm
Grade 5: Mrs. Vele & Mrs. Bray – Mon. – 2:15-3:00pm
Fri. 11:00-11:45am
Miss Kim & Mrs. Jobert – Tues. 11:00-11:45am
Miss Katie & Mrs. Kahler – Wed. 1:45-2:30pm

Community News

Jazz musician Chris Coogan and his Quintet will be performing a Valentines Concert on Saturday, February 13th from 8:00pm – 10:30pm at the Norfield Grange, 12 Goodhill Road, Weston, CT. Concert seating ticket price is \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door.

*Wishing all Columbus Families
an enjoyable Winter Recess!!!*



TO PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF
COLUMBUS FIFTH GRADE GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS! GOOD LUCK! BEST WISHES!

Send your favorite fifth grader off to middle school with a personal message from you! Order a business card-sized message to be placed in the 2009 - 2010 Columbus School Yearbook. All Fifth graders receive a Yearbook free of charge, compliments of the Columbus Magnet School PTO!

Cost: \$10.00 each - Checks Payable to Columbus Magnet School PTO

Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2010

Return to Family Room - Attention "Yearbook"

Maximum Characters per Message **160** (incl.spaces,periods,etc.)

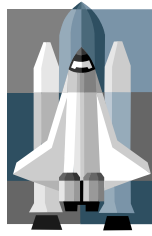
For Questions Contact: Tina Ferrigno (203) 434-1298
Talkintina468@aol.com

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**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classroom:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Message:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Young Astronaut Parents

The Young Astronauts program is planning it's "***Annual Baked Ziti/Bingo Dinner Fundraiser***" to be held on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

This event is for Young Astronaut families on a first come, first serve basis. We are limited to a certain number of people due to fire code regulations and will only open the event to other Columbus families if we are not completely filled by our deadline date. **Please note this event will begin promptly at 6:15 p.m. with dinner being served from 6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Bingo will begin at 7:00 p.m. no exceptions. Reservations only – No Walk-Ins on the night!**

The cost of the dinner is \$7.50 per adult, \$2.50 per child with a cap of \$20.00 per family. You can also purchase bingo tickets in advance at a discounted rate of \$8 (large) and \$3 (small). On the night Bingo cards will cost \$10 (large) \$5 (small).

As with any organized event, we are in need of many volunteers and donations to help make this night a success. Please complete the attached volunteer sign-up sheet for the many duties needed to run this event. Please return forms to the Family Room by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, for the **Attention of Sheree McCormick, YA Ziti Dinner Event.**

If you are a Young Astronaut family and are not planning to attend this event, you are still required to donate to the dinner. Please fill out the form and send it in as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

Please keep in mind how fortunate we are to have the wonderful coordinators, mission and volunteer parents who donate valuable time to make this program possible, affordable, fun and educational for our children. **We depend on YA families' time and donations for this Annual Fundraising event so please do your part and come out and support the YA Program.** This is a family night out which includes dinner, bingo and the chance to win some fabulous prizes!

**BAKED ZITI DINNER/BINGO NIGHT**

Please note that all donations will be on a first come, first serve basis, so please fill out your second choice as well, together with your e-mail address or phone number, and return this form by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for **Attention of Sheree McCormick, YA Ziti Dinner Event**

Please e-mail Sheree McCormick at [smccormick01@snet.net](mailto:smccormick01@snet.net) with any questions. We look forward to making this a huge success!

**Donations for Dinner**

**Please indicate 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choice**

- |                                          |       |                            |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Salad (serving for 10)                   | _____ | Cookies (serving for 10)   | _____ |
| Bread Loaf (sliced) &<br>Stick of Butter | _____ | Brownies (serving for 10)  | _____ |
| Salad dressing (bottle)                  | _____ |                            |       |
| Croutons (box)                           | _____ | Potato Chips/Snacks (12pk) | _____ |
| Napkins (1 bag)                          | _____ | Soda (12 pack)             | _____ |
| Plates (3 section, plastic)              | _____ | Juice: Iced-Tea            | _____ |
| Plastic Forks (box of 24)                | _____ | Lemonade                   | _____ |
| Plastic Cups (9oz, 50)                   | _____ | Fruit Punch                | _____ |

**Volunteers for Bingo (for Young Astronaut Families Only)**

- |                                        |                        |                      |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Set Up:                                | _____ 4:30 – 5:30 pm   | _____ 5:00 – 6:00 pm |
| Check-In at Door:                      | _____ 6:00 – 7:15 pm   |                      |
| Sell Bingo Tickets                     | _____ 6:00 – 7:15 pm   |                      |
| <u>Kitchen:</u>                        |                        |                      |
| Serve Ziti                             | _____ 6:00 – 7:00 pm   |                      |
| Sell Sodas & Snacks                    | _____ 6:00 – 7:00 pm   | _____ 7:00 – 8:00 pm |
| Plate up Desserts &<br>Serve to Tables | _____ 6:45 – 7:15 pm   |                      |
| Sell 50/50 Tickets                     | _____ 6:00 – 7:00 pm   | _____ 7:00 – 8:00 pm |
| Call Bingo Games:                      | _____ 7:00 – 7:30 pm   | _____ 7:30 - 8:00 pm |
| Clean Up:                              | _____ 8:30 – 9:00 p.m. |                      |

***I would like to donate a Bingo Prize: Prize:*** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify item, should be in \$15.00 range)

**RETURN TO FAMILY ROOM BY MONDAY, MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>**

**NAME OF STUDENT IN YA PROGRAM** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$7.50 per adult, \$2.50 per child, \$20 max. per family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, we'd like to purchase bingo tickets at the discounted rate:**
- \$8 for Large Book(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$3 for Small Book(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Make Checks payable to Young Astronauts Program)*