

"GOING FOR THE GOLD"

Columbus Magnet School

September 17, 2009

THURSDAY NOTICE

Important Dates

Thursday, September 17 *HOT Committee Mtg., 2:15 pm*
Open House Night, 6:30 pm
Friday, September 18 *All School Mtg., 9:30 am*
Hosted by Grade 5
Deadline for Lunch Form Returns
Tuesday, September 22 *Governance Council Mtg., 7:00pm*
Friday, September 25 *All School Mtg., 9:30 am*
Innisbrook Deadline
Welcome Back Ice Cream Social,
6:30pm

The Columbus School Website is:

www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus

Check it out.

Special Note: *Although this week every child will receive a copy, in the future only one copy of the Thursday Notice will be distributed per family, sent home with the eldest child. If you prefer to receive the notice via email, and be involved in our email distribution list please contact Emily by email stating your request and indicating if you would like to receive both an email version and a hard copy. You may also access the Thursday Notice on the Columbus School website: www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus*

Email Distribution List

In order to keep our email distribution list as current as possible and ensure we are abiding by the Federal FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), we will be reorganizing our school-based distribution list. If you are interested in receiving the Thursday Notice and other school based announcements via email, please return the tear-off at the end of this Thursday Notice to Emily Lopez.

Please note the Norwalk Public Schools District will also be beginning a district wide list serve this year. The district link to register parent email addresses is working & ready to be used. It is <http://tinyurl.com/npsconnect>. Parents will need to register using your child's student ID # which is located on their report card. The student ID# is necessary to match each address with the student in Genesis.

Information Packets

All students received information packets including a letter from Mrs. Lopez, school calendar; emergency/media access card, free/reduced lunch applications, and insurance information. Please contact your classroom teacher if you did

not receive this packet. **It is extremely important that we have 100% lunch form return to Columbus. Deadlines for lunch form return to win a pizza party for your class is Friday September 18th.** If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Fuzesi at 899-2840 or fuzesin@norwalkps.org.

Gift Wrap Fundraiser

Our gift wrap fundraiser is on for another week! This year's theme is "Go Bananas" raising money for our school! Innisbrook giftwraps make a great first impression and you can also purchase gifts you can use throughout the year for teachers, friends, and relatives. Fun prizes will be announced at the All School Meeting. Deadline for orders is Friday, September 25. If you have any questions, please call Jane Hayes Robilliard at 857-4885 or Suzanne Abrams at 855-0331.

Columbus Governance Council

The Columbus School Governance Council, established in 1995, is based on the Comer School Development Program and its mission which is committed to the total development of all children by creating learning environments that support a child's physical, cognitive, psychological, social, and ethical development. The Governance Council embraces this vision to help create a just and fair society in which all children have the educational and personal opportunities that will allow them to become successful and satisfied participants in family and civic life.

Columbus Governance Council (cont'd)

The Columbus Governance Council consists of school administration, staff, and parents. Standing members include principal, assistant principal, NFT representative, and parent coordinator. The remaining positions (2-year terms) are filled by: 4 certified staff members (1 arts specialist teacher, 1 mental health team member, 2 teachers), 1 non-certified staff member, and five parents. The council meets monthly during the school year on Tuesday evenings. At this time we have the following vacancies: 1 mental health team member, 1 certified teacher and 3 parents. Are you a parent interested in voicing your opinion, being part of the decision-making process, and representing fellow Columbus parents? If so, please submit a letter of intent to the Governance Council. Attn: Emily Lopez by Friday, September 18. A lottery will be drawn if necessary. For more information, please contact Emily 899-2840 or lopeze@norwalkps.org.

Open House

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 pm. All parents are urged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet Mrs. Lopez, classroom teachers and assistants, specialist teachers, and other Columbus parents, as well as to hear about all the exciting things your children will be learning this year.

Our schedule is as follows:

- 6:30 – 7:15 pm** Classroom presentations for Grades K-2. Parents of 3-5 will have refreshments and meet with specialists in the auditorium.
- 7:15-7:45 pm** Welcome by Mrs. Lopez and the PTO, and staff introductions.
- 7:45-8:30 pm** Classroom presentations for Grades 3-5. Parents of K-2 will have refreshments and meet with specialists in the auditorium.

Parent/Child Book Club

The Parent/Child Book Club will meet on Thursday, October 8 from 3:30 – 4:30 pm in the library to discuss a Connecticut Nutmeg Nominee, Drita, My Home Girl by Jenny Lombard. “When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.” Please let Mrs. Pearce know if you can come. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

HOT Committee: The first meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2:15 pm, location TBA. Subsequent meetings will be held at this time monthly. The HOT Committee focuses on the three components of the HOT Schools philosophy; strong arts, arts integration, and democratic practice. Members include our Arts Team and one teacher and one parent per grade level. **We are currently seeking parent team members.** If you are available at these meeting times and are interested in learning

more about the HOT Committee, please contact Jennifer Imhoff at 899-2840 or imhoffj@norwalkps.org.

Columbus Governance Council: Tuesday September 22, 7:00 pm in the faculty lounge. This meeting is for both incoming and out-going Council members. Please contact Emily if you are not able to attend.

Save the Dates:

Welcome Back Columbus Family Ice Cream Social, Friday September 25 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Arthur J Perschino Gymnasium. Don’t miss out on this fun-filled Columbus family event! The cost is \$3.00 per person, with a maximum cost of \$10 per family (4 or more). Complete details will be sent home soon. Interested in volunteering? Please call Chrissy Limone 857-4841 or Donna Spellman 831-9517

Parent/Child Book Club: Thursday October 8, 3:30 – 4:30 pm in theLibrary

Columbus Sings at the Sound Tigers – Saturday, October 24, 7:00 pm. Join your fellow Columbus Magnet Family Members to enjoy the Sound Tigers Game and support our students as they sing the National Anthem at the start of the Game. Keep an eye out for the special ticket order forms. Contact Mrs. Goldberg with questions.

Art Request

Mrs. Garber is looking for parents to volunteer in the Art room during classes. Please contact her at garberj@norwalkps.org or 899-2840 ext. 161 if you are interested.

For Your Information

COLUMBUS SCHOOL EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

(Please print clearly & return to Emily Lopez)

I _____ am interested in participating in the Columbus Magnet School Email Distribution List.

Please include my email: _____ in the list for all school related mailings. Should I change my email or like to be discontinued from the list I will contact the school.

Signature

Date