

"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
Tuesday, September 29 *Technology Committee Mtg., 7:00 pm*

The Columbus School Website is:

www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus

Check it out.

Email Distribution List

Please note the Norwalk Public Schools District will 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. Deadline for lunch form return to win a pizza party for your class is tomorrow Friday September 18th.** If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Fuzesi at 899-2840 or fuzesi@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 Governance Council is seeking people to fill 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 Tonight!!!!

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.

Congratulations 5th Graders!

The entire 5th grade participated in National Backpack Awareness Day. Students in the 5th grade learned to correctly pack up their backpacks and figure out if their sample bag was too heavy. Strategies for lessening the load were taught by Laurie Dubin, occupational therapist, along with the proper way to wear a backpack. This preventative program is to decrease the injuries caused by wearing backpacks heavier than 15% of a student's body weight.

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.

The Den for Grieving Kids

The Den for Grieving Kids is a school-based support group for children who have had a loss in their family. The group is facilitated by Center for Hope. The group meets twice a

Den for Grieving Kids cont.

month for 45 minutes during the school day and focuses on helping children cope with loss through play, arts and crafts and discussions. If you would be interested in having your child(ren) participate in this group, or have questions about it, please send back the tear off at the end of the newsletter, or contact Nancy Fuzesi at :fuzesin@norwalkps.org or 899-2840 ext. 103. We have had this group for many years and are pleased to be able to offer it again this year.

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.

CMS Technology Committee: Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday September 29, 7:00 pm in the library. We are looking forward for new members to help improve technology at CMS. Everyone is welcome to join us. This committee is not just for the technically savvy. We want your ideas to improve the experience for every child at CMS. Please contact Kevin Robillard at KevinRobillard@optonline.net if you have any questions.

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 cost of \$10

Ice Cream Social cont.

per family (4 or more). Volunteers needed!!! Please contact Tammy McKinnon if you'd like to help out. 847-1388 or rtmck1993@optonline.net.

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.

Donations Needed

A Columbus family is requesting fall jackets and sweaters, size 10-12. Another Columbus family needs clothing for a boy, size 14 or 16. Shirts, pants, and sweaters are appreciated. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Please send items in to Nancy Fuzesi, School Social Worker.

Mrs. Garber needs egg cartons, containers, and t-shirts in the Art room. If you have any of these supplies please send them in. Thanks!

Recycle, Reuse Ink Cartridges – Our School receives credit for all used ink cartridges. Please bring any used ink cartridges from home or business and place them in a box in the library. Our school receives between \$1.0 - \$5.00 credit on laserjet and inkjet cartridges. Last year we saved over \$1,000 using Cartridge World as our school's ink supplier. Cartridge World is located on Connecticut Avenue next to Angela Mia's Bakery. If it is more convenient, please take your cartridges directly to the store and tell them to give our school the credit. A special thanks to Mrs. Chan for all of her effort in recycling her business' cartridges. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pearce in the library.

Den for Grieving Kids

_____ I am interested in having my child(ren) _____

_____ participate in the Den for Grieving Kids.

_____ I am interested in getting more information about the Den for Grieving Kids. Please contact me at _____.

_____ Parent's Name

_____ Date

_____ Parent's Signature

