



Colt Country News



Monthly Notes to Our Christopher Farms Families from the Office
October 2009

Dates of Note:

October 13

First Grade Trip
to Brookedale
Farms

October 21

Security
Assistant Day!
Thank you Mrs.
Fantano!

Family Health and
Fitness Night

October 26

Anchor's Away
Day

October 30

PTA Family
Costume Dance

From Our Principal:

Dear Colt Families,

It is hard to believe the first month of school has come and gone! Our students are back into the school routine and are off to a superb start! I have certainly enjoyed seeing our students' smiling faces around the school each day and continue to be impressed at what a lovely group of students we have here at Christopher Farms Elementary! So, with a super September behind us, you may ask, what's in store for our Colts in October? Many after-school enrichment opportunities will continue with meetings being held by the Mad Science Club, ATA Black Belt, Opera Club and Newspaper Club; just to mention a few. Our first graders will travel to Brookedale Farms for a fun-filled field trip. And, of course our fifth grade students will participate in their annual Egg Drop activity! To continue support for our military families, our Guidance Department will once again hold Anchor's Away Deployment Days, with our first session for the year being held on October 26th. These Anchor's Away Days are designed for students who have parents or guardians currently on military deployment. Students get to celebrate their parents' deployment, as well as share stories and complete activities with other children who have parents deployed. Not only will we be keeping our students busy in October, we have big plans for our Colt families as well! We will be holding our first ever, Family Health and Fitness Night, in conjunction with the PTA. Please stay tuned for more details! Our PTA has also been working hard planning a family friendly costume dance which will be held on October 30th. I hope to see you all there!

Well, there's no doubt that our Colts have an exciting month ahead! I hope that as the month progresses, your Colt(s) come home sharing stories of all of the great events that are happening here at school and in their classrooms! Best wishes for a great month! ☺

Fondly,

Amy E. Cashwell, Ed.D.
Principal



FEDERAL CARD REMINDER!

Please fill out and sign the federal card that was sent home with your student yesterday and return it to school **NO LATER** than Friday, October

16th!

Thank you!



Specialists' Corner

Art Corner



Behavior Management in the Art Room

I learned a long time ago that when students are enjoying learning, you have very few behavior problems. I try to focus on lessons that are motivating and exciting for my students and that is what drives my classroom management. My management plan is really very simple. A few basic rules are posted in the art room:

- Follow directions
- Respect others
- Talk softly
- Safety first

I go over the rules with all students at the beginning of the year and review them as needed throughout the year. When a student has trouble following the rules, here are the steps I take to improve behavior:

- 1st- Student is reminded of the rule
- 2nd- Student is given a verbal warning
- 3rd- Student is given a time out
- 4th- Student is given an Art Room Behavior Letter to be signed and returned to me and/or a phone call is made to the parents
- 5th- Student is sent to the office with a referral....this is my last resort!!!!

If a discipline problem is severe enough I will take a more drastic approach and skip to the 4th or 5th step and seek the help of parents and/or administrators to resolve such problems. In the past I have had very few real discipline problems, and look forward to a great year again!

Sheila Escajeda- Adams
Art Specialist

Technology Corner



October is Internet Safety Month. Please take a moment to talk to your child about online safety. VDOE Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety is a great starting point for all of us to learn more. At school we use NetsmartKidz.org and Disney's Surfswell Island to introduce students to important safety tips. Please join us in our effort. Stay safe online.

Links to Internet Safety Sites

VDOE Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/internet-safety-guidelines.shtml>

Disney's Surfswell Island:

<http://disney.go.com/surfswell/index2.html>

NetSmartz Kids:

<http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm>

Nurses Corner

Just a reminder...if your child is ill, please keep them home and report their absence and reason to the school!! Proper hand washing is the #1 preventative way to stop the spread of germs!! If your child is diagnosed with the influenza virus, please contact the school nurse (648-2247).

