

PRINCIPALS' NOTES

A bi-weekly publication for the well-informed parent

February 26, 2021

Find Principals' Notes, Lunch Menus and More on our website!

www.champion.org

North Campus 724-593-9200 South Campus 724-455-2122

"Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." *Hosea 6:3*

Winter Workday

Please contact Ms. Lin Podolinsky if you have not had the opportunity to complete your workday obligations and would like to help. We have one more Spring workday planned, but there are lots of opportunities for volunteers to help shape the ministry. Please consider helping! For those of you who have a passion for our transportation program, we are asking for additional help to keep getting our garage facilities organized and updated. We have made tremendous progress, but we need your help!

Ask Your Senators to Vote NO on the Equality Act

The House of Representatives passed the Equality Act Yesterday. The Senate is expected to take it up next week. Although it sounds very accommodating, this bill would be devastating to religious organizations such as the Center. It is critical that we contact both of our Pennsylvania US Senators to ask them to OPPOSE THE EQUALITY ACT.

Please take a moment to go the ACSI Action Center and let them know your opinion. The link is found at: <https://www.votervoice.net/ACSI/campaigns/81417/respond> .

There are many organizations offering information about the dangers of this bill, and you can find more information at the ACSI Information Center by clicking

<https://www.acsi.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/topics-to-follow/equality-act> . Please pray that this Bill will be rejected before reaching the desk of President Biden.

Join us in praying, being educated, and engaging on this important issue. You, may of course, contact me directly for additional information if you would like.

Dr. D. Merle Skinner

2021-22 REGISTRATION

It's time to think about next school year already! Official Registration fees for the 2021-22 school year will be due by April 30, 2021 and the registration fee will be added to your STS account for re-enrollment. There is not an enrollment application to complete for current families.

We ARE asking every family to submit a non-binding pre-enrollment form, **which is attached to these notes**, and can be returned by email, dropping it off at the office, or uploading it to iChampion under Parent Resources > Pre-enrollment Forms > 2021-2022 Pre-Enrollment Forms.

We have been excited to have worked with everyone this school year and have been blessed with this year's 20% enrollment increase. We are receiving lots of calls from new families and want to make sure that we have space for everyone and can plan for students. This form helps us do that more effectively.

Westmoreland County Food Pantry

CCS students have been volunteering at the monthly distribution of the Westmoreland Foodbank on the second Thursday of each month. It has been a great opportunity to serve our community. Please contact val_varesio@champion.org if you would like information on how to become a Food Pantry Client. The monthly gross income for a family of 3 is \$2,715/4 is \$3,275 and 5 is 3,835. Volunteers are also needed for this community outreach.

Missons Week Food Drive

CCS High School students would like to announce plans for a Food Drive March 1-19. We are requesting canned and/or jarred goods and wrapped Easter candy. Some good choices for canned goods may be soups, stews, meats, vegetables, fruits, pasta, etc. There will be a contest among the programs for the most lb./student. There will be a fun prize for the winning program. We also have had several individuals and businesses in the community challenging us to partner with them in another food drive, like we did earlier in the year. Our intentions are to do that during missions week as well. Would you like as a family to be a part of that? Look for additional information soon.

Trail Life Event

This Saturday, our Trail Life Troop will be joining another troop for an Iditarod-type adventure! The boys will be moving sleds from station to station in teams for this arctic adventure. The event starts at Camp Christian at 8am. ALL TRAILMEN should pack the following items to have on hand for the day: Water bottle to drink, Small snack to keep with them (Granola Bar, Trail Mix are good ideas), A full change of clothes – These can be kept in the car or Chapel in case kids get wet during the day or maybe just for the ride home. This event will run rain or shine.

Food Box Drive Thru Distribution

CCS High School students would like to announce a Drive Thru Food Distribution on March 25 from 10am – 12pm. Please call 724-593-9200 x100 if you would like to register for a box. If you know of someone who may have a need for a box, please give them this information.

Annual Fall Parent Meeting Videos Posted on iChampion

Last call. Teachers are calling families who have not completed reviewing these yet. Please make sure you have watched the required videos located on iChampion at <https://www.champion.org/iChampion/course/view.php?id=593>

Basketball Season

Thank you, students, coaches, and parents, for a successful season! We feel blessed that we were able to compete with a few games during this COVID-era season! We will be ordering the jerseys for the students that they can keep. Please launder, and neatly return all basketball uniforms. Students who do not return the whole uniform that was issued to them will be charged for the

missing items up to \$150, the cost to replace a full uniform. The coaches have noted if students were issued multiple uniform pieces, so please return any extra jerseys or shorts. Return uniforms to the office.

First Semester Parent Meetings

Missed an appointment earlier this month? Reach out to your student's teacher to schedule. You can see your students' progress on iChampion.

Library Book Review

"Haunted Waters" by Jerry B. Jenkins and Chris Fabry

In this book series, Bryce and Ashley Timberline are 13 year-old twins who discover mysteries wherever they go. In this first of book, the twins are dealing with a mystery in a Colorado mining town and are being chased by bad guys that mean them harm. In addition, the teens are dealing with a lot in their lives, including new family members, their faith and bullies from school.

This book and this series are recommended for MS and early HS students. The books are suspenseful, realistic and exciting, but also deal with life issues and the Christian faith.

For more information about our library and available books to check out, please visit our website http://champion.org/center_drupal/library/. Our library is open to the community and books can be reserved online for pickup. If you need assistance creating an account or checking out a book, please call our office at (724) 593-9200. We have books suitable for all, from preschool tots to adults!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy March Preschool Families! It's so nice to hear the birds singing in the mornings, feel the warmer weather, and to know that spring is coming soon! We're looking forward to another great month in preschool as we move into spring and the Resurrection season! Let's get learning!

Announcements, Information, and Reminders:

- 1.** If you have not completed watching the parent videos on iChampion, NOW is the time to do so. There is lots of important information for you in those videos! Your child's teacher will be in touch to remind you to watch them if you have not completed watching them on iChampion. If you have any questions or need help, please let us know!
- 2.** Since it is flu season, it is especially important that you are aware of and are following our sick policy which states "Please do not bring your child to school within 24 hours of having these symptoms - Diarrhea, vomiting, or fever. **They must be free of symptoms for twenty-four hours without the aid of medication before returning to school.** Please call as early as possible to let your child's teacher know that your child will not be at school." If you are concerned that your child or a family member may have contracted COVID-19, please seek testing and contact us

immediately so that we can maintain a safe and healthy school environment for everyone. We will help you through any COVID-19 situations.

3. Since multiple school districts are going to virtual classes, the announcement of bussing schedules for delays and cancellations will be important. Please watch the typical channels on TV as we will post those there as Champion Christian School. All districts are required to provide bussing to our school regardless of their onsite school status. **For a two-hour delay, morning preschool will begin at 10:30 and end at regular time.** Ligonier preschool times will vary. Please see Mrs. P. for those times.
4. Preschool Brigance Kindergarten Readiness Screenings will begin next week at our Indian Head and Donegal Campuses. Ms. Jen will be contacting you to schedule a time for your child. You should choose a time that is your child is well-rested and attentive. The screenings take no more than 20 minutes and will provide a base-line summary of your child's Kindergarten readiness for the 4's and 5's; and, for the 3's, will provide a base-line of their development across the age-appropriate milestones. Ligonier students will be screened later this month by Mrs. P. We will then review results with you. ALL preschool students will be screened. We will screen again in May to compare their growth and development.

Thank you, parents, so very much! May you enjoy a restful and family-filled weekend!

Ms. Jen Head Preschool Teacher jen_pizer@champion.org (724) 455-2122 ext. 107	Ms. Mandy Preschool Teacher mandy_reed@champion.org (724) 593-9200 ext. 107	Mrs. Pasqualette Preschool Teacher Sharon_pasqualette@champion.org (724) 593-9200
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TERRIFIC TWOS

This month we will be focusing on literacy! We will be reading lots of fun books! We will be reviewing colors and shapes we have already learned. During Bible time we have been learning about Moses and how God used him. We are continuing to work on sharing and taking turns!

We have really enjoyed going outside each day! We do go outside everyday as long as the temperatures are above 30 degrees, so please make sure your child has warm clothes and boots, or clothes to change into.

Here are a few things to remember:

- Childcare is **closed** April 1- April 6 for Easter break
- Our Easter party will be on Tuesday, March 30th. More information to follow.
- We will be **closed** on March 18th and 19th for professional development.
- Please continue to label everything, it helps us so much
- Please bring in an extra set of clothes in case they get wet outside.

-Our snack schedule for this month is:

March 1st	Bo
March 8th	Harper
March 15th	Mariel
March 22nd	Cece
March 29th	Haley

We are so thankful for your families. Feel free to reach out to me at any time with any questions or concerns!

Mandy Reed

mandy_reed@champion.org

724-593-9200 x107

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Winter Clothes

It is still that time of year! Some children do not have boots. We need a complete extra set of winter clothes, that they can change into in case they get wet, to stay in their lockers/cubbies. We will continue to be going out when it is snowing. Please make sure your child has a heavy waterproof winter jacket, snow pants, scarves, boots, gloves, and possibly a hat. It is very helpful if these items can be left at school.

Speech Meet

The students have done so well on their Speech Meet pieces! Thank you so much for practicing with your child. The video has been posted in iChampion. AWESOME JOB KIDS!

Heart for Missions Event

Our total from quarters earned for this mission event was \$100.52! Thank you for your participation...what a great way to teach the children the joy of sacrificial giving! We will be donating the proceeds with last year's collections to a food distribution project headed up by our high school classes.

Primary Fair

We have started to talk to the students about Primary Fair. The requirements will be on the website at <http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/elementary/primaryfair/>. Most of the work will be done at school. This is always a fun time to see what the kids have learned. The topics will be due on Monday. The dates can be found on the calendar or if you check the timeline of when everything will be due.

Kindergarten with Ms. Ann

What we are learning: Unit with Miss Lauren: Science: Fun with Forces; Language Arts: Rhyming words (please practice at home), and blends. When your child receives a reading page and/or reading book please have them practice reading at home each evening as time allows. It

is extremely important for Kindergarten success that your child practices reading often! Do not read the questions on the story pages to your child...those are for in-class use. Please be sure that they sound out the decodable words. **Return all reading materials to your child's folder each day** for class reading and practice. Math: Numbers to 100, Attributes of plane and solid shapes, addition and subtraction; Bible: The power of Jesus.

Flex Day Boxes: If you haven't done so, please return your child's **Flex Day 4** completed materials as soon as possible. These are due within 1 week of the indicated snow day.

Valentine's Day: What a great celebration! Thanks to everyone for the sweet valentines and gifts. I am so blessed by each of you!

Primary Fair: Information will be sent home in your child's folder.

iChampion: Our Kindergarten speech meet video has been posted to your parent portal. You may upload it at any time and save it on any device. The children were phenomenal! 2nd quarter report card are available in your parent portal. ****Make sure you have watched the parent meeting videos. These are mandatory for each family.**

First Grade Math: Composing and decomposing numbers above 10; Place value; using a number line; addition and subtraction; graphing, geometry (composing, decomposing, identifying attributes, creating and extending patterns with plane and solid shapes).

Current Kindergarten Needs: Bottled Water, Art Center supplies (anything you think the kids would use to create art), **Play dough**.

*Please check the online calendar (www.champion.org/calendar/) and iChampion www.champion.org/iChampion/) daily for event details and changes. When you access the online calendar click on the "Shared Calendars" tab on the left and check the boxes next to the calendars you want to see. May you be blessed beyond measure!!!

My contact information: ann_mathews@champion.org; **Classroom: 724-455-2122, ext. 108**

First Grade

Mrs. Brougher (Mrs. Jones is on maternity leave.) Ms. Ann – Math

Primary Fair topics are due on Monday.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/elementary/primaryfair/>

First Grade: Earth Science (examples: land forms, natural resources, and weather) Students will write 10 facts in sentence form and include a title page. A template will be sent home in student folders. They will also use a visual to explain their topic and talk about their facts. Parents will help their child choose a relevant Bible verse to memorize and will be included in their paper or on their visual.

Math (8:45-9:45): First graders have math with Ms. Ann. Current topic: Geometry

ELA (9:45-11:15): (Mrs. Brougher) Mrs. Jones is on maternity leave. Students are reviewing letter sounds, phonics skills, spelling and handwriting. Students are working on middle and ending sounds. Students will be focusing on rhyming words as well. First graders will be beginning to write simple sentences. First graders are learning adjectives. We have been working in our reading

books. Please check for any homework daily. Look for Mrs. Jones's newsletter information about the week. It will be in your child's folder. The Spelling test date is on each newsletter, a new list will be written in their assignment books after they test. The spelling list is also located on their spelling workbook pages as well. All students have an account on Spelling City, please notify Miss Skinner (danah_skinner@champion.org) if your child did not bring home their Reading A-Z username and password.

Spelling: First graders are working with short vowel words. Spelling words are written in assignment books after they test. They are also located on their workbook pages in their folders. (Kids A-Z is available to all students, letters were sent home for second graders and first graders.) Second grade is on List 14. Tests will be on Fridays for second grade. Please Read Mrs. Jones' newsletter for date of First grade spelling tests. Look for your child's spelling word list in their assignment books, or on their workbook page. If your child forgets to bring their assignment book to school.

History: Railroad/Cowboys/Wild Wild West. We will be finishing up history and beginning Science around the first or second week of February.

Bible: We studied Daniel this week. Students should know their Bible Verse by Friday. They can say it earlier if ready.

Library: We will have Library on Tuesday next week.

Flex Day Work: Please make sure your child has completed and sent in Days 1, 2 and 3 asap.

Special Note: Please call your child's teacher to schedule a Report Card conference as you wish.

Contact Information: christina_brougher@champion.org or belinda_lane@champion.org

Second Grade

Mrs. Lane is teaching until Mrs. Shaffer arrives in March.

(Mrs. Shawley is also helping Mrs. Lane)

Primary Fair topics are due on Monday

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/elementary/primaryfair/>

Second Grade: Local History; Students will write 15 sentences with a visual. The project should be arranged with a title page and glossary. (Students must turn in a hand written rough draft, but parents/teacher may help type the final paper.) Parents/Teacher may assist their child in choosing a Bible verse relevant to their topic. The verse must be written in their report or on their visual. Students will memorize and explain how their verse relates to their topic.

Second grade math (8:45-9:45): Second graders completed chapter 9 and will be working on Chapter 10, 3 digit numbers. Assessments will be in their folders tomorrow.

Reading A-Z is up and running. Go to reading A-Z, click on Danah Skinner. Student passwords were sent home. If you do not have your child's password, please email Miss Skinner.

ELA (9:45-11:15): Spelling Our new unit is List #21 on Consonant Blends Second grade with Mrs. Lane, Fluency tests will be every Friday. Please practice reading daily. We will be focusing on comprehension, phonics skills, and syllabication. We will be focusing on writing now until the end of the year. Students will be working on sentences for their Primary Fair Projects next week.

Library: Please keep track of Library books. Library will be on Tuesday next week

Bible: We studied Daniel this week. Students should know their Bible Verse by Friday. They can say it earlier if ready.

Computer: Second grade students are received their computers and have been enjoying learning various computer skills. Soon, we will add more information on iChampion for them to start becoming more familiar with it. The computers stay at school.

Science: We are studying Vertabrates in Science.

Flex Day Work: make sure your child has completed and brought in Flex Days 1-4.

Special Note: Please call your child's teacher to schedule a Report Card conference as you wish.

***Contact Information:** I can be reached at 724-455-2122 Ext. 110 or call and ask them to connect you to Mrs Lane's classroom. I'm also available by email: belinda_lane@champion.org

Third and Fourth Grade

Miss Skinner and Mrs. Reed

We have started to talk about Primary Fair. This year most of the work will be done in class. The students will be creating their visuals at home. Please look for the information in your child's folder. Their topics will be due on Monday.

Don't forget to have the students finish their flex day assignment. Most are caught up. I will be checking them this weekend.

History: We are starting a new unit on Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and the civil war.

Science: We are working on Space! The kids seem to be really enjoying this unit. Our test is this week.

Math 3: The students are working on fractions.

Math 4: We are doing fractions as well.

Bible: Our next topic is Lazarus.

Bible Verses: All of the students should be caught up with their verses but please continue to practice at home. Sometimes I let them say it early on Wednesday but normally it is due on Thursdays.

Reading: We are reading a story and working on answering different comprehension questions about it. We also work on practicing our cursive handwriting each morning. The students will also be learning about different grammar skills as we have writing assignments.

Spelling: We are on list 28 this week. Please make sure to practice with your child at home. Also we have a new website. <https://www.kidsa-z.com/main/Login> The students should have brought home a sheet with directions for the website. If you need another copy, please contact Mandy.

3/4 Computer: We learn to type, get online, work on the online learning site, create reports or powerpoints, and much more. This year all elementary students will be learning how to access iChampion: an online learning tool and log in to our computer system.

Contact Info

If you need to reach me, please email at danah_skinner@champion.org or call 724-455-2122 ext. 109. I am not always available to check my email or my phone during the day but I will check my messages by the end of the day. Thanks, Danah Skinner

If you need Mrs. Mandy, please email mandy_reed@champion.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSINGS

Parents: if you have not met with your child's teachers yet, please consider a virtual appointment! We are happy to help you with iChampion, or discuss the progress of the school year.

Social Studies Fair 2021

Rough drafts have been completed. Students will begin working on final drafts and presentations when rough drafts are returned to them. The first group who turned their rough drafts in on the due date have been returned. The rest will be returned soon. To keep the students on track the deadlines are posted on the school calendar and the boards in the classrooms. Occasionally, they will have time to work on their paper during class or Study Hall.

Pre-Algebra with Mrs. Marker

We will be continuing to work our way through decimals and their conversions, equivalent fractions, ratios, and proportions. Please remember to always give your best with excellence, even during virtual attendance. Assignments are due on-time and are only accepted as late with teacher approval; only half credit can be given and it must be completed within a week, so please be prompt and keep up. It is much easier to keep a good grade by staying on target. Students will be given a monthly budget to explore for a family household. We will also be using this concept in budgeting over the next 2 weeks. I am looking forward to seeing their creativity!

CCS Online:

Please be sure to check iChampion daily as assignments and activities are being posted and must be completed within one week for full credit.

PLEASE NOTE: FLEX DAYS are different from virtual learning, but just as important. Students have one week to complete their Flex Day assignments. Students need to submit their work online to be counted as present. Flex days are used on snow days, so we don't make them up at the end of the year.

Gym days are Monday and Wednesday:

Students must be prepared for gym class with SNEAKERS/TENNIS SHOES, NO BOOTS!

Personal Devices: Please leave personal devices at home! Students will be using laptops during the day for class. Please turn in cellphones and smart watches to the office upon arrival.

Service Hours:

If your child needs work hours, please consider our work day on Saturday Feb. 20!

Students in grades 5-6 need 10 service hours and students in grades 7-8 need 20 service hours before the end of the school year. You can find the form to fill out on the website:

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/highschool/hsserviceprojectform.pdf>

(High School and Middle School forms are the same).

Email the Middle School teachers anytime: dean_pizer@champion.org,
tiarrah_marker@champion.org, rachel_brant@champion.org, donna_bupp@champion.org,

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Phil 1:9-10 "And this is my prayer that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."

Speak Week: Thanks to the high school students who did a great job presenting their Speak Week pieces.

Parents: If you haven't met with your students' teachers, please call to set up your report card conference after school one day next week.

iChampion & flex days and virtual classes: Virtual classes continue to be available but only for those who get prior approval from Mrs. Lane or Dr. Skinner. Please complete assignments by their due dates. When joining virtual classes, please come with the camera on and be ready to participate.

HS Service Hours:

Each year we encourage students to help others and develop a servant attitude through Christian service. Some students volunteer during the summer, but only half of the total hours for the year can be taken from the summer. Please upload summer service hours onto iChampion as soon as school begins. Ninth and Tenth Grade students are required to have 30 service hours and Eleventh and Twelfth Grade students need 40 service hours. If you have trouble fulfilling this requirement, please see a high school teacher. You can find the form to fill out on the website: <http://www.champion.org/ccs/highschool/hsserviceprojectform.pdf>

Personal Devices:

Please leave your personal devices at home! Students have been assigned a school laptop to use during classes. Please turn in your phones and smart watches to the office upon arrival.

High School Phys. Ed. Classes:

Physical education classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. Students should be dressed appropriately and **have tennis shoes** to wear EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY!

SAT Prep with Mrs. Marker:

Remember half of your time should be directly in the SAT practice sessions; however, half of your time is permitted to be in individual classes researching SAT prep topics as well. Thank you for all your hard work!

Email: dean_pizer@champion.org, melissa_wolfgang@champion.org, rachel_brant@champion.org, tiarah_marker@champion.org