

Where Learning Begins With Wonder



INVESTIGATIONS

January 5, 2010

Dear Families-

Narrative Report Cards

Last week you received your child's first narrative report card for the school year. The narrative report card may be new to families joining CSI for the first time. The narrative report card is designed to give you a bird's eye view into your child's learning and growing. What does this mean? One of the benefits of a narrative report card is that it provides more consistency between teachers than traditional report cards, because all students are evaluated on the multi grade-appropriate skills. Parents can see exactly which skills and knowledge their children have learned, and where they can improve. This type of report card also should also facilitate communication between parent and teacher. The parent can analyze the assessment of their child and read exactly what is being taught.

Is this type of report card a better indicator of your child's skills? A report card of this type can be very long and detailed orientated. Letter grades are often calculated by combining how well the student met her particular teacher's expectations, how she performed on assignments and tests, and how much effort the teacher believes she put in. Letter grades do not tell parents which skills their children have mastered or whether they are working at grade level, but are instead knowledge-based.

A challenge of the narrative report card is that the teacher must have a thorough understanding of the states' mandated skills. Like other grading systems, consistency in interpreting the standards between teachers and students across grade levels is vital to the narrative report card's success as a comparator. Moreover, the narrative report card is very time consuming to complete. Please thank your child's teacher for the time and effort that they have put in working alongside your child and crafting a detailed report to inform you of their learning.

PASS Academy

PASS Academy is off to a great start. PASS Academy is for students in grades 3-6 only. Students participating in PASS Academy must complete a registration form along with the RCRC after school registration. These procedures are in place to ensure safety precautions so that the school doesn't bear any unforeseen liabilities. Thanks to our teachers for the extra work they are putting in to ensure

Upcoming Events

January is Student Recruitment Month

January 26th

CSI Town Hall Meeting 6:00 pm

January 27th

11:45 am Early Dismissal Student Led Conferences
6:00 pm Student Recruitment Cooper Branch Library

February 4th & 5th

CSI Science Fair

February 5th

New Student Application Deadline
(forms available on line or in front office)

February 6

Black History Parade and Gospel Soiree (Historical Waverly & Five Points)

February 11th

Writer's Academy (grades-2-6)

February 12

Returning student applications due

February 15

Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

February 18

6:00 pm Chili Cook-off /Curriculum Explorations
New Student Recruitment

Websites for more information:

<http://www.educationworld.com/admin/admin195.shtml>

CSI TOWN HALL MEETING January 26th 6:00 pm

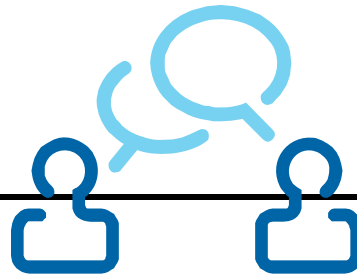
We would like to hear from you. What things are working well at CSI? What are some things could you pose will make CSI better? Please join us for our first ever Town Hall meeting. The format will allow participants to pose questions which will be pulled from a question box and read aloud. Your input is needed to help foster our wonderful school. The intent/purpose of this meeting is not to bash the administration, teachers, staff or programs that are currently in place. However, constructive criticisms are productive and are a part of a growing process.

OBJECTIVES: "Assets Based Thinking"

1. Look for strengths in our school's current structure.
2. Identify threats and weaknesses.
3. Open dialogue with stakeholders by focusing on the assets.

GROUND RULES:

1. We will work from a NO FAULT format...no one will put blame on another.
2. We are looking ahead.. not backwards...no rehashing of things from the past. No personal attacks.
3. Don't offer complaints without a possible solutions. We are not going to deal with personalities or what you may think of another person's personality.
4. Questions will be pulled from a box. There will be no open questions from the floor. Any questions/concerns about this process should be directed to Mrs. Victoria Dixon-Mokeba, Director/Lead Teacher, 691-1250.



What's the BUZZ About?

There have been some questions and concerns in regard to information that was presented at the Board of Directors meeting in regard to multi-age looping verses single grade looping. The Education Committee did give a report to explore the possibility at looking at our charter to explore the idea of grade level specific looping from the current multi-age looping. The board chair of CSI, Mrs. Margaret West-Sumter, is in the process of forming a committee that will consist of teachers, parents and stakeholders in the community to broach the topic. As information becomes available it will be provided to you. Currently our charter calls for multi-age education, and we will follow this unless it changed with the approval of the Richland School District One Board of Commissioners.

Returning Student Forms

Please make sure that you return the returning student application form ASAP. The applications are due by February 12, 2010. If you do submit this form, you forfeit your child's slot for next year. It is very imperative that you return this form. If you have questions, please feel to give us a call at 691-1250.