



GALLOPING COLT NINE WEEK NEWSLETTER
January 19, 2011

From the Principal's Desk

The school year at CCA is half full and many exciting events and programs have happened since the beginning of the year. I want to thank everyone for the volunteer spirit which is a strong asset to the CCA culture. Building a firm foundation of family, community, and strong governance that support the academic, character, and social aspects of the school are important to the future of Coweta Charter Academy. I am very blessed with the CCA family and look forward to a bright future.

A couple of new faces have appeared at Coweta Charter Academy. Kimberly Fudge and Susan Caldwell have been hired to support the remedial program and to help students make greater gains in achievement. Both are seasoned teachers and come with strong educational backgrounds. Ms. Caldwell will be a full time remedial teacher and Ms. Fudge will be a ½ time remedial teacher and ½ times Title Coordinator to make sure CCA is in compliance with all state and federal guidelines. These positions are funded through the federal Title I program. Another person who is around the school one day a week is Lynn Goss. She is a contracted school psychologist and works directly with the RTI process, Special Education evaluations, and student support.

Over the next couple of months, CCA is hoping for many changes. Open Enrollment will begin on February 1st. An Enrollment Session for interested parents will be held that day at 9 am in the sanctuary. This is a short informational session followed by a tour of the school. As you recommit for next year simply log onto SIS. As you log into your SIS parent screen, you should see a choice to recommit your student or choose not to recommit. If you have any questions about the process, please call the school.

At the present time Coweta Charter Academy and Charter Schools USA are looking at two scenarios for the 2011-2012 school years: The first scenario is having Kindergarten through Fourth grades. This will only happen if the lawsuit between the Public School systems and State Charter schools is not ruled upon by the Georgia State Supreme Court.

The second scenario is having Kindergarten through Seventh grades. This will happen if the Georgia State Supreme Court rules in favor of State Charter Schools. This ruling could happen at any time. This would mean that Charter Schools USA would complete the purchase of the building and land where the present school is housed and build a two story wing onto the back of the building.

There is a rally down at the State Capitol on January 25th at 9:00am to support Charter Schools. This is a unique opportunity for people to go and express their support for Charter schools.

Again, thank you for being a great community that understands the need for a strong educational system. This does not come without challenges, but everyone at CCA accepts challenges and is willing to work through the processes needed to become the school of the future. I appreciate each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Terry



FIRST GRADE

First grade had a great first semester. The students developed their reading, writing, science, social studies, and math skills through many integrated learning units. After reading several different books, the students utilized inquiry skills in cooperative groups to produce scientific reports about types of weather. In addition to learning basic math facts, the students have worked each day to perfect problem solving skills. First Grade loved learning about American Heroes through comparing and contrasting their contributions to this great country. One of First Grades favorite activities is writing and sharing personal journals with each other. First graders love to learn!!!!

The First Grade students are looking forward to continuing to build on the skills that they have learned during the first half of the year in both reading and math. The grade will kick off the 2nd semester with a reading unit focusing on perseverance and why it is important to always try your best. The students will continue to strengthen their reading skills and build fluency. Weekly spelling tests will be introduced to the students. In math, the students will be developing skills on place value, time, money, and introducing fractions. First Grade is so excited about all the fun, adventure, and learning that is to come!!!!



SECOND GRADE

Second Grade is starting a new unit in reading called Look Again. Throughout the unit, the students will study about animals, camouflage, and their habitats. The reading strategies being used in second grade



include asking questions, making connections, clarifying, adjusting speed, and summarizing. Main idea and details, reality and fantasy, author's purpose, and fact and opinion are the reading skills being taught throughout the stories. To help your student, go to http://www.sraimagineit.com/g_login.html and read the weekly story with your child. If you are not sure of your personal log-in or password, check with your child's teacher. At home use the various strategies to reinforce good reading skills as your child is reading his/her required nightly reading. Remember to have them fill out the bookmark for the University Reading Challenge.

In math, Second Grade students are strengthening their double digit addition and subtraction strategies using money. They will also be studying geometry. In geometry, the students will be learning about the names of various shapes, such as trapezoids, cubes, cylinders and rectangular prisms. They will describe the shapes by different faces, vertices and edges. Second Grade will also be looking at the congruence and symmetry of different shapes.

In science, the students will be learning about force. They will be exploring what cause forces, friction, gravity, and the motions created by forces. They will also be learning about energy in the form of wind and light. The students have already learned through discovery by performing experiments about force, push, and pull by using trains, cars, and bouncy balls. It pushed their thinking and forced them to create new hypothesis about force!

THIRD GRADE

CRCT testing is right around the corner. After school tutoring is being offered to third grade students to help prepare them for the CRCT test. Currently, in reading, the students are being individually assessed for their mid-year reading level. The students are encouraged to read at home on a daily basis. It is important that the students are not only reading, but can relay the story back to you in sequential order. Remember to ask your child questions for main idea, *"What is the story about? What is the main purpose in this story?* And questions for enhancing knowledge, such as, *What in your life can you relay to this story?* Have your child compare and contrast facts about the story or with another story. Remember to share your thoughts on how the story reflects on everyday life to make the story interesting. The students are asked to read at least 30 minutes a day. The Third Grade class is participating in the University Reading Challenge.

In math, the goal in third grade is to master multiplication by March 31, 2011. The students need to practice and study the multiplication facts everyday. The students will also continue to learn the steps to division over the next nine weeks. Students will be more successful in division as they master their multiplication facts. Websites, such as <http://www.studyisland.com>, www.starfall.com and www.sraimagineit.com can be used to enhance learning in math, reading, writing, social studies, and science.

This is the first year in school that a writing assessment is required by the State of Georgia. This assessment is completed throughout the year by collecting a portfolio of writing samples from each student. The students are learning to write a 5 paragraph essay scoring a 4 or above by practicing four square writing in class and at home.



ENRICHMENT

Coweta Charter Academy Colts are working really hard during specials to enrich their thinking. In Spanish, during the next nine weeks, all students will be building vocabulary related to the calendar, weather, and clothes. Mrs. Duarte will be sending home a list of the vocabulary words so that the students will be able to practice them with you.

In PE, during the month of January, PE students will be introduced to cup stacking. In February, the students will be doing a jump rope unit. When the jump rope unit begins, parent volunteers will be needed. The volunteer opportunities will be listed in the volunteer book in the office. I will put a notice in the weekly Galloping Colt Newsletter.

In January, technology students will be improving math skills through various websites and programs. In February, they will concentrate on reading and language arts skills using websites and programs.



Music is full of rhythm and movement. In January and February, CCA students will be singing and moving to a variety of seasonal songs in music. In addition to singing and moving, Kindergarten students will be introduced to the instruments of the orchestra and will learn how to play the lap harps. First grade students will continue to learn how to play the recorders. They will also be introduced to a famous composer – J.S. Bach. Second and third grade students will continue to learn how to play the ukuleles. Second grade students will learn about the life and music of Handel, while third grade students study Beethoven.

During the months of January and February, all students will be creating a variety of Winter-related and Valentine projects in art. As they create new works of art, they will be concentrating on collage techniques, painting techniques, two-dimensional art, background and foreground, paper weaving techniques, and dexterity.

TITLE I Program

Happy New Year, Parents and Students! Title I funding has provided CCA the opportunity to hire two new teachers. Susan Caldwell, who will be a full-time Title I teacher and Kimberly Fudge, who will work ½ time as a Title I teacher and ½ time as a Title Coordinator. Both come with many years of teaching and are very enthusiastic to be a part of the CCA faculty. Susan Caldwell was a substitute teacher last semester and has had the opportunity to get to know many of the students. Both teachers are looking forward to working closely with CCA students to give them a little extra attention in basic reading and math skills.

The Title I program offers extra support to students, their parents, and teachers. In addition to spending extra time during the regular school day focusing on basic skills, the Title I teachers will be involved with the After-School Tutoring program for students and meetings with parents designed to help teach learning strategies to help you support the learn process at home. The teachers look forward to these opportunities and are confident that working as partners, the students will become more confident, independent learners for life. Education really is all about the students.

UNIVERSITY READING CHALLENGE

Coweta Charter School at Senoia is embarking on a university reading challenge for the 2011 half of the school year! The purpose of this challenge is to promote a culture of readers and encourage students to read voluntarily and often.

How does it work you ask? Students select a “just right” book with teacher guidance based on data (DRA, benchmark testing). When your student finishes reading a book, they complete a Reading Challenge book mark. Every time a student completes a book mark, they get credit toward their third quarter reading goal.

Check the table below for your student's reading goal.

How Can I Succeed in This Challenge?

	How many minutes per night should I read?	What is my CSUSA Reading goal?
Kindergarten	20 min. reading aloud or listening per night/7 days	5 books
First	20 min. reading aloud or listening per night/7 days	10 books
Second	20 min. reading aloud per night/7 days	10 books
Third	20 min. reading aloud per night/7 days	12 books

How do I keep track of the books I read? When I finish reading a book on my own, I will complete a Reading Challenge Bookmark. What will I get if I achieve my goal? Every student who meets or exceeds their goal will receive an invitation to a Reading Celebration at the end of the quarter.

Every teacher and class has adopted a University to create their teams. We will be counting how many books each class reads and graphing it on a bulletin board outside the front office. Make sure to check it when you are at school and cheer for your favorite university! If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Chaves at schaves@cowetacharter.org or your student's teacher.

PATS – Parents and Teachers for Students Organization

President: Cynthia Carvajal
V. President: Sandy Titshaw
Secretary: Jennifer Carroll
Treasurer: LaQuinta Herring

Meetings: First Tuesday on Each Month
7:00 to 8:00 pm in Cafeteria

Projects:

Scripts
Flower Grams
Spring Fling and Market Day

Spirit Nights

Teacher Appreciation Week



Relay for Life

Coweta Charter Academy will be participating in Relay for Life. The kickoff will be the Week of January 31st with a Penny Drive. February 4th will be a Relay Spirit Day. Students can wear purple for \$1.00. In March the students will March for the Cure by collecting sponsors for an afternoon of Marching Around the School. More information about Relay for Life will be coming soon.



Upcoming Events

- January 18 - STRIVE Fundraiser begins for Boynton Family
January 20 - Charter School Town Meeting and Open House 6:00 to 7:30
January 21 - SCRIP orders are due
Box Tops for Education Contest begins
January 25 - Local School Council Meeting 6:00 to 7:00 in cafeteria
January 26 - STRIVE Fundraiser for Boynton Family
January 27 - Kindergarten Curriculum Night 6:00 to 7:00 pm
January 31 - Relay for Life Kickoff with Penny Drive
Spirit Night at Chic-Fil-A Dwarf House in Newnan 5:00 to 7:00 pm
February 1 - Begin Open Enrollment - Open Enrollment Mtg 9:00 to 10:00 am in sanctuary
PATs Meeting 7:00 to 8:00 pm in cafeteria
February 10 - First Grade Curriculum Night 6:00 to 7:00 pm
February 17 - Open Enrollment Session 9:00 to 10:00 in sanctuary
February 18 - Box Tops for Education Contest Ends
March 17 - Career Day

Coweta Charter Academy Mission Statement

Coweta Charter Academy will provide a safe learning environment where each student is challenged to achieve their full potential. We strive for academic, social, positive moral, and physical excellence by providing a quality and challenging curriculum. Coweta Charter Academy equips students with intrinsic motivation to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society.

Coweta Charter Academy Vision Statement

Coweta Charter Academy will foster students in a culturally diverse environment providing them with healthy learning and growth in order to prepare students to be lifelong learners who contribute to society.