

Cologne Academy Director's News

Calendar Dates

- January 17 at 7:15 a.m. Personnel Meeting
- January 17 at 5:30 p.m. Facilities Task Force Meeting
- January 20 5:30-7:30 p.m. Chicken Dinner



- January 24th 7:00 p.m. Beyond 8th Grade Meeting- High School Transitions



- January 26 at 6:00 p.m. Finance meeting
- January 26 at 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- January 27 at 2:50 p.m. Outstanding Student Assembly

Paraprofessional Recognition Week

January 16-20

Lynn Gluck Peterson
Executive Director
January, Issue 11



Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed the week of January 16-20, 2012, as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Cologne Academy is proud to recognize our amazing staff of paraprofessionals: Kim An-
guiano, Molly Blotz, Arielle Bouley, Laura Bury, Ryan Ferrin, Aaron Petersen, Sue Prater, Jami Reinitz, Kay Letson, and Beth Meuhlenhardt.

Cologne Academy's paraprofessionals work in a variety of positions , but their main purpose is to support students and facilitate bridges in their learning by offering assistance and guidance based off of the teacher's instruction. Paraprofessional roles include, but are not limited to, those who work as instructional assistants, MUM/MUR Paraprofessionals, pupil support assistants, special education paraprofessionals, clubhouse, lunch room and playground assistants.

Please take time this week to recognize and thank the many paraprofessionals in the building for the wonderful service they bring to the school and students.



2012 Relay for Life

Cologne Academy once again is creating a Relay for Life team. This year's Norwood Young America Relay for Life will be held on Friday, July 20th. We are looking for families to join together and participate in this amazing experience that builds community, hope, friendships, and stewardship. Please consider joining the team. Please contact the main office to join! kfarrell@cologneacademy.org or 466-2276. Cologne Academy's Camp Courage is looking for you!

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the 2012 Primary Caucus which prohibits public elementary schools from holding school sponsored events, our February 7th open house has been changed to February 13th at 6:30. **Please relay this information to anyone you gave an Open House postcard to.**

We apologize for any inconvenience.

If you have an end of day change, please call the office before 3:00 each day. Thank you!!

2nd Annual Extraordinary Expo 2/2/12

Mark your calendars for the evening of February 2nd at 6:00! This event showcases Cologne Academy's Science Fair projects, Ms Blotz's K-8th grade Art Showcase, and Mrs Lopez-Marshall's Spanish Program. The top science projects will compete at the Regional Fair in April. Viewers will vote for the People's Choice Award for Art and Spanish performances will be viewed in the Cologne Community Room.

February Conferences

February conferences will be held Wednesday, February 8th from 7AM-10AM & 4PM-8PM and Thursday, February 9th from 4PM- 8 PM.

Please note the student late start on Wednesday February 8th.

Conference sign up is available at www.mysignup.com/conferences

K-2 grade will conference with their Classroom teacher.

Grade 3-8 students will conference with their MUM and MUR teacher(s). Your child's MUM and MUR teachers will send you a reminder to schedule a conference with them. Specialist will be available to conference Wednesday morning or Thursday evening.

Don't forget to check your child's teacher portal on the CA website? [Click here](#)

If anybody has any specific leads on any grant foundations that Cologne Academy could look into, please contact the grant committee at tainaking@yahoo.com.

Thank you for making our school great!

Now through February 17 is our open enrollment period at Cologne Academy. If you have a child who is not currently enrolled at CA but would like to be, please turn in an application prior to February 17. Help spread the word to your family and friends, too! Enrolling for 2012-13 school year K-8.

From Cologne Academy to High School!

Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 @ 7PM at Cologne Academy**

Please attend this very important meeting regarding your child's upcoming high school experience. The meeting is open to any parent seeking information on High School choice.

[Students: If your parents attend, you will earn a non-uniform day.]

If you are a parent of a 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grader, the question of where to go next in regards to your child's high school is likely on the forethought of decisions that need to be made in the near future. To help assimilate information, I have asked surrounding traditional school districts (Central, Waconia, Chaska, Belle Plaine, Chanhassen), private schools (Holy Family, South Western Christian, Mayer Lutheran), and Eagle Ridge Academy – a Core Knowledge charter school like CA– to come to our High School Transition meeting.

If you can help set up for the Science Fair on February 2, please contact [Mr. Nordberg](#).

If you can help with the Art Showcase set up on February 2, please contact [Miss Blotz](#).

PAVE Reminders

CHICKEN DINNER

Remember the Cologne Academy Chicken Dinner on January 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner includes chicken, corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert. There will be live music and a silent auction during the dinner.

SPRING FLING PLANNING COMMITTEES

Seems like this is a long way off, but really it is just around the corner!! We are still in need of coordinators for many areas of the Spring Fling Event in May. Please contact PAVE@cologneacademy.org if you are interested in joining a team to help out. This event is the school's major fundraiser of the year and really needs your help to be the best it can be!!

JANUARY FAMILY FUN NIGHT—TONIGHT AT 6:30!!!!

The Third graders are busy planning a great event for the whole school. There is an outdoor theme, with many, many activities being planned. This is a great way to meet other families at Cologne Academy. A flyer with additional information was emailed home today.

Scrapbooking

The next Happy Scrappers of Cologne Academy weekend will be January 27 & 28. Please contact tammyschelitzche@embarqmail.com to register before 01-20-12.

Late Start

If you need to utilize Clubhouse for the 2 hour late start on February 8, please contact [Jami Reinitz](#)

College T-shirt Days:

January 27
February 13
February 24
March 5
March 30
April 16
April 27
May 25

Uniform pants/
skirts required.

Lunch Servers

If you can help serve lunch, please contact [Jami Reinitz](#)

Express Library

Please remember to take advantage of the Cologne Express Library. For details, [click here](#).



Parents' Commitment to Cologne Academy

People frequently ask where our children go to school. After I reply, "Cologne Academy", the first question almost always is, "Where is that?" Once established that Cologne Academy is indeed in Cologne, the next question is, "Why, aren't there closer schools?" Cologne Academy is indeed not the closest or most convenient school for my children to attend. However, there are several reasons we chose Cologne Academy.

In 2009 our son's attitude towards school was getting progressively worse. He did not see the value in going over the same math concepts that he had mastered three years previously. He didn't want to go to school because; in his words, "I'm not learning anything". In addition, since school was easy for him, when he was challenged, he just gave up. His attitude towards school in fourth grade was concerning and we knew we had to make a change. At the same time, my daughter was content in second grade as the social aspects for her compensated for the lack of academic challenge. However, her math class was focusing on single digit addition, something she had mastered prior to kindergarten and her other classes were similarly unchallenging.

We looked at several schools in the area and did not find one that had a program that would meet our children's needs. Many schools focused on going over and over the same basic facts or offering enrichment programs which provided busy work for the student without being teacher-led. None of them offered accelerated classes. When we finally met with Lynn, she discussed Cologne Academy's educational philosophy and that the MUM and MUR classes were arranged, based on children's ability. This approach intuitively made sense. High schools do not expect that all juniors in high school to be at the same math or reading level, so why do elementary schools use this approach? We were also impressed with the amount of focus on reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The first year at Cologne was a great experience for the kids. In addition to reviewing the children's scores on past standardized tests, each child was evaluated the first week of school and were placed into appropriate math and reading groups. We noticed them getting excited about learning again. The enthusiasm was due to both the teachers' commitment to teaching and their classmates who pushed each other to excel, specifically in Mr. Johnson's MUM and Mrs. Gordon's MUR classes. We no longer struggle with getting our son to school; he sees the value in attending and our daughter is similarly challenged. Their enthusiasm for algebra and Shakespeare along with the introduction of meaningful learning rather than rote learning more than makes up for the minor inconvenience of sending the children to an out-of-district school.

School Family's Upcoming Mission Trip

In a few weeks, one of our school families will be heading to Central America for a mission trip. One stop will be at an orphanage in Honduras. If your family would like to make a donation for this family to take to Honduras with them, please send the item to the main office by Wednesday, January 18th.

CLOTHING

Current Children's sizes:

Boys

Shorts Pants: Size (8) Size (12)*

White Socks: Size (3-9)

Girls:

Shirts: Size (3) Size (7/8) Size (10/12) Size (14/16)
Size (S)

Long Pants: Size (4) Size (8) Size (10) Size (12) Size (14)

Skirts: Size (3) Size (8) Size (10) Size (12) Size (14)

White Sleeveless Undershirts: Size (8) Size (10/12) Size (14/16)

Short Pant: Size (3) Size (7) Size (8) Size (10) Size (14)

SHOES

Girls

Black Shoes: *Size (1) Size (5) Size (8)

Dressing Sandal: kids Size (9) Size (1) Size (6) Size (7)

Flip-flops*: Size (9) kids Size (6) Size (7)

Boys

Black Shoes: Size (5)

Croc Style Sandals: kids Size (11) Boys Size (1) Size (5)

Flip-flops*: Size (6)

MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS

Hair Conditioner*

HP 60 color & black printer ink

Black Belts for school –children's size

Composition Book – (non-spiral notebooks)

Compact Fluorescent bulbs*: Micro Mini 13 watt, Small 20 watt

Zip locks bags to hold 5# bags of flour

Jelly

Smoke Detectors

Sharp Chef Knives

Large serving spoons

Bath mats*

* Most Immediate Need

Guarding the Feedback Loop

Dr. Steve Kahn, Ph.D, L.P.

One of the most important lessons that parents teach their children is that actions lead to consequences. Cooperation is more likely to be followed by a pleasant outcome and refusing to cooperate will lead to an unpleasant outcome. This is the basic feedback loop. Action A leads to Consequence A. Action B leads to Consequence B. It is up to us to guard this feedback loop for our children because this is the key to how they learn, change and grow.

What would happen if instead of guarding the feedback loop we sabotaged it? What if we told our children they could not have a friend over if it was hard to get out of the house in the morning but when it came time to say no, we caved? Or, we explained how they needed to have all As and Bs to remain on their school team but when they brought home three Bs and two Cs we decided that was close enough? And what if life was so hectic that we had trouble remembering the demands, agreements, plans and terms we told our children we were putting into place? When a child is not able to rely on the feedback loop their trajectory through childhood is altered. They might learn to ignore their parents or to invest great effort to manipulate them.

But what about the times when we can anticipate future events much more accurately than our children can? If a project is due a week from Friday and we know this coming weekend is a busy one, we want to encourage them to get an early start. And that is fine and reasonable. But if they ignore our guidance and we nag and remind, lecture and repeat ourselves, we are inserting ourselves into the feedback loop in an unhelpful way. It is possible that all they will learn is that they do not have to be far-sighted and organized, that you are taking care of that for them. They may even come to believe that you are the person responsible for their deadlines.

There is a critical period of time in our children's lives, usually corresponding with grades 4, 5 and 6, when they are ready to learn about responsibility and organization. This does not mean that they are naturally going to be responsible and organized right then, rather that they are developmentally ready to do this work. Parents who "guard the feedback loop" are helping their children do this important work. Granted it is difficult to do this when we want to help them meet their deadlines, be ready for their tests, get the most out of their piano lessons and not let their team down. But if we are not careful we might wear out our welcome by reprimanding and sermonizing instead of guarding the feedback loop.

- "If the grades drop you are off the team."
- "If the chores don't get done, no friends over."
- "If you talk disrespectfully to me, you will lose the privilege of being driven places."

Parents can do this and it is in their children's best interests to do so. And yes, it is hard to see the grades drop when we could have organized them and been the responsible party, but then we would have robbed them of the exact circumstances needed for the responsibility to grow. Perhaps it boils down to whether or not you decide to parent with a short-term view or a long-term view. Yes, you can ensure that the next report card is acceptable and you can ride them until they get their chores done. But if you can muster the personal strength to permit your 4th, 5th and 6th grade child to be in charge of whether or not they get their chores, homework and studying done, and then hold them accountable, you will be increasing the likelihood that they will become organized and responsible in the not too distant future.

If you enjoy these articles, please feel free to share them with other parents. They can be downloaded to your computer, printed or forwarded as an attachment, at no charge. And, there are four years of archived articles about children and parenting at www.drstevekahn.com, all available for downloading or forwarding to other parents.

Dr. Kahn is the author of *Insightful Parenting: Making Moments Count*, now available for e-readers and as an audio book in addition to paperback.