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- **December 10** Report Cards go home
- **December 14** Finance Meeting 8 PM
- **December 16** Board Meeting 7 PM
- **December 17** Fish Ceremony 2:50 pm Community Center; Spell Check Donations Due
- **December 21** Facilities Task Force Meeting 5:30 PM
- **December 23-January 2** No School
- **January 3** School Resumes
- **January 4** PAVE meeting 6:30 PM



Director's Notes

by
Lynn Gluck Peterson

DECEMBER 10, 2010

2nd Trimester

It is hard to believe that we have already begun our 2nd trimester! Today, you should find the first trimester's report card in your student's backpack. The primary purpose of the report card is to communicate student progress to parents, students and to other staff. The report card documents student performance over the first trimester and provides feedback regarding concerns and strengths. Accountability for learning is shared by students, parents and teachers. Report cards provide a common understanding of the student's progress and facilitate next steps, if applicable. This is just one of many ways to document progress.

Use these documents as motivational tools. Celebrate your child's successes and discuss opportunities for growth.

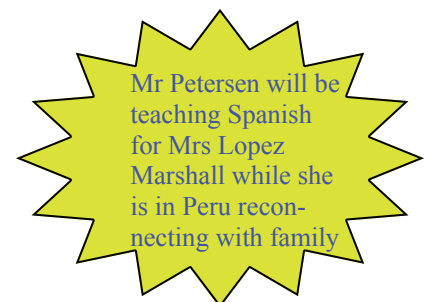
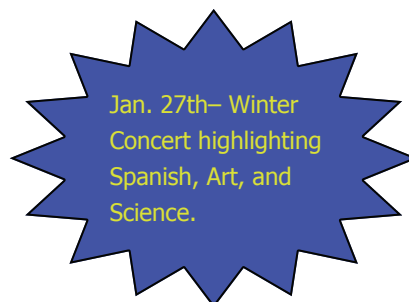
Please sign and return the report card envelope.

Did you know?

Last weekend several Cologne Academy students attended Concordia Language Village (CLV) in Bemidji with our Spanish teacher, Mrs Carmen Lopez Marshall. Concordia Language Village's Spanish programs offer participants of every age a virtual world tour of Spanish cultures. CLV's staff comes from all corners of the Spanish-speaking world and they love to share their traditions. Students are immersed in the sights, sounds, tastes, and experiences of the Spanish-speaking world. Below are some quotes from some of the student that attended camp.

"The food was amazing!" "The best part was when we learned Cuban dances." "It was like an actual village." "We had a fiesta." "We traded our money for pesos." "The banquet was fantastic!" "I learned so much in two days."

Look for next year's CLV program and consider attending.



Charter School 101

Our Vision

To create an environment for K-8 children where rich character development and effective learning create self confident students who are able to achieve their personal best academically. Using advanced curriculum that is based on goal oriented results, parents will work with teachers to produce the highest possible level of academic achievement for each individual student.

Our Mission

To provide students in Cologne and surrounding rural areas with a content-rich education based on a strong foundation of knowledge through the use of the Core Knowledge Sequence and classical curriculum. We are committed to providing a community school with small class sizes where students, parents and teachers work together to achieve accelerated academic achievement and strong character development.

As a public charter school, Cologne Academy is an independent public school that is governed by a board of directors. The purpose of the board is to oversee the governance of the school, ensure the school is financially sound, and to develop and ensure the implementation of the vision and mission of the school.

Charter schools, in Minnesota and other states, are public schools. They are created by state law, funded by the government and subject to most laws governing education. Charter schools cannot charge tuition and are not allowed to discriminate in admissions.

Structurally charter schools are unique

in their ability to bring innovation to the school and to the classroom, while being governed in a cross between a non-profit organization and an independent school district.

Cologne Academy currently has seven members serving as directors on the school board.

Board meetings are open to the public and are generally scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Board meetings are held in the school.

On April 15th, 2011, Board elections will take place. If you are considering a seat on the board, there will be up to three seats available. Letters of candidate interest will be sent out in March. A voter information packet will go home to families in March, as well.

Friends of Education Site Visit

Minnesota State statute states that every charter school must have an authorizer. Our authorizer is Friends of Education (FOE). This 2010-11 school year is Cologne Academy's year for renewal with our authorizer. Through multiple measures, FOE will ultimately determine if CA is a school that they want to continue to authorize. So far, Cologne Academy has completed a self-study and I have provided reports and evidence that support our progress since our Charter's beginning in 2008. Last week, FOE had a site visit here and they were very impressed with our school and our programs. The FOE representative did not observe every classroom, but here are a few highlights from their visit

Jen Gordon's Math Objectives for the lesson clearly posted on her whiteboard. This ties back to Cologne Academy's fall Data Driven Instruction workshops and also in recent professional development meeting as the staff reviewed the work of C. Danielson.

Jen Mielke- As students were finished taking their bathroom break and lining back up, all students had their decodables and were orally reading to Mrs Mielke. In addition, as the students walked down the hallway, the students were crossing their midline by taking their opposite hand to touch their opposite heel. The correlations and effectiveness of crossing one's midline are found in research studies that show the results of brain stimulation.

Karrie Rasmussen- Math flash cards in the hall lining up from bathroom break.

Sensory Room—"wise and effective use of space."

Stacy Ferrin- Use of cold call techniques and j-factors. FOE was at *Teach Like a Champion* training last week with myself and Lori and other leading charter schools at Macalester College and the Center for School Change. Stacy, like many CA teachers, are masterful educators and use best practices daily. FOE was impressed with her delivery of instruction which was the focus of recent training.

Consequences by Dr. Kahn

There are four years of (free) articles about parenting at www.drstevekahn.com and they are available for downloading or forwarding to other parents. Dr. Steve Kahn is the author of *Insightful Parenting: Making Moments Count*.

When a parent is struggling with a problem their child is having it is helpful to remind them to honor their child's sovereignty. That is, their child has the right to have that problem at that moment in time. And the best strategy is for the parent to search for an important lesson that can be taught at such a time. However, that is rarely what the parent wants to hear! What they really want to hear is how to make the problem go away.

"What consequence can I use that will make my child stop doing this?"

Similarly, when parents are reminded about the importance of being patient and allowing children the opportunity to grow at their own pace, what they are hoping for is a formula that would lead to immediate change.

"If I double the consequence and use a louder voice, will my child change faster?"

And when they react to their child's problem with their own tension the recommendation is to protect the connection and not contribute any interpersonal distance to their relationship with their child. To this parents often reply they are simply too frustrated and angry to do that.

"How am I supposed to stay calm and patient when my child is doing this?"

Part of the answer is to rely on a good old-fashioned behavior plan, one that includes giving a

consequence or taking away a privilege. While behavior plans are not the most important part of parenting, done well they will change a child's behavior over an extended period of time. But what is even better, they can change the parent's behavior immediately.

Behavior plans are unlikely to work very well when parents are at wit's end, racing their child to the basement, and responding to the mess the child is presenting with a mess of their own. But they will work when combined with a loving tone and an air of reassurance. And when parents feel confident in their plan, they are more likely to breathe in and breathe out, remember that parents also make mistakes at times, and present themselves to their child as loving and forgiving. Why not feel confident? We might not feel confident if we think our child is so strong-willed that the principles of human behavior do not apply. And yes, there are temperamental factors. Some children will cross their arms and stomp their feet and say, "You can't make me," when they are told to do their chores or put their clothes away. But it is more common than rare to have a parent think their child is strong-willed. Usually what happens is that the child is not changing very quickly, the problem repeats itself many times and it is beginning to look as if

the child will never change. The parent begins to lose confidence in the approach, becomes frustrated and perhaps gives up. A child might learn that they can wait a parent out and begins to grow stronger- and stronger-willed with every successful resistance of a behavior plan.

What is a parent to do? Wait and wait and wait and wait. Hold your ground. Stick with your principles. Keep the consequence in place for weeks and months even in the absence of observable progress. Resist the urge to make the consequence more painful and keep your encouraging voice in charge. And remember: The two best consequences are small and short. When you are not sure whether to use one consequence or another, use the smaller one. And if you are not sure how long to keep the consequence in place, go for the shorter period of time. Mostly, your calm and reassuring presence keeps the problem smaller and helps it resolve itself over a shorter period of time.

“This is hard for you right now and that is why we have to talk about this again. We will get through this together. I will keep working with you on this problem you are having, every time you make this mistake I will give you a pep talk and give you this consequence. You are a smart child and in time, you will figure this out.”

And keep this in mind also. All consequences can be divided into two categories. One type of consequence requires the child’s cooperation. Examples include: “Go to your room,” and “You may not

watch TV while I am gone.” The other type of consequence does not require cooperation (loss of the parent as chauffeur, keeping the electronic games locked up). Guess which type works better with children who are testing limits, engaging in power struggles and trying to wear their parents out?

The best advice there is for parents when their children are being challenging is to allow their child the opportunity to learn what they need to from their mistakes. Imagine there is a mirror behind the child and keep your focus on how you look and sound. Protect the connection. Refuse to give up and try your best not to set a timer. You are probably setting a timer if you hear yourself say “how many times am I going to have to deal with this,” or “there you go again,” or “this better be the last time.”

And if your child is doing a pretty good impersonation of a strong-willed child then lean toward consequences that do not require cooperation. “I am not going to drive you to your friend’s house because of the problem you have been having with your manners.” “You know the drill. When the chores are not done, the games are locked away.”

That way, the mess your child hands you will be the only mess you have to deal with, one that does not grow messier by the interaction between your child and you.

Uniform Policy Update:

You now have two vendor options for Cologne Academy's Plaid. Donald's Plaid #57 and Land's End Classic Navy Plaid. A portion of your purchase from Land's End comes back to the school.



Please recycle your cans in the can trailer in the school's parking lot. Money raised will help offset the 5th grade's environmental trip in May.



Toy Drive:

The Cologne, Norwood Young America, and Hamburg Fire Departments are sponsoring a Toy Drive from November 26 through December 14. Toys collected will be given to the Southwest Carver County Food Shelf in NYA. KleinBank will also be accepting cash donations. Cologne Academy has a collection box for toys in the office. Please consider donating!

Absences

Please remember to call or email the school office by 9:00 a.m. if your child is going to be absent. 952-466-2276 or kfarrell@cologneacademy.org

Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found is growing daily. If your child is missing something, please check the lost and found before the winter break. All unclaimed items will be donated.

19th Annual KID'S ONLY CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

Sponsored by: WEST CARVER GIRL SCOUTS

Saturday, December 11, 2010
Central Elementary School—NYA
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The sale will be open to Children only from 10am-1pm. From 1-1:30pm the sale will open to adults who would also like to shop or children who need their adults to help them. Lunch will be served from 11-1:30.

Children Age 12 & Under

This is a chance for children to purchase gifts for loved ones inexpensively and without adults knowing what they will be receiving. Children who are not old enough to purchase items by themselves will be helped by an older Girl Scouts. All items will be priced \$2.50 or less and will be wrapped at the sale. **WHAT TO BRING:** All shoppers must bring a list of people they are buying for, money and a sack to carry their gifts home in.

GLOVES

Be Prepared for RECESS!

BOOTS

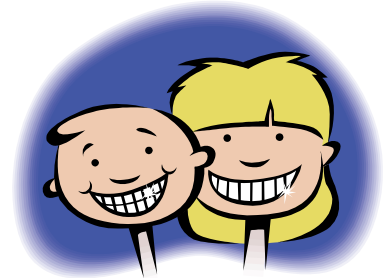
**S
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SNOW PANTS

JACKET

HAT

Give Kids a SMILE



Dear Parents or Guardians:

Minnesota dental professionals are concerned about the growing number of low-income children who face barriers to dental care. That's why thousands of dental professionals come together on the first Friday and Saturday of February to provide free dental care to children in need.

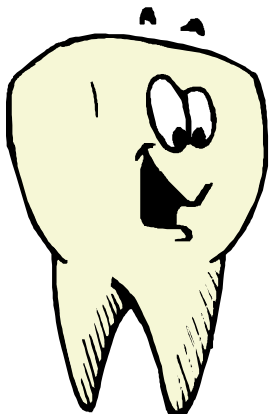
This special event is called "Give Kids a Smile" and is coordinated by the Minnesota Dental Association. The dental care will be available in community-based clinics and private practices in many locations throughout Minnesota.

Here is more information:

All patients must have appointments in advance and be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. After Jan. 1, parents may call United Way 211 (just dial 2-1-1) or 800-543-7790. Operators will have a list of participating dental offices and will be able to direct people to a location in their area. Parents will then call the dental office to schedule an appointment. An online list will also be available at www.mndental.org.

Services will vary from preventive care, which includes cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatment, to restorative care, which includes fillings. Information on specific services that will be provided will be outlined when an appointment is scheduled.

Typically, clinics treat children ranging in age from 3 to 18. When calling for an appointment, parents should ask about any age requirements.



Learn more at mndental.org.

Please photocopy this document and share it with families who could benefit from the "Give Kids a Smile" program.



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Now-December 30th

Free Shipping on ANY order over \$30.00 December 9th—December 30th!

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