

# **Churchill High School**

## **eNews**

**11-20-13**

### **Upcoming Dates**

**11-21 OSU Application Workshop – Computer Lab**

**Site Council – STEM Conference Room**

**11-22 Student of the Month - Library**

**11-25 to 11-29 Thanksgiving Break – no school**

**12-4 Last Day of Tri 1 for Students**

**12-5 & 6 No school – trimester grades**

**12-9 Beginning of trimester 2**

**12-12 to 14 West End Play**

**12-19 Jingle Jazz**

**12-23 to 1-6 Winter Break**

**1-7 Back to school**

**1-15 & 16 Financial aid workshop – filling out FAFSA**

### **Parent Vue Key Activation Letters Arriving Soon**

***Keeping track of your student's progress helps motivate***

A mailing went out recently giving parents your passwords for the Synergy website so that parents can access your student's grades. If you do not receive your mailing call the office: [541-790-5100](tel:541-790-5100)

### **Being Here Matters**

***Churchill's Attendance Committee plans efforts to improve attendance***

Did you know that in the 2009-10 school year, nearly a quarter of all K-12 students in Oregon were chronically absent? Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of school during an academic year for any reason: excused and unexcused absences, as well as time lost to suspensions.

A national study, which included Oregon's data, estimated that 10 to 15 percent of students are chronically absent each year. That means as many as 7.5 million students throughout the United States are missing nearly a month of the school year.

While national data suggest that one in 10 kindergartners are chronically absent, the rate is nearly one in four in Oregon.

We appreciate your efforts to get your student to school every day and we know it can be a challenge to motivate teenagers. Stay tuned to next month's newsletter where we will share more information, and let you know how Churchill High School plans to take the matter of attendance to heart.

### **Rachel Carson Salmon Watch Field Trip Report**

***Churchill students experience the circle of life***

Students from the Rachel Carson Program spent all day Tuesday, November 12th observing wild salmon spawning on Whittaker Creek in the coast range. As part of their annual unit on "Salmon Ecology" students traveled to Whittaker Creek to learn from

community experts in the fields of fish biology, environmental law and water quality, riparian area and forest management practices. Volunteers from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) among others, spent their day sharing their expertise with students in the field. Students tested the water quality, assessed the riparian habitat and collected macroinvertebrates in addition to seeing wild Coho and Chinook salmon at the end of their life cycle. Newman's Fish Market generously donated two whole salmon that were grilled on the trip to give a students a real taste of the experience.

The Salmon Watch trip is an annual experience for the Rachel Carson students. Thank you to all the volunteers and a special thanks to the students who were enthusiastic and respectful learners!

### **Exchange Student Program**

#### ***Host an Italian student and your child is invited to Italy***

Give a bilingual teenager a semester or yearlong taste of American family life and the student's Italian family will return the favor. My Italian friend through her organization, Ergon, is seeking Eugene parents with active families to host students during the 2014-15 school year. To make this a true exchange at the end of the school year your hosted student's family will reciprocate by welcoming your own student into their homes for an Italian vacation, includes a \$1000 airfare contribution.

Ergon partners with Northwest Student Exchange in the U.S., which handles enrollment, medical coverage and visas. Ergon thoroughly screens students to ensure that they are motivated and proficient in English. Ergon is exceptional among exchange programs in the careful matching my friend does between host families and students. Ask our Eugene parents who have hosted! Website: <http://www.ergon-se.org>

I hosted a delightful student from Milan in 2008 under this program so please contact me for more information at [kobrien334@comcast.net](mailto:kobrien334@comcast.net).

Thanks! Kim O'Brien

### **Lane Community College Scholarship Information**

Applications for the 4j-ACT Sponsorship program for seniors are now available. This sponsorship is available to qualified seniors who have participated in at least one credit's worth of courses in one of the following academy programs at Churchill High School: Engineering & Design, Graphic Arts, Health Services or Rachel Carson/Natural Resources.

What is the 4j-ACT Sponsorship program? It provides students who have been active in certain academies at Churchill the opportunity for one year free at Lane Community College. The program pays for books, fees, and tuition for up to 36 credits. Please pick up an application packet at the School-to-Careers office in the STEM building. The packet explains the program and its requirements in more detail. If you have any questions, please see Mary Beth in School-to-Careers office in the STEM building or call [541-790-5262](tel:541-790-5262), or e-mail [elam\\_m@4j.lane.edu](mailto:elam_m@4j.lane.edu).

### **Financial Aid for College**

***Seniors: are you financially prepared for college? Get help filling out your FAFSA***

What is the FAFSA form?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Completing and submitting this form online is the single most important thing you can do to get assistance paying for college.

The U.S. Department of Education uses the FAFSA to determine students' eligibility for federal student aid.

The CHS Career Center will conduct a free workshop in filling in the FAFSA on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00 in the Computer Lab.

The FAFSA website can answer many of your questions:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm>

### **Churchill Library Bookworms Sponsor Oregon Battle of the Books** ***Students compete on knowledge of 12 young adult books***

The Churchill Bookworm Club is competing again in Oregon Battle of the Books. Bookworms are busy reading the booklist of 12 books in order to be prepared for in-school battles in January and a regional tournament in February. Last year's Orange Team went all the way to the state tournament. If your student is interested there is still time to get involved – with plenty of time to read during November and December. All books are available for check out in the CHS Library. Churchill students are also involved in the McCornack OBOB for elementary.

Here is this year's high school OBOB book list:

Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick by Joe Schreiber, 2011.

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper, 2006.

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock, 2006.

Daughter of Smoke & Bone by Laini Taylor, 2011.

Dirty Little Secrets by C.J. Omololu, 2010.

Everybody Sees the Ants by A.S. King, 2011.

Every Day by David Levithan, 2012.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, 2012.

Grave Mercy by Robin LaFevers, 2012.

The Pregnancy Project by Gaby Rodriguez, 2012.

Rot & Ruin by Jonathan Maberry, 2010.

Winterdance by Gary Paulsen, 1995.