

April 25, 2017

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Coming Up

Tue, Apr 25	PSE Spirit Night, Chick-fil-A, 3-8 PM
Wed, Apr 26	Early Release Day, Noon Dismissal
Thu, Apr 27	Gallery Walk, 6:00-7:30 PM
Sat, May 6	Spring Carnival

Next Rocket Review on Tue, May 9



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Come and enjoy this fundraiser benefiting the wonderful Art, Music, and PE departments at PSE.

Browse the artwork covering the walls,
give a donation, and
take home a masterpiece created by your student!

The evening will include **performances** by the
PSE Choir,
Chimes,
Percussion and
Jump Rope Team.

There will also be clay **demonstrations** in the art room. Providence High School and PSE alumni art students will be there showing off some of their skills.

Don't go home hungry!
Hungry Howie's Pizza and **SAS Cupcakes**
(including gluten-free options)
will be available in the cafeteria.
Cash and credit cards accepted.



PTA Profit & Loss: March

Beginning Balance 3/1/17	113,512.35
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Book Fair	11,417.42
Capital Donations	435.38
Ice Cream Social	1,728.00
Field Day	36.00
Fifth Grade t-shirt	1,859.00
Food Fundraisers	1,083.08
Free Fundraiser	102.86
Interest Income	4.59
Publications	8.50
Rocket Raffle	165.00
School Store	333.00
School Supplies	112.00
Spirit Wear	752.00
Yearbook	285.00
Total Income	18,321.83
Expense	
Book Fair	40.09
Ice Cream Social	1,273.00
Art Appreciation	182.08
Beautification	250.56
Fifth Grade t-shirts	967.25
Hospitality	756.56
Principal's Discretionary	163.87
School Security	202.13
Tech & Ed	5,700.00
Total Educational Expense	9,535.54
PTA Operational Expenses	
Bank Fees	219.88
School Store	246.39
Total PTA Operational Expenses	466.27
Total Expense	10,001.81
Net Ordinary Income	8,320.02
Other Income/Expense	
Gallery Night - PE	(6,000.00)
Media Wish List	4,688.52
PY Tech & Ed	1,344.06
Total Other Expense	32.58
Net Income	8,287.44
Ending Balance 3/31/17	121,799.79

Note from the 2017/18 Crestdale PTO President

Hello to Upcoming Crestdale Families...

Hard to believe we are in the fourth quarter already! It will be summer break before we know it. The Crestdale PTO Board is already excited about our 2017/2018 school year and we would love to have YOU be a part of all the action. We have many opportunities for you to serve either on the campus or behind the scenes. Here are some of the opportunities for you to volunteer:

- President Elect
- Treasurer Elect
- Academic Support/Tutoring
- Community Coordinator
- Directory
- Events/Socials
- Fundraising
- Hospitality
- Invest in Their Success
- Matthews Alive Fundraiser
- Multimedia Support
- Parent Pack/Pay4SchoolStuff
- The President's Volunteer Service
- Public Relations/Historian
- School Store
- Spirit Wear
- Wildcat Weekly Newsletter



Please reach out to Dana Brincefield (danabrincefield@gmail.com) with any questions about any of the positions. We would love for you to be a part of our Crestdale Family!

-Dana Brincefield,
Crestdale PTO President 2017/18

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

In our [last Rocket Review](#), I shared with you the wonderful professional development opportunity many of our teachers had at the National Paideia Conference held here in Charlotte on March 24-25 with pre-conference visitations conducted right here at PSE on Thursday, March 23.

Your support, funneled through our PTA, provide our teachers with incredible professional opportunities that change them in magical ways, allowing them to bring their pixie dust back to our classrooms, and for this support, we are always grateful.

Against this backdrop, I did mention in the last article, that **our beloved Superintendent, Ann Clark, delivered the keynote address** at the conference to a standing ovation of all attendees as she finished her last statement. It was a powerful and a meaningful speech reminding all of us why we do what we do and I thought it very fitting to ask her permission to **include the text of the speech below**.

She gave her permission so, **ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Ann Clark, Superintendent of the Charlotte – Mecklenburg Schools...**



Why Excellence Matters

Good morning. It's an honor and a pleasure to be with you today to talk about the role of excellence in our public schools.

Few things in American life are more critical than public education to our survival as a democracy, a country based on the idea that people should govern themselves. We are a country with a government by the people and for the people. Our Founding Fathers – Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Monroe, John Adams – all believed that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness rested on a foundation of self-governance.

Those visionary men also recognized that successful self-governance required an informed citizenry. Our Founding Fathers shared a belief that a strong universal system of public education is vital to the very survival of a successful democracy. Enlightened governments march toward democracy, inclusion, freedoms of speech and thought, and promote actions for the common good based upon the participation of an educated and enlightened citizenry.

John Adams articulated this very clearly in a letter written in 1785. He wrote, "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it." Similarly, Thomas Jefferson said in a letter to James Madison, "Above all things I hope the education of the common people will be attended to,

convinced that on their good sense we may rely with the most security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty."

Public education wasn't valued only by the Founding Fathers. Along the course of the next two hundred years, others saw clearly the importance of educating everyone – including those who had a history of being excluded. Consider these words by civil rights activist and educator W.E.B. DuBois in 1949: "Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental....The freedom to learn ... has been bought by bitter sacrifice. ... We should fight to the last ditch to keep open the right to learn."

Or these words from women's rights advocate Susan B. Anthony: "A republican [and that's a lower-case R] government should be based on free and equal education among the people."

More recently, political scientist Benjamin Barber has made the argument that our public schools don't merely serve the public. They actually help create a public with a common national and civic identity. And Paideia guru Mortimer Adler, writing in his 1982 treatise *The Paideia Proposal*, said that universal schooling and universal suffrage are inextricably linked. Adler wrote, "The one without the other is a perilous delusion. Suffrage without schooling produces mobocracy, not democracy... the former without the latter produces an ignorant electorate and amounts to a travesty of democratic institutions and processes."

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(Continued from [page 3](#)) So how do our public schools add such value? The Center for Educational Policy, in its publication *Why We Still Need Public Schools*, cites six missions our schools have been expected to fulfill. They are:

1. Provide universal access to free education. That means everyone. Children and adults of all races, all faiths (or no faith), documented and undocumented immigrants, students with disabilities. Universal access means everyone.
2. Guarantee equal opportunities for all children. Again, this means everyone has the same opportunity, the same quality of education, the same chance to succeed.
3. Unify a diverse population. We all know what this looks like. It looks like any school in our district, where students of all races, faiths and origins work side by side to learn. As one of our parents said several years ago, "My children go to school with the world." With more than 160 countries represented in our schools, CMS students do go to school with the world!
4. Prepare people for citizenship in a democratic society. As noted above, democracy doesn't work unless there is an educated electorate. From Thomas Jefferson to Mortimer Adler, the visionaries in our country have seen the connection between public schools and democracy.
5. Prepare people to become economically self-sufficient. To be able to work, to earn a living, to succeed – these are basic rights of every citizen, right up there with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness! We want our students to leave CMS ready for the next step – whether that step is college, a career or the military.
6. Improve social conditions. This is a hard one. But the truth – and I know that everyone in this room has seen this – is that education is the only way to break the cycle of poverty. We've all seen it. Last year, at our district's State of Our Schools event, one of the students highlighted was a senior at West Mecklenburg High. Here is part of what he said:

"I am one of the 11 million undocumented students living in the U.S. I came to the U.S. when I was just six months old. I came into the country not knowing that I would be considered different from the other kids. I came into this country from one border, only realizing that there are other borders that you can't cross by

foot. Borders such as not being able to receive federal aid and the in-state tuition. Borders that shouldn't be placed in front of a child because his family tried seeking a better life, one away from poverty and corruption... I was looking for scholarships and came upon the Golden Door Scholarship, a scholarship specifically for undocumented students."

I am proud to tell you that he won that scholarship and is studying to become a child psychologist. Not only did education improve his individual social condition, but it is preparing him to help others.

Six missions of public education. It's a pretty staggering list, isn't it? But take heart -- I'm not here today to make you feel burdened! I'm not adding anything to your already lengthy to-do lists here! As educators, we do these things every day in our public schools, and we're going to continue to do them. My point today is this: these six goals best serve the collective public interest and promote the common good when they are done with excellence.

What is excellence in education and why does it matter? Even more basic – what is excellence?

Excellence doesn't just happen. It takes planning, work and insight. It takes a commitment to setting high standards and holding yourself and others accountable to meet them.

A person known for excellence leans into a problem, takes ownership of tasks and accepts the responsibility for getting the best results each and every time. And professionals in the fields of medicine and education have the additional responsibility of having to strive for perfection in their work. Ninety percent on-time airline flights may be an excellent rating for that industry but it's not good enough for doctors or teachers. Medicine wants 100 percent of patients healed. Those of us in the education profession do not consider ourselves successful until 100 percent of our students can read with comprehension, write correctly, think critically, speak articulately and solve problems in ways to promote the collective good. We and our good colleagues in the medical profession have incredibly high expectations and rightly so. Who would think that losing a patient or two would be an acceptable goal? And what educator would ever accept a percentage of his or her students slipping through the cracks as a cost of doing business?

All of you are excellent educators. You are also – and this is not something that you may think of often enough – the first-line defenders of effective democratic government.

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(Continued from [page 4](#)) When we educate children, we teach them to think critically, to weigh facts before reaching conclusions. We teach them literacy, which empowers them to learn anything that interests them. We teach them to respect others while still being able to think for themselves. All of these skills help to build an informed citizenry, the basis of democracy.

One of our core values is that America is the land of opportunity – a place to go from “rags to riches” as long as one has ability and works hard. It sometimes feels as if we are losing sight of this important value. But all of us in this room have not lost sight of it. We come to work every day because we believe that education is the great equalizer. Education can break the cycle of poverty.

Excellence is the key aspect here. We can't let any students slip through the cracks. We must educate every student well, not just some of them. This is a critical mission for us, in every school and in every classroom. Educational excellence for all students nourishes the very foundation of our democracy. It ensures that what has been called “the great conversation” – the free flow of ideas – continues for generation after generation. That conversation began with the Founding Fathers, continued through a civil war and two world wars, and it's still going on today. It is the torch that keeps democracy alive – and each of you plays an important role in making sure that the great conversation does not stop.

Conferences such as this one and school reforms focusing on excellence in teaching and learning, communication skills and critical thinking are the best ways to nurture a wise and socially responsible society.

We have not fully realized our shared goal of excellent education for every student. But we are closer to it today

than at any time before – and that's why I'm going to quote Winston Churchill to you: Never, never, never give up!

What we are doing as educators is too important for us to give up the struggle. It's hard. Sometimes it's frustrating – and sometimes it can bring a sense of joy and fulfillment that keeps us all going through the hard times. But always, always know: What you do matters very much. It matters to our citizens and to our country. It matters to our present and to our future. That is why it's so important that we continue our pursuit of excellence. So much rides on the shoulders of public schools – and excellence will help us to carry out our mission.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to share this time with you. I salute each and every one of you. You have chosen excellence over indifference. You have chosen to make a difference by being an educator, by teaching our country's children. You have chosen the right way instead of an easy way to sustain a public education setting that creates both the scholars of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

You and your colleagues are 21st-century leaders for what you do and why you do it. You are shaping our collective present and our collective future. Thank you for your dedication to excellence and your devotion to teaching children. Thank you for helping to keep democracy, and the great conversation that sustains it, alive and well.

Excellence matters – more today than ever! Never, never, never give up!

Thank you.

(Transcript of keynote address given by Superintendent Ann Clark at the National Paideia Conference in Charlotte, March 2017)



Lauren and Dave Springs have made a very generous contribution to the PSE primary resource material collection in the form of newspapers (*The Daily South Carolinian*) from the year 1863. These papers were published in Columbia, SC, and were part of an extensive family collection. The gift gives our 5th grade historians an additional opportunity to research and study “real daily life” during Civil War times in the South.

Many thanks to the Springs Family for this special gift to their school.

-Diane Adams

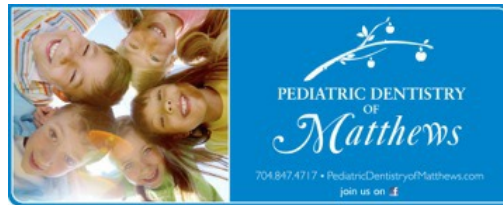
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