

August 23, 2011
Quarter 1, Week 6

CPSC Weekly Update

...words of wisdom from John and important dates to remember

From the Director...

Dear CPSC Families,

At our Back to School Night, I noted that despite dismal state funding for education our school is on solid financial standing. Specifically, I mentioned that if you take the last three years of cuts to our state education budget and add them together the total is more than the last fifty years of cuts combined. Little did Vicky Patton, our founder and board chairperson, know when she started Central Park School for Children that the US would head into a recession the likes last seen during the 1930's. As of right now there is no certain recovery in sight and little hope coming from our legislators, especially for education.

While reduced budget numbers are unlike anything ever seen for traditional public schools, NC charter schools continue to receive close to 5.5% less public funds than other regular public schools. For CPSC, that's approximately \$132,000 less per year. We do not receive capital or facilities funding. Nor do we receive state lottery funds earmarked for education. CPSC has paid over 1.5 million for facilities over the last ten years out of our operating budget in addition to \$100,000 annually for our mortgages and loans. Regular public schools do not have these expenses.

In these difficult economic times for public schools and NC charters specifically, CPSC continues to take a different course. Let me highlight some of the ways:

- 1- Teachers have received salary increases three out of the last four years compared to one out of four in regular public schools.
- 2- Class sizes have remained close to our desired "average" of 14 compared to the rising class numbers in schools throughout the state.
- 3- Our reserve fund continues to grow annually to protect us from unforeseen situations that require stable financial reserves. Within the NC charter school community, we are the exception rather than the rule.

In the weeks ahead you will receive our annual fund request letter from Paula. We are grateful for any and all contributions from you and your relatives near and far. Your generosity is the major source of funding that offsets our lack of state funding.

Yours,
John

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tue., Aug. 23 School Council Meeting, 4:30pm in Art Room (all are welcome!)

Mon, **Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday** – No School

Wed, **Sept. 7 Early Dismissal** for all students (ASP begins at 1:30PM)

Thur., Sept. 8 Website Committee meeting at 4:30pm in Aaron's room

Fri., **Sept. 9 Grandparent Muffin Morning** for grades K- 2, 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Sun., **Sept. 11 ALL SCHOOL PICNIC** (*new date) at Forest Hills Park, 4-7PM

Mon, **Sept. 12 Grandparent Muffin Morning** for grades 3-5, 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Sat, **Sept. 17 ALL SCHOOL WORKDAY**, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Tue., **Sept. 20 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**