

The Conant Crier



Volume 1, Issue 8

April 2009

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April Calendar

- 4/10 Good Friday-Holiday
- 4/17 Gr 3-6 Progress Reports Issued
- 4/20-4/24 Apr Vacation — NO SCHOOL
- 4/29 School Advisory Council Meeting

The View from Here: Notes from the Principal's Desk



TRANSFORMED! That was the word so many people used to describe our cafetorium at Saturday night's Auction. The Auction team transformed our café into a beautiful, magical place for dinner, with flickering candles, fairy lights, and stunning artwork. This room, which is used for so many different events in the course of the week, became something special--- a place for our adult community to gather, share our love for this school, and show our support for our on-going programs. So many of you who were able to come were dazzled---as was I--- at the results of a group of enthusiastic volunteers who believe in what we do and who devoted countless hours to making the Auction such a success! It is this transformative power of belief and action that stayed with me all weekend, the act of making the ordinary extraordinary. When we have that power in our community, and we do, there is no limit to where we can go!



-Dr. Christine Price, Principal

Classroom Placements for the 2009-2010 School Year



It doesn't seem possible, but we are heading into the final third of the school year, and that means that soon we will start planning for next year. After April Vacation, the teachers and I will begin the process of creating class placements for 2009-2010.

As you may be aware, here at Conant we do not take requests for specific teachers from parents, but if you have thoughts to share about your child's learning needs that you feel should be considered in the placement process, please contact me directly in writing before April Vacation (4/17). Having your input before we begin the placement process is tremendously helpful in managing the complexities of creating balanced, dynamic classroom communities. Thank you!

--Dr. Christine Price

April PTO Highlights

Welcome to the month of April at the Conant School. Thanks to all the hard work of our Auction Chairs, Lou Anne Reynolds and Deb Keohan, and all of our hard working Auction volunteers we truly "Reached for the Stars" at our annual Auction. We showed what makes Conant so special as parents came out to socialize and support our kids, teachers donated time, resources, and energy for our kids, and even some former students came back to help serve! We have such a special community.

Thanks to the efforts of Caroline McBride and Kathy Werst, we will show our gratitude to our teachers who give so much at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Thanks to all who helped make this annual tradition special.

Keep watching the News Flashes for information about the Ice Cream Social coming up in May! This is a very special Conant evening and we hope many of you can participate.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy vacation.

Pam, Mary, Kim, and Rebecca

Festival Of Cultures Update

Please mark your calendars for the Festival of Cultures on Saturday, May 16 in the evening at the Junior High. This event celebrates our student population's rich ethnic and cultural diversity. This year, we've had ambassadors from Belgium, China, England/Jamaica, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, and the Philippines. The ambassadors will set up booths, representing countries, where children can visit and learn. The booths typically have items of clothing, books, music, photographs, artwork, and games from the country being represented. Thank you so much to those who are willing to be ambassadors!

Additionally, the evening includes a program featuring children performing music and dance from around the world. **The program for this year is already full!**

We will be sending home invitations in a couple of weeks. We are now looking for volunteers who can help before or during the event. Please contact Yang Liu at (978)394-7665 or yangliu_acls@hotmail.com if you would like to help!



Willow Book Night A Huge Success!

Thanks to all for a tremendously successful evening at Willow Books and Cafe on Tues., March 10. The Conant Community turned out in force to support our school and literacy. Mrs. Harding, Dr. Price and Mrs. Tsacoyeanes shared some of their favorite stories to wonderfully attentive audiences. We don't yet know the total we raised by our participation, but we'll let you know as soon as Willow Books lets us know. Thank you to David Didrickson of Willow Books for his constant support of Conant School and to all of you for coming out for a great cause.

Mary Tsacoyeanes



Community Service Updates

The spring is finally here (even though we still feel cold). As a school community, we should feel very proud that we have helped so many families through such a challenging winter season. As we celebrate the start of spring, we would like to share some community service news with you.

Food Drive: Again we had a successful food drive. Over 20 boxes of food were delivered by the Student Council and several teachers to the Acton Food Pantry to benefit local needy families. Good job everyone and thank you for your generosity!

Water for Life: The “Water for Life” project will be extended until April 17. We still need your help! Buy the water bottles with the logo on it and all the profit will go to help the villagers in Kenya to dig water wells. There are still many people in other parts of the world who need our help in getting clean water to survive!

Pennies for Pediatrics: Our last community service project of the school year, “Pennies for Pediatrics” will start right after April vacation. It will run from April 27 to May 28. Mark your calendar! As the time approaches, we will send home a reminder.

Again, thank you all for supporting the community service projects throughout this school year! It has been a very exciting one for us all!

-Conant Community Service Learning Committee



This month's Recipe from:

Cooking for Kids....

Healthy Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

Many healthy chocolate chip cookies aren't really as healthy as they seem. They may have less fat, but they often have more sugar. This [chocolate chip cookie recipe](#) is different. It is full of heart-healthy oats, bran flakes and nuts.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup butter or trans fat-free margarine, softened
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup firmly-packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup bran flakes
- 1/2 cup semisweet or dark chocolate chips

Preparation:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or a silpat mat. Or spray with nonstick cooking spray.
- Stir together the flour, baking soda and baking powder in a medium bowl. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, beat the butter until creamy with an electric mixer. Beat in the sugars. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract.
- Add the flour mixture until well combined.
- Stir in the oats, bran flakes and chocolate chips.
- Drop by teaspoonsful onto prepared cookie sheet approximately 1 inch apart.
- Bake 12 to 14 minutes.

Cook on wire racks. Serve warm or store in a tightly-covered container for up to three days.



Please Read the Conant Crier!

The *Conant Crier* is the newsletter of the Conant School and is published every month during the academic year. Many notices concerning school events will be published in it — there may not be separate fliers sent home regarding these events, so please read the *Crier* carefully!

The best way to submit an item for the *Crier* is to send it via email either as an attachment, or as part of the email message text to the editor in charge of the next publication. We will be happy to confirm receipt of the item. Submissions are always welcome from anyone in the Conant community. The *Crier* staff also has a mailbox in the main office. Please feel free to leave articles/information that may be of interest to the school community and we will consider it for publication. In order to publish the *Crier* on time, please follow these guidelines for submitting articles.

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Article Deadline: Wednesday, April 22nd

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