

CAMBRIDGE STREET UPPER SCHOOL

Manuel J. Fernandez, *Head of School*

Christen Sohn, *Assistant Principal*

Tiffany Robinson, *School Clerk*



PCO Meeting –Thursday, April 14 - 6:30-8 pm in the 3rd floor conference room

April 12, 2016

Dear Parents, Caregivers and TEAM CSUS,

Last Saturday, members of our school's Cultural Proficiency Team attended a day-long conference at Harvard University on integration in schools. As a founding member of the Harvard Integration Project (HIP) in 2014, CSUS was proud to be a presenter and engage as participants in the day's activities. Fletcher Maynard Academy was the other CPS participant. We were invigorated by the day and moved by the networking opportunities we enjoyed with the many schools that joined us.

The aim of HIP, now known as Reimagining Integration: The Equitable and Diverse Schools Project, is "to build on the best of the past, and to reimagine ways to provide schools that offer diverse and equitable opportunities for *all* students to learn together." We are looking forward to advancing the Cultural Proficiency work we have done with staff and scholars and revisiting the work we initiated with parents and caregivers. If you would like more details about this amazing conference please contact CSUS attendees Danielle DeNufrio, Kini Griffin, Tracey Pratt, Laura Smith, Christen Sohn or Principal Fernandez.

In March 2014, the CSUS PCO sponsored a 5 week Community Dialogues program entitled Race, Culture, Diversity, & Your Child at CSUS. It was facilitated by the Boston YWCA and attended by 25 participants (parents, caregivers, faculty and a school committee member). The group participated in a training that provided a common lens and a common language to engage in constructive and candid discussions about race and culture in CPS schools in general and at CSUS in particular. The program culminated with a goal setting module and the group divided into teams to address goals related to staffing, curriculum, scholar initiatives and staff PD.

On Tuesday, May 3rd from 6:30-8:30 pm, CSUS will hold a "reunion" of the Community Dialogues group to reacquaint ourselves, assess the progress of our goal setting and launch a revitalized initiative for 2016-17. We invite you to join us to learn how far we have come and to become a part of our new initiative *Community Dialogues Revisited*. This event is for adults only. We will provide childcare and ask that you register through the flyer that will be distributed on April 26th and indicate if you will need childcare. We look forward to working with you on this very important initiative.

158 Spring Street

Cambridge MA 02141

617.349.3050

email: CambridgeStreet@cpsd.us

Website: <http://cambridgestreet.cpsd.us>

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PROGRESS REPORTS

The upper schools issue progress reports at the end of Terms 1 and 3 and report cards at the end of Terms 2 and 4. The 3rd Term ended on April 8 and progress reports will be mailed home on April 15th. Please sign and return the Receipt of Progress Report form to your child's advisor by Tuesday, April 26th.

VACATION WEEK

A reminder that next week is spring vacation week. We hope that you and your family will be able to enjoy a relaxing time together.

PARCC TESTING

Beginning on Tuesday April 26, scholars will be administered the state mandated PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments. The first assessments will be the grade 8 ELA exams. A schedule of the testing calendar is enclosed. We always hope that scholars get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast before any school day. We want to emphasize the importance of doing so the day before the exam.

WORLD LANGUAGE WEEK CELEBRATION

The 3rd annual World Language week potluck dinner and stage show including the Chorus and Jazz Band performance by scholars and staff will take place on Thursday, April 28 6:30-8pm. Please join us and bring a family favorite recipe to contribute to the multi-cultural dinner.

DEBATE TEAM

The Debate Team concluded their 2015-2016 season with a tournament at CRLS on April 9th. The team consisted of eight first time debaters (Juan David Calixto, Selma Ulm, Emie Gerard, Tyler Sousa-Chaisson, Oviya Slevam, Anish Kanade, Kalijah Robinson, and Erick Fernandes), four 6th graders and four 7th graders. In the first tournament in November, all debaters competed in the novice division on "Immigration Surveillance". Emie Gerard won an award as the 15th best speaker in the tournament. In January, the team debated the second topic of the season, "Drone Surveillance". At this tournament, Juan David Calixto won best speaker of the novice division. In the final tournament, six debaters moved up to compete in the Junior Varsity division. In their first JV tournament, Juan David Calixto and Selma Ulm won two of three rounds

NATIONAL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS/DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please see attached Physical Education Newsletter for some exciting news.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY 2016

Tuesday May 3rd is National Teacher Appreciation Day. Each year the PCO sponsors a potluck luncheon to recognize the hard work and commitment that our teachers exhibit on behalf of everyday. This year's luncheon is scheduled for Wed. May 18th. We hope that you can contribute a prepared entrée/salad for the luncheon. More details to follow after the vacation week.

Thank You for your continued support and for choosing CSUS.

Peace,

Manuel J. Fernandez
Head of School

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