



FALCON FLASH

Cascade Heights Public Charter School Family Newsletter | October 01, 2019

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From the Principal's desk

Dear CHPCS friends and family,

Welcome to the 2019/2020 school year! We are excited to have each and every one of you in our community. This year has begun smoothly and with enthusiasm! Thank you to all that attended Back to School Night, Volunteer Training workshops, have volunteered already in class, and those of you who grace our hallways with your presence. We love having you around.

We are all hard at work with our school goals for the 2019/2020 year:

1. Integrate engaging multisensory learning across the curriculum.
2. Teachers will clearly communicate to students and parents how assigned homework supports academic progress and empower parents to effectively help students at home.
3. As a community, we will work towards improving the maintenance and aesthetic of the campus.
4. Identify areas of opportunity and improve safety and security practices school-wide.

Throughout the year you may be asked to weigh in on a subject, we may look for volunteers or you'll hear of new ideas we are trying. This is all with the goal of school improvement in mind. Thank you for being on this journey of growth with us.

Sincerely,

Kristin Macy

REMIND

Communication System

CHPCS uses REMIND to communicate things such as snow days, campus closures, delays, and other school wide issues.

To sign up for REMIND, text (971) 252-3285 with the message @fa0a2. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting 'unsubscribe @fa0a2'.

Upcoming Events & Activities



Harvest Festival 2019

Join the CHPCS community for the 14th Annual CHPCS Harvest Festival on **October 17th, 2019**.

The Harvest Festival is a chance for CHPCS families and friends to get together and celebrate the turning of the season with music, games, and a cook-off contest. There will be hay rides, pumpkin ring toss, face painting, tug-o-war, and needle in a haystack to keep everyone entertained.

When: Thursday, October 17
 Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Location: CHPCS Playground and Gymnasium

NEW THIS YEAR - Chili and Cornbread Cook-off

In order to better align with our healthy food policy, we are changing things up! Instead of the baking contest we've had in previous years, we'll be doing a chili and cornbread cook-off:

- Make a crockpot of your favorite chili recipe and pit it against others. Will yours be the best? OR, choose instead to make a pan of cornbread and have that judged.
- Chili will be judged by popular vote at the Harvest Festival, while cornbread will be judged beforehand by the staff. All entries may be dropped off at school in the morning. Please bring chili in a crockpot, clearly labeled with your name. Cornbread pans should also be labeled so we can get everyone's pan back to them!
- Chili and cornbread will be sold at the Harvest Festival. For \$7.00 per person, you will get 5 samples of chili, a piece of cornbread and a voting ticket. Bring your appetite and cash!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Reminder...Friday, October 25 & Friday, November 1

Reminder that parent-teacher conferences are coming up. If this is your first parent-teacher conference or if you're looking for success tips to help you prepare for conversations with your child's teacher, we have a **Parent-Teacher Conference Brochure** that is equipped with suggestions on our website at <https://cascadeheights.org/>.

Saying Goodbye, from Wenny Laoshi

As many of you know, Mrs. Wenny Laoshi has accepted a position teaching math and Chinese at another school that is in her neighborhood. Cascade Heights has been absolutely blessed to have her on staff for the last 9 years. She built our Chinese program from the bottom up and has made a lifelong impact on all that have worked with her. She is kind, professional, extremely talented, and will be missed greatly by students, staff and parents alike. Please see the email below from Mrs. Wenny Laoshi:

Dear Cascade Heights Students and Families,

It was so hard for me to say goodbye to all of you after nine years of teaching at Cascade Heights. I still remember working at Cascade Heights traveling between classrooms with my big traveling backpack nine years ago. In these many years, I have enjoyed so much: from singing Chinese songs, cooking Chinese dishes, organizing student-lead puppet shows, going on China trips and more together with our students, teachers, and parents. I enjoyed being part of CHPCS family since I received full trust and support from students, parents, colleagues, and admins.



Now it's time for me to start a new journey, one with a much shorter driving distance. I will continue to pursue my passion for teaching Chinese and math. I have smoothly started my new position as a middle school math teacher teaching 6th, 7th and 8th-grade math in both Chinese and English. But I still miss CHPCS a lot even though the new school has such a great community. I will continue to support the CHPCS Chinese program no matter where I am.

I wish everyone a wonderful school year!!

Sincerely,

Wenny Laoshi

Falcon Member Spotlight: Mrs. Zhang-Walter



Welcome Pollyanna Zhang-Walter

With every end there is a new beginning. Mrs. Pollyanna Zhang-Walter has joined our team as the new Chinese teacher! She brings us a wealth of experience and information. Please see the message from her below:

Hello, my name is Mrs. Walter (Zhang laoshi). I was born and grew up in Beijing. I grew up with the stories about different dynasties in ancient China told by my father. Stories passed on generation after generation; history never fades. Ancient literatures were written in the form of wenyawen, a way that people used to write in Chinese. Spoken language can change over time, thus, it can cause changes in meaning. However, the meaning of wenyawen writing has never changed and that is why these ancient classics can pass along the generations and we can still understand.

I started to learn Chinese traditional classics and culture 7 years ago by reading basic literature and conducting my daily life as told in the classics. I started by changing my behaviors and my life gradually changed afterward. I found myself becoming wiser and happier. Then I realized that in order to truly understand the philosophy, I needed to apply my daily life towards the teachings instead of just being knowledgeable. The classics enlightened my life and broadened my horizons. I discovered the fundamentals of Chinese traditional culture are filially and respect.

I enjoy playing Guqin, a traditional Chinese musical instrument, which brings me peace. I also enjoy reading Chinese ancient classics, which allows me to understand the wisdom of the people in ancient times and feel closer to my ancestors. I enjoy sewing, painting, as well as designing Chinese traditional accessories. I love Chinese traditional textiles and all kinds of stones, especially Hetian jade (nephrite), and amber, because the deeper, true meanings are so rich that they are worth my whole life to explore.

The role of a teacher first of all, is to be a role model. I mindfully watch my thoughts, words, and behaviors not only in public but also within myself, because any small thing could influence a student. A good habit does not shape overnight. If I ask students to do things, I require myself to do it well before I ask students to do so. Second, I expect myself to be a guide for students towards a bright and positive direction. Thus, I require myself to have a clear

and rational mind at all times. Third, I dedicate myself to education; I am willing to help any student at any time. In my eyes, every child is a shining star and deserves the best in the world. Every child has their own uniqueness; I want to find this and assist each student to be successful. To me, education is not only knowledge to be taught, it is also a self-improvement process, through which, one becomes a better self. This is the truest definition of becoming wise, having wisdom. Thus, I always have an appreciative heart towards my students. Teaching Chinese language and culture is my vow. Chinese culture and philosophy belong to the whole world. I thank Chinese ancestors for giving us such precious gifts that enlighten our wisdom and last forever. I want to open a path for everyone in the world to find its beauty and value, in order to benefit the world. With this vow, I will always continue learning and teaching.

Falcon Member Spotlight: Mrs. Connor



At the end of last year, we welcomed Mrs. Connor to our school as our new Art teacher! Mrs. Connor is an enthusiastic supporter of our school, has experience with Riggs and Core Knowledge and has already made a great addition to our team! Please see the message from her below.

I am so excited my educational journey has brought me here to Cascade Heights Public Charter School. I was raised in Ohio where I participated in art classes through small camps and had great art educators in high school. I enthusiastically pursued a degree in Fine Arts and Arts Education at Eastern Michigan University and have always felt blessed to have found the field I was meant for. Studying art is a dying art but Core Knowledge believes it to be critical for a well-rounded education and I love that. After college, I moved to Colorado with my future hubby where we lived for ten years. I worked from the ground up at a Core Knowledge School for eight of those years, learned how to ski down some beautiful mountainsides, and had two incredible little girls. Then, three years ago my husband and I decided it was time to take another chance and moved here to the Pacific Northwest. What a wonderful place to live! Once again I find myself feeling blessed. A wonderful family, a beautiful place to live, and an incredible new job!! I love teaching art. I believe everyone can learn basic art skills, concepts, theory, and appreciation. I believe studying art can build the skills to formally critique and form thoughtful opinions. I look forward to the years ahead with this community and will support the mission of Cascade Heights Public Charter School whole-heartedly.

Falcon Member Spotlight: New intern teacher, Thea

Welcome Thea

Thea comes to us from Chengdu, Sichuan Province, in the Southwest of China, where there are many pandas. She is working with Pollyanna and the other teachers at CHPCS to help our students access Chinese at a deeper and more meaningful level. Here is a message from Thea:

Dear Cascade Heights team,

It says in the Laozi that the highest goodness is like water, which benefits all things but does not compete, it's exactly what teachers do. I hope you can know China and Chinese more from us. Real Chinese, Real Fun! I will see you in Chinese class!

Thank you,
Thea



Falcon Member Spotlight: Angela Gonzalez



New to our front office staff is Angela Gonzalez!

Angie has banking and office experience and brings us a positive attitude along with her experience and skills. She is originally from Yakima Washington, is an animal lover and enjoys walking along the waterfront with her very energetic Golden Retriever puppy named Reign. She loves spending time with her nieces and nephews and feels like being here is a dream come true because she gets to work with kids all day.

Angela loves learning new things and being a part of an overall culture of learning. She looks forward to having opportunities to share everything new she learns with others and wants the community to know that she is a fluent English and Spanish speaker and will gladly speak to any student or adult in whichever language is preferred.

Please stop by the office to say hello to Angie!

Carline Safety and Student Pick ups

Thank you for your support as we ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community.

Morning Drop Off

- Please have your child ready to exit the car on the passenger side.
- If you need to get out of the car to assist your child with items or equipment, please park your car in a designated parking spot to do so. Drop-off should be quick and have the fewest possible people getting out of cars on the driver's side.
- Be courteous of other drivers and aware that kids are walking near moving vehicles.
- The doors open at 7:45 am with the exception of assembly days (the last Thursday of the month). The doors close at 7:55 am.

Side Door

- Park in designated legal spots. The gravel parking lot and on side streets are perfect. Please do not park in the crosswalk or in front of the curb cutouts.
- Use the crosswalk. The crosswalk is monitored and controlled for the safety and efficiency of both walk-up and car line. It is also the law.
- By modeling this behavior, even when it's inconvenient, you teach them how to do the right thing when you're not looking.
- Wait to pull out until car line has stopped. While carline is stopped, we are loading students and this is the perfect time to pull out. Pulling out while cars are moving disrupts the entire pick up flow and causes students to walk out into cars that might start moving again.



Carline

- Cell phone usage: Wait until after carline to make or answer calls. Being distracted by the phone puts children and staff in danger.
- If you are at the front of the line, please pull all the way up to the crosswalk. If everyone pulls all the way up, we can get through carline in only 3 rotations, with everyone stopping short, it takes 4 - 5. Yes, there's often a puddle near the front, but students may go around it.
- Follow the directions of Ms. O'Malley. Her stop/slow sign will indicate whether it is time to go or not. We move all cars at the same time to ensure cars are not moving while students are still trying to get in.
- Once you have your student and the stop sign turns to slow, please proceed to the SECOND intersection to turn on to 82nd. Turning at the first one impacts the car line to stop as it backs up.
- Please proceed with the direction of traffic. U-turns in the middle of carline are dangerous and cause things to slow down.
- If your student needs extra time to get buckled, please carefully move to the gravel parking area.

School Communications: Who do I contact?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance: tardy, absences, or appointments • Medications • Volunteer Opportunities 	<p>Angie Gonzalez Front Office Email: a.gonzalez@chpcs.org Phone: (503) 653-3996</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments, Homework Club, lunch and activity fees • Email maintenance: updates, changes, and concerns 	<p>Hope Loose Community Development Director Email: h.loose@chpcs.org Phone: (503) 653-3996</p>

Student Late Arrival

Dear Parents,

Please remember that the front doors close at 7:55am and students are to be in their seat at 8:00am, ready to begin the day. If you arrive after the doors are closed, please park your car and come into the office to sign in your child in the front office on the HelpCounter computer. It is important to us that each student is accounted for at the start of the school day. We thank you for commitment in implementing a safe environment for all students and staff members.



- Halloween costumes cannot be worn to school on Thursday, 10/31
- Yes! We have school on Monday, October 14th

Calendar of Events

Did you know? Our Calendar of Events is also on <https://cascadeheights.org/> under News & Events

October 2019

Time & Location

10/04 (Friday)	All School Field Trip Day	
10/14 (Monday)	Board of Director's meeting	6:30pm - library
10/18 (Thursday)	Oregon Great Shakeout	10:17am
10/18 (Thursday)	Harvest Festival	5:30pm – 7:00pm
10/25 (Friday)	Parent – Teacher Conference	
10/31 (Thursday)	All School Assembly (ASA) Parents/families welcomed	8:00am - gymnasium

November 2019

Time & Location

11/01 (Friday)	Parent – Teacher Conference	
11/07 (Thursday)	Sock Hop	3:45pm - gymnasium
11/11 (Monday)	School Closed for Veteran's Day	
11/18 (Monday)	Board of Director's meeting	6:30pm – library
11/21 (Thursday)	All School Assembly (ASA) Parents/families welcomed	8:00am - gymnasium
11/27 – 11/29	School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	