

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

November 2016



November at a Glance

- **November 15 (G5–8)**
AMC 8 Math Competition
- **November 17 (PS–8)**
Managing Child Behavior Workshop for Parents
- **November 22–23**
Thanksgiving Feast Days
- **November 24–25**
Thanksgiving Break—
No School
- **November 28 (G3–8)**
Class Spelling Bees Begin



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

The Joy of Achievement

The story of Ron Clark illustrates Challenger's mission. In the late 1990s Clark, a young, enthusiastic teacher from North Carolina, pursued a real challenge—teaching middle school students at a school in Harlem. Many people had labeled the inner-city students as difficult, troubled, unmotivated, and unteachable.

Instead of writing off these children, Clark helped them to **raise** their sights for themselves. He let them know exactly what he expected of them—in behavior, respect, and academics. Instead of teaching to the low performers, he expected **all** of his students to achieve at the **highest** level. He would not let them settle for mediocrity or failure. After many tribulations, they responded and attained test results that astounded the district!

Clark's high expectations and demanding guidance fostered the joy of achievement in his students. Because he **expected** them to do well for themselves, they rose to the challenge and, consequently, achieved. Once they tasted success, their self-worth skyrocketed, and they were motivated to reach even higher.

Instead of expecting little from these “problem” children, Clark held them accountable. They achieved because he insisted they could and would.

For Ron Clark, simply participating wasn't enough; he didn't give his class mundane rewards. He didn't give trophies, certificates, or artificial praise. He understood that learning and achievement involves hard work and that rewards come with attaining challenging goals.

The joy of achievement is a reward greater than any plaque or prize. Children enjoy learning and growing in an environment where expectations are high

and where people support their success. Our school name—Challenger—reflects our philosophy that at the very base of a joyous learning experience is the excitement that comes from having conquered a challenge.

**“... to inspire
[children] to
embrace challenge
and find joy and
self-worth through
achievement.”**

—from Challenger School
mission statement



American Mathematic Competition 8 (5–8)



On November 15, 2016, all Challenger students in grades 5–8 will participate in the American Mathematic Competition (AMC) 8. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills.

Over 150,000 students participate in the AMC 8 worldwide. We are excited to be able to offer our students this opportunity to demonstrate and challenge their mathematical skills.

Students can prepare for and parents can find more information about the contest by visiting <http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/amc-resources>.

Students will receive notification regarding their performance on the AMC 8 in mid-January. We hope that by participating in this contest, we can challenge and inspire students to want to develop their problem-solving skills.

Veterans Day (K–8)

Elementary students will commemorate Veterans Day with a special assembly. This day honors the countless men and women who have defended freedom around the world.



We appreciate our veterans.

Many students will have the opportunity to write to military personnel currently serving overseas. Others will read or hear first-hand accounts of veterans throughout U.S. history.



New for Art Fair 2017 (K–8)

This year's Art Fair competition has some new guidelines. Only pieces created entirely at school will be eligible, and all students will enter artwork for consideration for the fair, which will be held in conjunction with our Spring Programs in May.

There is no specific theme for the fair, although only certain media can be used. Students will be given opportunities during art class to work on projects for the fair.

We are expecting a fabulous showcase of student work!



Challenger has many talented artists.

Managing Child Behavior Workshop for Parents

November 17, 2016

All Challenger parents are welcome!
Feel free to bring non-Challenger friends.

Locations and times are posted on ChallengerSchool.com.

We had a nice turnout for and positive feedback from our October workshop. Join us again—or for the first time—at our November session.

Christmas Sings (PS-5) Christmas Concert (6-8)



Christmas Sings are fun to present!

Students are excited to present their Christmas Sings and Christmas Concerts next month. As we get closer to the performance dates, check ChallengerSchool.com for schedules, and watch for invitations to these festive events.

Science Fair (K-8)

Science Fair fun has begun! Challenger students in grades 6-8 have received their packets and are already coming up with their projects for the 2017 Science Fair. Information for students in grades 3-5 will be distributed this month, and K-2 classes will begin their projects after the first of the year.



Our students excel in creating outstanding Science Fair projects.

Every year, our students continue to come up with impressive projects. Please encourage your student as she works on this important assignment.

Outdoor Clothing

As the weather gets cooler, make sure that your child is dressed appropriately in outer clothes that he can handle with little assistance.

Please don't send an umbrella with your child; when combined with backpacks and lunch boxes, an umbrella is difficult to manage.

We will go outside every day possible, despite the cold weather. Label all outerwear pieces just in case items end up in the lost-and-found.



Make sure your child is prepared for colder weather.

Thanksgiving Feast (K-8)

Here's an opportunity to have lunch with your child! On November 23, the lunch caterer will offer a special feast*. If you would like to attend, you may order a feast from the caterer for yourself and/or your child.

*Not available at all campuses



Thanksgiving Feast Day is a great family experience!

If you won't be purchasing a Thanksgiving lunch for your child, please remember to send one from home. In the next few weeks, we will send more information to you.

(Preschool students will celebrate with an in-class feast and will not participate in the catered lunch. Kindergarten participation varies by campus.)

Preschool

I Can Read! Magnet Charts

As 4-year-olds finish the Blending Book series, they'll move on to Pre-Readers.

You'll receive a magnet chart for the magnets your young reader will bring home after completing and returning each new book. This is a fun way to chart your child's reading progress!



Learning Curve



Heard It in the Halls

Holladay (UT) campus—

Kindergartner Jayden was chatting with his mom when she began, “So I—” and didn’t finish the sentence.

Jayden told her, “You can’t put a period there. It’s not a predicate.”

His mother pretended to be confused. “A predicate? And what, pray tell, is a predicate?”

“A predicate is doing or an action,” responded Jayden, confidently applying what he had learned in class.

Harwood (CA) campus—

While walking through the halls, intern Ms. Barr asked a kindergarten student, “Peyton, what is around your neck?”

Peyton answered proudly, “That’s my gold key!”

Her classmate Aisha explained, “It means she knows everything.”



Thanksgiving Feast Day (PS–K)

This month, preschoolers and kindergartners will learn about the first Thanksgiving and celebrate the holiday with an in-class feast (as applicable at your campus).

Look for a notice with the food item your child is invited to contribute to our meal. We will prepare this together as we enjoy the blessings of freedom and prosperity.

