



Hello Chesterbrook Academy Elementary Community,

As the first trimester comes to an end and we head into the busy winter season, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished since the start of the school year.

Back to school season is always an exciting time, filled with positive energy, enthusiastic teachers, hopeful students, and proud parents! I could not be prouder to lead this community!

As a school, we have remained true to our commitment to academic excellence, collaboration with families and building a strong community. As we bid farewell to the first trimester and dive into the winter season, I am excited to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments and exciting events that have shaped our school year so far.

Fall Highlights

Community Connects

Through various community partnerships, our students have had the opportunity to participate in authentic, real-world experiences, making connections that will ignite passions, extend their learning, and prepare them for the future.

3rd Grade students partnered with **Bringing Hope Home**, a local organization bringing unexpected amazingness to families dealing with cancer. Through their Parade of Pumpkins fundraiser, 3rd grade was able to donate \$3,000 to help a child named Kaden. In addition to the fundraiser, students volunteered at BHH Headquarters, making cards for BHH families.

Kindergarten students collected Halloween candy, self-care items and non-perishable food for **Stockings for Soldiers**. Along with the support of our school community, Kindergarten students were able to collect 151 pounds, or 4,087 pieces of candy for our troops!

Across all grade levels, CBA Elementary students lent a hand in our garden. With the help of the **Chester County Food Bank** students learned best practices for planting, growing, and harvesting. We donated over 50 pounds of vegetables this season including kale, carrots, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, squash and more!

We see the difference our time and effort make...whether it's raising funds or donating items to organizations that serve those suffering from food insecurity or homelessness or giving the gift of time to our community members and brightening their day with caring smiles.

By providing these opportunities for our students, they develop an appreciation for what they have, show gratitude towards others, and see the positive impact of their actions even at a young age. They feel good about giving back to others and want to continue spreading joy time and time again.

Experiential Learning

Real-world experiences provide students with opportunities to acquire deeper knowledge and skills on the concepts they are learning in the classroom. Field Trips allow students to engage

in practical activities, and opportunities to reflect on their experiences to deepen understanding and begin to apply concepts in authentic settings.

This fall we have visited local community attractions and educational venues including **Highland Orchard, The Chester County History Center, The PA State Capitol Building, Paradise Farms and Brandywine Red Clay Alliance**. We explored our government, animal adaptations, past and present, and engaged in team building activities to strengthen our classroom communities.

4th and 5th Grade students and their families traveled to **Williamsburg, VA** for a 3-day overnight trip and historical tour. The itinerary included Historic Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, and Yorktown American Revolution Museum. Students were able to see a glassblowing demonstration, visited a re-created 1607 Jamestown settlement, entered the Governor's Palace, and explored the Colonial Army Encampment. Staying overnight at Great Wolf Lodge was the icing on the cake!

Professional Development and Student Ambassadors

Spring Education Group leaders from along the East Coast visited our campus in late October for a 2-day leader training. Leaders from North Carolina and Florida engaged in student-led Apple Playgrounds to learn more about what it means to be an Apple Distinguished School. Our students were true stars, leaving the leaders absolutely blown away at how adept they are at showcasing their learning through the iPad.

Communities of Belonging

CBA Elementary takes great pride in creating a community of belonging. Our focus is on organizing events and activities that celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds of our students and staff within the school community. We hope to promote an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected. This fall, Mrs. Sareen, along with families and staff, put together a wonderful Diwali celebration complete with Henna, traditional dance, Indian treats, rangoli and more!

Parent Advisory Council

Our Parent Advisory Council is truly the heart and soul of our school. With their support we can participate in community events, dining nights, holiday celebrations, teacher appreciation and more. Most recently, PAC hosted a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast for our entire student body and helped organize a generous Teacher Holiday Luncheon for our faculty. If you would like more information on joining or supporting our PAC, please email cbapac@gmail.com.

On Giving Tuesday, PAC wanted to thank the CBA community for their continued support of our CBA PAC. The generosity of our community creates remarkable moments for the students and faculty here at CBA, and Giving Tuesday is just another example. This year, the PAC decided to make a charitable donation to a local organization in the name of all our CBA Families. Each student had the opportunity to vote for who received that donation.

The winner was the Brandywine Valley SPCA! Thanks to your constant support, the PAC generously donated \$500 to help give animals in our community respect and dignity. Humane treatment and animal advocacy are at the core of their mission, and our donation helps ensure these animals continue to have the life they deserve.

Concert Season

Concert season truly helps all of us get into the holiday spirit! Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade recently held their winter show, Sweets and Treats. They filled the room with joyful songs about some of the sweetest parts of the holidays, the treats! Our stage was transformed into a

gingerbread wonderland and our hearts were filled with the warmth of the upcoming holidays. We are looking forward to 2nd through 5th grade students' performance in Winter Lights!

Family Survey

Thank you for your participation in our recent family survey. We value your feedback as we strive to enhance our programs and provide the best possible experience for you and your children.

Based your feedback:

- 99% of our families are extremely satisfied with our culture and community
- 95% of families are extremely satisfied with their child's teacher
- 95% of families are extremely satisfied with school communications
- 95% of families rated their overall satisfaction as extremely satisfied

We are so happy to hear how much you love our school and would like to share a couple of the comments:

"We love this school! The teachers and administrators are caring and great! The curriculum, community and clubs are awesome."

"Couldn't be happier with my child's experience. Most important, they love CBA and are thriving."

"The personal attention given to challenge and support each student is phenomenal." The school community and communication between home and school is exceptional."

"CBA is one a of a kind school. The focus on the whole child is creating caring and well-rounded students who are achieving academically and socially."

On behalf of Mrs. Capotrio and myself, I would like to thank our entire community for their dedication not only to our student growth and development but for your tireless commitment to make CBA a special place for parents, teachers, and students.

#onlyatcba

With appreciation,

Joe Rodia

Head of School