

## Carolina International School

### Comet Communicator...February 10 - February 15

#### QUICK VIEW for the week...

Rotation for this week - B, C, D, A, B

Wednesday - Class Pics 5 - 8

Thursday - B.o.D.Mtg.6:30

Friday -Spirit Casual Day, Ice Cream, Pizza

Saturday - MS Dance from 6 - 8



Support our CIS Sports programs - GO COMETS! See the week of February 10 - 14 attachment.



**Monday NO School President's Day (School will be closed, this day will NOT be used as a Make UP Day)**



Please read the attachment from our school counselors, Justine Mohr and Stephanie Davis.



#### Reminders

Parents **please assist** us in enforcing the dress code uniform policy. Simple - Red, navy, or white top and navy or khaki bottoms. We have a very simple policy yet our students often make this complicated. **Inside jackets** should be navy, red, or white. Inside jackets may have a small emblem. Students out of uniform will begin spending the day in ISS, if no change is available, and/or a parent can't bring a change of clothing.



Spring Musical, "GREASE" -

Grease the Musical, tickets on sale now!

\$5.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door

Tickets for sale from Mrs. Lamm or online

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grease-school-version-tickets-90303451053>



Yearbooks are still available for purchase. Purchase yours now

<https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html> The price is now \$55.



Our photo makeup day will be on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. These groups will be for the photo makeup:

HS Cheer (Full cheer uniform)

MS Cheer (Full cheer uniform)

Mrs. Van de Vyver class (CIS uniform - white top and navy bottoms)



National Honors Society and Student Council presents - VALENTINE's DANCE, Middle School, grades 5 - 8, Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 6pm - 8pm, CIS Atrium, \$5 tickets (to be sold 2/3 through 2/14 on the "bridge" during lunch). Dress code is "dressy casual" - no jeans!



February is Dental Awareness month!! Which means it is that time of year again for our Dental Screening!! The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures van will be screening K-4 on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. Be on the lookout for the Colgate Parent Letter and Consent form. Please have these returned to your student's teacher no later than February 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. Please contact Amy Corey with questions. Thank You!



Our lottery will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please invite your friends and family with children, Grades K - 12 to complete an application for the 2020 - 2021 school year at CIS. CIS is moving forward and we want others to join our team. Also, we will hold an Informational Meeting, to introduce others to CIS, share the news about this meeting on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 7:30 in our Atrium.



When I left for school on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, my thoughts were focused on the upcoming Lockdown drill at 9:45. I knew our staff and students were prepared, but it is always a little eerie to move into a drill of this type. Little did I know of the situation which lay before us. Almost as soon as the Lockdown Drill ended, our weather alert sounded indicating a Tornado Watch was in effect for Cabarrus County. As soon as the Tornado Watch was alerted, we moved into a take cover position. We have a beautiful building, but with it being 2 story and housing many wide windows, this provides little space on the ground level to position k - 12 students and staff in areas without windows and doors. Our students and staff maintained the position for over an hour. In trying to predict the path of the

storm and the Warning time frame, (which was extended) mistakes were made. We also discovered we would have no law enforcement to assist due to their involvement in emergency situations in the area. I have received many of your voiced disappointments, complaints, and frustrations. I accept these and the full responsibility for the mistakes. I know the best method to move forward, and to plan for the "unknown", is to glean from previous mistakes. Our staff will have a special meeting to conduct a plus/delta to better plan for the safety of all. Your children and staff were safe and secure and I am so fortunate to work with a school where students and staff respected authority, and worked together while caring for one another. I had heard of many amazing acts of kindness during this frightening time, but I received this statement from Ms. Phillips Thursday evening, which provides a clear portrayal of every hallway, restroom, office, locker rooms and closets, filled with CIS Comets taking cover during this Tornado Warning. I share her message with you:

"Today I saw some amazing goings-on that I need to share. You ladies were managing the masses and I was lucky enough to be stationed on the 3/4 hallway. I wanted to share with you some things that I saw today.

- > I saw numerous high school kids on my hallway comforting scared elementary kiddos by rubbing their backs & telling them they were safe. They weren't asked to do it, they just did.
- > I saw high school teachers - Mica Smith, Puja Bakshi, Jason Schultz, Debbie Lamm and others squatting next to scared kids when they got spooked.
- > I saw Kari Potts and Daphne Hieb staying calm and strong for their kiddos in their tornado squat so the kids felt as safe as possible with their backs or heads being rubbed.
- > I saw Sylvia Scott patrolling her troops with the love she gives off.
- > I saw Teisha Earl and Bridget Torres ensuring not only their kids were ok but also ensuring the sub's students were looked after.
- > I saw my entire hallway sweating together and managing 3, 4, middle and high school kids in stride.
- > Mrs. Miranda produced snacks out of nowhere to keep kids minds off the tornado and calm their rumbling stomachs. That is after she spent a long time in the teacher bathroom tight space with the loudest crying and scared kiddos.
- > I saw my EC folks keep kids who couldn't understand what was happening calm, in place and quiet. Shabana Mahmood working her magic in a way only she can. Yolanda Taylor fielding bizarre questions from the field. Gabi Accardi reasoning with a child who is terrified of weather. Maurice DeSmedt keeping an eye on the skies and being a voice of reason.
- > Today showed me a lot of things that I already knew. I wanted to make sure you guys knew.
- > Thank you for all you do. I appreciate you!"

**I want to thank each of you reading these notes for the amazing and positive actions and words you have provided me, our administrative team, teachers and staff. Last week was the official School of Choice week, across our state. Today, I am thankful you have chosen Carolina International School. Go Comets! ...Donna Harkey, CIS Principal**