



CHERRY PARK ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE IMMERSION

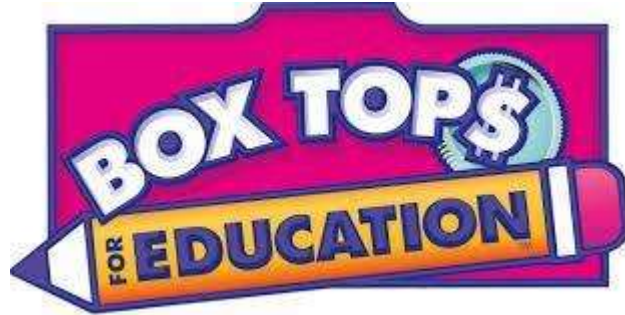


Is Immersion Right for Every Child?

We were blessed to host 38 visitors on Wednesday from the 7th Annual International Conference on Immersion and Dual Language Education that was in Charlotte. I was able to attend Friday's sessions as well. Over and over, I heard the question, "Is immersion right for every child?" Parents often ask if there is a particular kind of child who does or does not do well in immersion. Here is the answer. **1. Immersion is not good for one type of child.** If a child has a receptive language disorder where he scrambles words that he hears, immersion will be difficult (but it is still possible with extensive accommodations.) This is the kind of child whose brain scrambles her first language so adding another one can be very frustrating. This kind of disability is very, very rare. **2. Immersion is right for all other children (and I do mean ALL.)** That includes children with learning disabilities, those with behavior problems and those who may be on the autism spectrum. Children from poverty or wealth benefit. Kids whose first language is English or Spanish are successful. Kids who are African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian and every other ethnic group can be immersed. Researchers Wayne Thomas and Virginia Collier contend that dual language immersion closes achievement gaps for all learners (<http://www.thomasandcollier.com/assets/jncl-nclis-white-paper-on-dual-language-education.pdf>). They assert that students of any demographic are much better off in immersion classes than English only classes. The Rand Corporation funded a research study that found similar results that immersion benefitted all students (https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9903.html) While student learning problems may not be completely "fixed" by immersion programs, students make better gains than they would in monolingual programs. Simply put, we believe immersion enables all students to

achieve at high levels in their learning. Deeply acquiring a second language is icing on the cake.

Mr. Maness, Principal



We Need Box Tops!

The PTO is collecting Box Tops this year, and we need your help. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents, and we are hoping to raise \$400 for Cherry Park Elementary this year. Our only submission date this school year will be **Friday, February 15th**, but you can send Box Tops to your child's teacher or place them in the box in the front office at any time. You can also download the Box Tops Bonus app to earn even more money for Cherry Park Elementary. For more information, please go to btf.com. Thanks for supporting our school!

Winthrop Back the Pack Basketball Game—Will be Saturday, February 23 at 2:00 PM at Winthrop Coliseum. The elementary school with the most attendees (by number and percentage of enrollment) can win \$1000 for their school. This is an easy fundraiser that can make such a difference in our school. Please be sure to put your ticket in the Cherry Park Elementary bucket. Admission is free with the donation to Back the Pack of a can of vegetable or chicken noodle soup or a Beef a Roni. Our Back the Pack program has moved to providing more meal-based items for students. Tickets will also be on sale for \$5. (See attached flyer.)

Information Night for Spanish Speaking Parents on February 11 at 6:00 PM

We will host an Information Night for our Spanish Speaking Parents on Monday, February 11 from 6:00-7:00 PM. During this time, we will update parents on enrolling rising kindergarten students, enrolling rising sixth graders for immersion in middle school and new procedures at Cherry Park Elementary. We will also have time for questions and answers. Computers will be available for School of Choice applications. (We will send this information out in Spanish as well. See attached flyer in Spanish.)

Sullivan Middle School Immersion Parent Tour--February 13 from 8:30-10:00 AM

Valentine's Day

Your child's teacher will be sending (or has sent) home information this week about Valentine's Day parties on February 14. Please follow their lead concerning what will work best for them

and their classes. While we appreciate parents being willing to provide items, there can be a point where there is too much. Please also remember that any food coming into our school must have labels and must be store bought so that we can track down ingredients if a student has a food allergy. (Please be very cautious and send items that are peanut free and/or made in peanut free factories to classrooms that have students with peanut allergies.) I will send more information soon giving you clear guidance about food brought into the school.

Sixth Grade Letter of Intent for Middle School Immersion

Attached is a letter explaining the process for continuing in the immersion program in middle school. We realize that there are some information meetings ahead that will help provide guidance in making this decision. You can go to this website (<https://goo.gl/forms/VnE4pZ0hZ3ENmdDo1>) to complete the letter of intent as well. We would like to have these completed by February 19 if at all possible.

First Grade French Immersion Next Fall

Please help pass on the word to other families that we are going to allow a limited number of new students to join our First Grade French classes next fall. Current kindergarten students who are not at CPESOLI can apply for First Grade French Immersion for next fall. They must complete the application by February 28. Limited slots are available. (This is only for French Immersion in first grade for next year.)

School of Choice Calendar

The application window opened **December 3 and stays open until February 28**. If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you need to complete a School of Choice application. Rising K5 students who have siblings already in the program are grandfathered into the program if an application is filled out during the application window. You can go to the [School of Choice Webpage](#) to complete the application. Please tell friends and neighbors about our program. We will have tours at CPESOLI on Wednesday, January 30 at 8:00 AM and Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM.

Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Monday, February 18 at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **March 18, April 22 and May 20**. **Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the

PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees.

Got Questions?

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website as well.

Calendar Dates

Monday, February 11—Information Night for Spanish Speaking Parents at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, February 12--Prospective Parent Tour for CPES at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 13—8:30-10:00 AM Sullivan Middle School of Choice Tour

Thursday, February 14—Valentine's Day

Friday, February 15—Turn in date for Box Tops for Education

February 15 and 18—Bad Weather Makeup Days (School is in session.)

Monday, February 18--5:30 PM SIC (Office Conference Room); 6:30 PM PTO (Media Center)

Saturday, February 23—2:00 Winthrop Back the Pack Game v. Charleston Southern

Monday, March 18—Teacher Workday/Student Holiday

Friday, March 22—Report Cards Go Home

April 15-19—Spring Break

Attachments:

 [WUBTP2019.pdf](#) (8.9 MB)

 [Spanish Immersion meeting.doc](#) (957.5 KB)
