

Bridges

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Nov/Dec, 2023

5640 Dudley Blvd., McClellan, CA 95652 / (916) 286-1950

Enjoy a Safe and Wonderful Winter Break / Dec 22 - Jan 8

Dear Parents and Students,



The most wonderful time of year is here, when we show our appreciation and love for the people around us. It's hard to believe that the school year is almost half-way over. It seems like just yesterday that we are welcoming our students to a brand-new school year and now Christmas and the New Year are upon us. I would like to say that I am very

proud of our students and thankful for our teachers because they keep making this school year a great success. Winter break is a wonderful time to rest and reflect on 2023 and to begin looking forward to a fresh start in 2024. I know you are all looking forward to spending time with your friends and loved ones, as am I. While on break, it is important to do something to keep the mind stimulated. This break serves as a perfect opportunity to catch up on reading your favorite book, or to start a new one. It's also a great time to start a diary to journal your thoughts and dreams.

During this wonderful season of giving and showing gratitude, I would like for all of us to think of those less fortunate, and to somehow make them feel the warmth and the love that is so symbolic of the Christmas season. It could be something as small as providing a toy for a needy child or a blanket to the homeless person on the street corner, the possibilities are endless. I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy this festive season and whatever it represents to you and your family. I look forward to greeting all our students back to school on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 ready to take on the rest of the school year with a fresh mind that is ready to learn.

Larissa Gonchar, COA Director

Уважаемые Родители и Студенты,

Наступило самое чудесное время года, когда мы проявляем свою признательность и любовь к окружающим нас людям. Трудно поверить, что учебный год почти наполовину закончен. Кажется, что только вчера мы приветствовали наших студентов и поздравляли их с новым учебным годом, а сейчас мы уже считаем дни до Рождества и Нового Года. Я искренне горжусь всеми нашими студентами и преподавателями, которые прилагают огромные усилия для того, чтобы этот учебный год был успешным. Зимние каникулы - это прекрасная возможность для отдыха, подведения итогов уходящего 2023 года и составления планов на Новый 2024 год. Я знаю, что все мы с нетерпением ожидаем зимних каникул, чтобы провести это время с нашими друзьями и близкими. Во время каникул важно поддерживать себя в активной форме - заняться любимым делом, дочитать интересную книгу или начать читать новую. Мы также можем начать писать личный дневник и записывать туда свои мысли и мечты.

В этот замечательный сезон подарков и благодарностей мне очень хочется призвать всех нас подумать о тех, кто испытывает жизненные трудности и помочь им почувствовать тепло и любовь от окружающих людей во время Рождественских праздников. Наше внимание к нуждающимся может быть выражено в чем-то маленьком, например, игрушке для ребёнка или одеяле для бездомного на улице; существует много возможностей для проявления внимания к ближним. Желаю Вам Счастливого Рождества и Нового Года. Наслаждайтесь этими праздниками и всем, что с ними связано для вас и вашей семьи. Я с нетерпением жду начала занятий в Новом Году и с радостью буду встречать всех наших студентов обратно в школе 9-го января 2024 года, во вторник - отдохнувшими и готовыми к учебе.

Larissa Gonchar, COA Директор
Larissa.Gonchar@gcccharters.org
(916) 286-1950

Whatever it takes our kids are worth it!

Merry



Christmas

& HAPPY HOLIDAYS

2023

COA Admin & Staff

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the new 2024 year bring you lots of joy, love, hope, and peace. May all of your dreams and desires come into fruition and may your families be safe, healthy, happy and have abundance in every sphere.

Larissa Gonchar

COA Director

I GIVE THEM MY PICTURES!

Interview with 8th grade student, Sofia Chernyavskaya



- ▶ **Where did you come from to Sacramento?** I came to Sacramento from St. Petersburg, Russia, after our family won the Green Card Lottery.
- ▶ **How long have you been interested in drawing? Who inspired you to study fine art?** I started drawing when I was in first grade. I received my first lessons in the Creative Arts Center. Soon after, I went to the Studio of the talented teacher Elena Nikolaevna Zalivakhina, with whom I studied for 5 years. I learned basic artistic techniques from her.
- ▶ **Where are you currently improving your skills? What do you like to draw, where do you get your ideas?** After moving to the USA, I started visiting the Art Studio of Sergei Yatsenko. I love to draw bright pictures and use different techniques: acrylic, oil, pastel, sketching, etc. In addition, I like to paint on both large and small canvases. Drawings on small canvases often serve as souvenirs for small events and holidays. I really like giving gifts to friends and acquaintances!
- ▶ **Does the ability to draw help you in life? What other hobbies do you have? Would you like to continue to be involved in creative fields and what profession do you dream of having?** The ability to draw has

often helped me in life. When I attended school in Russia, I drew posters for school theater performances. Also, I never have a problem if I need to make a special gift for my loved ones - I give them my paintings!

- ▶ **How long have you been attending COA? Do you like your school?** This is my third year at COA. I really like the school and have made many friends here. In addition, the school makes considerable efforts to develop the talents and abilities of students. I enjoy doing gymnastics and ballet.
- ▶ **Do you think an artist needs higher education? What techniques do you use in your creativity?** An artist must have at least a basic education level in art because, as in any field, you need to gain basic knowledge before you develop greater skills. I often sketch, and more recently, I enjoy mainly working with oils on canvas.
- ▶ **What advice could you give to young people who, like you, love to draw?** I advise young people not to be afraid to start something new in their lives, listen to their intuition and what inspires them, and look for things that they excel in above others. If you focus on that, over time, everyone will be able to achieve the goals in their lives.



Я ДАРИЮ ИМ СВОИ КАРТИНЫ!

Интервью со студенткой 8-го класса, Софией Чернявской

- ▶ **Откуда ты приехала в Сакраменто?** Я приехала в Сакраменто из Санкт-Петербурга (Россия) после того, как наша семья выиграла в Лотерее Green Card.
- ▶ **Как давно ты увлекаешься рисованием? Кто вдохновил тебя учиться изобразительному искусству?** Я начала рисовать в 6 лет, когда училась еще в первом классе. Первые уроки я получала в доме творчества, потом пошла в Студию к талантливому педагогу Елене Николаевне Заливахиной, у которой я училась 5 лет. Основным художественным техникам я научилась именно у нее.
- ▶ **Где ты сейчас совершенствуешь свои навыки? Что любишь рисовать, откуда черпаешь идеи?** После переселения в США, я начала посещать художественную студию Сергея Яценко. Я люблю рисовать яркие картины, использовать разные техники: акрил, масло, пастель, скетчинг и т.д. Кроме этого мне нравится рисовать как на холстах большого размера, так и на самых маленьких. Рисунки на маленьких холстах часто служат сувенирами для небольших событий и праздников. Мне очень нравится дарить подарки друзьям и знакомым!
- ▶ **Помогает ли тебе умение рисовать в жизни? Какие ещё увлечения у тебя есть? Хотела бы ты и дальше заниматься рисованием и кем по профессии мечтаешь стать?** Умение рисовать в част о помогало мне в жизни. Когда я училась в гимназии в России, я рисовала афиши для театральных школьных представлений. Также, у меня никогда не возникает проблем, если нужно сделать особенный подарок для моих близких – я дарю им свои картины!
- ▶ **Как давно ты начала учиться в школе СОА? Нравится ли тебе в твоей школе?** В СОА я учусь третий год. Школа мне очень нравится, я нашла здесь много друзей. Кроме этого, школой предпринимаются немалые усилия для развития талантов и способностей студентов. Я с удовольствием занимаюсь гимнастикой и балетом.
- ▶ **Как ты считаешь, нужно ли художнику профессиональное образование? Какие техники ты используешь в своем творчестве?** Художник должен обязательно иметь хотя бы базовое образование, потому что в любой сфере нужно получить знания прежде, чем появятся навыки. Я часто рисую эскизы, сейчас в основном работаю маслом на холстах.
- ▶ **Какие советы ты могла бы дать ребятам, которые также, как и ты, любят рисовать?** Ребятам я могу посоветовать не бояться начинать что-то новое в своей жизни, прислушиваться к своим желаниям, искать и делать то, что получается у тебя лучше, чем у других. И со временем - каждый сможет добиться успеха и хороших результатов в своей жизни.



2023 TALENT SHOW @ COA ES



The COA talent show which takes place annually is a significant event for our students. Children prepare for this evening with utmost desire, they want their parents to admire them when they perform on stage. All who attended the event were pleased to watch the students who carefully prepared for this night. Our staff conducted many rehearsals, and both students and teachers were nervous before each performance. I personally spent many evenings thinking about how to better organize this

event. I would analyze every detail that could help better enrich our talent show. I really wanted to organize this wonderful event not only for the children, but also for their parents. The children got to experience delight and a “drive” as they were performing on our huge stage of our school theater. I believe high-quality and professionally selected repertoire is the key to the success of any event; all of our carefully selected talented teachers wanted to convey all the incredible and exciting emotions that comes with stage performance. During the night there was a lot of fun and laughter that filled the room as well as warmth and happiness in the

eyes of children and parents. Something I have noticed through the years is that children will give their all when they themselves like the song, dance, or piece of music chosen. When I stood at the end of the stage, I was very worried about every detail of each performance, so that everything ran smoothly. I also paid attention to the attendees that filled the theater room such as their parents, grandparents, and siblings of the children performing. When our red curtains opened, the parents' gaze automatically shifted towards the stage, and as soon as I saw the delight and admiration in their eyes, that is when I stopped worrying. Each children's performance began and ended with a flurry of emotions and applause. Many parents held their breath and filmed their child's every move on their phone. Our teachers and school administration also watched the show with delight. The performances seemed to go by in one breath. I think that the success of this event lay in the fact that our students are very talented, and that their professional teachers selected a repertoire that was very interesting for the students. Their devotion and endless hours of quality rehearsals were a massive contribution to making this talent show memorable for both the performers and the audience to remember for a lifetime.

Svetlana Muzychenko, Afterschool Program Coordinator



Whatever it takes our kids are worth it!

2023 ВЕЧЕР ТАЛАНТОВ В ШКОЛЕ COA ES

Вечер талантов, который ежегодно проходит в школе COA, является для наших детей знаменательным событием. К этому вечеру студенты готовятся с огромным желанием. Дети хотят, чтобы родители восхищались их выступлением на сцене. И для того, чтобы это грандиозное мероприятие состоялось, было задействовано много школьных ресурсов и талантов детей. При этом, нам было очень приятно наблюдать за детьми, которые тщательно готовились к этому празднику. Много репетиций было проведено нашими сотрудниками, а перед выступлениями волновались как студенты, так и учителя. Я много вечеров думала, как организовать это мероприятие еще лучше и красивее; анализировала каждую деталь, которая смогла бы украсить наш школьный праздник. Мне очень хотелось устроить красивый праздник не только для детей, но и для их родителей. Дети очень старались и испытывали невероятный восторг и “драйв”, выступая на огромной сцене школьного театра. Качественный и профессионально подобранный репертуар - залог успеха любого мероприятия. Всем нашим талантливейшим педагогам так хотелось подарить деткам невероятные и захватывающие эмоции. Во время выступлений было много веселья и смеха, теплоты и счастья в глазах детей и родителей. Я давно заметила, что дети полностью

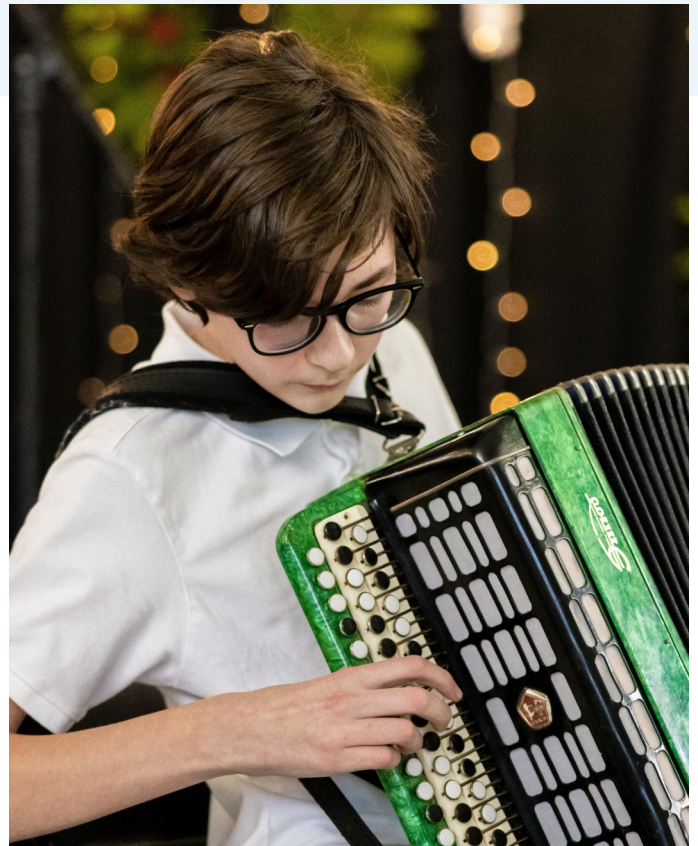
выкладываются только тогда, когда им самим нравится песня, танец или музыкальное произведение. Когда я стояла на краю сцены - я очень волновалась и переживала за каждую деталь выступлений, чтобы всё получилось. Я также видела, как театральный зал заполняется родителями, дедушками и бабушками, братиками и сестричками выступающих детей. Когда открылись красные огромные шторы - взор родителей направился на сцену. Я смотрела в глаза родителей и видела в них восторг и восхищение. И тогда я перестала переживать. Каждое выступление детей начиналось и заканчивалось шквалом эмоций и аплодисментов. Многие родители, затаив дыхание, снимали на телефон каждое движение своего ребёнка. Наши учителя и администрация школы также с восторгом смотрели на сцену. Выступления прошли, как-будто на одном дыхании. Я думаю, что успех этого мероприятия заключался в том, что наши студенты очень талантливы, а их профессиональные педагоги выбрали очень интересный для детей репертуар и качественно проводили репетиции, отдавая всю свою энергию на то, чтобы вечер талантов запомнился и выступающим и зрителям на всю жизнь.

*Светлана Музыченко,
Координатор Послешкольной Программы*



2023 TALENT SHOW @ COA MS

On Friday, December 1st, the COA Middle After School Program hosted the highlight event of the year: the Talent Show. It provided a fantastic platform for our students to display their talents and accomplishments, and they did so with remarkable success! Throughout the semester, students worked on preparing outstanding performances for the show, including theater of shadows, dances, gymnastics, band acts, and individual musical and vocal displays. Families also had a chance to explore an exhibit showcasing their students' paintings and photography artwork.



Whatever it takes our kids are worth it!

782.CR3

Holiday Fun is Here!

Winter Wonderland

Family Festival

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 15 5:00-7:00 PM

FREE Pizza
Popcorn
and
Hot Cocoa

- Pictures with Santa
- Ornament Decorating
- Santa's Toy Shop
- Holiday Cards Making
and MUCH MORE!

COA Middle School
3800 Bolivar Ave., N. Highlands, CA 95660

Food Box

DRIVE THRU & WALK UP FOOD DISTRIBUTION

in partnership with Sac Food Bank

Every other Friday,
12:30-1:30 PM
at Pavilion Site,
5640 Dudley Blvd. McClellan, CA
*first come, first serve

SACRAMENTO
Food Bank
& Family
SERVICES

JOIN US FOR A

WINTER CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 20, 2023

8:45-9:30 - TK, KG,
MRS. MCAULEY, MS. RADOMSKIY
9:45-10:30 - 1ST AND 2ND
10:45-11:30 - 4TH AND 5TH
1:45-2:30 - 3RD,
MRS. HOLMES, MRS. FORD, MR. ROSCA

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS
ARE WELCOME!

COMMUNITY
Academy
OUTREACH

THEATER, 3305 JAMES WAY,
MCCLELLAN CA 95652

Capital
Christian Center

COMMUNITY
Academy
OUTREACH

GCC

HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTION EVENT

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

РАЗДАЧА ПРОДУКТОВ И ПРЕДМЕТОВ ДОМАШНЕГО ОБИХОДА

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
2:30-4:00 PM, until supplies last
*first come, first serve

COA Elementary, Pavilion Site
5640 Dudley Blvd. McClellan, CA



@coelementary



www.facebook.com/COAElementary

Make time for happy, positive, playful opportunities with your child



Did you know..?

A positive emotional relationship between parent and child helps to form a secure bond. This also promotes healthy brain development in the child.

Provide stimulating, age appropriate activities for your infant and child



Did you know..?

There is a sensitive period early in your child's life when specific, critical "learning" parts of the brain are formed. After this critical period has passed, it is difficult to change the "learning" parts of the brain.

Yelling and fighting in front of your infant and child



Did you know..?

An infant reared with frightening surroundings develops brain responses that result in a constant state of alert and danger. This is harmful to a child's health and well-being.

Abuse, verbal and physical violence and severe stress in an infant and child's environment



Did you know..?

The above situations have a negative effect on the brain's development. Children show problems with emotions, self-concept, social skills and difficulty with learning. This can also appear in adult life as depression, anxiety, aggression, hyperactivity or substance abuse.

"SOCKS & GLOVES FOR SOLDIERS" PROJECT



From the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in our humanitarian project, Socks and Gloves for Soldiers in Ukraine. Thank you to all of our students who made heartwarming cards filled with beautiful artwork and words of encouragement in their native tongue. Thank you for every donation of socks and gloves, of which we received several hundred—we know they will be of immense comfort to those on the cold frontlines of war. We hope that the spirit of giving and kindness continue to permeate your homes this Christmas season. May you all be blessed and be a blessing to others. May you have plenty and may your abundance overflow to everyone around you. We are so grateful to have such wonderful and loving students and families at COA. Thank you for being a part of our COA family. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

COA Administration

"I WAS A STUDENT AT COA" PROJECT

This school year, we are continuing to share success stories from COA alumni through our "I was a student at COA" project. If you are a COA alumni (from the Elementary and/or Middle campus) and would like to share your story, or if you know someone who would like to be a part of this project, please use the following link to fill out our short intake form <https://bit.ly/coaschoolalumni>.



I WAS A STUDENT AT COA

COMMUNITY Outreach Academy

YANA MIALIK
Bachelor in Liberal Studies
Class of 2020

NOW, I AM A TEACHER AT COA




I WAS A STUDENT AT COA

COMMUNITY Outreach Academy

ANASTASIYA IVANKO
BS in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior from UC Davis

TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Master of Science in Physiology from Tulane School of Medicine



I WAS A STUDENT AT COA!

COMMUNITY Outreach Academy

OLEG SHISHKO
BS in Business Management from Western Governor's University

My name is Oleg Shishko. I graduated from Western Governor's University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. I have worked as a supervisor at an insurance agency and now as an Account Manager at a construction company. I am a Board Member and Treasurer of the Citrus Heights Sunrise Ranch Neighborhood Association. I was a student at COA! Go Eagles!



I WAS A STUDENT AT COA

COMMUNITY Outreach Academy

COA, through its prior iterations, has been essential in developing my educational framework, solidifying my knowledge of the Russian language, as well as providing me with a network of individuals that yields results to this day. After COA and high school, I was able to get Associate Degrees in Engineering, Mechatronics, and Choir Conducting. After graduating from law school and passing the California Bar, I was able to open my own law office, practicing Business and Estate Planning, serving the community I grew up in. I was also able to publish several books, as well as continue my theological education, with a goal of becoming a Doctor of Theology.

- Elijah Grinevich, Esq.

GRINEVICH LAW GROUP PC

"WHY I LOVE COA" PROJECT

Dear COA Families,

As you might know, COA's Community Engagement Team started the "Why I Love COA" project two years ago to provide an opportunity for our staff, families, and community members to share their views of our school. These valuable insights are then shared with our community on the school's website, social media pages, and in local publications. As an experienced COA staff member, we would love for you to submit a paragraph for "Why I Love COA." Our school families and the community are always excited to read our staff entries! . If you would like to take part in this project, we will be very grateful. You can submit your picture and brief message to the email: ivan.leshchuk@gcccharters.org. Thank you for your continued support of Community Outreach Academy,

WHY I LOVE COA



“Those who win the hearts of children, they win the war.” This phrase deeply touches my heart and gives me a clear understanding that children, are not just the future, they are our present, our very day. In today's current day and age, everyone is looking for a place to invest into, to get a good profit. In my opinion, the best investment in life is in our children, because that is where our future lies.

They are the new history of humanity and a good old age for each of us. I am very grateful to COA Elementary School for the huge investment in the children of our city. This school brings good influence and change to our city as well. Four of my children studied in this school, and I can confidently say that this is one of the best schools in the greater Sacramento area. Wisdom and inspiration to all employees, we are with you and proud of your work!

- VADIM DASHKEVICH, Senior Pastor of Spring of Life Church



WHY I LOVE COA



EAGLE PRIDE, BRACE YOUR SELF! I have presented thousands of workshops and assemblies in my career and none better than the Character Education at COA. This school is a throwback to the best of times. When I hear students yell out Mr. Tony it is given with the highest respect. These students and staff inspire me each day. There is no better or more committed administration on the West Coast than COA. The attitude that our students are worth it. Finally let our voices shout EACH ONE, TEACH ONE.

- TONY ASARO, Character Education & Student Leadership

WHY I LOVE COA



Teachers can make or break a child's experience with school and of the two years my daughter has gone to COA, she's had amazing teachers. The staff has been communicative and helpful throughout the years, and they're always there to help in my child's education. COA is a great alternative to full on public schooling as it is a public charter, and I like that I have a voice as a parent at this school. Despite having great public schools in my direct area, I'm happy to bring my child to a school where I can trust the teachers and staff to have our interests at heart.

- LISA ELLIOTT, COA Parent

WHY I LOVE COA



At the end of my first year of teaching at COA in 2004, I watched as my last student got in her family's minivan and drove off, then stopped fifty feet later and then I saw the reverse lights come on. The van backed up all the way to where I was standing, and then the father got out, shook my hand and said, "Thank you for teaching my daughter." That was such an honor to hear. I have been fortunate to have been thanked for teaching the sons and daughters of our school community, and of course, teaching the students at COA is my pleasure. This is why I love COA.

The next back to school night, a similar thing happened. For my first period class, there were many parents that did not yet understand English, so I asked a parent translator to ask if they wanted to talk about curriculum or their children's progress, etc. She spoke to the others for a couple of minutes and then said, "We just wanted to thank you for teaching our children. We are going to see the other teachers now." And with that they left. Again, I felt so honored and humbled to receive such a compliment.

I became a teacher because I wanted to share the advantages I gained by having an excellent education with the next generation. My principals and other superiors have understood that and have supported my vision for the students. When I wanted a particular professional development, they sent me. When I wanted particular books or other resources because they would benefit my students, they bought them. When I wanted to take students to the Crocker, the State Capitol, or the Academy of Sciences Museum, the trips were approved. My colleagues stepped up to help, we were able to get volunteer chaperones from the community, the trips were successful, and the students both learned and were appreciative of the experience. I am very fortunate to work with an organization and community that values education and the hard work teachers do. That is why I love COA!

- PAUL DONAHUE, 8th Grade ELA Teacher

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars
EVENTS



- ▶ **WINTER WONDERLAND (MS/6-8)** December 15, 5:00-7:00 pm, MS
- ▶ **TK/K HOLIDAY STORE** December 19-20, ES
- ▶ **WINTER CELEBRATION (ES/TK-5)** December 20
- ▶ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION** December 21, 12:30 pm, Pavilion
- ▶ **SANTA VISIT (ES/TK-5)** December 21
- ▶ **WINTER BREAK** December 22 - January 8
- ▶ **RADIO PROGRAM "School & Family" / 87.7 FM** Every Thursday / 8:00 am
- ▶ **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY** January 15 / NO SCHOOL
- ▶ **SSC & DELAC Meeting** January 9, 5:00 pm, Dudley A
- ▶ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION** January 12 & 26, 12:30 pm, Pavilion
- ▶ **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES (MS/6-8)** January 16-18, Minimum Days
- ▶ **GCC ANNUAL PARENT SUMMIT** January 25, 5:00 pm
- ▶ **1ST SEMESTER AWARDS ASSEMBLY (MS/6-8)** January 26, 8:45-9:10 am
- ▶ **MINIMUM DAYS** Dec 21, Jan 16-18, every Friday



[Click Here to VOLUNTEER](#)

Lost & Found Notice / Dec, 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This message is to inform you about our school's Lost and found procedures. **We will be putting out all lost and found items out for picking up during December 18-20.** Please check the Lost & Found Corners at our school sites to see if your child may be missing a jacket, sweater or even a lunch box. The school is not responsible for any lost items. Any items that are not being claimed by Wednesday, December 20, will be donated to a local charity. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

School Administration

Уважаемые Родители / Опекуну,

*Данным сообщением информируем Вас о правилах, касающихся потерянных и найденных на территории школы вещей. **Все потерянные вещи будут выставлены на территории школы 18, 19 и 20 декабря.** Пожалуйста, посетите наши школьные сайты и проверьте нет ли среди потерянных вещей, вещей, принадлежащих Вашему ребёнку. Школа не несёт ответственности за потерянные вещи. Любые предметы и вещи, которые не будут забраны до среды, 20-го декабря - будут пожертвованы местным благотворительным организациям. Благодарим заранее за Ваше сотрудничество.*

Администрация школы



Parent Guide Refugees

How can I help my traumatized child?

- ▶ [Parent Guide Refugees \(English\)](https://elternratgeber-fluechtlinge.de/en/)
- ▶ [Руководство для родителей беженцы \(Russian\)](https://elternratgeber-fluechtlinge.de/ru/)
- ▶ [Посібник для батьків біженці \(Ukrainian\)](https://elternratgeber-fluechtlinge.de/uk/)