

Porter Academy Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday November 9, 2016

Quick Reminders:

- November 11: Fall Festival is 10-12 for Lower School and 1-3 for Upper School.
- Book Fair in Porter Academy gym November 14-18
- November 18: Grandparent/Special Friend Day celebration starts at 11:00 and ends at 1:00 dismissal
- Food Drive: Please remember to send in non-perishable foods in non-breakable containers for our food drive. We have collected 884 items so far, leaving 116 items before reaching our goal. Last day for donations is 11/16.
- Look for an email about the SSO Tax Credit opportunity.

Message from Ms. Lynn

I had the pleasure of attending the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) annual conference on Monday. The keynote speakers Wendy Mogel, PhD. and Rick Wormeli were inspirational. Wendy Mogel spoke of the importance of letting children make mistakes and being required to struggle to accomplish their goals, leading to perseverance and a sense of pride. Rick Wormeli talked about having the courage to change practices that are outdated or not working within our schools, and that our courage and creativity as adults will help our children develop their own courage, creativity, and perseverance. I picked up some good tools regarding "Brain Breaks" in the classroom and tips about Google Classroom during the breakout sessions. I finished off my day with a networking session with other Heads of School, which was both enjoyable and enlightening.

On a different note, I am looking forward to our upcoming book fair. The students get so excited as they browse the books to create their wish lists. It fills me with joy that they get so excited about reading! On Monday, each class will visit the book fair and create their wish lists, which will include the name and price of the book. Teachers will also create a classroom wish list, which will be hung up at the book fair for anyone who would like to purchase books for the classroom. The book fair will be open before and after school Monday-Thursday and all day Friday if you'd like to come shop with your child. Alternatively, you can simply send in money with your child anytime during the week and their teachers can take them to make their purchases. Thank you for supporting your child's love for reading!

Parent Pipeline—Fun Pasta Fundraising

Thank you to all the parents who contributed their fundraising ideas! The first of the selected fundraisers keeps things nice and simple. Simply send an email out to your contacts or share on your social media sites. All ordering is done online, and these clever pasta sets make great gifts (or fun meals for your own family). Porter Academy receives 40% of the money from each sale, and our goal is to raise \$8,000 to support our school. Please visit and share Porter Academy's Fun Pasta Fundraising site <https://www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/porter-academy>

Thank you to those of you who have already started buying and selling pasta. We're off to a great start!

Important Dates

Nov 11: Fall Festival—
Lower School 10-12,
Upper School 1-3

Nov 18: Grandparent/
Special Friend
Celebration; 1:00
Dismissal

Nov 21-25: No School—
Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 15: 1:00 Dismissal

Dec 16-Jan 3: No
School—Winter Break

Jan 3: Teacher Work Day

Jan 4: 1st day of second
semester

Jan 16: No School—MLK
Jr. Holiday

Feb 17-20: No School—
Mid-Winter Break

The Character
Education trait for
November is
Kindness—
"I will choose to
help people feel
good"

Porter Academy Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday November 9, 2016

Classroom Spotlight—Music Therapy

In Music Therapy, all except our youngest two classes have been listening to and discussing Military themed songs in honor of Veterans Day. They've discussed why the president is referred to as Commander in Chief, the term clockwise, the five branches of the military, and the building and the shape of the Pentagon. They've also discussed musical components of the marches, that they are played a tempo of 120 beats per minutes (or two steps for every tick of the second hand). As always, they also discussed "what do you hear, think, and wonder". Some students shared that they had family members who have served in our military.

Classroom Spotlight—Upper School Blue and Green

Students in Upper School Blue and Green have learned about the election process from the primaries to the presidential election. It has been amazing to see how many students felt invested in this election now that they understand the process. Last week, the students learned about the electoral college and how a candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win an election. We held a mock election for Porter Academy, in which Donald Trump won. Today, we looked at the electoral map of the country to determine what parts of the country voted democratic or republican. We talked about checks and balances between the three branches of government. We will continue to study the political process by watching the inauguration, and talking about cabinet posts and Supreme Court appointments.

They all learned to respect differing views, the importance of getting involved/voting, and that we are very fortunate to have free elections.

Classroom Spotlight—Upper School Blue and Green Food Drive

The food drive benefiting North Fulton Community Charities is wrapping up. The last day we will accept donations is on Wednesday, November 16th. We only need 116 more items to reach our goal of 1000 items donated this year. Thank you to everyone who donated. Let's reach our goal! Thank you.

Classroom Spotlight— Social-Emotional Learning

Our Upper School Blue and Green students had a wonderful discussion about different ways to communicate with others: passive, aggressive, passive aggressive, and confident/assertive. Students shared some scenarios in which they find themselves (e.g., friends disagreeing about what to play) and role-played the different communication styles within each scenario discussed. The students were engaged (and often laughing) as they acted out the different styles. After each role play, we discussed the effectiveness of the communication styles used and the feelings of those involved. The students all had great ideas and were wonderful participants as they became more aware of their own communication styles and developed a better understanding of the importance of communicating assertively/confidently.

