

# THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

UNCHARTED SHORES ACADEMY

Sept 28, 2015

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

*This monthly newsletter is a way of keeping parents aware of what is happening at our school. Please take the time to read it thoroughly so you are aware of the activities planned for the month and will be able to participate fully in your child's education.*

## NEW LAW MEANS EVERY CHILD MUST HAVE PERFECT ATTENDANCE!

This year 100% perfect attendance is more important than ever to our school. A new law will subtract the average absentee rate for all schools in the state from the attendance credit for independent study schools! So, even if we had 100% attendance we would have about 5% subtracted and end up with a 95% attendance rate! Since we usually have an attendance rate of 95%, we would only have a 90% attendance rate based upon this law.

**What this means for our school is a reduction in our revenue.** As you may be aware, we are paid by the state according to each child's daily attendance. With this new law, we stand to lose about \$35,000! We would have to cut staffing in order to keep in business!

What can be done about this?

**Remember that all children can earn perfect attendance by completing their work for the day and returning it when they are absent!** However, often class time involves direct instruction and cooperative learning activities which cannot be done independently at home.

Therefore, additional educational activities must be provided by the parent in order to account for the required 4 hours of attendance credit for the day. Fill out the **home study report** to show activities your child completed on the day he/she was absent. **We absolutely MUST have every child with perfect attendance this year!**

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for **October 12-16**. Teachers will be assigning appointment times this week. If the scheduled appointment won't work out for you, please contact the office to get it changed.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Every year, USA staff spend a great deal of time scheduling activities which we believe add to the student's educational experience and which assist us in forming a "family-style" educational community involving parents, students, and staff.

This year, we are sending home a **"Parent Volunteer Agreement"** so that parents can be better involved in these activities. Please plan to volunteer to participate in the planning and implementation of at least one event, then return the form to the school as soon as possible. The agreement is attached to this newsletter.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SNACKS AND LUNCH!

**Please send bread, peanut butter, and crackers!**

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## DISMISSAL

In order to facilitate a quick and orderly dismissal, we ask that parents observe the following procedures:

1. Leave 4<sup>th</sup> street and the front of the school on E street available for traffic flow pick up by parking in back of the school or across the street if you need to stop and get out of your car.
2. Ms Kristie's students (in "*Distant Shores*") are dismissing from 3<sup>rd</sup> street. At 2:40 each day (12:40 on Wed), the students will move to the main building ("*Home Shores*") to wait if their ride hasn't yet shown up.
3. Please do not attempt to conference with your child's teacher until after pick up. If we can dismiss in an orderly manner, dismissal only takes five to ten minutes. If you will allow the teacher to complete dismissal duty, that will help to keep our students moving out the door in a timely manner.
4. Doors will open for dismissal of students promptly at 2:30 (or 12:30 on Wed). Please do not request to enter the school to retrieve your child before that time unless there is a reason the child must leave early. It takes up staff time and disrupts the orderly preparation for dismissal in classrooms.

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**HOME VOLLEYBALL GAME**  
**at FourSquare on Tues, Sept 29.**  
**5:00 PM!** Come out and support our USA girls' volleyball team. We are proud of their hard work and dedication as they strive to keep up our reputation for excellent sportsmanship!

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## SHIRT SALES

You may have noticed the bright blue shirts the staff wore on the first day of school and have been wearing every Friday. These are our **official Uncharted Shores Academy logo shirts** and we would like to offer them for sale to the students and parents as well! We will have a **USA School Pride day every Friday** and wear our shirts.

We are also offering cotton T-shirts, hoodies, and jackets with the logo. An **order form will be sent home next Monday**. Send back your orders and checks (made out to USA) or cash by **Friday, October 16**. Your child will bring back a receipt if you send the money with him/her. The shirts should be available in time for our Veteran's Day Assembly in November!

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## WESTERN DAY

Our first big event of the year is coming up next week! The traditional Western Day Barbecue will be on **Friday, October 9, 2015**, right before our awards ceremony. Students will participate in a barbecue and Western Day activities during an extended lunchtime, then enjoy an Awards Ceremony and dance prior to dismissal.

Please note that the time and date of this activity has been changed from the original schedule in the school calendar sent home prior to the beginning of school. Look for a flier coming home next Monday detailing the exact times for the Western Day Events.

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