

CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

Volume Twelve, Issue 4



December 2011

CHS Communiqué is the official publication of the CHS PSFA, The Parent Student Faculty Association of Communications High School, a Monmouth County Career Academy.

CHS Communiqué is published monthly from September to June, plus one summer issue, to communicate the plans, progress and events of the CHS PSFA.

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Principally Connected

By James R. Gleason, Principal

We have concluded our information sessions for the incoming class of 2016. This year we exceeded 600 student attendees at our four sessions. The deadline for application to any of our career academies is December 9, 2011. Thank you to our PSFA Co-Presidents Mr. and Mrs. Talamo for providing their invaluable insight to CHS. A special thank you to all the CHS staff and students that dedicated their time to providing a great overview to our curriculum and school.

As a reminder, in case of inclement weather, students should listen to their local radio station for school closings. Please do not call the school. The school closing will be announced as Monmouth County Vocational Schools, not the Communications High School of Monmouth County. School closings will be listed on News 12 New Jersey and <http://www.cancellations.com>. Closings will not be

listed on our BBS or website because of previous problems related to this procedure. I highly recommend the Channel 12 TV station, but here is the list of radio stations too: *WJLK FM-94.3 Monmouth County* and *WKXW FM-101.5 Trenton*.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 7:30 PM

THE FINAL PSFA MEETING OF 2011!

**DINNER DANCE AND GIFT RAFFLE COMMITTEE MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE REGULAR MEETING**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
6:30 PM**

DRAMA PRODUCTION: *ELF!*

Principally Connected continued...

By James R. Gleason, Principal

Congratulations to the 5 seniors and 39 juniors inducted to the National Honor Society. Mrs. Mazzacco and her NHS Executive Board put together a beautiful evening of celebration for the students who demonstrated exemplary scholarship, service, leadership and character. I am always impressed with the students' accomplishments, and this evening highlighted those special student endeavors.

Congratulations Nina-Marie Amadeo who was elected as the President for NJ SkillsUSA central region.



Congratulations Mike DeSocio for winning a National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award for his environmental portrait. The Pacemaker Awards are considered to be the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.



CO-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

By Debbie and John Talamo

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season filled with family and good friends. We look forward to greeting the New Year with great enthusiasm at CHS. This month we want to recognize that there are three essential components of the PSFA: the parents, students and faculty of Communications High School.

We are grateful to the **Parents** who have contributed to the success of the PSFA since this school year began, with their memberships and donations, as well as participation in fundraisers and events.

We are always looking for ways to contribute to the success of CHS **Students**.

The PSFA recently

provided bagels and drinks for all of our students before they took their mid-term exams.

We are so happy to announce that the CHS **Faculty** has achieved 100 percent membership in the PSFA.

The PSFA has recently completed the Faculty Grant Program. All grant proposals were reviewed by the membership at the November meeting and grants were awarded to three worthy causes. We hope that these grants will help faculty members benefit CHS students. The summary will be available at the next meeting. Speaking of that....

The next PSFA meeting is **December 1st, 2011**. Hope to see you there!

CHS PSFA 2011-2012 OFFICERS

Co-President:

Debbie Talamo

dtalamo@optonline.net

Treasurer:

Isabella Grove

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Co-President:

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dtalamo@optonline.net

Recording Secretary:

Cindy Allen

cindylouallen@comcast.net

Vice-President:

George Amadeo

Ninigeorge716@verizon.net

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Eda Saeger

edas@optonline.net

Outsmart the SAT

LEARN A STRATEGY FOR EVERY QUESTION YOU'LL FACE ON THE SAT

OUR UNIQUE GUARANTEE: Catalyst's weekend SAT Bootcamp is the only SAT prep class designed by instructors who have earned multiple perfect scores (2400) on the actual SAT. Catalyst is uniquely poised to help students succeed because we take the real SAT every time the test is offered to make sure our strategies address all aspects of the exam. We use our insider knowledge to help students turn the SAT's predictability to their advantage. Topics include:

- ✓ *How to spot hidden clues that instantly reveal the main idea in long reading passages*
- ✓ *How to avoid the four snekiest ways SAT Grammar questions try to trick students*
- ✓ *How to shortcut math questions that stump more than 90% of test-takers*
- ✓ *How to compose a perfect-score essay – no matter what question the SAT asks*

Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp is not a "mock" SAT or an infomercial for our services. It is a momentum-boosting weekend seminar designed to make sure students head into the SAT with every key strategy fresh in their mind. Students receive Catalyst's prep materials, self-study materials, vocabulary list, diagnostic tests, and copies of essays that have received perfect scores on actual SATs.

LOCATION: Communications High School

DATE: Saturday, January 21st and Sunday, January 22nd.

SCHEDULE: 9am – 1pm both Saturday and Sunday. Students attend both days.

COST: Just \$165 to enroll by Monday, January 16th at 6pm. We unfortunately cannot accommodate walk-in students. *A portion of the proceeds benefits the Communications PSFA.*

TO ENROLL: Visit www.CatalystPrep.com and click on Bootcamp Sign-Up. For more information, email info@CatalystPrep.com or call 800.235.0056

Princeton Review Course for March SAT

The PSFA has organized a Princeton Review course to be held at CHS for the March SAT.

Enrollment deadline: January 3, 2012.

If you are interested please contact Eda Saeger at edas@optonline.net. A promotional code will then be e-mailed to you so that you may register online and receive the discount.

Cost: \$499 (\$100 savings)

Dates: 6 classes on Thursdays 2:45-5:45

4 tests on Saturdays 9-1

Course will run from January 28th - March 8th

Please note, we will need a chaperone for each class and test date. If you're signed on, please let Eda know which day would be best for you to help out.

We need at least 10 students

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Get all your CHS news and information in

Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

The *Communiqué* uses a "paperless" distribution system. We distribute the newsletter and other important PSFA announcements via our email system. **Please take a moment to register online at <http://chs-psfa.org/communique/>.**

You may register as many emails as you would like and can un-subscribe at any time. Of course, we never give away your personal information. Contact Mark Allen at 732-216-4350 or mark@redbankweb.com with any questions.

DRIVER'S ED

The PSFA would like to set up a Driver's Ed course starting in early January. If your student is interested in participating, please contact Sophie Weiner at soweiner@optonline.net or 732-493-0560. We have 6 students signed up so far, but a minimum of 15 students is required for the class to go forward.

MAGAZINE SALE CONTINUES...

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to order or renew their magazines!

If you did not participate in the Magazine Drive, you can **still** contribute to CHS with your future magazine orders or renewals. **Anytime** you want to purchase or renew a magazine subscription, 40% of your purchase will be donated to CHS if you:

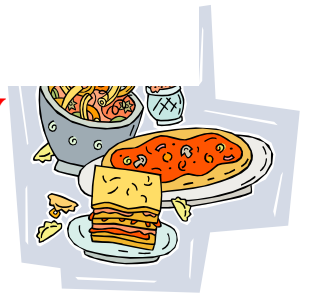
1. Go to the CHS home page www.chs.mcvsd.org
2. Click on "**PSFA**".
3. Click on "**Magazine Sale...renew or order.**"

Remember...Magazine subscriptions make thoughtful holiday gifts!

Remember, you can check or confirm your order at www.MagTrak.com or call 877-289-6247.

If you have any questions, please contact George Amadeo at 732-787-3333.

BACK TO SCHOOL PASTA PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS!



Wow! Or should we say "Mangia Mangia!" That's just what we did at the Pasta Party on Friday, October 14th. The event was an overwhelming success! A great big THANK YOU to Margaret Moro and Jackie Hudak for chairing this event and everyone for your time and generous donations, which helped this party go off without a hitch.

It was great to see everyone enjoy delectable dishes from salads to pasta to all those yummy desserts! Some of the food was purchased with monetary donations received. We were treated to a great play list of music and the wonderful company of family and friends, old and new alike.

The Communications High School community has once again come together to make an enjoyable evening possible for the students and their families. Ciao until next year!

Submitted by Debbie Talamo



National Honor Society

Food Drive

615 pounds of food were donated to the FoodBank of Monmouth & Ocean as part of the FoodBank's 100,000 Pound Holiday Food Drive. Thank you to all the NHS members and their families, CHS students, and teachers who contributed. Vice-president Jackie Curran coordinated and delivered the donations.

Induction Ceremony

Forty-four new members were inducted into the National Honor Society on Tuesday, November 15 at a candle-lighting ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Brianna Merriman, Katie Rowe, Summer Russo, and Laura Zimmer. President Laura Reilly hosted the ceremony.



2011-12 National Honor Society Inductees



2011-12 Executive Board: Mr. Gleason, principal; Priscilla Wu, secretary; Jessie Kraus-Lavy, Vice-President; Laura Reilly, President; Jackie Curran, Vice-President; Gabby Maurer, Secretary; Ally Kowalski, Treasurer; and Mrs. Mazzacco, NHS Adviser

Spirits were running high at the **Annual 3v3 Basketball Tournament** held on November 3 in Wall High's gym. 68 students and 4 faculty members took to the floor to compete in our 7th double elimination tournament. Tipoff came after Junior Brianna Merriman wowed the crowd with her rendition of the National Anthem.

After many hard fought games, the semi-finalists in the Blue Division were Team Dark Chocolate featuring the mad skills of Jon Balsamo, Sean Allen and Gabby Maurer taking on Team Daisy, with 2/3 of last year's champions Frank Garruzzo, Jack Capotorto, and newcomer Francesca Cocchi. Team Daisy emerged victorious and moved on to the Grand Championship round.

The Silver Division semi-finalists were Team Tangerine, Gabriel Guzman, Jamie Holland and Charlotte List going up against Team Carolina Blue, Gia Reilly, Blake Stimpson and Anthony Garruzzo. After 4 tough minutes, Carolina Blue advanced to the Grand Championship game.

With fans surrounding the court to watch the championship game, both teams battled nobly, but a tie at the end of regulation forced a shootout to determine the winner. Team Carolina Blue showed their prowess at the foul line, clinching the victory.

On hand to present the Silver Ball Trophy to the winners was Stephanie Tuazon, CHS Class of 2007, who was on the 2006 championship team. Congratulations to all of the teams that participated.

CLUB CORNER

CLUB CORNER

New look for CHS thanks to students who joined **Teens for Green!**

In May 2011, some freshmen and some National Honor Society students partook in the makeover of the entrance bed of Communication High School. Under the supervision of Mrs. Mazzacco (NHS Advisor at CHS) and Sophie Weiner (Monmouth County Master Gardener/Coordinator Teens for Green), the students ripped out old shrubs, weeded, planted perennials and mulched the beds. Have you noticed the improvement?

This is one project of many to come which not only beautifies our community but teaches students the love of gardening and giving back. Stay tuned for more projects that will take place at CHS and also throughout Monmouth County. If you are interested in helping out in the future, contact Sophie Weiner at: soweiner@optonline.net

As of today, we have 27 students from CHS signed up for Teens for Green.

Teens for Green is a group of teenagers from local high schools whose main purpose is to help Monmouth County Master Gardeners complete community service projects.





“You must be the change you want to see in the world”
(Mahatma Gandhi)

We thought it would be a good idea to explain to the new CHS families who we are and what we do. We have always counted on the support of the parents to accomplish our goals. Through the years the PSFA has helped us in every big event that we have organized. We would like to thank you and to let you know what are we going to be doing during the school year 2011-2012.

The Cultural Communications Club is one of the unofficial clubs at CHS. It is also the biggest in the school with 112 members. There are no skills, age, or grades required to become a member. The only requirement needed is to be generous, dedicated, and willing to donate some personal time to help others.

We work with many organizations every year. We donate our time and/or make monetary donations to Salvation Army, Head Start, Special Olympics, Boys and Girls of America, Jersey Cares, Newbury School/Autism Awareness Program, and Monmouth County Human Relations Commission.

Our main fundraisings come from four different events:

1 – Weekly breakfast every Friday from 7:00 to 7:30am. We sell a delicious breakfast which includes the super Famous McGuapo Sandwich, the McGuapa Sandwich, home-made banana bread, Spanish Omelet, and home-made chocolate chip cookies.

2 – Monthly Zumbathons/ At Gold’s Gym in Howell. Everybody is invited. The cost is \$10 for a 90 minute zumba session.

3 – Book wrapping at Barnes & Nobles. The dates scheduled for this activity are:

- * Saturday 12/3 9am-10pm
- * Sunday 12/4 10am-9pm
- * Sunday 12/11 10am-9pm
- * Friday 12/16 4pm-10pm
- * Saturday 12/17 9am-10pm

Any help from parents or relatives will be truly appreciated.

4 – Cultural Fair/ This year it will take place on March 16, 2012, from 5:00 to 8:30pm. This is an amazing event that involves beautiful country displays (20), amazing food donated by the students, the parents, and local restaurants, and the best entertainment imaginable performed by our talented students.

This is our calendar for the 2011-2012 school year, which only includes the activities that have already been scheduled. There are several events not included in this calendar since we don't have the specific dates at the moment:

September 2011 – 9/11, Memorial gardening at Camp Oakhurst (Jersey Cares)

September 2011 – Suicide Prevention Walk

October 2011 – Boys and Girls of America (Halloween party)

October 2011 – Asbury Park Beach Sweep (Jersey Cares)

November 2011 – CCCCCO (Cultural Communications Club Canine Organization) meeting, at the Asbury Park Beach

December 2011 – Howell Senior Citizens Center – “An afternoon of joy”

December 2011 – Lakewood Head Start/ Party from 9:00 to 10:15am. (*)

January 2012 – Special Olympics Tournament

February 2012 – Special Olympics Bowling Tournament

February 2012 – Trip to the UN Peace Conference

March 2012 – Cultural Fair

April 2012 – Autism Awareness Month – Newbury School

May 2012 – Head Start Carnival

(*) Some CCC members perform during the party and each preschooler gets a beautiful Teddy Bear donated by the Howell Senior Center (Salvation Army), a CCC t-shirt with his/her name on the back, and a bag full of toys.

All the money collected last year was sent to Saint Jude's Hospital, the best Pediatric Cancer Research Hospital in the world. It is located in Memphis and provides cancer treatment for all children regardless of where they live and their financial situation.

Cultural Communications Club Mission Statement

Our mission is to help this world become a better place for ALL. We are committed to helping those in need regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, or life styles. We firmly believe that by dedicating ourselves to humanitarian projects around the world, we will encourage others to participate in this process.

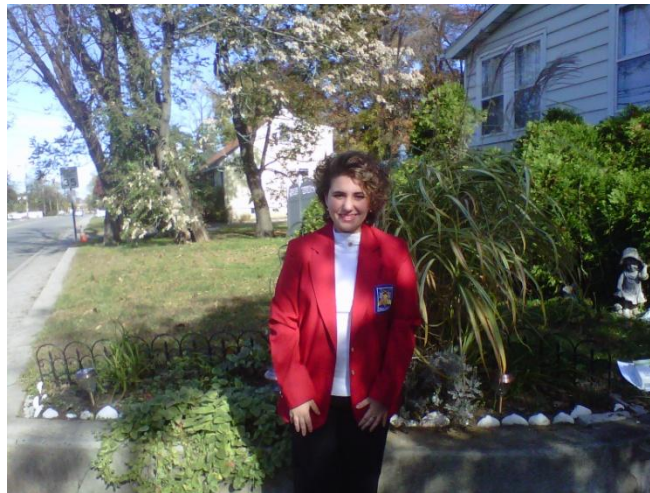
SkillsUSA Students Attend Fall Leadership Conference & Nina-Marie Amadeo is Elected as State Officer of New Jersey's Central Region

On October 28, 2011 Nina-Marie Amadeo, Brian Murphy, Tyler Paley, Olivia Reizer and Jacob Vernick traveled to Jamesburg, NJ to attend the SkillsUSA Annual Fall Leadership Conference. SkillUSA holds this conference to allow local members to run for an officer position at the state level; therefore, the morning session focused on candidate speeches and campaigns while the afternoon centered on motivating students and offering them ways to promote SkillsUSA within their school and community. Nina-Marie, the club's PR coordinator, was one of several students who vied for a state regional officer position. As a result, Nina-Marie won and is currently the SkillsUSA president for NJ's central region. As the president Nina-Marie attends monthly meetings to discuss future charitable events, fundraisers and promotions. She is also the spokesperson for the club at all SkillsUSA national events.

Most recently on November 4, 2011 Nina-Marie represented NJ and CHS at the SkillsUSA second Champion of the Year dinner held at the Waldorf Astoria in NYC. The Champion of the Year award is given by SkillsUSA to honor the leadership of a corporate chief executive doing exemplary work in the creation and promotion of America's highly skilled workforce. The award also recognizes the honoree for the corporation's involvement in promoting and supporting career and technical education. This year Jim Lentz, president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor Sales, received the award.

Congratulations Nina-Marie!

Kelly Harmon, SkillsUSA/NTHS Advisor



Jingle Balls, Jingle Balls, Jingle all the Way!
SkillsUSA Prepares for the NJ Skill & Leadership Competitions
by Selling Oreo Truffle Snowmen

SkillsUSA & National Technical Honor Society members are gearing up for the NJ Skill and Leadership Championships that will take place March 31, 2011 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. This year CHS will send 45 members who will compete in over fifteen different competitions. These competitions represent various career-related themed areas such as: Photography, Web Design, Broadcast & News Production, Audio & Radio Production, 3D Animation, Crime Scene Investigation, etc. While students are busy honing their skills, they are also actively trying to fundraise enough money for state competition registration fees. (SkillsUSA charges 85\$ per student to compete!) As a result, members will create and sell holiday goodies from December 19-23 during lunch.

If you have any cream cheese or oreos (generic brands are just as good!) that you could donate, please have your child drop the ingredients off to Room 206!! We would greatly appreciate it!

- Kelly Harmon, SkillsUSA & NTHS Advisor



ONE-TIME DONATION

A SPECIAL OFFER TO CHS FAMILIES

The Communications High School PSFA has a number of fundraisers planned for the 2011-2012 school year. Our goal is to raise money to support all of our planned student events and programs. Many CHS families want to support these efforts, but have trouble finding the time to respond to fundraising requests. Therefore, for your convenience, the PSFA is offering a **one-time fundraising donation option**.

For a one-time donation of \$100 or more, you can help our fundraising efforts, and then, knowing that you have done your part, simply disregard the PSFA fundraising that will be brought to your attention through the year. (Of course, if something appeals to you, please feel free to participate!)

If you are interested in this option, please fill out the section below and send to the school office with your check in an envelope marked "CHS PSFA – Donations". To ensure that your donation reaches us, you can mail your donation to:

CHS PSFA, 1740 New Bedford Road, Wall, NJ 07719-3740

Please note: Your family will still be informed about planned fundraising, but you can feel free to disregard the information.

As always, we thank you for your help and support.

**PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
THIS TIME-SAVING OPTION IN ORDER TO
SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL
WITHOUT PARTICIPATION IN FUNDRAISERS.**

Student Name: _____ Class of 20__

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Enclosed: One-Time Donation of \$_____ (Please make check payable to **CHS PSFA**)

Two easy ways to support CHS... at no cost to you!

1 OneCause.com

If you ever shop on-line, we have a great way for you to shop and benefit Communications High School at the same time:

OneCause.com, where you can shop at merchants like: **Aeropostole, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, Staples, Walmart.com, Toys R Us, Dell, Apple Store, MacMall, Shutterfly, NetFlix** and many, many more!



Using **OneCause.com** is easy! Before you shop, start at www.onecause.com (or add it to your "Favorites", and remember to click there every time you plan to shop). Then check the list of merchants to see if your "store" is there, and start shopping. When you shop through **OneCause.com**, a **percentage of every purchase you make goes to CHS!**

HOW TO JOIN (www.onecause.com)

- 1) Click **Join | Supporters | Join Now**
- 2) Type School Organization: **Communications High School**

CLICK. SHOP. CONTRIBUTE !!!

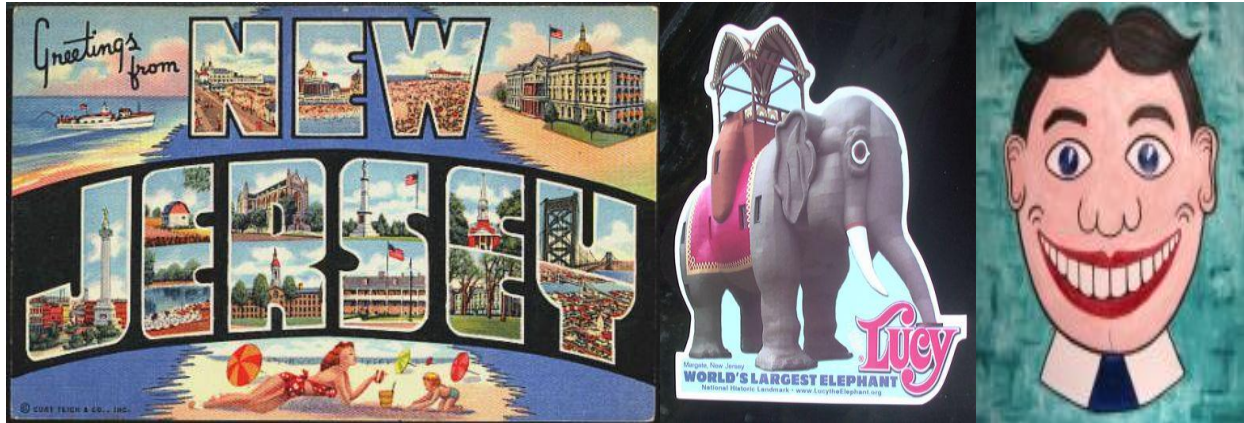
2 Show your support with the **OneCause** Visa® Platinum

Contribute to Communications High School every time you shop with the OneCause Visa® Platinum! Anywhere you shop, for anything you purchase, you will earn:

- a 1% contribution on total purchases made.
- extra contributions at the stores and catalogs of [Visa Rewards Merchants](#).
- a \$20 bonus contribution the first time you use your card!



Simply apply for and register your new card with OneCause, then use it to make all of your everyday purchases. The OneCause Visa Platinum also offers no cap, no annual fee and as little as 0% APR for the first six to 12 months. Learn more and apply now at our [secure online application form](#).



SAVE THE DATE:

**“DOWN THE SHORE” DINNER DANCE AND
GIFT RAFFLE!**

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2012

7:00 – 11:00 PM

THE MILL, SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS

COST PER PERSON: \$50

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!!

**CHS PSFA BARNES & NOBLE
GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER**

Our CHS PSFA elves will be wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble in Monmouth Mall on **Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.** We are still looking for additional elves to fill the **9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** time slot, but we will take any amount of time you can spare.

Please come and support the PSFA at Barnes & Noble in Monmouth Mall!
Thank you!

Submitted by Paula Dazio

YEARBOOK NEWS.....



\$\$ PRE-ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK & SAVE!

ORDER YOUR CHS YEARBOOK RIGHT NOW. DON'T DELAY, COST NOW IS \$85.00.

THIS YEARS BOOK WILL BE OUR BIGGEST YEARBOOK EVER!

ORDER ONLINE @ [HTTP://SHOP.JOSTENS.COM/](http://shop.jostens.com/)

GOT PICTURES?

EMAIL PHOTOS TO
YEARBOOK@CHS.MCVSD.ORG

THE YEARBOOK STAFF INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK. IF YOU'VE GOT GREAT PHOTOS, WE'D LIKE TO SEE THEM. OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE. HELP US GET AS MANY PHOTOS AS POSSIBLE TO CREATE A TERRIFIC BOOK EVERYONE WILL.



CHS CLASS OF '12 WE WANT YOU!

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR BABY PICTURE TO MRS. ROD VIA THE BBS, DROP IT IN THE PINK BOX IN ROOM 220, OR SEND IN A BABY PIC TO MRS. ROD VIA REGULAR MAIL. PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK SO WE CAN RETURN IT ASAP!

BUT DON'T WORRY .. →

WE HAVE A SUBSTITUTE PHOTO FOR THOSE OF YOU



SENIORS.. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY ?

YOUR QUOTES FOR THE YEARBOOK ARE DUE ASAP VIA GOOGLEDOKS
CLICK HERE. (LINK IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE BBS CLASS OF 2012 BOARD)
PLEASE TRY TO COME UP WITH 2 QUOTES, SO WE CAN ELIMINATE DUPLICATES

YEARBOOK AD ORDER

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ACTUAL SIZE →

ALL ADS WILL BE 2 X 3.5

\$25 EA PAYABLE TO 'CHS STUDENT ACTIVITIES'

ATTACH YOUR AD OR WRITE IN YOUR TEXT HERE





**COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

DECEMBER 1	PSFA MEETING	7:30 PM
DECEMBER 2	COFFEE HOUSE – JUNIOR CLASS	6:30–8:30 PM
DECEMBER 9	DRAMA PRODUCTION: <i>ELF</i>	7 PM
DECEMBER 26	SCHOOL CLOSED-WINTER BREAK	
JANUARY 2	SCHOOL RESUMES	
JANUARY 5	PSFA MEETING	7:30 PM
JANUARY 16	SCHOOL CLOSED	
JANUARY 21	MCVSD ADMISSION TEST	
JANUARY 25	EXAM DAY – PERIODS 1 & 3	
JANUARY 26	EXAM DAY – PERIODS 2 & 4	
JANUARY 27	WINTERBALL	