



DEEPER UNDERSTANDING, HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT.

“Good Loud” A Letter from Gabe Burnstein, Head of School November 2023

Dear CRS Community,

This summer, I met with an eighth grade student who described her CRS classrooms as “good loud.” I asked her what she meant. After all, it was still summer, and I had yet to witness our Otters in action.

“You can always hear us working together,” she explained. “We’re talking to each other and our teachers. It’s not, like, a quiet school. There’s a lot going on, but everyone is learning together, you know?”

I didn’t know at the time. But after two months of listening to the hum of deeper learning at Charles River School, I now know *exactly* what she meant. Good loud is the sound of meaningful relationships at work – providing the connective tissue between “academic excellence” and “the joy of childhood.”

I heard that sound in Prek/K as a room of rapt four- and five-year-olds rearranged wooden sticks on the carpet to make letter shapes. “The start of the letter V goes down the slide and back up the slide,” teacher Dorothy Gregoire demonstrated. Some made a “whooshing slide sound” as V’s took shape on the rug. They all collectively made a “V” sound.

“Let’s make words with V,” Dorothy said. Hands shot up.

“Van!” one student shared.

“My mom is Veena!” said another.

“Uh... Vino?” asked a third.

Now it was Dorothy and Ayan’s turn to hold back the giggles.

I heard good loud learning in the fourth grade classroom as our nine-year-old archaeologists dug in the dirt to discover and make meaning of artifacts from a culture created by their peers. Their voices overlapped with excitement as they asked questions and offered hypotheses. Their joy was crackling because it was so much fun to learn about archaeology by *actually being archaeologists*.

A seventh grade math class was a symphony of twelve- and thirteen-year-old critical thinking as they practiced combining like terms. Groups of twos and threes pulled tiles out of a bowl labeled with terms like “2x” and “-4y.” “As long as the y’s are with the y’s, they can be in any order we want,” one student remembered. Sarah Wong, their teacher and CRS math specialist, nodded with approval. “Yep. Thank you, associative property of addition!” she bellowed. “No, *thank youuuu*, associative property of addition,” one mathematician repeated.

We are unapologetic about being “good loud” at CRS. It is the inspiring sound that happens when creativity meets collaboration and critical thinking. And good loud plays on repeat across our 16 acre campus all day long. At Charles River School, we have another name for that sound.

We call it, “the joy of childhood.”

November



CHARLES RIVER
SCHOOL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			No School Parent/Teacher Conferences 1	6 - 8pm New Parent Dinner 2	10:30am Multi- Arts Assembly 5:30pm DJ Dance Party 3	10am - 12pm Touch-a-Truck 4
5	8:15am Ages & Stages 5th grade 6	7	8:15am Ages & Stages 8th grade 6 - 8pm New Parent Dinner 8	9	9 - 11am Admissions Open House 10	11
12	8:15am Ages & Stages 6th grade 5:30pm Compass Families 13	7pm PA Zoom Meeting 14	15	6:30 - 8:30pm Middle School Open House 16	8:30 - 9:30am Sharing Assembly 17	18
19	Fall Recess - School Not in Session					25
26	27	28	29	30		



