

# Back To School News

AUGUST 2017

CFCI NEWSLETTER

**Cape Fear Center for Inquiry**  
2525 Wonder Way Wilmington, NC 28401 (910) 362-0000

## Welcome Back! See you at Open House 8.17.17!

Welcome back CFCI families! We are looking forward to seeing you on Thursday night at Open House. We know you are so excited to meet your teachers, reconnect with old friends and learn more about all of the things happening this new school year!

**The night of Open House**, please come by the *multipurpose room* and visit our *Partnership* (PTO) table for cookies, drink and to learn about volunteer opportunities! T-shirts

will be for sale as well!

We will also have other areas set up in the gym for *Chromebook Q&A* for our 4-8 students and families

and a table for *picking up your car decals with our new dismissal procedures*.

If you do not pick up your de-

calcs at Open House, you can get them from the office Friday or Monday 8:00-4:00 or you may walk up at dismissal on

Tuesday afternoon and retrieve them. We will not be sending home

decals with students.



## Solar Eclipse

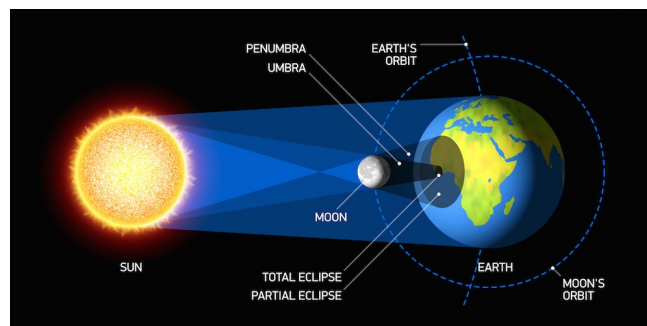
On Monday, we will all have the opportunity to witness an event that comes rarely in a lifetime.

The Solar Eclipse! While this is such an exciting opportunity

for both adults and children, there is a lot at risk for your eyes and your child's eyes.

Please look at NASA's website linked below with safety tips. Viewing online is always an option. Please be safe!

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-recommends-safety-tips-to-view-the-august-solar-eclipse>



### Dates to Remember:

- 8/15/17– Opening Teacher Workday
- 6pm– Board Meeting
- 8/17/17– Open House 5:30-7:00
- 8/21/17– Solar Eclipse (BE CAREFUL)
- 8/22/17– First Day of School!
- 9/4/17– Labor Day; No School
- 9/7/17– PCN Mtg. 8:15am– Museum Room
- 9/26/17– Family Pizza Night/ Partnership Meeting 5:30-7:30
- 9/28/17– 1/2 Day Professional Development Day
- 9/29/17– Workday– UTOTES PD for teachers!
- 10/2/17– PCN Meeting 6:00pm– Museum Room

## Parent Collaborative Network (PCN) gears up for the new year!

### What is the Parent Collaborative Network (PCN)?

The PCN is a group of parents representing the K-8 span of classrooms at CFCI who meet regularly with the Director to collaborate and provide advice, support and guidance in matters related to CFCI.

### How do I contact the PCN?

Email us at [pcn@cfc.net](mailto:pcn@cfc.net)!

If you have a loop-level specific question, please include that in the subject line so the appro-



Visit <http://cfc.net/pcn/> for bios and more details!

priate loop rep can respond.

### When does the PCN meet?

Meetings will be published on the PCN website! Current meetings are scheduled for: September 7th 8:15-10:15 and October 2nd 6:00-8:00pm. We meet in the CFCI Museum Room.

### How do I get on the agenda for a PCN meeting?

Email your request to [pcn@cfc.net](mailto:pcn@cfc.net) detailing what you would like to

discuss with the group. All agenda requests must be received 7 calendar

days (one week) prior to the PCN meeting. The PCN will reach out to you following the development of the agenda for the month.

### Who are the PCN Members? (see pictures and bios [online!](#))

- K-1 Rep– Jenny Whitney
- 2-3 Rep– Sarah Raper
- 4-5 Rep– Elaine Jack
- 6-8 Rep– Keri Wray
- 6-8 Rep/Chairperson– Kelli Flowers
- Partnership– Angela Carson
- Director– Lori Roy

## Meet Ruben Echavarria! 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher

Ruben Echavarria is from Setauket, NY and has recently moved to Wilmington to join the CFCI community. He started his post secondary career at Penn State University where he studied Architectural Engineering while playing baseball. During his baseball career at Penn State he embarked on a mentorship program tutoring students ranging from high school



mathematics all the way through differential equations at the collegiate level. His many pupils during that timeframe inspired him to consider a future in the education world. Upon securing a National Championship in the NCBA World Series, he then turned his focus towards a Mathematics Degree in Secondary Education at Dowling College. Mr. Echavarria has taught Mathematics and Computer Programming for grades

5-8 including Math I for 4 years prior to joining the CFCI family.

Aside from a career in Mathematics Education, Mr. Echavarria has also worked in many summer camp programs as a Baseball Director, Orientation and Special Events Coordinator, and a Division Leader in charge of overseeing the fun, safety, and overall well being of the entire Middle Boys Division. His passion for helping people reach their potential is evident in the energy and enthusiasm brought with him on a daily basis.

## Meet Christine Ashley! Front Office Assistant.

Christine Ashley is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. After working a career in association management and event planning in the Washington, D.C. area, she returned to North Carolina to focus on raising two boys. She en-

joyed volunteering at her sons' school for several years and is looking forward to getting to know the CFCI



family. Christine loves going for walks with her dog, spending time with her family, learning about health and nutrition, and sharing young adult novels with her boys.

## Campus Safety Changes (important pick up details)

**IDs:** Be prepared to have your ID checked everywhere. We will soon have a system set up in the front lobby where you check in and scan your ID to get your visitors pass, but until that is up, Ms. Bolger and Ms. Ashley in the front office will be double checking who you are, who you are visiting, etc. Please always be prepared to show ID on campus.

**Early Checkouts:** To ensure a safe and orderly dismissal, checkouts are not permitted after 2:30 PM. Please make sure all transportation changes have been made prior to 2:30.

**Car-pick up– DECALS:** All families picking up students in the carline must have a CFCI issued decal for their vehicle. Each family will be issued two decals at Open House. Additional decals may be purchased in the multipur-

pose room. If you do not have a car decal, you will be asked to park and walk to the multipurpose room where you can pick up your child after verification of pick up through checking IDs.

**Carpool/Pick Up Permission:** We are asking all families to complete the Authorization for Student Pick Up form along with the Pick Up Location form at Open House. Each classroom teacher will have a Transportation Table. This is VERY important so that we can have as efficient a first day pick up as possible.

**Walkers/Multipurpose Room :** All persons picking up students in the Multipurpose Room (MPR) must be prepared to show ID **and must be on the approved pick up list for those students.**

Walker parent check in will start at 2:45pm, walkers are dismissed at

3:00. Parents will enter in the MPR main doors and be received at a check in table. Once verified, they will wait for and then receive their child and exit out of the back door of the MPR. We do ask that if families want to stop and talk, that they do so outside in the grassy area by the MPR or at the picnic tables or outdoor classroom/pergola.

**We appreciate your cooperation with this. These changes are to ensure the safety of your children and are in response to recommendations from the NHCSO Emergency Response Team. We are appreciative of their help in working with us to make sure our campus procedures create the safest environment possible for our students!**

## CFCI Increases Technology School-wide!

During the 2015-2016 school year, CFCI set a goal to increase access and reliability of our internet for our students, to increase the variety of devices/tablet technology available to our K-3 students and to be One to One in our 4-8 classrooms. Many of you helped us kick this initiative off of the ground through the Manna Fund-raising event where we initially unveiled this dream! Since then, Great ArtSpectations along with thoughtful budgeting, some helpful state initiatives and grant writing have helped us get where we are today!

CFCI is thrilled to celebrate that we have achieved this goal and that we are the only public school in New Hanover County with a one-to-one program where our students in grades 4-8 each have full access to their Chromebooks each day at home and at school. Because we have successfully achieved our one-to-one goal, we are able to move the awesome tablet technology and our laptops down to our K-3 classrooms to ensure ample access for their technology goals!

CFCI believes in teaching the whole child through the most innovative methods. Technology will not be replacing our general curriculum, rather it will be enhancing their learning experiences. We are thrilled to use technology to bring the world into our classrooms.

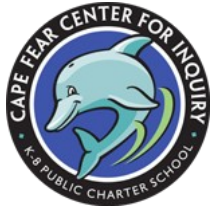
**"INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY WITH FACE-TO-FACE TEACHER TIME GENERALLY PRODUCES BETTER ACADEMIC OUTCOMES THAN EMPLOYING EITHER TECHNIQUE ALONE." - EDUTOPIA**

## Cape Fear Center for Inquiry

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Learn. Share. Live

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://CFCI.NET/](http://cfci.net/)

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The Cape Fear Center for Inquiry (CFCI) is a public charter school located in Wilmington, NC. As a charter school we are funded by the state of North Carolina and do not charge tuition. We are not a part of New Hanover County School System, but rather function as our own small school system. We have a board of directors that makes policy and hiring decisions. We do not discriminate in admission.

**Mission:** Cape Fear Center for Inquiry is committed to promoting students' abilities to think and create in personally meaningful ways through an inquiry-based, integrated curriculum in a nurturing and empowering environment.

**Vision:** CFCI will foster academic and social inquiry based learning by enriching the state curriculum. We will facilitate research, communication and action through:

- community partnerships
- environmental education
- global connection
- technology
- wellness

## How do I get involved at CFCI?

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There are so many opportunities to get involved at CFCI! We have a wonderful Partnership (PTO) that we hope you will visit and get to know at Open House in the multi-purpose room. This group organizes social events, school fundraisers, teacher luncheons, supports school initiatives, winter festival, book fair, box tops, middle school dance and so much more!

We are often looking for volunteers for special events as well, including grants support, Field Day, Turkey Trot, outdoor clean up, outdoor projects (more coming

on some new initiatives and ideas here this year!), Picture Day, EOG testing proctors, etc.

In our classrooms we are also in need of consistent volunteers. Both in our core classrooms and in specials. Teachers need a few weeks to help students settle and become acclimated/ reacquainted to school, but will be reaching out after the first few weeks.



*In the meantime....*

If anyone has a connection...we would love a better refrigerator in our workroom. The one we have is very old and wearing down. Nothing, new, but if you have a connection to a nicer "freebie," please email Kathy Coke at [kcoke@cfci.net](mailto:kcoke@cfci.net).