

Dear Center School Families:

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all our families who attended Thursday evening's Back to School Night. It is so wonderful seeing a campus busy with activity, especially at odd hours!

Last week's 5K and Fun Walk was a gigantic success. The event raised thousands of dollars that will go directly towards funding many different aspects of our programming for students. Mr. Miller and Mr. Ostrander deserve a standing round of applause for their hard work on the event, and for growing it to bigger and bigger crowds of participants year after year. This event has established itself as a mainstay on the TCS calendar for years to come!

After the event, Stoney Brook Grille in Branchburg graciously hosted the post-race celebration and donated 25% of everyone's bill to the cause. In an unprecedented turn, they rounded up their final total up from \$660, to \$1,500! Thank you to Stoney Brook Grill!!!!

Friday, the TCS campus was visited by a very special guest and Motivational Speaker, Kelsey Tainsh. Kelsey, at a young age suffered a stroke due to a brain tumor which left her partially paralyzed, and doctors did not give her longer than a month to live. Despite these long odds, Kelsey has overcome tremendous adversity in her life and has made a career traveling the country to tell her story of perseverance and triumph. She is even currently training to qualify for the Paralympics in Snowboarding!

Kelsey's message was heard loud and clear by our students and provided an eminently relatable model for what's possible in this life. The truth of the matter is that many of our students face their own challenges and getting a chance to speak with someone who has "been there and done that" is hopefully a point of inspiration for their own journeys.

We are so glad to have had the opportunity for Kelsey to speak to everyone on Friday and hope that her positive role modeling and inspirational story will help everyone to face life's challenges head on.

-Mr. Erhardt

PTO Fundraiser

Please take a look at the following page for information on a PTO fundraiser through the vendor Boon Supply. We will also be looking to convene our first PTO meeting of the year soon. If you haven't signed up already, please contact Mrs. Lees at mlees@center.school to get your name on the mailing list!



— BOON SUPPLY —

Raise More, Win More.

Support The Center School PTO!

Our first fundraiser is here, and we need your help. It's easy! No order forms, no checks to collect, no handing out items. 40% of purchases go directly to The Center School PTO Our fundraiser ends 10/29/2021.



Go here first →

boonsupply.com/67132

Click "Register" to track your sales and earn prizes.

1 Send!

Click the  and enter at least 10 emails of friends and family. You'll win a ZeeBeez and a plush planet.

2 Share!

Click the share icons to share on text, Facebook, Twitter, email, and more. Share more, win more!

3 Shop!

Go to boonsupply.com/67132 and shop our good-for-the-planet collection. It's that easy!



ENTER 10 EMAILS

Make sure you're registered! Then, the more you sell, the more you win. All prizes are cumulative.

SELL 6 ITEMS



Attend an exclusive virtual event with special prizes hosted by **BMX star Connor Fields!**

🏆 Gold Medalist
🏆 World Cup Champion

SELL 12 ITEMS



Bring outer space into your room with a moon light!

SELL 3 ITEMS



Make lights magically appear from your fingertips with Bright Bugz!

SELL 80 ITEMS



mongoose

Ride like the pros with a Mongoose Rise 110 scooter!

SELL 18 ITEMS



Go hands-free with style with Bluetooth ear buds!

SELL 25 ITEMS



Take to the sky with a hand-controlled drone!

SELL 45 ITEMS



Assemble your crew with a Robosaur or a Boxer Bot!

Elementary School

After reading *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall, students in Mrs. Sheeley's class discussed how Jabari used deep breathing to help calm himself when he was nervous to climb the diving board ladder. Students made text-to-self connections in which they shared when they felt nervous like Jabari. Students also made inferences using the body language and facial expressions of Jabari throughout the text. After a second read of the story, students read and labeled the parts of speech in a simple mentor sentence from the text. They then created their own sentence following the same pattern as the mentor sentence: "Jabari jumps." Each sentence had to have a proper noun and verb. Some of the students' sentences included: "Ella swims, Joan runs, and Toby swims." Students finished out the week with a STEM activity in which they had to create a model of a diving board for Jabari using popsicle sticks, rubber bands, toilet paper tubes, tape and spoons.

Mrs. Borger's Language Arts classes focused on "long-a" vowel patterns. Did you know there are SEVEN ways to make a "long-a" sound? We can list them all! Our literacy skill was "identifying the problem and solution" in a text. Students even practiced applying the skill to real life situations in the classroom by using conflict resolution strategies! In Math, we played games with dice to help us learn Place value and rounding. We can round any digit to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000 or 1,000,000s place!



Ms. Ascione's students read an expository text about bullying. They were able to identify what constitutes bullying and how they can help prevent it. Students continued to work on their vocabulary words by making sentences, identifying synonyms, and using the words in conversation.

In Math, students worked on numbers up to the millions place. They were able to read the numbers and write them in standard form, expanded form and word form.

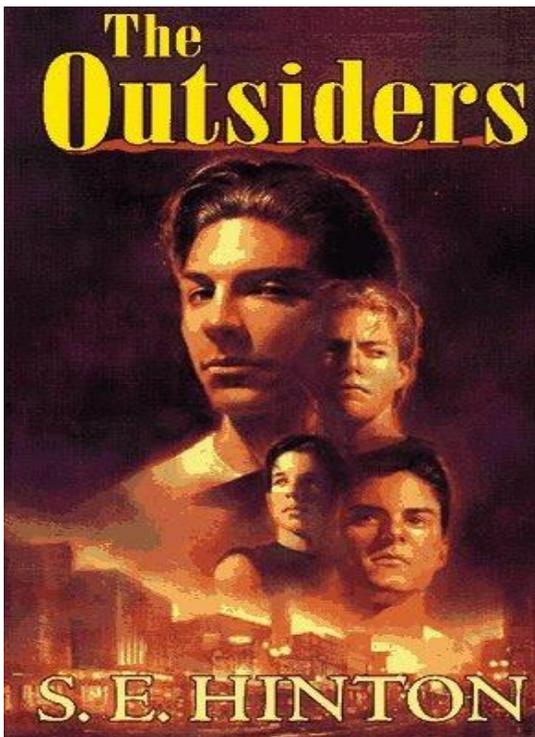
Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Math class spent the week reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals. Students discussed how these operations are inverse operations. They quickly mastered the addition and subtraction concepts. After modeling the process, they began to understand the method for multiplying and dividing decimals. As the numbers became larger, the challenge increased. Not only did they utilize pencil and paper, but they also used individual white boards to solve problems. It was a nice way to take a break from paper and pencil. By the end of the week the students have mastered these vital skills. Good job!

In Ms. Akushie's Language Arts class students are reading *The Outsiders* this week, focusing on the characters of the story. They used graphic organizers to distinguish the characteristics of the main characters. The assignment helped the students organize information about the main characters and make connections in the story.

Mrs. Brana's class completed their unit on fossils. Students put together their research project and began preparing notes to present their findings to staff/peers.

On Friday the entire school had the opportunity to listen to Kelsey Tainsh talk about bullying. During her middle school presentation, she helped students understand how words positive or negative affect how people feel. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities to aid in their understanding of how simple acts may be more challenging for those with disabilities.



Addition		Subtraction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Find the decimalLine up the decimalsFill in empty spots with zeroAddBring down the decimal in your answer	<p>EXAMPLE</p> $\begin{array}{r} 10.5 \\ + 11.74 \\ \hline 22.24 \end{array}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Find the decimalLine up the decimalsFill in empty spots with zeroSubtractBring down the decimal in your answer	<p>EXAMPLE</p> $\begin{array}{r} 12.70 \\ - 9.23 \\ \hline 3.47 \end{array}$
Rules of Decimals			
<h3>Multiplication</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The number with most digits goes on topDecimals do not have to line upMultiply like normalCount how many places in 1st number the decimal is moved overCount how many places in 2nd number the decimal is moved overThis is how many places you move the decimal in your answer <p>EXAMPLE</p> $\begin{array}{r} 1.201 \\ \times 35 \\ \hline 6005 \\ 24020 \\ \hline 30025 \end{array}$ <p>1.201 = 3 DECIMAL PLACES 35 = 2 DECIMAL PLACES 30025 = 5 DECIMAL PLACES</p>		<h3>Division</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Divisor can not have a decimalMove the divisor decimal so it is a whole numberMove the same amount of places in dividendPlace a decimal straight up where you write your answer, rewrite problemDivide like normal <p>EXAMPLE</p> $\begin{array}{r} 4.7 \\ 3 \overline{)14.1} \\ \underline{-12} \\ 21 \\ \underline{-21} \\ 0 \end{array}$	

High School

Miller

Students in Mr. Miller's Culinary Arts class created a total of three fantastic dips this week. Students prepared chili and cheese dip, a vegetable dip, and a buffalo chicken dip. Students enjoyed the dips with their choice of potato chips, tortilla chips, or veggies!

The Center School Moves 3rd Annual 5K run this past weekend was a great success with over 100 total participants. Students, parents, staff members and their families enjoyed a beautiful Sunday morning at Duke Island Park, where twenty-seven runners participated in, and completed, the 5K run.

The remaining participants completed the scenic 1 mile walk along the Raritan River. A special thanks to Mrs. Mutchler and Gabby D. for singing the National Anthem! We would like to thank everyone who made this event possible and hope to see everyone at our 2022 5K Run/Walk.



Harrison

Ms. Harrison's Language Arts Class, Period 6, read the short story, *The Cub*, by Lois Dykeman Kleihauer. It is a coming-of-age story that follows a boy named Bill and his relationship with his father, Charles. As a young boy, Bill would hide and surprise his father, leaping onto his leg, demonstrating his "strength" to slow down his father. As the years passed, Bill learned how to interact with peers on the playground and take part in sports; thus the relationship between Bill and Charles began to alter. Bill was now the stronger, taller, and more muscular of the two. What once used to be a "game" of wrestling between Bill and Charles, now proved Bill to be the victor. The last bout left Charles tired and out of breath, however, the father and son still shared a laugh, although they both knew the dynamic had changed. Once Bill saw the outcome, he ran outside with tears running down his face. Bill was overcome with emotion, thinking how quickly time had passed and the roles had changed. Bill was no longer the little bear cub leaping from behind doors. He is now a bear, standing tall and strong.

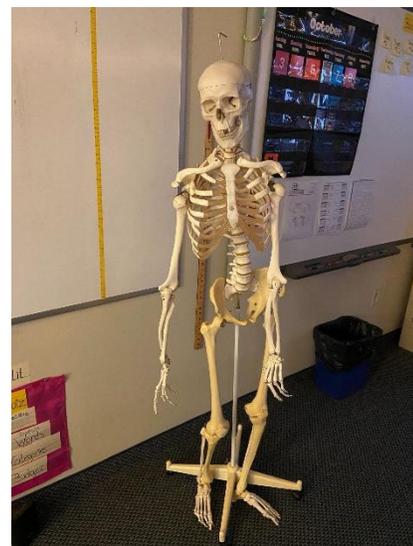
This short story utilized several literary elements that the students successfully identified. The message of growing up resonated with the class leading to an in-depth discussion on how change occurs in many aspects of life; both expected and unexpected

Gibson

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Back-to-School Night this past Wednesday. It was a pleasure to meet all of my new parents and a treat to catch up with parents of students that I have had in prior years. I look forward to working with everyone to have a successful and exciting academic year!

Ms. Gibson's Financial Literacy class is exploring the world of banking! This week students focused on understanding the difference between a debit and a credit card.

Ms. Gibson's Applied Science class began their work with the skeletal system. The students are working to identify 14 essential bones and critical organs protected by the ribs. The students are enjoying having a life-sized skeleton in the classroom!



Torres

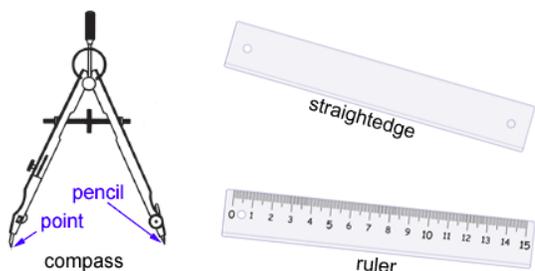
Thank you to all of the families who came to visit The Center School. It was nice to meet you all and I look forward to working with you all for the remainder of the school year.

In Algebra I, students are learning to solve various types of equations. Geometry students just began their study of conditional statements, biconditionals and definitions. Algebra II classes are continuing their work on absolute value equations and inequalities. Consumer Math students are looking at real life situations involving paying their expenses such as rent, groceries and vehicle costs.

D'Alessandro

Thank you to all the families who were able to join us this past Wednesday evening on Back-to-School Night. It was great to be back in person with you this year and spend a little time together.

My period 4 Pre-Algebra class began a new lesson this week on writing algebraic expressions given a word problem situation and then evaluating it for specific values. Lots of new vocabulary was introduced and it was extremely rewarding to see and hear the students discover patterns and transfer information from concrete numerical expressions to the general case using variables. The students were able to recognize which quantities remained constant and which changed, resulting in a replacement with a variable. Students in this class have also become very aware of how important the order of operations are and why operations such as multiplication and division must be done in order from left to right to get the correct answer.



In Geometry, students have completed a lesson on constructions and have used only a compass and straightedge to duplicate a given line segment, bisect a line segment and construct a triangle given 3 side lengths.

Cardona

Mr. Cardona's Math classes are ready to begin their epic journey in Classcraft. Through Classcraft, students are able to choose an adventurer avatar and play a fantasy campaign, much like Dungeons and Dragons, while completing their respective lessons and assignments. By doing so, each hero can earn experience points and gold while traversing the narrative as a team. Stay tuned to hear how the adventure unfolds!

Stevens

First, a tremendous "thank you" to all the families who came out to support students at Back-to-School Night! I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to meet with so many of you and I appreciate your involvement!

Classroom Updates:

Grade 12 English- This week concludes our study of the Puritans. We end this section with readings from Cotton Mather's *Wonders of the Invisible World* and an account from the Salem Witch Trials, Mather's report on Martha Carrier. Together we questioned Mather's bias, analyzed subjective vs. objective language, and took note of the many fallacies in individual testimonies. Next week, we will reflect on the significance of the historical documents in this section for their purposes and rhetorical features.

The image shows the title page of a book. The text is arranged in a formal, centered layout. At the top, it says 'MORE WONDERS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD: Or, The Wonders of the Invisible World, Display'd in Five Parts.' Below this, there are five numbered parts (P. I. to P. V.) describing the content, including accounts of witchcraft and historical events. At the bottom, it says 'LONDON: Printed for Nath. Hillar, at the Princes-Arms, in Leaden-Hall-Street, over against St. Mary-Ax, and Joseph Colyer, at the Golden-Bible, on London-Bridge. 1700.'

Part I. An Account of the Sufferings of *Margaret Rule*, Written by the Reverend Mr. C. M.
P. II. Several Letters to the Author, &c. And his Reply relating to Witchcraft.
P. III. The Differences between the Inhabitants of *Salem-Village*, and *Mr. Parris* their Minister, in *New-England*.
P. IV. Letters of a Gentleman uninterested, Endeavouring to prove the received Opinions about Witchcraft to be Orthodox. With short Essays to their Answers.
P. V. A more Historical Account of Matters of Fact in that Affair.
To which is added, A Postscript relating to a Book intitled, *The Life of Sir WILLIAM PHIPS*.
Collected by *Robert Calef*, Merchant, of *Boston* in *New-England*.
Licenced and Entred according to Order.
LONDON:
Printed for *Nath. Hillar*, at the *Princes-Arms*, in *Leaden-Hall-Street*, over against *St. Mary-Ax*, and *Joseph Colyer*, at the *Golden-Bible*, on *London-Bridge*. 1700.

Grade 11 English- Students analyzed Part II of “The Metamorphosis.” We used a graphic organizer to draw conclusions and make inferences, as well as to cite evidence to support our claims. With this, we took a quick reprieve to read a nonfiction article, “The New Era of Positive Psychology,” contrasting the conflict in “The Metamorphosis” with the advances of modern science and medicine.

Grade 10 English- Just in time for spooky season, sophomores reached the peak of the action in “The Fall of the House of Usher.” We are using the story arc model to diagram, chart, and map the plot, allowing us to keep track of the order of events. Students also took additional time to analyze some of Poe’s most unique story details—the use of narrative poetry within the story—which emphasizes main ideas in the text.

US History I- In US History students learned about the structure of the US Constitution as well as the three branches of government. Through a guided exploration of these concepts, students were challenged to think critically about how the Constitution reflects major principles of American democracy.

Creative Writing- As we formally brought a close to Unit I, Unit II began with an introduction to literary nonfiction: Personal narratives, essays, memoirs, and autobiography.

Transition

McKenna

This week was another busy one for the transition students. They discussed how to break unproductive habits like procrastination and identified different ways procrastination impacts the pursuit of a career. Students also worked on the various sections of a job application including skills, references and past employers. This lesson presented students with a completed job application that had a collection of errors that the students had to identify. Those little mistakes could be the deal breaker for a potential hiring manager! In writing this week, students began the outlining process of writing a persuasive essay. In class, they discussed how to properly formulate an argument and back up their point of view with research. The transition students are settling into their schedules and putting their best foot forward!

Lees

In Vocational and Life Preparation the students continued to learn about finding a job. They discussed the benefits of having a job, explored a variety of different first jobs and ways to find them, and talked about the reason and importance of resumes.

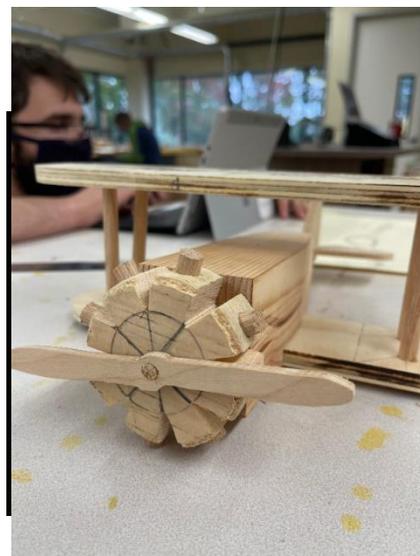
Related Arts



Industrial Arts

It's mid-marking period time in the Industrial Design Makerspace, and that means some projects are starting to come together! Currently under assembly are toolboxes, a biplane, a large display cabinet for remote controlled cars, a 3-shelf bookcase and a coat rack! In addition, some transition students have taken the opportunity to read power machinery manuals to understand how the machine works and how to hypothetically repair them!

I would also like to take a moment to thank all the families who had the opportunity to attend Back to School Night. It was wonderful talking to all of you, and we appreciate the ongoing show of support!



Art

Welcome back to the Art Studio! We have much to show as we have finished up our watercolor stained-glass paintings in Middle school. They also started working on their spooky (probably haunted) houses.



The painting class finished their watercolor cake paintings. Wayne Thiebaud would be proud of these cake paintings! Elementary students completed their Picasso Portraits, and they look fabulous! It was a pleasure meeting all you wonderful parents at our back-to-school night!



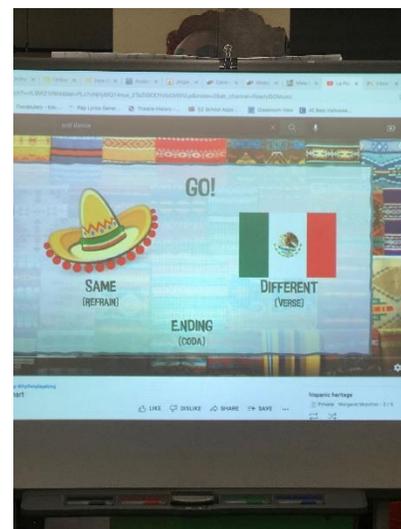
Music

I LOVE MY JOB, although it's not really a job. It's not work when you get to sing with students (and staff), play instruments together and just have lots of fun. How can you call that work?

In Elementary Class students were treated to 2 songs to dance and play instruments to, La Raspa and Los Machettes to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

In Middle School students are working on producing Jingles. They are having a lot of fun coming up with characters and dialogue to create a commercial which we will film on Flipgrid.

High School students continued work on instruments and we even had one student present a song for the class from the Iconic "Little Shop of Horrors". High School Students also had fun with "Just Dance".



Lastly, we had great participation for our Glee Club, we have 11 members and in 3 weeks I have introduced 3 songs for the group. Music is in the Air.



Physical Education

This past week the High School students took advantage of the great outdoors by exploring our campus. We focused on the benefits of regular walks as a form of exercise. Adding 30 minute of walking to your daily routine can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, boost muscle power and endurance. Besides the physical benefits, walking has been proven to reduce stress and improve moods.

The Middle School learned some basic basketball skills, using our outdoor court. They learned the basics of doing a lay-up and jump shots.

Our Elementary school students continued working on listening and cooperation skills by working with the parachute and other manipulatives.

Occupational Therapy

This week in OT, the students worked on activities focusing on functional skills and perceptual processing skills. Functional skills included a shoe tying station in which students were provided with visual aids and modifications to work towards independence in this area. Perceptual skills were addressed using a color grid where students had to match a 4 piece, partially occluded color sequence to a visual grid.



Therapeutic Department

Nelson

This week we read the book *One* by Kathryn Otoshi in Friendship Group to discuss the power of being an Upstander, as October is National Bullying Prevention Month. In the story, 'Blue' is teased and picked on by 'Red' which makes him feel bad about being himself. At first the other colors noticed Red's unkind behavior and comforted Blue, but no one else stood up to Blue. This changed when 'One' moved to town and used assertive language and body posture to stand up to Blue. (We clarified the difference between assertive language and aggressive behavior. We also discussed the difference between a bystander and an upstander and what that looks like.)



In the book, the other colors stood together as Upstanders to stand up to Red and support Blue. At the end of the story Red also learned how to seek attention from his peers in healthier ways. As a follow-up discussion we reviewed different ways to stand up to Bullying, including using assertive language, being an 'Upstander' and asking for assistance from trusted adults at school and home. We will continue this discussion about Bullying and Respect with additional books and activities throughout the month.

Coronado

This week Mr. Coronado's middle school students began their unit on conflict resolution. The students discussed the meaning of conflict resolution and also looked at the importance of perspective. They were given a hypothetical story about two friends who agreed to play soccer in the morning, Dan and John. Dan was excited to go play that he got up early and got to the field as soon as he could. Dan waited and waited but John never showed up. What happened to John? The students were asked to ponder this question and after they had given their answer, it was revealed that John was in fact up all night due to an illness. We discussed the importance of having all the information, not just some of the information and not assuming that your perspective is always the right one.

Puleo

This week Ms. Puleo's high school groups continued to discuss goal planning. We focused on major goals and obstacles that we may encounter in achieving our goals and what strategies we could use to overcome those obstacles. Students were able to discuss with each other and provide feedback and suggestions on how to overcome those obstacles. We also learned to break our goals down into smaller goals and into tasks to make them more achievable.

Sadiq

This week Ms. Sadiq's high school groups discussed taking the initiative. Some of the students who are new to our school are eager to join the student council. Even though they may not be familiar with many of the students, this should not deter them from wanting to be a part of the student council. As the students discussed preparing what they would say, others were a little nervous. The consensus was to do it anyway and see what happens. Overall, many of our students are excited to be part of something big and are looking forward to writing their speeches and sharing why they should be chosen.

De Luca

This week was a quick, but informative week for the transitional students. During group we discussed Anxiety, and the cycle of anxiety. We went over "what could happen vs. what will happen", focusing on what we are in control of in our lives. A group went into the community and showed a lot of growth in dealing with a less-than-satisfactory experience!

Speech and Language

Several students are learning various aspects of the "Framing Your Thoughts" program in order to apply different grammatical structures to expand their sentences. The "Framing Your Thoughts" program uses a variety of visual cues to teach the formulation of independent clauses and subordinate clauses while incorporating editing skills for capitalization and punctuation (i.e., prepositional phrases, adverb clauses). Sentence variety is also taught simultaneously to improve written expression. For example, a sentence that contains a Subject, Predicate, a "How?" Predicate Expander, a second "How?" Predicate Expander and a "Where?" Predicate Expander might be expressed as: "The Gladiators fought aggressively like lions in the arena".



Literacy Support

Thank you to the parents who participated in “Back to School Night”. To have involved parents, such as we do at TCS, is a welcome to teachers because together, we are your child’s TEAM!

Another busy week with Reading/Literacy Support. Some of the students are finishing the state testing while others are demonstrating their abilities with IXL and/or the iSPIRE placement test.

Many of the students are working in the identified areas of need with O-G to improve decoding and encoding skills. Building vocabulary through knowledge of prefixes and suffixes is in full gear with other students. Strategies using multi-sensory techniques include movement which fully engages the student. Visual Thinking skills are reinforced with association, discrimination tasks and puzzles. Finally, HS students are developing their writing skills with Power Writing strategies and Framing Your Thoughts (Project READ) for short responses and informative essays.

Important Dates:

Parent Teacher Conferences/ Early Dismissals	Wed./Thu. Oct. 20 & 21
Picture Day	Mon. Oct. 25
Parent Therapeutic Meeting	Thu. Oct. 28 7-8pm
Halloween Parade	Fri. Oct. 29
School Closed- NJEA Convention	Thu./Fri. Nov. 4 & 5

Sincerely,

Daniel Erhardt

Daniel Erhardt
Principal