

Dear Center School Families:

In typical Center School fashion, we celebrated Halloween in style, with many of our teachers and dozens of our students showing up to school in costume. Getting back to traditions scuttled in the last year due to COVID, we were able to hold our Costume Parade around the building. Everyone enjoyed the festivities and creative costuming!

The High School held their Halloween Social event this afternoon and enjoyed snacks, music and games. Yesterday, the Elementary School Explorers club enjoyed Halloween-themed activities, too.



From our Center School family to yours, we would like to wish you an enjoyable and most importantly, **SAFE** holiday this weekend. When out in the community Trick-or-Treating Sunday, be mindful of traffic, especially during the evening hours. Also, parents, it's good practice to do a once-over and check your children's candy before they dig in. [Click here for a blog post by AAA with more Halloween Safety tips.](#) We hope our Trick-or-Treaters set a record for biggest candy haul!

Remember, kids: There's a 2 Snickers-per-pound Parent Tax that is due when you get back home on Sunday! Happy Halloween!

[There are too many photos for the newsletter! Check out our Halloween Photo Album here!](#)

-Mr. Erhardt

PTO

The first PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, **November 2nd, at 7pm.** A Google Meet link has been sent to members. We hope to see you there, and look forward to your ideas and participation. Please contact Mrs. Lees at mlees@center.school or Mr. Erhardt at derhardt@center.school to sign up for the meeting if you have not done so already.

Our Boon Supply fundraiser has been a great success, raising nearly \$1000 in funds for the PTO's programming. Although the 40% of sales promotion ends on October 29th, orders can still be placed using our school code, found on the following page. The Center School will still profit from sales, but at a lower percentage.

— 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

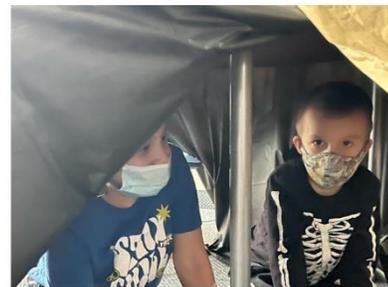
The Elementary School celebrated Halloween on Friday with catapult STEM games in which students created a popsicle stick catapult and then used their catapult to complete a series of tasks such as launching the candy pumpkin over a stack of books, into a hula hoop, into a stack of cups and finally at a target. Mummy wrap and Halloween Bingo were also enjoyed by all.

Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class spent Wednesday in our "bat cave" learning all about bats. We explored non-fiction texts and fiction texts about bats. Students used story elements to better understand *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon. They were able to identify the characters, setting and events from the beginning, middle and end of the story. Students used their flashlights to find facts about bats in their guided reader. Did you know that there are over 1200 different species of bats? That fact surprised our students.

Students also completed series of literacy and math task cards to help the town of "Booville" solve The Case of the Missing Halloween Candy. After completing each task, students received a clue and then by process of elimination figured out that Obedient Owl took the candy at sunset and hid it in the library.

Ms. Ascione's students identified features of persuasive writing this week. They also read about how starting a business can help others. Using a graphic organizer, they identified multiple ways that businesses benefit the community. In math, students used different strategies to add and subtract multiple digit problems.

The highlight of the week was celebrating Halloween on Friday! Everyone enjoyed fun activities and trick or treating around the High School.



PIC-COLLAGE



Middle School

Today the Middle School shared a fun filled day of creepy and exciting activities including a scavenger hunt, Halloween themed movie, and assorted crafts. Students were excited to express their interests through their costumes. The teachers joined the fun dressing as characters from the class novel we've been reading, *The Outsiders*. A great time was had by all!



**High School
Miller**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Miller on the birth of their son Easton James!



Harrison

This week the students in Ms. Harrison's Biology Class put their finishing touches on their cells. The class enjoyed the hands-on activity as they molded clay and shaped organelles. In addition, the students created a key so all twelve cell parts and their functions can be identified.

Gibson

Ms. Gibson's Environmental Science Class joined several other classes in visiting the New Jersey Forest Resource Education Center. The students were participants in a hands-on program to learn about trees and shrubs used to make forest products and had

the opportunity to touch and smell several samples. Students were also able to observe the milling of fresh-cut logs into lumber. They also focused our discussions on Forest Stewardship and how to properly maintain healthy trees to balance the ecosystem.



Torres

Algebra I students are studying ratios, proportions, and similar figures. They are using their skills in solving equations and proportions to find missing sides of similar polygons. Geometry students are working on the properties of parallel lines and identifying the types of angles formed by two lines and a transversal. Algebra II students are writing the equations of lines using the point-slope formula, slope-intercept form, and standard form. Consumer Math students are wrapping up their study of budgets and will begin analyzing pay stubs and finding the percent of their deductions.

D'Alessandro

Happy Halloween to all our Center School Families! This week in Algebra my students applied all their current knowledge on linear equations, intercepts and slopes in order to discover that equations written in the form $y=mx+b$ tell you the actual slope and the y-intercept, making it incredibly easy to graph rather than creating a table of values. Students graphed the lines by first plotting the “b” value (where we “begin”) and then “moving” from that point by applying the slope, “m”.

Stevens

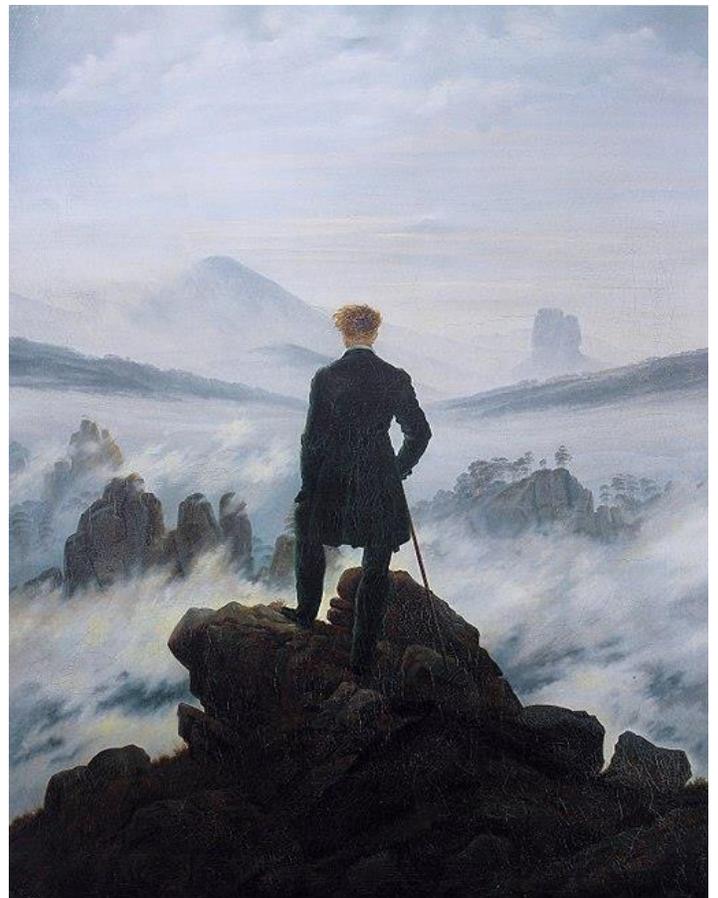
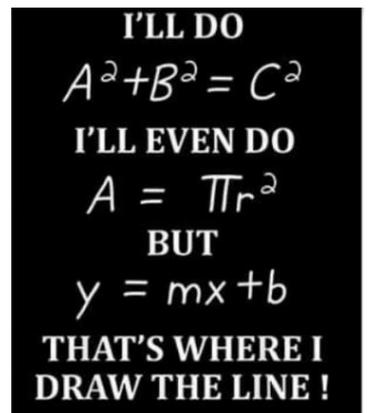
Grade 12 English- Seniors are currently reading nonfiction from the American Revolution, starting with correspondences between John and Abigail Adams and seminal documents from George Washington. We are working together to determine the significance of the authors’ choices and main ideas in the texts, as we continue to explore the purpose and relevance of these historical documents.

Grade 11 English- Juniors studied excerpts from Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. We explored the characteristics of traditional Gothic literature, and analyzed prominent paintings from the same period, including “The Wanderer above the Sea of Fog,” to gain a better understanding of the intellectual and artistic landscape of the 1800s. Through a guided discussion, students synthesized how these concepts are related and acquired the necessary background knowledge required to better understand many of the thematic concepts portrayed in Shelley’s novel.

Grade 10 English- Sophomores concluded their analysis of “The Raven.” We practiced effective reading strategies for poetry including paraphrasing, close reading, annotating, and summarizing for comprehension and analysis. Students were also taught how to visualize and interpret images in the poem to determine meaning and symbolism.

US. History I- This week students were given class time to create a research- based project, focusing on the legacy of an American hero of their choice. I look forward to seeing the presentations next week!

Creative Writing- Students composed an original poem using figurative language and sound devices. With this, we concluded our poetry unit. Next week we will begin our 4th--and final--unit of the marking period, a study of drama in several forms.



Transition

McKenna

Our transition students had another great week! This week they continued their work in the community with Bridges to Employment. The students participated in hands-on vocational experiences at Chel's Clothes Closet in Hillsborough. The students are learning about stamina at work and staying on pace to complete a given job task. Chel's Closet is very thankful to have the transition students working there. In class, the students analyzed different job postings. These lessons help students look for things like starting wages, required skills and expected hours. The students will use this information when looking for jobs of their own. The students had another very successful week. Happy Halloween everyone!

Lees

When students get their first job, they look forward to getting their paychecks. This week Vocational/Life Prep students focused on Gross Income, calculating straight-time pay, overtime, piecework, and commission.

Related Arts

Industrial Arts

Students in Mr. Dulak's Industrial Arts classes took a field trip this week to the New Jersey Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson, NJ. At the center, students took a hike through the woods and learned about different varieties of Pine, Oak, Maple & Sassafras Trees! We discussed different products that could be made from forest materials, such as flavored drinks, candles and everybody's favorite: Maple Syrup!!! The nature tour was finished with a demonstration of logging machinery cutting a fallen tree into 1"x8"x8' boards. Everyone was excited to see the machinery in action! A special thanks to Forester Roger for providing an excellent interactive experience!



Art

Congratulations to Mrs. Merckx as she celebrates her wedding this weekend!

The Transition to Work students diligently worked on Perler bead magnets which will eventually be featured in our school store. The High School students finished up their canvas paintings of a galaxy. Middle and Elementary students worked on an Elements of Art packet and Sugar Skull mask/drawing.

Music

Elementary Students are using Boomwackers to learn about the Elements of Music, specifically pitch. We are also practicing songs for our Winter Concert.

Middle School students are reading about the Medieval Era of Music and listening to Gregorian Chant and learning about intervals.

High School students continue work on instruments and PowerPoint presentations.

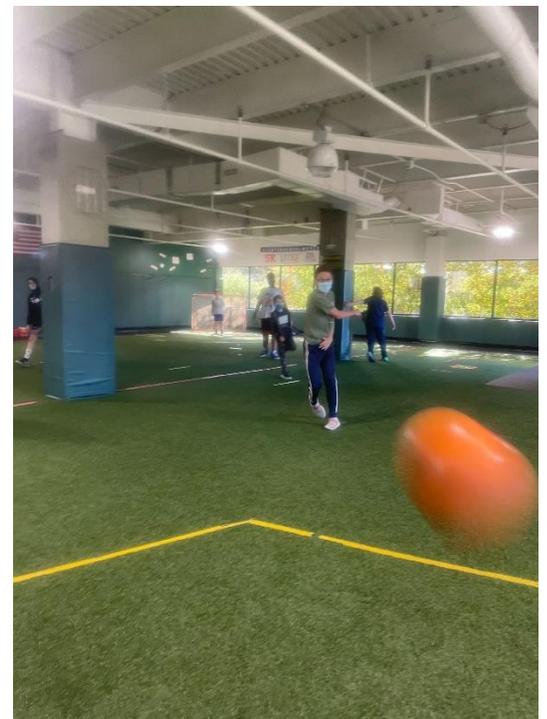
In the World of Chocolate, we have over 20 students getting ready to audition for Willy

Wonka Jr. Everyone is getting very excited.



Physical Education

We focused our efforts towards fitness and stress relief. We practiced a relaxing yoga routine that focused on long stretches and easy poses. On the other day we did our fitness stations, the students performed different exercises for one minute, then took a 30 second break.



Related Services

Speech/Language

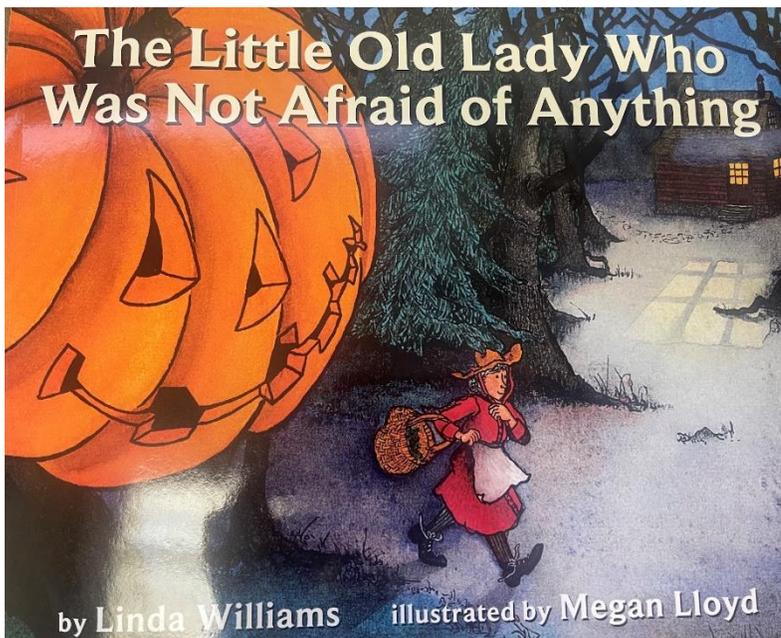
A few students in the upper grades and the transition program are preparing to take the Accuplacer Exam which evaluates a student's skills in reading, writing, and math for college placement. They have been learning how to organize their thoughts into an outline and formulate a cohesive 5 Paragraph Essay expressing their opinion on a particular topic. Effective vocabulary selection, paragraph development, sentence structure mobility and transitions were taught during the process of producing the essay. This marking period the students were examining whether schools should mandate sports within their educational curriculum. One student argued that sports should be mandated in schools "to garner teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship." What do you think?

Occupational Therapy

Activities in Sensory Diet this week were Halloween Themed. Perceptual processing and bilateral skills were addressed, completing pumpkin puzzles and Halloween character Tangrams, as well as fine motor and motor planning skills, while making a spider web. The Zones of Regulation curriculum continues, as students were tasked with drawing faces on a pumpkin to represent an emotion. Happy Halloween from the OT Department!

Therapeutic Department Nelson

This week in Ms. Nelson's groups we reinforced positive social skills through friendship building activities such as sharing our favorite fall activities with a musical version of 'Pass the Pumpkin' and playing a Halloween-themed version of Headbandz (using post-it notes with labeled images) to guess the hidden object on the back of each group member.



The students also enjoyed taking turns with sound effects and phrases in an interactive, dramatic retelling of The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything. They had so much fun with all of these activities and lots of laughter and positive interactions with one another! In the middle school girls' group, we discussed incorporating a music share activity at the end of each session. Next month's theme will be Coping Skills, followed by units on Feelings/Anger Management and Conflict Resolution.

Coronado

This week Mr. Coronado's middle school groups utilized their conflict resolution skills in a group game of TROUBLE. Trouble, like most games, incites a natural conflict due to the competition. As the game progresses and students are "bumping" each other back to the start line it incites conflict. In these moments, we stop, reflect, and recall the information we have learned. The students had a blast playing this game!

Puleo

This week in Ms. Puleo's groups continued their discussion on the topic of stress. The topic was "Do you think adolescents today have more stress than they did decades ago?" Most of the groups came to the conclusion of, YES! Only because of social media, and the pandemic. They feel they have more to worry about and fitting the expectations of being social media perfect and having a lot of friends. The groups also discussed when their grandparents were teens, their stress was different. They had to work, go to school and help out with younger siblings, but they did not have the stress of social media or a pandemic. At the end of each group, students concluded that the stress they face now is different from the stress their parents, and grandparents had to face.

Sadiq

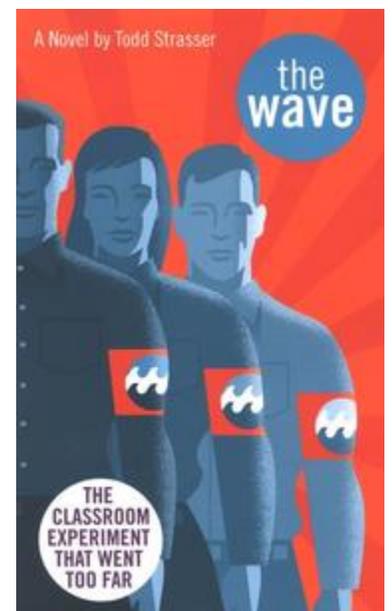
Ms. Sadiq's groups discussed careers this week and looked at how lucrative they would be for the students. Many of the students thought about a career in hair, voice over acting, and/or graphic arts but neglected to look into what the job requirements consist of. As a group we researched the job and looked at courses that students would need to take and how much time they would need to spend in their chosen field. Many of the students were surprised to learn what the job entailed and found themselves thinking about the careers they had originally chosen. The whole point of this exercise was to encourage research so that they would have a better understanding of what they wanted to pursue.

De Luca

This week has been very positive. We took one of the Transition students to RVCC on Wednesday to get him enrolled for the Spring Semester. He was engaging and very independent as he asked various questions about his process at RVCC. We held this year's first Parent Therapeutic Meeting on Thursday evening, where we had a handful of parents who attended. The topic was Stress and Self-Care. [Check out this link to the presentation!](#)

Literacy Support

This has been a fun and engaging week with students during Reading Support. One high school student completed *Journey to Topaz*, a historical fiction novel, re-telling the story of the Japanese Internment during WWII. Another student is working on the culminating activity for *The Wave*. Studying point of view, he is taking on the role of Gordon High School Principal, Mr. Owens, and evaluating the main character, Mr. Ross from the history department. There are life lessons to learn and discuss with the student from Middle School who is reading *Maniac Magee*. Others are working with High Frequency Words, Phonetic Elements and expanding Vocabulary through Morphology.



Student Extracurricular Activities

High School Explorers

On Saturday, October 23rd, the High School Explorers visited Norz-Hill Farm. We navigated a corn maze and enjoyed a hayride, which led us to an up-close encounter with various animals. We ended the day with an enjoyable lunch at Applebee's!



Cooking Club

Our next **Cooking Club** will be on **Tuesday, November 9th**, from 2:45-4:30. If you have not turned in a permission slip, please contact Mrs. Lees if interested. mlees@center.school.

Our **December Cooking Club** will be **Gingerbread House Decorating**, taking place on **December 14th**. This is a popular activity and is limited to 20 participants. Separate permission forms will be sent out for this event, but previously submitted permission forms are sufficient.

Craft Club

Our next Craft Club will be on **November 18th**. Permission forms can be found in learning studios or by contacting Mrs. Lees at mlees@center.school.

Important Dates:

Thu/Fri Nov. 4/5	School closed- Teachers Convention
Fri Nov. 12	End of Marking Period 1
Thu Nov. 18	Center School Thanksgiving Feast
Wed Nov. 24	Early Dismissal 1:05
Thu/Fri Nov. 25/26	Thanksgiving break

Sincerely,

Daniel Erhardt

Daniel Erhardt

Principal