

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

A special congratulations to The Center School Middle School soccer team! We all have heard the phrase "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." Well, on Wednesday our players showed us how to play the game a bit differently.

They played a team which was not as well seasoned as ours and students who had much less soccer skills. Within the first 2 minutes a score of 4-0 portend a very uneven game over the next 56 minutes.

Coach Bazsika spoke with our players who wanted to play hard and win, but instead an amazing game ensued. Our students began passing the ball around, kicking across the field, and giving the other team chances to kick and possess the ball. Even with this, the other team had difficulty scoring. Finally, after more "passing" and fancy footwork by our players, the other team was set up for a goal and a kick by them and a miss by the goalie put one on the board for the other team. The downtrodden looks on the faces of the other team changed and their screams of excitement at scoring one goal against such a good team sent a message to our players.

Over the next 50 minutes the score rose but remained within 2 at all times. Finally, it was tied. Our players displayed such a high level of skills scoring and assisting the other team in not only playing the game, but having fun. What they did was harder than just constantly scoring goals. In the end the other team scored and we lost 10-9. But did we?

As our players lined up to shake hands there was talk of the score, but there was more talk about how our team did a good thing. Some of the players admitted they felt good, while others agreed that they understood what would have inevitably happened had they played to win from the beginning.

I was extremely proud of all our players because they showed empathy, they showed sportsmanship and they showed an understanding of when to think of others over their own wants. The happiness of the players on the other team when they won a game they initially believed they would not even score one goal in, was such a reward for all of us to witness. In the end, both teams won the same game.



FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Ms. Gibson's ELA 12 class is starting a well-known novel by Mary Shelly, "Frankenstein". The students will explore the importance of balancing curiosity and ambition with caution and compassion. We will be asking the question, should we do something just because we can or are some things better left to the unknown?

Over the last week, our TCS Science students have been looking downward at technology, *but not their cellphones!* They have been using our Compound Light Microscopes (CLM) & Stereoscopes to view the cellular patterned matrix inside the leaves of many deciduous trees native to New Jersey, the Garden State. Among the tree species we are studying are: Sugar Maple/Pink Dogwood/Southern Magnolia /Kwansan Cherry as well as Lavender, Forsythia & Oregon Blue Bell hardy bushes. TCS Science students are differentiating between these varied plant cells; wondering why the leaves are not as vibrant as in past Autumns (due to the heat & near drought conditions of Summer 2019); & learning the scientific names for each of the 4 main leaf pigments. The four main leaf pigments are: Chlorophyll (green); Xanthophyll (yellow); Carotenoids (orange); Anthocyanins (purple/red).

THE CHEMISTRY OF THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN LEAVES

CHLOROPHYLL
 Chlorophyll is the chemical that gives plants their green colour. Plants require sun and water to produce chlorophyll. In autumn, the amount produced begins to decrease, and the existing chlorophyll is slowly broken down, decreasing the green colour of the leaves.

CAROTENOIDS & FLAVONOIDS
 Carotenoids and flavonoid pigments are always present in leaves, but as chlorophyll is broken down in the autumn their colour comes to the fore. Xanthophylls, a subclass of carotenoids, are responsible for the yellows of autumn leaves. One of the major xanthophylls, lutein, is also the compound that contributes towards the yellow colour of egg yolks.

CAROTENOIDS
 Carotenoids can also contribute orange colours. Beta-carotene is one of the most common carotenoids in plants, and absorbs green and blue light strongly, reflecting red and yellow light and causing its orange appearance. It is also responsible for the orange colouration of carrots. Carotenoids in leaves that die during the autumn (like as chlorophyll) but they do so at a much slower rate. Beta-carotene is amongst the most stable, and some fallen leaves can still contain measurable amounts.

ANTHOCYANINS & CAROTENOIDS
 Unlike the carotenoids, anthocyanin synthesis is fully turned on by the onset of autumn: as sugar concentration in the leaves increases, sunlight induces anthocyanin production. The purple they leave isn't clear, but it's been suggested that they help protect the leaves from excess light, prolonging the amount of time before they fall.

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 Shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license. Leaf designed by Peter Silk from the Hour Project.

It was very rewarding to see our TCS Sci guys & gals intently focusing on transcribing what they observed under magnification to formal Botany sketches in their lab/field notebooks. This lab the "Annual Autumnal Dance" also introduced and reinforced new microscope usage skills. This series of cross curricular labs combined Biology, Botany, Nutrition & Art.

Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Language Arts class finished "Sign of the Beaver." On Monday, the class will watch the movie. They will compare and contrast the movie and book. They will examine plot, setting, and characters. As a culminating activity they will do a project on the book. Some of the choices will be a newspaper article, book review, or alternate ending.

Ms. Akushie's Language Arts class started reading "A Wrinkle in Time", by Madeleine L'Engle. The students are making predictions about what they think the story will be about. This week her class also started writing persuasive essays. The students completed their graphic organizers and will start writing their essays next week.

In Miss Small's Language Arts Literature class, students started their days with a writing activity connected to Character Week. Students reflected on the character trait of the day (trustworthiness, respect, fairness, and responsibility) by writing about what that trait means to them, how they have experienced this trait, how they have shown this trait, or writing a creative story in which the characters displayed this trait.

Ms. Harrison's Social Studies class continued their studies on geographical landmarks, both man-made and natural. They utilized Venn diagrams and various graphic organizers to compare and contrast these significant sites that impact people and the landscape.

Elementary School

This week Elementary students were able to go to the science lab. Mr. McMahon and some of the high school students were able to teach the students about how to use microscopes. The students looked at different types of leaves and plants. They learned all about where the leaves came from and were amazed at how different they looked under a microscope. They had a blast getting to explore a new part of science!



Physical Education

Congrats to the High School soccer team for winning their first game of the season, 9-5. It was well rounded scoring, with Patrick, Kyle, Luke, Robert, Daniel, and Dylan all contributing to the win and great goalkeeping by Alex, Cole, and Daniel.

Music

Elementary students played circle games, played keyboards, and also had fun with the puppets in the room. Theater Art students created masks from "The Lion King". Middle School students played Halloween songs with the help of boomwackers.



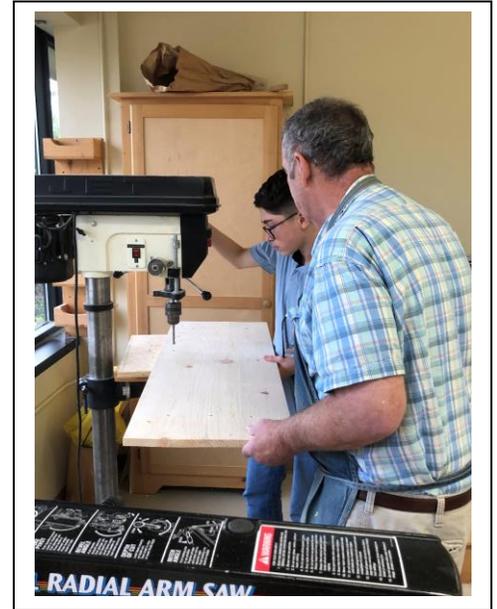
Art

This week in Art Elementary students completed multi-media Shark project and began Halloween themed projects-torn construction paper candy corn, ghosts, pumpkins or witches. Middle School students completed Demuth's Sliced Circles and began work on Fall themed projects-Fall colored leaves, bare trees). The High School students continued /completed individual projects or began work on Demuth's No. 5 project or Fall themed projects.



Woodshop

The Elementary students are continuing work on their corner shelves. They are still working on the shelving, and will be nailing the shelves into place soon. Middle School students are working on various projects. Students are working on benches, shelves, and small animal cut outs. We are starting to see some holiday projects and one student is making a wooden Christmas tree. High School students are making good progress on their projects. A larger bench is nearing completion, and we also have tool boxes and wall shelves being built. Some projects are being painted this week while others will be stained. It has been a busy week in the woodshop.



Speech & language Dept.

Students in the Speech and Language Department are learning the rules for short conversations, “chit-chat” and “small talk”, in addition to learning how to maintain a longer conversation by asking relevant questions and making comments about topics of interest using a program called “Color My Conversation”. They are having fun sharing ideas and learning about their peers and teachers.



Therapeutic Dept.

Mrs. Gorski and Ms. Orr's Middle and Elementary groups traced and cut out their handprint. Each student decorated their handprint and wrote five ways that they can show Good Character through acts of kindness during the Character Counts week, as well as every day. Students were provided with some examples of simple acts of kindness which make people feel good and display good character. Counselors will post their handprints in their office as a reminder to each of them.

Bistro:

The Bistro's paid student workers completed their state mandated training for employees and servers. Students learned about their civil rights, "offer vs serve" state program and all the requirements of working in the Bistro as it relates to the law, safety and sanitation. The well-equipped workers are enthusiastically embracing their jobs.

Career Exploration:

Students in Ms. Slovik's Career Exploration class have completed their units in workplace ethics and soft skills. They are now preparing their resumes and incorporating their own experiences into a well-written portrait of themselves, their experiences, their aspirations, and their potential.

School News

The Center School Open House

October 30th from 9:00am – 12:00pm, stakeholders in The Center School, in neighboring schools, and community members are all invited to our open house to meet staff and learn about our programs. Please RSVP to kspotts@center.school or call 908-253-3870.

During the afternoon, there will be a professional development program for school leaders, teachers, counselors, and case managers to learn about HIB/Transgender/LGBTQ Law Updates. CEU credits will be given. Please RSVP to kspotts@center.school



Center School 5K Run

The Center School will be holding a fundraiser 5K Run/Fun Walk on October 27th, 2019 at Colonial Park, located in Somerset, NJ. The proceeds of this event will be used for student field trips, as well as student-centered activities during the 2019-20 school year.

The event will also act as an opportunity for staff, students, and their friends and families, to socialize and converse outside of the school setting. If you are interested in signing up for either the 5K Run or the Fun Walk, or would like to donate, you can do so by accessing the race website at centerschoolmoves.com. If you are interested in being one of the event sponsors you may contact us at centerschoolmoves@center.school.



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IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon. Oct 21- Mon. Oct. 28	Character Counts Week
Sun. Oct 27	The Center School 5K Run
Wed. Oct. 30	Early Dismissal- Staff Professional Development Open House 9am-12pm
Thu. Oct. 31	Halloween Parade (Time to be announced)
Thu. - Fri. Nov. 7 & 8	Closed – Teacher’s Convention
Tue. Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Feast
Wed. Nov. 27	Early Dismissal- 1:05pm
Thu. – Fri. Nov. 28 & 29	Closed- Thanksgiving Recess

Clubs and Events October 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Spanish Culture MS/HS 1	2	Pride Club 3	4
Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild 7	Cooking Club 8	School Closed 9	10	11
Intramurals ES/MS/HS 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences 15	Parent/Teacher Conferences 16	Newspaper Club 17	18
Wear Blue- Trustworthiness 21 Picture Day Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D/Adventure Guild	Wear Yellow- Respect 22 History Club Spanish ES/MS	Wear Orange - Fairness 23	Wear Green- Responsibility 24 Art Club Craft Club	Wear Red - Kindness 25
Wear Purple- Citizenship 28 Intramurals ES/MS/HS	29 Music Club	30 Early Dismissal	31 Happy Halloween	*Picture Day is Monday, the 21st* Order BEFORE picture day at www.mylifetouch.com ID:WM229021Y0

EVENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences

Tues, the 15th and Wed. the 16th are conferences with your child's teachers. Please sign up for your time slot

After School Clubs

After School Clubs at the Center School from 2:35-4:30
Contact club coordinator on back if interested.

Bike Club

Bike Club dates will vary according to the weather. Email Mr. Dobler if interested at bdobler@center.school

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal