

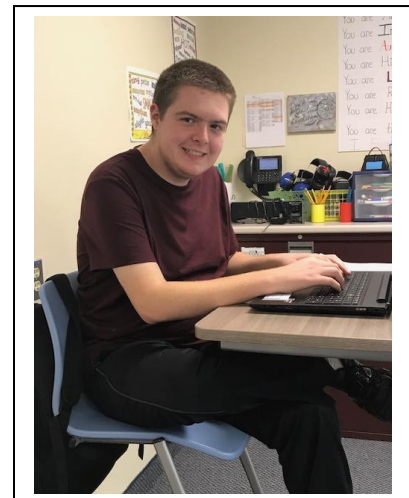
Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

November is here. Colder weather, end of daylight savings time (Saturday evening—don't forget!), and the change in seasons all exemplify the constant changes we encounter in our lives. Change is hard for many people and especially difficult for many of our students due to their specific issues. Never-the-less change happens and like the passing of time we cannot stop it from occurring. Learning how to accept change and adapt to new things is a life skill we strive to teach our students on a daily basis. We know that change is good and helps us grow and learn, but it is not always fun nor easy to accept.

As a school we often encounter change. New staff join our team when some leave for other opportunities. We also see new students arrive to join our school while others leave, transitioning back to their district schools, graduating, or moving away due to opportunities afforded to their families. Regarding this last point of change, watching our students leave because of their success here or simply due to life changes with their families, affects our staff. This week we said goodbye to a student who needed to move away and it was heartbreaking to many of our staff who have worked with this student for years. We talked about it with each other, reminisced, prepared ourselves, said our goodbyes, and hoped we were successful enough in our endeavors over the years preparing him for his future.

I am telling you this because as I watch our staff perform their jobs every day, I see a group of individuals extremely dedicated to our students on many levels. They are invested in the students both inside the classroom and outside. And although I may walk around and watch classroom teaching, individual counseling, team projects, sporting events, clubs held after school, and trips outside of school—the true measure of their devotion is shown when we have to say goodbye to students graduating or moving on and leaving us. This week's goodbyes were so profound my description to you is not truly worthy of the depth of our staff's love and devotion for our students, but I can assure you exemplifies it in every way.

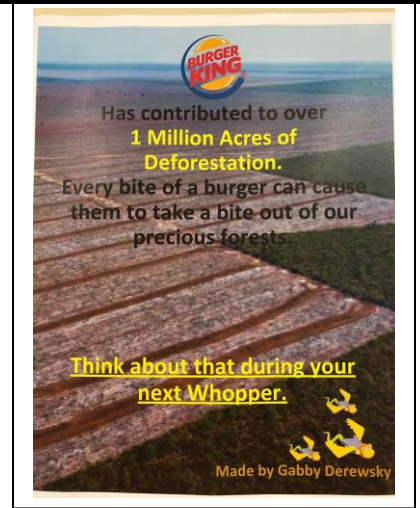
Goodluck Kyle we will all miss you, and thanks for showing us how change, although hard, can be good.



FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Mr. Miller's high school History classes presented their first marking period Global Issues assignments this week. For their projects, students chose a variety of topics including lack of clean drinking water, space debris, deforestation, influenza virus, desertification, and forest fires. As a new addition to the project this year, students were tasked with creating awareness posters with their presentations. Some of those can be seen here.



Dr. R's Consumer Math class has been working on finding the right arithmetic operation to use to answer a question. Students who have trouble telling whether a problem requires multiplication or division are trying an operation, then thinking about their answer to see if it makes sense. When the answer makes no sense, they are changing to an alternative arithmetic operation. Dr. R's Algebra 1 students have just finished a unit on describing a problem with words, tables, equations, graphs. They have explained which technique is most effective in different real life situations and have made recommendations to companies about what to do to stay in business when a competitor moves in across the street. Dr. R's Algebra 1 part 1 students are learning to go from descriptions of real world situations to the right arithmetic operation.

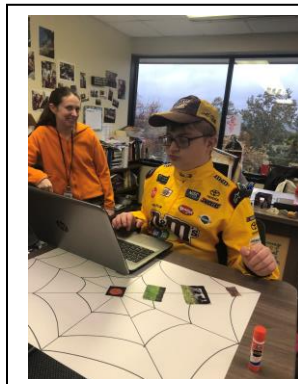
Ms. Gibson's Environmental Science class is discovering the unique and complex relationships between producers, consumers, and decomposers. To illustrate this the students created food webs for Halloween!

Mrs. D'Alessandro's 1st period Pre-Calculus class has started an investigation of Polynomial Functions. Students are using both the graphing calculator and an online graphing tool, Desmos, to graph the functions and list key features including intercepts, maximums and minimums,

domain and range, zeros, and end behavior. Seventh period Geometry students have been applying all the tools of Geometry taught to date in order to draw figures from given information. Students have been working on sharing, discussing and comparing their work with one another. It has been great hearing the mathematical conversations going on in class. I'm very pleased with everyone's progress.

In Spanish 1 this week, students learned about the Mexican cultural holiday, Day of the Dead, which is celebrated on November 1-2. The students watched a video and completed an activity packet. They were able to view all of the objects that are placed on an ofrenda (altar) with the display in our classroom. Today the students enjoyed a Mexican traditional treat of tasting Pan de Muertos (Bread of the Dead) and mole (spicy chocolate sauce).

Ms. Gonzalez' Spanish 2 students continued reading the Spanish novel, "Tumba", which is a story based around the cultural holiday of Day of the



Dead. The students practiced the vocabulary on Quizlet.com, took turns reading and translating, answered comprehension questions, and today wrote a summary of the main events of Capítulo 3 (Chapter 3).

In English 1 students have been reading the short story, "The Necklace," by Guy DeMaupassant. They have been identifying the various symbols and discussing their meanings, as well as discussing how symbolism impacts the text. Today students analyzed the text by identifying the imagery the author uses in the short story.

In Ms. Livelli's History 1 class students are learning how the United States Constitution was created and became law. They discussed the definition of a debate and how that debate led to The Great Compromise. Our class decided on a topic and with the help of a graphic organizer created our own in class debate. In Ms. Livelli's Language Arts class students are approaching the end of the novel, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". This week students discovered the boys are looking for hidden treasure. As a project-based learning exercise each student will become actively engaged in designing their own island and mapping the route to the buried treasure!

On Thursday, High School students enjoyed a Halloween party with games, contests, snacks, music, and costumes. The following students were the winners of the Halloween Costume Contest:

Best Costume: Jenny

Most Original Costume: Steven

Best Superhero Costume: Alyssa

Funniest Costume: Joseph

Most Colorful Costume: Lucas

Most Halloweeny Costume: Maksim

Most Magical Costume: Kyle



Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Science class has started to explore the world of forensics. Students just completed their first project. They researched different forensic careers such as Forensic Anthropologist or Crime Laboratory Analyst. Students took notes on the answers to questions such as the type of education needed, advantages and disadvantages of the career, as well as how the job is related to solving a crime. They will share the presentations in the next class.

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

In Miss Small's Social Studies class, students began learning about Mesopotamia. Readings and discussions helped students to connect past to present history. Students expressed their understanding of ancient irrigation systems through drawing.

Ms. Harrison's Language Arts class is preparing to begin reading "The Time Machine". Students discussed times and places they would like to travel to and whom they would like to meet.

On Thursday, the Middle School enjoyed their Halloween celebration. They watched a Halloween movie and enjoyed a pizza lunch.

Elementary School

What a fun week students had in the Elementary School. Students celebrated an awesome month with a reward trip to Branchburg Sports Complex where they played laser tag, Gaga and enjoyed fun in the arcade! Students also enjoyed celebrating Halloween with their classmates. In addition to our Halloween



parade, students celebrated with a pumpkin relay race, Mummy Wrap, Halloween BINGO, and yummy treats and snacks! It was great to see students practicing and using their

social skills this week. They were heard encouraging their teammates during our relay race and cheering on our winners in BINGO. They were seen displaying awesome teamwork during our Mummy Wrap!



Physical Education

In physical education this week, Elementary students got to partake some Halloween themed games. The Middle and High school both continued to work on their fitness workouts, and had fun with some team-based activities.

Music

High school students continue to work on music for our Holiday Concert. Some Elementary students worked with violins and even took them home to practice!!!

After many auditions, the cast for **The Lion King** has been announced. Everyone was very excited and can't wait to start rehearsals. It was a very exciting week in music.



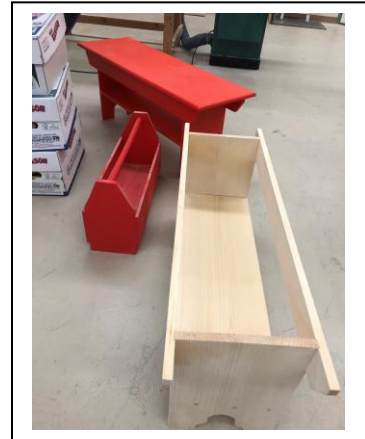
Art

This week in Art Elementary students completed Halloween themed projects: torn construction paper candy corn, ghosts, and pumpkins. Middle School students continued work on Fall themed projects- multi colored fall leaves, oil pastel bare trees. The High School students continued and/or completed individual projects or began work on scenery for Play or Fall themed projects.

Woodshop

There is one week remaining in this marking period. Middle School and High School students are finishing up their current projects. Some projects include: benches, wall shelves, corner shelves and wooden trees. Elementary students are continuing work on their corner shelves and are progressing nicely.

The projects should be completed by the end of November. Everyone is very enthusiastic about their projects, and it's been a good marking period.



Therapeutic Dept.

This week in group High School students focused on "Conflict Resolution". Conflict Resolution is a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them. The disagreement may be personal, financial, political, or emotional.' Students will watch "Brain Pop" video and be able to talk about conflict resolution and how they personally handle conflict. Students will be able to give examples & role-play with other group members in order to demonstrate appropriate and inappropriate ways of solving conflict.

As we complete the month of October and the school counseling theme of Respect, Mrs. Gorski and Ms. Orr's Middle and Elementary groups discussed Halloween in regard to respectful costumes vs. what could be viewed as disrespectful costumes, and why. Students discussed examples of real life or fictional characters that act respectful or disrespectful. Students also discussed how different people can have a different perspectives on this for different reasons and by their own unique life experiences.

On Wednesday Peer Mentors received training in the morning during which counselors reviewed the expectations of the mentors and discussed facing different obstacles and rewards one can experience as a mentor working with a younger mentee. We had a guest speaker from Mindful Life Therapy: Courtney Batista is an LPC, LCADC, Psychotherapist who specializes in working with adolescents and teens. She discussed self-care when caring for others and how to stay focused on the moment and went over some different strategies to practice self-care in everyday life. The mentees joined in for the second part of the day and met their mentors participating in various ice breaking, getting to know you activities. They also had pizza for lunch and watched a movie, "The Good Dinosaur" which had a theme of looking out and taking care of one another through difficult times. A good time was had by all.



Career and Financial Planning

Transition students in Ms. Slovik's Career and Financial planning class are going over the finer details of banking - credit cards vs. debit cards, different types of accounts, fees, and how to avoid overdraft charges.

Career Exploration:

Students in Ms. Slovik's Career Exploration class are continuing to work on their resumes, fine-tuning precise work experience, and using various appropriate defining words to attractive future employers.

Students in Mrs. Ferraro's Career Exploration class began learning the monetary cost of attending college, as well as the value of a college education. The students took notes on what factors (tuition, room and board, personal expenses, transportation, books and supplies) make up the cost of attending college per year.

In Life Skills students wrote and delivered thank you cards to their elementary party guests. The students also followed a recipe to make candy apples on Halloween!

Financial Literacy class students continued to calculate percentages, including sales tax, discounts, and tip. Students then applied this knowledge to compare and contrast which scenarios had the better deal.

Financial Planning students continued to learn about checking accounts and overdraft fees. The students gained insight on how banks can rearrange your debit purchases so that you are charged more for an overdraft fee. Students acquired knowledge on the strategies and methods they could apply to avoid overdraft fees.

School News

Pics from Halloween:



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IMPORTANT DATES:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 November 2019

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|
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| 4 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer’s Guild | 5 Spanish Culture MS/HS | 6 | 7 School Closed Teacher Convention | 8 School Closed Teacher Convention |
| 11 Intramurals ES/MS/HS | 12 Cooking Club | 13 | 14 Pride Club E Sports Club | 15 |
| 18 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer’s Guild | 19 Spanish ES/MS History Club | 20 | 21 <u>School Picture Retake Day</u> Newspaper Club Art Club Craft Club | 22 |
| 25 Intramurals ES/MS/HS | 26 <u>Thanksgiving Feast</u> Music Club | 27 Early Dismissal | 28 School Closed Happy Thanksgiving | 29 School Closed |

EVENTS

Picture Retake Day
You can have your child’s school photo retaken on Thursday, November 21st.

Thanksgiving Feast
We will be having a school-wide Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, Nov 26th. Contact Mrs. Slovik with any dietary concerns or restrictions.

Happy Thanksgiving

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal