

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

I need to tell you about an experience I had Friday which has many different messages for us at this time of year...

As I covered a woodshop class for younger students, I was lucky enough to witness a conversation between two students which I thought was so very interesting on so many levels. Two students of different religious backgrounds had a discussion about Christmas. While both were feverishly working on their projects, painting and sanding, the first student looked over and asked the second student why they were making a wooden Christmas Tree since that student was Jewish. The second student responded because they liked Christmas in addition to their own religious holiday. The second student then added they liked Santa Clause as well, and warned the first student that you need to believe in Santa Clause if you want presents.

Both students continued working on their respective projects not missing a beat as they conversed. What made the exchange so interesting was that both were very serious in their demeanor and honesty in learning about each other. They helped each other learn about how different religious beliefs are not necessarily so isolated from one another, that people can hold several beliefs at the same time, and all the while did this with respect and sincerity.

Not only was it a pleasure to observe this very cordial exchange of thoughts and ideas between two students from different backgrounds, but as an adult it was nice to hear both students' enthusiasm for the upcoming holiday season and the need to *believe*.

At times we can all learn much from our children.
(Don't Stop Believing!)



FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Center School Science students have been very busy these past two weeks "putting their molecules where their mouths are". To coincide with Thanksgiving feasts, both here @ TCS and @ home, students have been performing a series of molecular model building lab activities aptly named "Bob The Builder Part 1". Students began building simple biomolecules that maintain and sustain life: H₂O, O₂, CO₃ (carbonate), and H₂N (amine group, building block of amino acids which are in turn building blocks of proteins). After constructing these molecules, students carefully sketched them in their respective atomic element colors. This past week, Science students built/sketched the table sugar molecule (sucrose): C₁₁H₂₂O₁₂; the glucose molecule: C₆H₁₂O₆; the amino acid in turkey tryptophan C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₂; and three fatty acids, the main one in turkey being stearic acid: C₁₈H₃₆O₂.

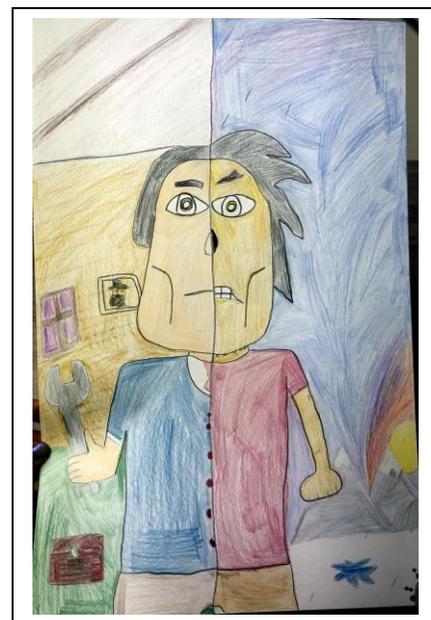
Our quiz next week will cover these molecular formulas and examples of Thanksgiving foods that contain these respective biomolecules.

Ms. Gibson's Language Arts class completed their last novel of 2019, "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelly. The students stretched their creative muscles by designing their own movie posters for the novel.

On Friday, High School students and staff traveled to the Bridgewater Commons Mall for their annual December mall trip. Students were able to visit their favorite stores, while at the same time socializing with their classmates. Many students also took care of some holiday season shopping, purchasing gifts for their family and friends at various stores. A splendid lunch was enjoyed by students in the mall food court as well. This truly is a great annual trip for our students to be able to get out of the normal school environment, spend

time with their peers, and take care of their holiday lists!

A special thanks to Ms. Hogan for taking the lead role organizing this trip and to all of the High School staff for chaperoning!



Middle School

Ms. Akushie and Mrs. Burak's History classes have started working on a new project. Students will create their own country. In preparation, students are researching various countries. After this research is completed, students will begin to create their own. They will need to create a detailed map, location, climate, government, flag, symbol, and monetary system. Students will also list and describe the various occupations and salaries in their country. Writing a summary of how their country was established will round out the assignment. They are encouraged to be creative and add any necessary details to the project. They are also encouraged to use the computer as well as using art materials to complete the project.

In Ms. Harrison's Social Studies class students are learning about "The Trail of Tears". The class mapped out the path that Native Americans were forced to walk, identified states that they passed through and the conditions they had to endure. In addition, they watched video clips of family members sharing stories of their ancestors. Students will continue their study of Native Americans by researching symbols and their meanings.

In Ms. Small's Science class, students completed a project called "Adapt a fish". Students applied their knowledge of adaptation and evolution through creating their own fish. The teacher gave them a description of the fish's environment and characteristics (i.e. lives on a coral reef, tries to eat whatever swims by, moving quickly about the reef, etc.), and students used these descriptions to design a fish that would survive and multiply in this environment. Projects were presented upon completion. Students enjoyed this creative, hands on learning activity!



Elementary School

The Elementary Explorers' Club enjoyed pizza and games at TCS last Friday afternoon. Students played gaga and kickball in the gym and then enjoyed some time with Legos. It was wonderful to see our students using and practicing their social skills with their peers while enjoying their pizza.

Our Elementary students continue to work on

marketing their good or service for our Market Day which will

be held in January. This week students used a rubric to create a poster advertising their business. Students will then use their posters in commercials that will advertise their good or service. We are proud of our young entrepreneurs as they continue to work through their business plans. Our students also reflected and wrote about ways in which they can light up the world with kindness at home, in school, and in the community.



Music

Elementary students had a lot of fun learning about Holiday songs this week. While learning about the different cultures where the songs came from, they sang along and kept the beat with percussion instruments.

High school students are busy playing their instruments which include piano, clarinet, and guitar. Some High School students are working on their PowerPoint presentations on various composers and musicians.

Middle school students are busy playing violins and piano.

The Holidays are quite a busy time in the music room. 🎵

Art

This week in Art, High School students continued work on projects of their choice or assisted with scenery for "Lion King" and Mrs. Eachus' Trojan Horse. Middle School students continued work on name tessellations as well as scenery for next Thursday's concert. The Elementary students continued work on pictures of ginger bread houses.



Woodshop

Students are making good progress on their projects. The Elementary students are finishing up a corner shelf project. Another group project will be selected for the Elementary classes soon. Middle and High School students are continuing to work on their individual projects. The variety of projects being made include: benches, snowmen, bookcases, wall shelves, and stools.



Many projects are nearing completion, and there is some custom painting being added - such as special logos and designs. Some Middle and High School students are ready to select new projects this week, and it's good to see the enthusiasm in the classroom.



OT

This week was our Interns' last week. We wish Tirzah and Danielle the best. Additionally, Mrs. Petrovski attended a professional development course on sensory processing and self-regulation.

Therapeutic Dept.

This week Ms. Hogan's and Ms. Sadiq's High School groups participated in an activity called "cyber dilemmas". This is a part of a series called teen talk where we broached the subject of social media and how some teens use it irresponsibly by making inappropriate comments, bullying other students by uploading videos for others to see, and texting individuals who may not be similar in age. These are just some of the issues we are discussing with the students to help them act more responsibly and become more aware of their actions when accessing various websites and/or social media platforms.

Mrs. Gorski's Middle School groups discussed responsibility and what that word means to each of them. Students then completed an activity where they wrote on the front of the note card things in life that they are responsible for (at home, in school, etc.). The activity was followed by a brief discussion. It was interesting to see the differences in the students' responsibilities and to see their reactions to other's different responsibilities.

High School Explorers

Our next High School Explorers outing will be December 15th from 9am to 3:30pm. The students will be snow tubing at Shawnee Mountain. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Gibson (cgibson@center.school)

School News

School Assembly

On Friday the entire school was invited to a superb assembly which was a mixture of magic, hypnosis, and mentalism. Magician Mark Zacharia entertained students and staff with magic and mind reading, all the while reinforcing our school theme “Don’t Stop Believing”.



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Holiday Bazaar:

The Center School 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar, December 16- December 20, 10:00 am – 2:00pm each day. Located in the school store, students and parents can purchase a gift for a friend, family member, neighbor, or any other recipient of their choice. There will be toys, games, school supplies, household items, and personal items available.

Reminder:

This coming Thursday, December 19th, The Center School will be holding its annual Winter Concert, beginning at 12pm. Please make every effort to join us and enjoy the students’ musical talents as the choir sings and the band plays their holiday selections.



IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon. Dec. 16 – Fri. Dec. 20	Holiday Bazaar 10 am – 2 pm
Thu. Dec. 19	Winter Concert 12:00- 1:30
Fri. Dec. 20	Early Dismissal- 1:05pm
Sat. Dec. 21- Wed. Jan. 1	Winter Recess <i>Happy Holidays!</i>
Thu. Jan. 2	Winter Recess Ends, back to school
Wed. Jan.15	Early Dismissal- 1:05 pm Staff Professional Development

Clubs and Events December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Spell-a-Thon Starts Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild	3 Spanish Culture MS/HS	4	5 Pride Club E Sports Club	6
9 Intramurals ES/MS/HS	10 Cooking Club's Gingerbread House Event *PTO Meeting 5pm*	11 Early Dismissal	12	13 Spell-a-Thon Concludes
16 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild	17 Spanish ES/MS History Club	18	19 Winter Concert 12 pm Newspaper Club Art Club Craft Club	20 Early Dismissal
23 School Closed	24 School Closed	25 School Closed	26 School Closed	27 School Closed

EVENTS

Spell-a-Thon

All Students are invited to join our annual school Spell-a-Thon, starting December 2nd through December 13th. All interested students will receive a packet with information.

Winter Concert

The Center School Winter Concert is on December 19th at 12pm. Come see our talented students perform.

PTO MEETING

We will be having our first PTO Meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, after our Gingerbread Decorating Event. Supervised activity after event provided for parents attending the meeting. Please RSVP to mlees@center.school

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal