

## Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

It's December and a very busy time of year. The next two weeks provide several opportunities for parents & guardians to enjoy activities here at The Center School. We have the Holiday Bazaar December 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> and the Winter Concert on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder: For possible school closings, delayed openings, or early dismissals due to weather events The Center School will make all announcements via the following media:

- 1) All call to provided phone numbers
- 2) Email notification via Constant Contact
- 3) School website posting
- 4) NJ 101.5 school closings webpage
- 5) News 12 New Jersey
- 6) Center School Twitter

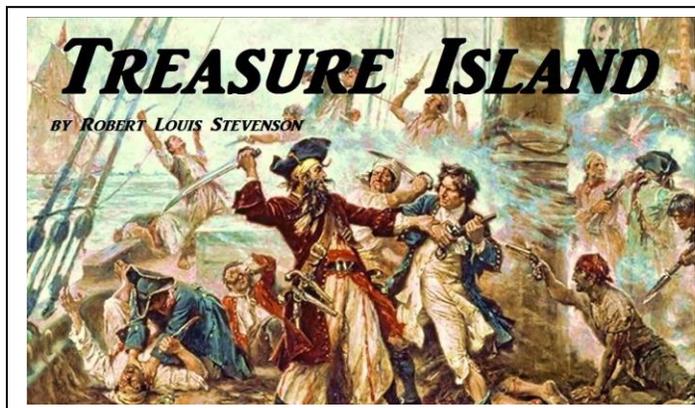
**Something new:** On Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, students and staff will be issued a Center School I.D. The school I.D. (pictured right) is offered so that students may take advantage of services or offers from various vendors who often require a student I.D. for these services. At this time it will not be necessary for students to carry them or wear them here at the school, unless they want to.



## FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

### High School

In Ms. Livelli's LAL class we continue to read our novel, "Treasure Island". In Chapter 5 titled, "The Treasure Map" students discover how the pirates locate a treasure using a map. As a class activity, the students will be creating their own treasure maps in color with directions on how to find the hidden treasure. In History 1, students are ending a unit on the U.S. Constitution. In class they created five of their own Classroom Bill of Rights along with a written explanation as to why they chose them.



This week in Mr. Miller's United States History 1 classes students learned about the concept of Manifest Destiny and how it applied to United States expansion in the mid-1800s. Students also discussed

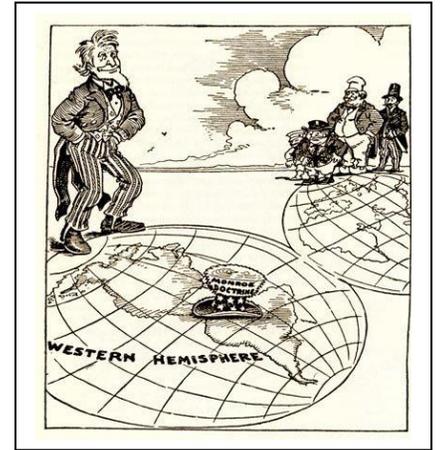
the Monroe Doctrine and how it affirmed America's dominance in the Western Hemisphere. On Monday, students will be creating their own political cartoons based on the Monroe Doctrine.

In Mr. Miller's United States History 2 class, students began to discuss the Progressive Era during the early 20th century and the impacts that the movement had on American society.

In World History, students concluded their unit of study on the Age of Exploration and will be wrapping up the unit with a test on Tuesday. Students will be completing a biography analysis of a specific explorer from the time period next week.

Ms. Gibson's Applied Science class is beginning their research projects on Vitamins and Minerals. Each student is choosing a Vitamin or Mineral to create a Google Slide Presentation. They will be responsible for finding the benefits of having these vitamins or minerals in their diet, the recommended daily allowance and which foods they can be found in.

The students in Dr R's Algebra 1 class have been studying a variety of topics. Some students are learning about functions and function notation. One student is learning about ratio and proportion. Another student is learning about different types of numbers and how you can recognize them by looking at their decimal representation.



### **Spanish Culture Club**

On Tuesday, December 3, Señora González and her MS/HS Spanish Culture Club students met after school to learn about the Central American country of Costa Rica. The students watched several cultural videos on Costa Rica and learned about the country, culture, food, and music. Afterwards, we had conversational Spanish practice as we viewed a presentation and discussed the interesting information and facts about Costa Rica. This meeting served as an introduction to the different Costa Rican cultural foods, which will lead us to our culinary journey to a Costa Rican restaurant next month: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 -- SAVE THE DATE! ¡Ven con nosotros! Come with us!

### **Middle School**

This week Mrs. Burak's Math class has finished a unit on solving equations. Students learned and practiced how to solve various types of equations. At the end of this unit they were able to identify which method was the easiest to use to solve these various equations. The students enjoyed a fun coloring activity related to finding the x and y solution to each equation. This will be the foundation to solving various types of other problems. Examples:  $-2x+y=-11$   $4x+4y=4$  Solution ( , )

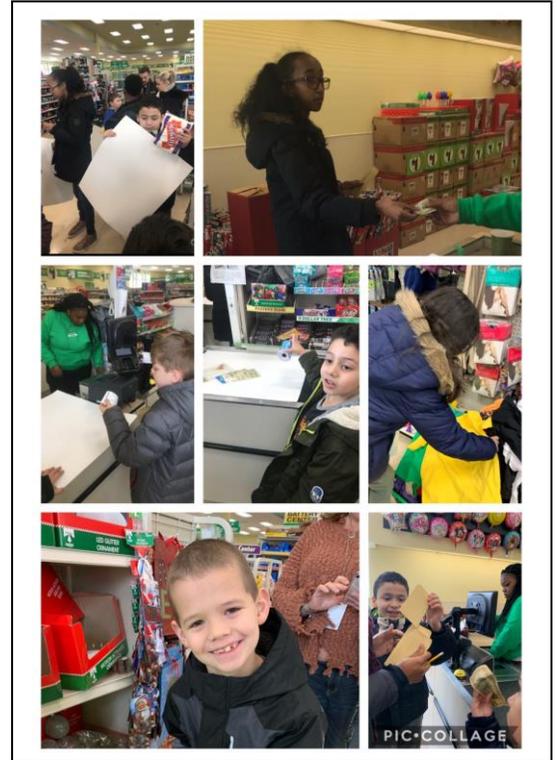
Ms. Small's Social Studies class is finishing up their Mesopotamia unit. As a final project, students choose from the following prompt options: type a poem about the Tigris and Euphrates and their importance to the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia; type a report comparing and contrasting the geography of ancient Mesopotamia with the geography of the area today; make a travel brochure for a trip back to a city in ancient Mesopotamia; write a radio, TV, or print ad selling one of the many Mesopotamian inventions; type and deliver a speech convincing the citizens of ancient Mesopotamia that Hammurabi's Code was or was not a fair way to govern ancient Babylon. Students began presenting these

projects this week and will finish presenting them in the coming week. Next, students will be studying Ancient Egypt and Kush.

In Ms. Akushie's Language Arts class students finished reading, "A Wrinkle in Time", by Madeleine L'Engle. We watched the movie and the students made comparisons between the movie and the book. Students also had a discussion about how they would feel about the concept of traveling through space using a tesseract.

### **Elementary School**

Students continued to work on their business plan for Market Day using their target audience to help them narrow down a good or service and then begin to think about pricing their items. They also discussed and watched some commercials to get a better idea about how goods and services are marketed to sell. Students began working on a name for their business and an advertising slogan. Our students were consumers this week on their supply trip to Shop Rite and Dollar Tree. They took their shopping list and purchased their supplies being sure they stayed within their budget. Students are very proud of our polite consumers who waited patiently in a long line at Dollar Tree and used their manners when paying for their items.



### **Art**

This week in Art, High School students continued work on projects of their choice or assisted with scenery for "Lion King". Middle School students started work on name tessellations, and the Elementary students started work on pictures of ginger bread houses.

### **Woodshop**

The students are making good progress on their projects in the Wood Shop. The Elementary students are finishing up a corner shelf project. They are currently staining and applying polyurethane. They are all looking forward to taking home the completed project. The Middle and High School students are all working on individual projects. There is a variety of activities going on - which include selecting wood, trimming wood to size, sanding and finishing.



## **Speech & Language**

A variety of students in the Speech & Language Program have been participating in Readers Theater. This week the students read through, "The Reluctant Dragon", a play based on the book by Kenneth Grahame. This classic story is about a dragon who is reluctant to fight or act like a "traditional dragon." This activity encourages increased expression and inflection while reading aloud. In addition, it addresses perspective taking, reading comprehension and reading fluency. The students actively participated and enjoyed the humor in the play.

## **Transition**

Transition students have started to enjoy their job sites and are more independent. Joelle is working at Thrift and Gift and enjoying all aspects of retail and customer service experience. Nick is working at Candy Land Craft where he weighs and packages chocolate and sprinkles for sale.



## **Gym**

High School students in health finished up the first unit "Wellness and your Health" this week and took an assessment of the unit. Driver Education class covered driving rules and regulations this week. Elementary students played a unit of Nukem, a game that focuses on hand eye coordination, using throwing and catching skills. Middle School continued playing team sports.

## **Bistro**

Transition students in Ms. Slovik's Career and Financial Planning class are working on putting together a budget for their new "fictional" career. This week they learned the differences between methods of payment and pay structure. They started looking at apartments to see if they could afford them with the salary that they make.

The paid Bistro workers are proving daily that they are true professionals- taking initiative in doing inventory, serving customers, prepping, cleaning up, and handling problems as they arise. This is good groundwork for the increase of variety in the new menus coming up.

Ms. Slovik's Career Exploration class are working on their resumes. Each person is actively looking for the most appropriate words to accurately portray who they are and what their true potential is. It is amazing to see how volunteering, interests, experiences, and awards stack up to some incredible resumes.

## **OT**

The OT Department recently provided an in-service training to the Center School staff on Sensory Processing in the School Setting. The therapists discussed the sensory systems and how dysfunction in those systems can impact a child's function in school. Additionally, staff were provided with strategies to use in the classroom to address sensory needs and provide appropriate sensory accommodations.

## **Career Exploration**

This week Mrs. Ferraro's students began learning about scholarships and grants. They learned about the resources they could utilize to search for applicable scholarships and grants, and the benefits of submitting their application in on time, as well as being awarded a scholarship or grant.

## **Life Skills**

Mrs. Ferraro's Life Skills students attended the play "Peter Pan" at Paper Mill Playhouse. The students were able to practice, through application, their social skills and community knowledge. A good time was had by all!

## **Financial Literacy**

The students began to learn about the tax filing process, deadlines, extensions, and various tax forms. Students also interpreted informational charts to create an equation that they would then use to find someone's taxable income.

## **Therapeutic Dept.**

Mrs. Gorski and Mr. Coronado's middle school groups were each given a journal of their very own called The Big Life Journal - Teen Edition. The groups had a brief introduction of the journal and reviewed some of the journal activities. The introduction to the journal was a discussion about how a positive mindset can help you to become successful and how it can affect your day. Students also completed a scale of Negativity vs. Positivity and rewiring your brain.

Mr. Coronado's Elementary school groups work on Empathy maps. An Empathy map is a written activity where students write down their feelings, actions, words, and thoughts to a hypothetical situation. For example, one prompt might say: "A classmate cuts in front of you in the lunch line." Given this situation, the students would walk through a range of possible feelings, thoughts, actions, and sayings that one could feel in this circumstance. In doing this, we build into our students the capacity to understand a situation from multiple perspectives.

This week High School groups participated in the activity "I have a secret." The idea for the activity was based off of a song written by the All American Rejects called "My Dirty Little Secret" that dealt with people hiding things from others because they were ashamed of the truth and did not want to admit how they really felt.

A container was passed around filled with secrets and students were asked to choose a secret they were keeping. Students were then asked to share their secrets with each other. This exercise encouraged students to explore things that triggered them and look at why they hide things from each rather than talk about them.

## **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](mailto:cgibson@center.school))

## **School News**

### **Support The Center School when you shop on Amazon**

Every time you shop with Amazon, .05% of your purchase will be donated to The Center School. Use this link to start your Amazon Center School donations: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1933177>

### **Cooking Club**

The Cooking Club is hosting its annual Gingerbread House Decorating Event on Tuesday, December 10th. We need to know quickly how many students will be attending so that we can get enough kits before they sell out.

Please turn in permission slip (or email Mrs. Lees at [mlees@center.school](mailto:mlees@center.school) to hold a spot in advance of permission slip) by Thursday, November 21st. Permission slips are available from Mrs. Lees or homeroom teacher.



### **PTO News**

Our first PTO Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 5pm. This coincides with our annual Gingerbread House Decorating Event, which ends at 4:30. If your child is attending the event and you are attending the meeting, we will be providing a supervised activity for your child until the end of the meeting. We understand how hard it is to make it to the meetings, so hopefully this arrangement will work for you.

Come find out what the PTO does and how you can get involved. We look forward to your ideas and enthusiasm, and have gotten the best fundraising ideas from PTO parents like you. Our PTO has fundraisers during the year, including our big Walk-a-Thon in the Spring. We help the School Play with concessions, offer scholarships to graduating students, and provide a graduation gift. We also provide a Wishing Tree, where teachers post their wishes and parents grant those wishes.

Please let Mrs. Lees know if you are planning to attend our PTO Meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, and also if your child will be at the Gingerbread House Decorating Event. [mlees@center.school](mailto:mlees@center.school)

### **Holiday Bazaar:**

The Center School 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Holiday Flower Sale**

Holiday flower sale to benefit the Drama Club. Flowers ordered will be delivered December 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. Any questions please contact Mrs. Marino at 908.253.3870 X160

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Tues. Dec. 10</b>	Gingerbread House Decorating PTO Meeting 5 pm
<b>Wed. Dec. 11</b>	Early Dismissal-1:05 pm Staff Professional Development
<b>Fri. Dec. 13</b>	High School Mall Trip- Bridgewater Commons Mall
<b>Mon. Dec. 16 – Fri. Dec. 20</b>	Holiday Bazaar 10 am – 2 pm
<b>Thu. Dec. 19</b>	Winter Concert 12:00- 1:30
<b>Fri. Dec. 20</b>	Early Dismissal- 1:05pm
<b>Sat. Dec. 21- Wed. Jan. 1</b>	Winter Recess <i>Happy Holidays!</i>
<b>Thu. Jan. 2</b>	Winter Recess Ends, back to school

# Clubs and Events December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <b>Spell-a-Thon Starts</b> 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 <b>*PTO Meeting 5pm*</b>	11 Early Dismissal	12	13 <b>Spell-a-Thon Concludes</b>
16 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild	17 Spanish ES/MS History Club	18	19 <b>Winter Concert 12 pm</b> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>. All interested students will receive a packet with information.

### **Winter Concert**

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

### **PTO MEETING**

We will be having our first PTO Meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, after our Gingerbread Decorating Event. Supervised activity after event provided for parents attending the meeting. Please RSVP to [mlees@center.school](mailto:mlees@center.school)

Sincerely,



**Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi**  
Principal