

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

We have finished our first full week of school for the new year 2020. Students and staff are hard at work and busy each day.

With the new year comes a reminder to update any changes you may have in your contact information to ensure open lines of communication. Thank you.

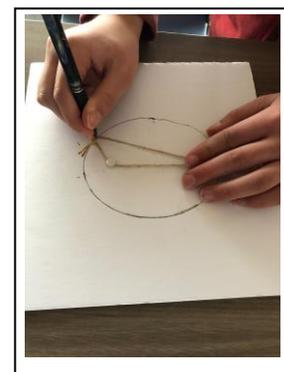
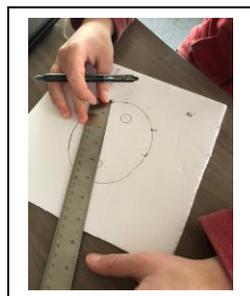


FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

In Ms. Livelli's History 1 class, students studied the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark Expedition. They listened to and read actual journal entries of the famous expedition on the Lewis and Clark website. Students picked an entry and did some role playing as Sacajawea or Lewis and described their experiences. In World History class, students began learning about Ancient Greece. Cross-curricula activities are planned as they begin a new unit in Mythology in LAL classes.

Students in Mr. Miller's Period 2 World History Class began their chapter of study on the Scientific Revolution in Europe this week. As a part of their activities, students discussed Johannes Kepler's First Law of Planetary motion which states that the planets orbit the sun in a path called an ellipse. To demonstrate this law students drew elliptical orbits using two thumb tacks, string, and a writing utensil. Students then discovered that the sum of the distances of the two thumb tacks to any single point on the ellipse remained a constant by measuring the distances from the two tacks to various points on their ellipse.



Mr. Cardona's Algebra Fundamentals class conducted a scavenger hunt based on evaluating expressions. Students needed to use the substitution property in order to replace the variables or unknown values. By doing this exercise, each student was able to solve the expression in order to find the next piece of the puzzle. All pieces were discovered and ultimately deciphered.

Mr. Leichtling's LAL classes began their plunge into the depths of Hades by exploring Greek Mythology. Students began with determining the geography and broad history of the region. They next moved to learning about the Greek gods, their origins, and relationships to one another. These activities assisted students in gaining initial connections to important stories from ancient mythology.

Happy 2020.... an Olympic Year. This is mentioned now because later in the Spring our Center School Science students will be performing labs with the following themes: "The Physics of the Javelin, Discus and Pole Vault", "Qualitative Testing of Sports Drinks", and "ATP: The Biology of Jumping High & Running Fast".

Currently TCS HS Science guys and gals are finishing up Lab #9 "Bob the Builder 2", the follow up to Lab #8 "Bob the Builder 1". In BTB 1 students constructed molecular biomolecules necessary for life (protein/fat carbohydrates/water). BTB 2 has focused upon beneficial compounds (Aspirin/Ibuprofen/Penicillin) vs. potentially harmful compounds (Nicotine/Caffeine/Alcohol). Our HS Science students have been receptive to avoiding Red Bull/Monster "energy" drinks: 1 cup of coffee = 150mg caffeine while these energy drinks contain 600-800mg caffeine.

Ms. Gibson's Applied Science classes are learning about pathogens. Our first experiment in this exciting unit will give is a concrete example on the importance of hand washing! The control bread, the one placed on the top was moved directly to the sealed bag from the loaf of bread. Each student was asked to touch specific classroom objects and then handle their slice bread. Students discussed which items they thought would easily transfer germs. In a few weeks students will be able to prove their theories. Stay tuned to find out who had the most mold growth!



Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Language Arts class has been reviewing different types of figurative language. The class worked on concepts such as metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. They enjoyed reading sentences with onomatopoeias and putting emphasis on the onomatopoeic words. They created sentences utilizing the examples of figurative language they learned. Students then created their own figurative language posters.

Ms. Small's Math class practiced division this week. Students reviewed what division is, how to write division problems in two different ways, how to divide basic numbers, and how to divide numbers involving remainders. Students practiced using a multiplication chart to aid them in solving the problems. Problems were solved both as a class on the white board and independently on paper. On Friday, students practiced and displayed math skills on IXL.

In Ms. Akushie's Math class the students are learning about Scientific Notation. They were recently assigned a project that will require them to create a Google doc or poster that displays 10 places that they have either visited or are interested in traveling to. The students are required to write the distances in scientific notation. Next week the students will share their projects with their classmates.



Elementary School

The Elementary School began their study of Fables this week. Students worked to identify key characteristics of Fables as well as recognize the moral or lesson in a Fable. Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class imagined they were the country mouse and wrote postcards about their adventures in the city. Students in Ms. Bailey's class are researching Aesop and creating a Google slide show to present their research. In Social Studies, Market Day preparations continued. This week our students "filmed" their commercials and worked on producing their goods that will be sold at Market Day.



Music

Students are feverishly working on their parts for "The Lion King". Here you see part of the scenery, costumes, and happy faces of the actors. Elementary School started a Families of Music Project. Students are creating music books and will identify all 4 families and the instruments that belong to each group. Middle School has started a Music Around the World Project. Our first Country is Italy and students will work together creating a poster.



Phys Ed.



The Center School High School basketball team won 43-38 in their game against 360 Academy today.

Transition Program

Transition students filled out applications and interviewed for new internship opportunities at Willow Creek Assisted Living in Somerset, NJ. Students were offered positions in the Activities department, assisting with the entertainment for the residents. Congratulations to our hard workers!!!



Art

This week in Art the Elementary School students began work on tissue paper trees. High School and Middle School students assisted on scenery for "The Lion

King” as well as individual projects. Ms. Eachus and Ms. Gibson sent in students to complete the Trojan Horse.

Career Exploration

This week, Mrs. Ferraro's Career Exploration students attended a presentation hosted by The Arc on workplace soft skills. These skills included self-confidence, setting SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) short term and long-term goals, and how to prepare for success in order to achieve their goals.

Life Skills

Mrs. Ferraro's Life Skills 1 students began learning about laundry. Students first participated in a sequencing activity in which they had to correctly order the steps of the washing, drying, folding, and putting away stages of doing laundry. They also defined various vocabulary words in order to become more familiar with some common terms. Life Skills 2 students began learning about Cyber Safety including how to recognize and not participate in spam, hacking, not providing personal information, the importance of creating secure passwords, and how to handle potential safety situations.

Financial Literacy

Mrs. Ferraro's Financial Literacy students continued to learn about how to file their taxes including the different ways to file their taxes, tax refund options, and what happens if they don't pay their taxes in the event that they owe money to the IRS before culminating this unit in a section quiz and a unit test.

Financial Planning

Mrs. Ferraro's Financial Planning class continued to learn about online and mobile banking, focusing on online bill pay, what it is, why they should use it, and how to sign up for it. Students also read an article on online and mobile security tips to assist them in identifying ways they can protect their checking account when using online/mobile banking.

Therapeutic Dept.

Mr. Coronado's Elementary School groups incorporated musical chair with a twist. Under each chair there was an emotion card. Students would answer questions regarding these emotions and then would continue with several rounds of this. Some of the questions would include: what does the (emotion) mean? When have you ever felt this emotion? What do we feel like when we have this emotion? The goal of this group activity was to continue to instill emotional competence into our students and expand their emotional vocabulary.

Mrs. Gorski and Mr. Coronado's Middle School Groups continued to work on "You can Live the Life of Your Dreams by...Rewiring your Brain". Students developed an app to teach others about the immense power of their brain to learn, grow, and adapt. Students also created a screen sketch for their app to show how it would look. Students were given a homework assignment for next group. The assignment is to present a special talent, interest, hobby, special item, or to tell something about someone that is important to them. They are encouraged to bring in something that represents their choice (photo, object, memories, drawings, etc.).

School News

High School Explorer's

High School Explorer's next trip will be to see "Rise of Skywalker" at The Reading Cinema in Manville. It will take place on Sunday, January 12th, 9:30am-2:30pm. For more information, please contact Ms. Gibson (cgibson@center.school)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wed. Jan.15	Early Dismissal- 1:05 pm Staff Professional Development
Mon. Jan 20	Martin Luther King Day- School Closed
Wed. Jan 22	Elementary School Market Day- 1:30 pm
Fri. Feb 14-Tues Feb 18	President's Weekend- closed

Clubs and Events January 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 School Closed Happy New Year	2	3
6 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild	7 Spanish Culture MS/HS	8	9 Pride Club	10
13 Intramurals MS/HS	14 Cooking Club	15 Early Dismissal	16 E Sports Club	17
20 School Closed	21 Spanish ES/MS History Club	22	23 Newspaper Club	24
27 Intramurals MS/HS D&D / Adventurer's Guild	28 Music Club	29	30 Art Club Craft Club	31

EVENTS

Happy New Year

We will see you back all rested and rejuvenated on Thursday, January 2nd.

Spanish Culture Club

The Spanish Culture Club will be taking a trip to a Costa Rican restaurant after learning about the country. Contact Ms. Gonzalez.

Early Dismissal

We will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, January 15th. Students will be dismissed at 1:05

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal