

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

What a tremendous day to see Democracy in action! Today, we were able to see the culmination of our High School students' diligent campaigning for Student Council Executive Board positions come to fruition. Our candidates delivered stirring closing remarks to their voting peers during 7th period, and an election was held in the High School via Google Form to select 3 winners during 8th period.



A round of applause needs to go out to Mrs. Mutchler and Mr. Miller in their roles as Student Council Advisors. Their commitment to bring this program to life has been a great example to set for our students. We are so excited for the wonderful contributions these student leaders will bring to The Center School.

With that being said, I would like to officially announce The Inaugural Center School Student Council Executive Board for the remainder of the 2021 school year: **Daniel H., Cole J., and Jane M.** Congratulations! It was an *incredibly* tight race, with the 4th place vote-getter being only 3 votes shy of the 3rd position.

I would like to **congratulate all of our candidates** on their excellently delivered speeches, their great ideas, and their evident pride for our school community. We are so lucky to have such enthusiastic students. Now the real work begins!

-Mr. Erhardt

[The Mr. E's Minute for January 22nd, 2021](#)

Health Department Notes:

Please visit New Jersey's Covid-19 vaccine website – <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine> to get updated information on the Covid-19 vaccine, current eligibility and how-to pre-register.

Stay safe!

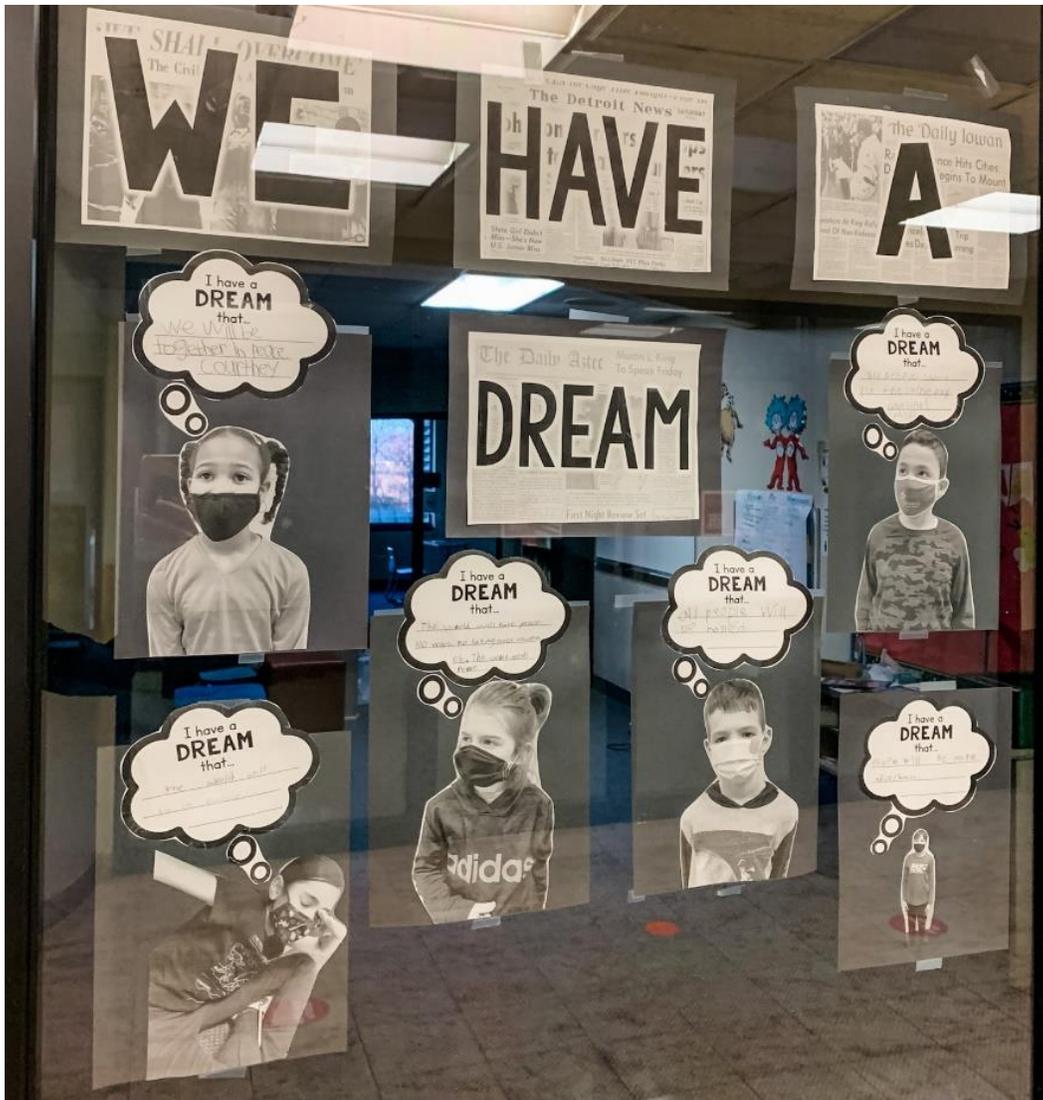
FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

Elementary School

This week, our students spent time studying and reflecting on Martin Luther King Jr. Some students listened to parts of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech while others read "National Geographic Readers: Martin Luther King Jr." by Kitson Jazyuka. Students discussed the impact Martin Luther King Jr. has had on our world. Students then worked to identify some problems our world is facing today such as bullying, inequality between pay for men and women, dishonesty, and unkindness. Students then shared dreams they have for our world.

Our amazing Elementary students dream that one day all people will come together to live and work peacefully, that people will be more honest and nicer, and that men and women will receive equal pay.

We also talked about Inauguration Day and learned about the history of this day in our country. Inauguration Day festivities date as far back as 1789. They also learned about the symbols that are part of Election Day like the American flag and the Presidential Seal. Some of the vocabulary words we explored this week are *oath*, *preserve*, and *seal*. They made personal connections between the oath the president makes and our Elementary School pledge to be responsible, respectful, and safe each day.



Middle School

The students in the Middle School worked diligently in IXL this week. They spent parts of both Language Arts and Math classes to work on this assessment. The Middle School staff is proud of the dedication and intensity the students showed during this time. Each student was able to independently log on and self-pace through the allotted time.

We also watched "Our Friend, Martin" to honor the late Martin Luther King. In preparation, the classes utilized various means to reinforce and learn new facts about Mr. King.

Some classes predicted what the world would be like if Mr. King hadn't helped shape society. The students enjoyed the short movie as a culminating activity.



High School

In Career Exploration, students started to research Post-Secondary options such as “On the Job Training”, Apprenticeships, Certificates, Licenses, and Colleges. In the next few weeks, we will be looking at each of these pathways for a High School graduate.

In Home Economics, the students learned about cleaning and organizing closets and rooms to utilize space more productively. Also, in Wednesday Workshop, students learned how to make a “One Pan Pasta” dish that was easy and nutritious.

Ms. Gibson's Environmental Science classes continued their work on Biomes. Their focus was the Tundra. Students discovered that there are two categories of tundra, the arctic, and the alpine. They used a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the two. Students also focused our studies on the different adaptations that organisms need to survive in the harsh climate.

The Applied Science Classes began their work on rocks and minerals. Students focused their studies on erosion, weathering, and deposition. The students described these concepts and went on a viral scavenger hunt to provide examples of each.

Ms. Harrison’s Math and LAL classes participated in mid-year IXL Diagnostics to track their academic progress. All students were focused and applied their knowledge in order to do their best. The students impressively completed this challenging task with positivity and showed support for their peers.

On Friday, each class participated in an interactive class game/activity to continue to review and sharpen their skills. Once again, students displayed good sportsmanship and social skills, supporting each other, as well as working together in order to solve each question. Well done, everyone!

In Ms. Gonzalez’s English 1 classes, students finished reading “The Odyssey” by Homer. Students are now working on a Greek Mythology/The Odyssey final project, which has two parts. Part One is a Google Slides presentation where the students created their own original Greek god or goddess using a rubric to guide them. Part Two is a Google Docs story where the students will rewrite one of the many tales from Odysseus’s journey in “The Odyssey”. They will include their original Greek god or goddess that they created and describe/narrate how that god or goddess’s presence would impact the plot of the tale they chose. Everyone will be delivering their presentations to their classmates at the end of next week.

In Spanish 1, students are writing sentences using previously learned vocabulary (articles and nouns), the verb “es” (is), and newly learned adjectives. In Spanish 2, students are learning to write sentences that agree in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural) with the person or thing they describe. In both classes, students watched videos, played interactive online games, practiced with digital flashcards on Quizlet.com, and completed Google Docs and Google Slides assignments to practice listening to, speaking, reading, and writing the vocabulary words for their respective units.



Mr. Cardona's crew were able to demonstrate their level of mastery in a multitude of topics while completing the IXL Diagnostic test. By completing the test, students are able to observe and analyze their respective skill progressions while also receiving recommendations on specific topics for continued growth. Each student worked diligently on the test and remained focused. Good job everyone!



Dr. R's Mathlab class moved from making change to checking change received from someone else. Mathlab is also continuing to work on making up typical examples that would be solved by using multiplication.

Dr. R's Algebra classes finished their IXL diagnostics. Algebra 1 students are solving, writing and drawing inequalities on the number line. Her Algebra 2 class is completing a unit on quadratic functions and will soon start to study imaginary numbers.

Mr. L's LAL classes spent the week delving into narration. After reviewing the definitions and concepts since our last visit, students familiarized themselves with the Nez Perce Chief Joseph (In-mut Too-yah-lat-lat). Students read through Chief Joseph's passionate speech, outlining his people's history, ethics, and the growing grievances with the expansion of American settlers in the lands they had always known and where their ancestors were buried. As they read, students connected his speech with narration, linking his step-by-step storytelling to the concept.

In Mr. L's US History I, students continued their plunge into Manifest Destiny and the expansion of the United States into the Southwest. After having previously read and discussed the Mexican-American War and the acquisition of land of what would become many states, the class viewed a documentary of the war. Watching this afforded the class a broader, more connected vision of the experience of that conflict and that conquest.

Transition

Transition students have sharpened and practiced their interview skills by answering an array of questions from a potential employer. Students worked on identifying areas of interest, and potential places of employment. We discussed appropriate work etiquette, punctuality, and maintaining a respectful demeanor with a potential customer.

Transition students also explored the "do's and don'ts" of worksite behavior. Students discussed how to properly manage time and the importance of maintaining realistic goals that are achievable. Key terminology on worksite expectations and the various roles they may have for their first job were covered. We will continue to explore various fields of employment as we move along in the year.

Money Management and Consumer Math students are working on identifying the components of a hard-earned paycheck! A discussion about taxes was had, and we calculated all of the various taxes that are taken out of each paycheck. Students will continue to build their knowledge on maintaining a budget, understanding the breakdown of pay periods/pay checks, and how to properly manage their finances.

Speech

This week, students were excited to see the President and Vice President inaugurated into office. In fact, some of the students were able to view this event live on CNN. Some of the High School students had discussions about the new elected officials.

We also talked about the significance and impact that Kamala Harris, the first Black Asian Female Vice President will have on this country. One student listened to Amanda Gorman, the Youth Poet Laurette's poem "The Hills We Climb" and learned some of the figurative language terms used in the poem. The "light": the hopes, dreams, and opportunities we all share when we come together in unity.

"For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it."



OT

Students in OT continued with their winter themed sensory diet by completing a Snowflake activity. Students were provided with both verbal and written directions to follow to fold and cut out a snowflake template in order to make beautiful snowflakes. It was a lot of work, but they did a great job!

Music

Middle School students watched a *BrainPop* video about the life of Martin Luther King. They then answered questions related to the video. Students then ended listening to "We Shall Overcome" and the students were given the sheet music for the song to play in our keyboard section of the music room.

High School students continued work on piano, and in Theater Arts, one student is creating her own story. Elementary Students reviewed one element of music (rhythm) we accomplished this by tapping quarter notes and eighth notes to the music of Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" (A Little Night Music).

Phys. Ed./Health

Driver's Ed semester is coming to an end and our future drivers are getting ready to take the knowledge exam next week! They wrapped up Chapters 7, 8 and 9.

In Health, students discussed social media, and identified the role of social media in our lives. They watched the PBS video segment "Screenagers" and discussed the positive and negative effects social media has on our mental health, relationships, and recognizing "red flag feelings" when using social media. They also explored the pros and cons of specific social media formats followed by an in-class discussion.



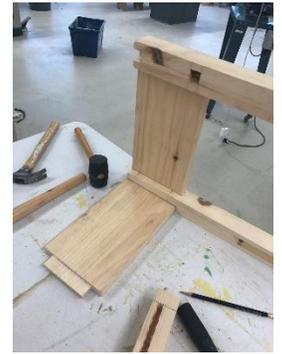
Industrial Arts

In Mr. Dulak's Industrial Arts class, Elementary students finished attaching the bases to their boxes with hammer & nails! Next week, they will begin attaching hinged lids to their projects.

In the Middle School class, students have continued creating wooden aircraft! Students are learning how to follow blueprints, measure accurately and are shaping custom components.

custom components.

High School Students learned about Tongue & Groove Joinery this week. In this technique, the ends of a piece of wood are shaped into a tab, which fits into a custom carved slot in another piece of wood. This creates a strong bond between the two pieces, and reinforces the stability of the project.



Art

In honor of Martin Luther King, High School and Middle School students worked on various Martin Luther King assignments.



Therapeutic Dept.

The Middle School discussed the impact of Martin Luther King Jr., and the ideals of equality and fairness. They discussed various situations where they saw people being treated unfairly. They also discussed situations in school where they could seek fairness and equality. It was great discussion for all involved.

Students in the High School who were remote, discussed how they were coping with the pandemic. Some admitted to feeling depressed and missing the activities they would often participate in, prior to Covid. Many have become shut-ins and have refused to leave their homes until Covid is eradicated or at least the vaccine has been fully distributed.

As we listened, we reminded the students that it was important that they take care of their mental health. Some suggestions given were to take a walk so they could get some fresh air, create their own movie night, have a staycation, talk to someone they trust on a regular basis, and to remember to have fun. We

explained to the students not to let the pandemic make them feel like prisoners at home and to find things that they can still enjoy. The key takeaway was nothing lasts forever and for them to have hope.

School News

SOUPER BOWL

Canned soup drive

Jan 19- Feb 5

TCS Staff and Students

Please donate cans of soup for families in need. The Greater Somerset County YMCA will distribute our donations to families on Feb. 9

A prize will be awarded to the student in each school who brings in the most cans of soup!



Fallout RPG Club

The Fallout Club continued their quest in the Pennsylvania Wasteland. Waking from the tavern on an early December morning, our party continued their mission.

First thing, they spoke with the tavern keeper. Being new in town, they'd hoped to learn how to visit Erie's mayor, Charles. They got their information and moved on the mayor at his General Store. they learned from Charles that his daughter, Bethany, has been missing for the past week. After getting a few insights from Charles, the party set off on this side mission, hoping to help out.

In their travels, they found the town's Brahmin flock grazing on the hard, frozen grass. But, one of the party felt compelled to pet the first Brahmin he saw. The herd's guards immediately intervened and fighting nearly broke out. If it wasn't for another of their group, Oliver, explaining the necessity of "personal space," this meeting could have come to blows!

Important Dates:

Fri. Jan 29	End of 2 nd Marking Period
Wed. Feb 10	Parent Therapeutic Meeting 7pm "College/Transition"
Fri. Feb 12 – Mon. Feb 15	School Closed – Presidents' Day Weekend
Tue. Feb 16	School Resumes

Sincerely,

Daniel Erhardt

Daniel Erhardt
Principal