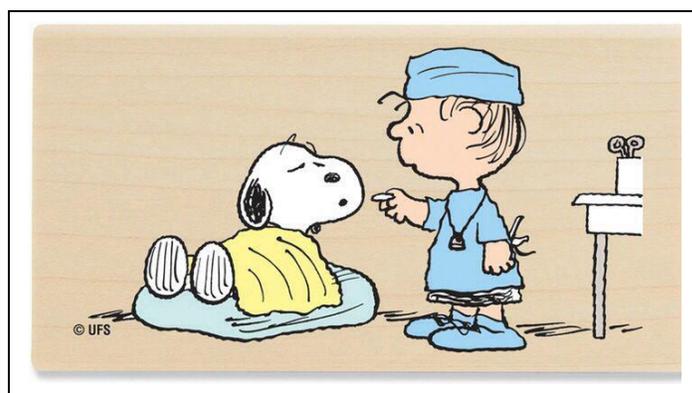


Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

During this “flu” and common cold season, as well as the recent daily news regarding Coronavirus, we would like to share some information, including preventative measures, regarding staying healthy.

Reinforce, with your children, the following steps they can take to prevent the spread of flu, the common cold, and also help prevent coronavirus:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water. Hand sanitizer should be used if soap and water is not available.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others.
5. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

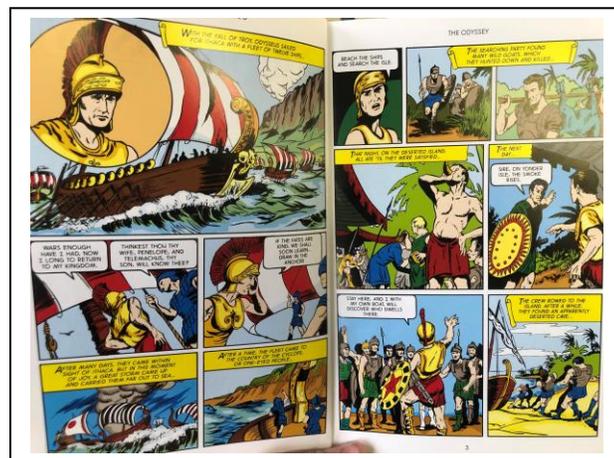


FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Ms. Gibson's ELA 12 Class enjoyed reading a classic of Greek Mythology, Homer's “Odyssey”. The students enjoyed this classic story adapted in a unique way, Comic Book Style. This allowed the students to easily understand and grasp this thrilling tale. The colorful illustrations brought the characters to life and kept the students in suspense!

In Ms. Gonzalez's Spanish 1 classes, students have been studying a lesson on La Familia (Family). They learned the Spanish vocabulary for family members, how to identify family members and their relationship to one another, and how to change nouns, verb “is,” and adjectives from the singular to the plural. Students participated in activities where they practiced speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. In one activity, students interviewed each other in Spanish, about their families, and recorded each other's responses in Spanish. They extended their learning by completing a family tree poster project where they demonstrated the learning targets to define and identify family vocabulary, explain how people are related to each other, use family vocabulary in context, and use adjectives.



In Ms. Gonzalez's Spanish 2 class, students completed reading the Spanish novel, "Tumba", which is a story based around the cultural holiday of Day of the Dead. The students started working on the final assessment, which is a Presentational Writing Assessment and Presentational Speaking Assessment. In the writing assessment, the students are comparing and contrasting the novel, "Tumba", using a variety of vocabulary words, strings of simple sentences, and transitional words and phrases learned in class. In the speaking assessment, they are preparing questions and responses, in Spanish, related to the novel and will be taking turns asking each other the questions and responding to them in Spanish.

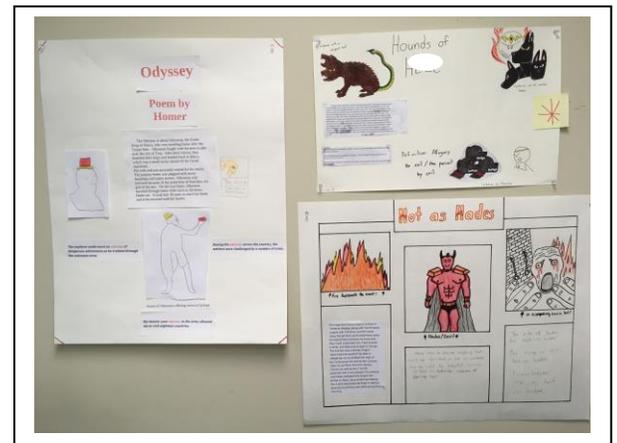
In Ms. Gonzalez's English 1 classes students have been reading Homer's, "The Odyssey". They are participating in a guided reading of the book where we pause at designated times to analyze the text, discuss, reinforce vocabulary, identify the Greek Gods/Goddesses and Mythological Figures/Creatures, and check for understanding for each chapter read. Then students completed reading comprehension questions for each chapter read.

At the conclusion of the chapter of study on the Texas Revolution, Mr. Miller's US History 1 classes began viewing the film "The Alamo". This film highlights the bravery of the men who gave their lives at the famed Battle of the Alamo, including heroes like Davy Crockett and James Bowie. Students have previously learned the importance of this battle in the overall Texan fight for independence in 1836.

Mr. Leichtling's classes continued their exploration of Modern Expressions from mythical Greek origins. On Monday they had finished their individual poster projects detailing a specific term or phrase. This week they expanded their understanding by exploring the work of their peers.

We interrupt our regularly scheduled TCS Science curriculum for several teachable moments well beyond our classroom. Last week our Science classes discussed, analyzed, and compared the current coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak in China with similar past viral outbreaks in the region. We incorporated geography by identifying China on our large classroom map and its relative proximity to Thailand, the Philippines and Hong Kong. World History was woven into our discussions of how China's government initially suppressed news of the outbreak, thus delaying scientific measures to contain this novel virus. Economics of the virus were presented in terms of what types of worldwide industries might suffer if nCoV were not contained.

Finally, students were briefed on the differentiated roles of WHO (World Health Organization), NIH (National Institutes of Health) and the CDC (Center for Disease Control) as well as a timeline of recent viral episodes since 2003. Differences between bacteria and virus were highlighted and key terms such as "host", "contagion", "pandemic", and "protein coat" were presented.



Middle School

The Middle School students are working towards a reward trip. They will be going to Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium. The date of the trip is February 19, 2020. Please remember that permission slips are due this Monday, February 10th. It will be an exciting presentation!

In honor of National Bubble Gum Day, Middle School students watched an episode of “How it is Made” on chewing gum. Students also learned about the history of gum and participated in group discussions. For one activity students were asked to invent their own gum. They used their imaginations to determine the flavor combinations, ingredients, original name, cost, and the design of the wrapper. They were also asked to either write an ad or commercial to sell their gum.

In History students are starting an African American history project that will require them to choose an influential individual that has made an impact on our society. Students will have the option to design a google slide, create a poster, song, or comic strip. They will be presenting their final projects to their peers. They also watched the inspiring story of Ruby Bridges who made a powerful impact during the civil rights era. They learned about how Ruby integrated her school and fought for a better education.



Elementary School

Students participated in a cooking class at Young Chef's Academy in Marlboro this week. They sliced red peppers and black olives, chopped onions in a food chopper, cut fresh basil and oregano with scissors, and measured cheese for the delicious pizza pasta bake. Students learned kitchen etiquette as well as how to measure dry ingredients like brown sugar and flour. The brown sugar and flour were used to make the chocolate chewy brownie cookies that we ate for dessert. Everyone had a wonderful time working and eating in the kitchen!



Phys. Ed.

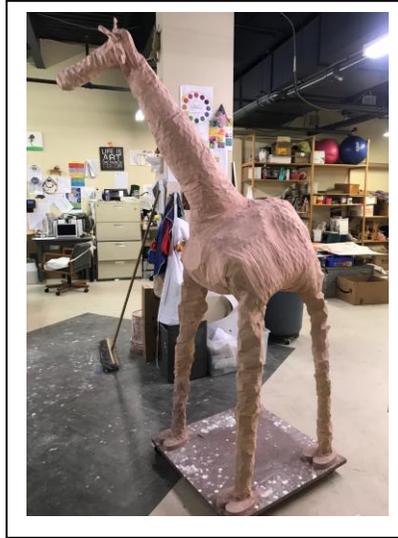
The Center School High School basketball team won their 3rd game in a row, 33-18, vs Windsor Academy. Next game is February 13th at Windsor Academy.

Middle School basketball has a game at Newmark on February 12th at 10am.



Art

This week in Art the Elementary School students continued work on Valentine's Day Cards. The High School and Middle School students started work on Valentine's Day cards and assisted on scenery for "Lion King" as well as individual projects. All students in Art contributed to a Valentine's Day card reading "I love The Center School because..."



Music

In honor of Black History Month, Elementary and Middle School students are learning about the Underground Railroad and the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd". Students watched a short video about Louis Armstrong and listened to Jazz music. They also listened to the Blues and read about some famous musicians and singers of the Blues which include Bessie Smith and Ledbelly. High School students are working on keyboards and students in the band are working on new songs for the Spring Concert. In play practice students are being fitted for costumes and the art department is well on their way to completing more scenery to add to our stage.



Therapeutic Dept.

In line with this month's counseling themes of caring and kindness, Mrs. Gorski and Mr. Coronado's Middle School groups worked on using affirmations. They practiced creating positive affirmations for themselves by completing 5 sentences I can..., I love..., I believe..., I am good at..., I am.... Students then created a positivity mantra and drew or designed a comic, meme, t-shirt design, tattoo, etc. The goal of this activity was to shut down negative self-talk by using positive affirmations.

This week the High School students played the popular card game, "What Do You Meme". A funny meme was randomly selected and students were then given five cards where they had to choose the best response to the meme. One student was designated as the judge and he/she picked the student with the best caption for the meme. The game promoted team work, improved social skills, and encouraged the students to have fun socializing with their peers.

School News

Student Activities

On Thursday, students enjoyed decorating their own sugar cookies. We learned how to make a basic icing. Then we embraced our creative side with our culinary skills. After we decorated our cookies, we enjoyed pizza with friends. Everyone had a fantastic time! Our next Student Activity will be "Pizza and Painting" on March 26 from 2:35pm - 4:30pm. Permission Slips will be sent out the first week in March. For more information, please contact Ms. Gibson at (cgibson@center.school).



Spanish Culture Club

Middle School and High School Spanish Culture Club met on Tuesday, February 4, to explore the beautiful South American country of Colombia. Students watched videos on the culture, food, music, and animals of Colombia. This meeting provided the students with background information in preparation for a trip to a Colombian restaurant on March 3 -- save the date! Permission forms will be sent home with the students soon.

Bistro Message

For any parents or guardians who have a change of familial status or who have not applied for free or reduced lunch in the past and who desire to do so, this is how.

Go to The Center School website and find the application and income eligibility guidelines there. Print it out and send it to the school, OR contact Lisa Swan at 908-253-3870, Xt 100 and one will be given to your student to bring home to you.

Career Day

It's time for Career Day again at The Center School. If you or someone you know has an interesting job and is willing to share with our 8th graders and HS students during the afternoon of April 17th, please contact Ruth Slovik at 908-253-3870, Xt 109. Last year we had 17 professional people share about their jobs. By sharing your passion, experience and training, our students get a first-hand view of "what's out there."

Bubblegum Day

The first Friday of February is National Bubble Gum Day. Did you know that Double Bubble was the first bubble gum? It was invented in 1928 by Walter Diemer at the Fler Chewing Gum Factory, and it is pink because that was the only color available to him there.

Chewing gum has several benefits. It increases the blood flow to your brain and can improve memory. Chewing gum also can reduce anxiety, depression, and fatigue. When you chew after eating, it helps remove food particles, and the extra saliva production helps to strengthen tooth enamel.

To celebrate, students entered a contest guessing the amount of bubblegum in a jar. Our winner will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Retrocade

The Center School will be hosting a game night for students, as well as community members, to enjoy on February 19th from 3-6 PM.

Many of the 3rd floor classrooms will be converted to game stations where students will be able to enjoy game consoles from 30 years ago up through today, by purchasing a ticket. All proceeds will support The Center School as well as Special Olympics New Jersey. Flyers and more information will be forthcoming.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Fri. Feb 14-Tues Feb 18	President's Weekend- closed
Wed. Feb. 19	100 th day Celebrations Retrocade - 3pm-6pm
Sat. Feb. 22	Polar Bear Plunge- Seaside Heights

Clubs and Events February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D/Adventurer's Guild	4 Spanish Culture Club (MS/HS)	5	6 Pride Club Sugar Cookie Decorating (2:35-4:30)	7 Bubblegum Day
10 Intramurals ES/MS/HS	11 Cooking Club History Club	12	13	14 School Closed
17 School Closed	18 School Closed	19 Retrocade 3-6 pm	20 Newspaper Club	21
24 Intramurals ES/MS/HS D&D/Adventurer's Guild	25 Music Club	26	27 Art Club Craft Club	28

EVENTS

Cookie Decorating

Join us for a fun after school activity decorating Sugar Cookies. Thursday, February 6th from 2:35 to 4:30. Cost is \$10 includes: Pizza!

Bubblegum Day

Friday, February 7th is National Bubblegum Day. Did you know that chewing gum helps your concentration and reduces stress?

Retrocade

3 hours of nonstop gaming for only \$10. Retro systems as well as new systems. From 3-6 pm. Fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal