

**Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:** (Week 4 of remote learning)

**Students, please watch week 4 video message from the Principal found on the school website, ("home instruction" page.)**

Welcome back from Spring Break. We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period and continuing our remote learning program. All New Jersey schools are still closed and will be until "at least May 15<sup>th</sup>" according to the Governor. This is much longer than anyone first expected, and it may go until the end of this 2019-2020 school year for all we know. So now we have to dig in and continue to maintain a consistent and productive learning environment which combines the teaching practices from the staff of our school and the new classrooms (dining rooms, kitchens, and home offices) of your homes.



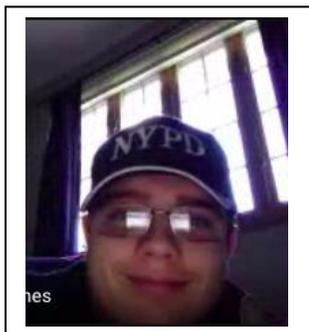
We are working hard to continue our academic and related services delivery to your children. Please assist us by continuing your support working with your children while online. The success of this new online educational situation we must adopt relies on our collaboration: teachers delivering instruction and families receiving it –*consistently and vigorously*.

Please stay strong in your dedication. We greatly appreciate it and are here to help you in any way we can.

### **FROM THE CLASSROOMS:**

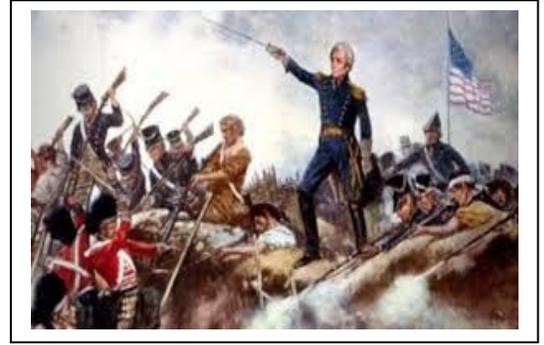
#### **High School**

Ms. Gibson's Environmental Science is continuing to learn about Biomes. This chapter we are focusing on Marine Biomes. On Thursday, our class went on a virtual field trip and explored different coral reefs. The students were immersed in a deep-sea experience where they interacted with whales, sea lions and a wide variety of fish!



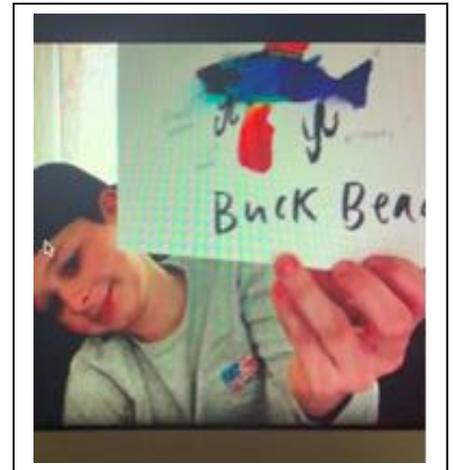
## Middle School

Mrs. Burak's History class has started a project. After reading a selection on the War of 1812, the students watched an informative video clip. We discussed the implications, causes, and effects of this war. After this activity, the students researched and identified the key people and battles. Once this was done, they began their project on an influential person and/or a battle. They were given several options of projects which included, but was not limited to, a PowerPoint, report, or a magazine article.



In Ms. Akushie's Math class the students were assigned a project that required them to plan a spring break trip for their family. The students were asked to propose vacation spots with the help of the internet, and create a google slide highlighting the destinations. The slides included details such as pictures, tourist sights, the cost of transportation, and hotel fees. They also received coupons that they had to apply to the final cost of certain trips they planned. The assignment helped the students practice solving real-world situations and life skills.

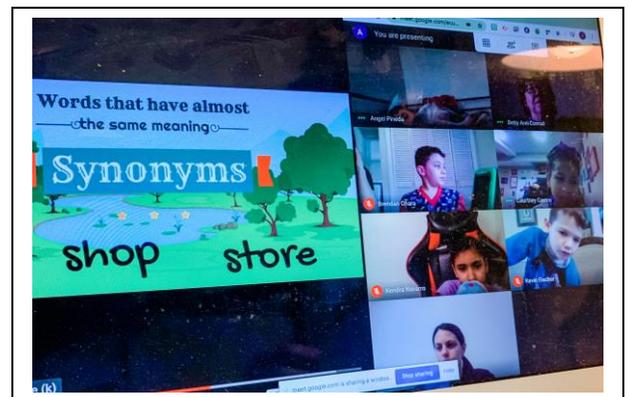
The students in Ms. Harrison's class have been learning about different kinds of fossils and how climate, weather, natural disasters and temperature all contribute to how they are preserved. Fossils are found in one of the following categories: molds, casts, petrified, carbon film and trace remains. As the students continued their reading and research, they learned that bones and remains are still being unearthed in all areas of the world by people of all ages... many found by accident. In 2017, a ten-year old boy, Jude, found a million-year-old fossil by stumbling over it while out on a walk with his family. It turned out to be a Stegomastodon, a primitive mammal that lived 1.2 million years ago. After reading current event articles and content from the text, the students had to create a dinosaur that was related to their own interests and describe strengths, weaknesses, defense, diet, size, color and lifespan. For the final steps, students drew their interpretation of their dinosaur.



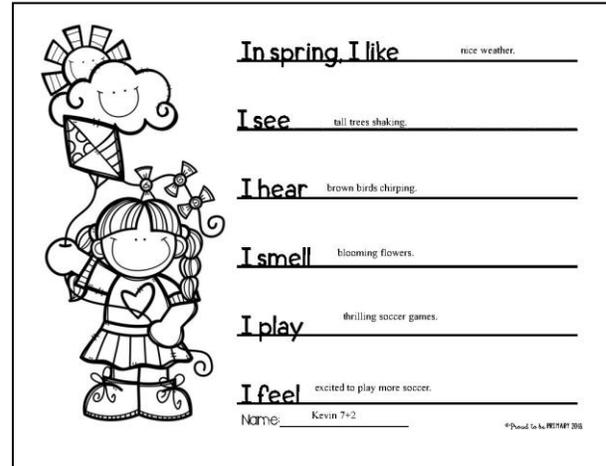
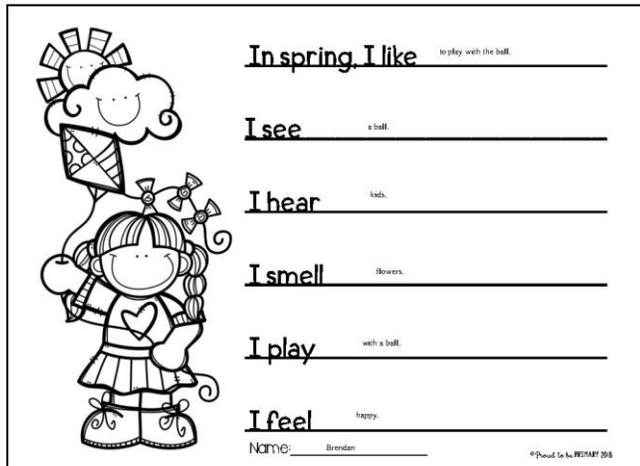
Students in Ms. Small's LAL class practiced their writing, grammar, and reading skills throughout the week. Grammar activities involved practice with plural words. Students continued on with their reading of "Because of Winn-Dixie", engaging in Google Chat and Google Meet discussions of the book and responding to reading comprehension questions. I am particularly proud of the students' writing work in previous weeks. Each student wrote a letter to our doctors and nurses thanking them for their hard work and encouraging them in these challenging times. Keep up the stellar work, LAL crew!

## Elementary School

Students in the Elementary School jumped right back into their remote learning routine. In Mrs. Sheeley's class, students celebrated author Beverly Cleary's 104th birthday by reading some of "Ramona Quimby Age 8". Students were able to make some text to self-connections such as some of us are also 8 and in the third grade like Ramona and we ride a bus to school too. Students used their senses to write poems about Spring. We also reviewed nouns, adjectives and synonyms in preparation



to write our own Diamante poetry. One of our favorite activities this week was family storytelling. Students worked with a family member to create a family story. They then illustrated or shared a photo to go with their story and recorded themselves telling their story in Seesaw. Kudos to our amazing storytellers!



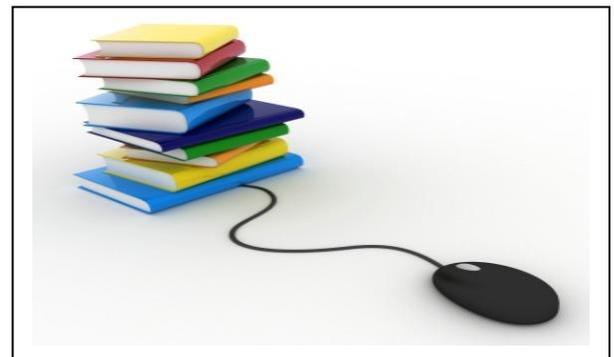
In Mrs. Bailey's classes students are learning about animals in different biomes and building dioramas to demonstrate our research.

### **Reading and Literacy Support**

All of the students, as well as Mrs. Eachus, seem to enjoy being back into the routine of classes and online socialization. Each student and/or group continues to move forward toward success with their IEP goals and objectives. To this end, there are a myriad of activities calendared for the remaining of April and into May.

Older students have self-selection of a novel to begin the 4th marking period. They will become critics as they follow a rubric to write a book review. As this group of students approaches the end of their Word Study, we will learn and practice with analogies.

Reading intervention and support is highly individualized and students are continuing to increase vocabulary skills, language (oral and written) skills and demonstrate their understanding of the stories that we read. Students are predicting, illustrating, providing alternative endings and discussing points of view. Shared reading continues to be a favorite activity choice for all of the students.



### **Speech and Language**

Students in the Speech and Language program have been busy this week. Some students finished proofreading their book reports and other students started reading a short story, "The Magic Shop", by H.G. Wells. Some students researched the history of cats and why they do the things they do. Others learned about the history of Emojis and brainstormed new ones they would like to create. They completed vocabulary, comprehension, and written language activities throughout the week. All in all, everyone seemed well rested and glad to be back in school.

## Phys. Ed.

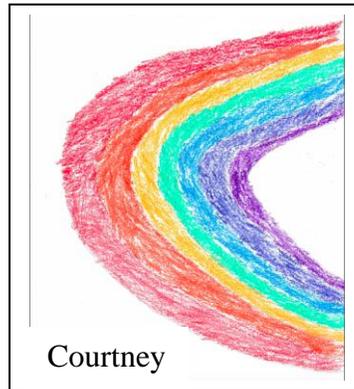
MS Health students were happy to be back in PE. We started our Yoga unit and students really enjoyed learning new poses and stretching their bodies out. Great first week back!

In Physical Education High School students started their unit going over fitness of the past 6 decades. We covered the 1960's where we learned a few work outs from the late great Jack LaLanne and saw how John F. Kennedy changed the way Americans viewed fitness. Elementary worked on two different interval works outs that focused on improving cardio and building muscular strength.



## Art

This week in Art from home Elementary School students made rainbow drawings to honor those stricken with Coronavirus. Middle School students started spring tree scenes. High School worked on art related research papers or individual art projects.



## Woodshop

Woodshop class is "gearing-up" to work on some wooden kits being sent to the students' houses. These kits will be used not only as a hands-on building activity but also as a virtual demonstration and instructional video project. Looking forward to seeing what our students come up with! Along with the kits, we will be starting "Funday Fridays!" Students will be invited to play online games together such as Kahoot or take virtual field trips. Having fun in Woodshop!

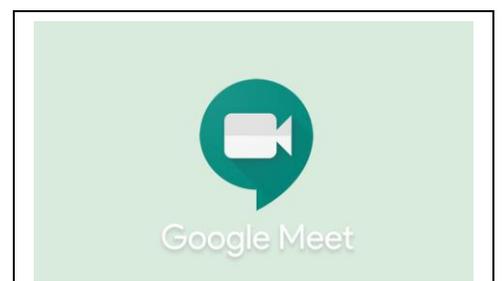
## Music

In Elementary class we used the ClassicsforKids website and learned about the Instruments of the Orchestra. After watching, students were asked questions about the different families of instruments. Each student has a recorder and students were playing some notes for me and one student even taught himself how to play Happy Birthday. *GREAT JOB!*

I welcomed marking period 4 Middle School students. Students watched a video about JS Bach and then answered questions regarding the video. We ended the week playing a music instrument naming game from the Musicteacher website. High school students are continuing drumming, piano playing, and doing research papers about the ukulele and various composers of interest.

## OT

This was the first week the OT department was able to see students over Google Meet and we were so excited to be able to interact face to face with the students, instead of just over a chat! The students are doing their OT sessions over this platform and enjoying the interaction with staff and their peers!



## **Bistro**

Bistro classes worked on recognizing cues for giving instructions and receiving instructions and that those instructions are heard and followed. Students wrote instructions as Ms. Slovik tried to follow them in her own kitchen. Students learned that there are many assumptions of prior knowledge before giving instructions. It's those assumptions that need to be established.



## **Career and Financial Planning**

Ms. Slovik's Career Exploration and Career and Financial Planning classes worked on recognizing appropriate friendships in the workplace and dealing with peer pressure.

## **Career Exploration**

This week students in Mrs. Ferraro's classes utilized the previous knowledge learned of converting percentages to decimals by applying it to solve real world situations such as calculating portions of purchase amounts, paycheck tax deductions, and sales tax. Students were also able to explain why it is so important to know how much money is taken out of their paycheck for taxes when they get a job.

## **Life Skills**

Life Skills students continued to learn and practice money skills by making equivalent groups of coins before incorporating various dollar bill amounts and applying these skills in various online games such as Money BINGO and Kahoot!

## **Financial Literacy/Planning**

Students utilized the previous knowledge learned of converting percentages to decimals by applying it to solve real world situations such as calculating portions of purchase amounts, paycheck tax deductions, and sales tax. Solving sales tax and budgeting for purchase amounts is a vital and necessary community skill that the students have demonstrated great progress in!

## **Therapeutic Dept.**

In the High School we asked the students what are they looking forward to doing once the pandemic is over? Many of them want to hang out with their friends at the mall, go to Disney World, visit Virginia, not have to wear masks, etc. We thought it would be good to have the students focus on goals that they could look forward to implementing while inside and to help take their minds off of covid-19.

Mrs. Gorski's Middle School groups played a game called "Choices". The purpose of this game was to spark conversation between group members by presenting two paths to choose from-neither right nor wrong, just different. Students had fun discussing the pros and cons of each choice and practiced acceptance and respect for one another's different perceptions and choices.

Mrs. Gorski held a google meet Peer Mentoring Session this week allowing students to get together and spend some time with their mentors and mentees. We played a game called Name 5. The object of the game is within thirty seconds students have to name 5 of whatever category is given. Each mentor was paired with their mentee so there were two teams. Our counseling interns joined in and each joined a team. A fun time was had by all.

## Transition

Students are studying time lapse, so that they can translate that information into their timesheet at work. This week, they also started to explore soft skills, such as how to safely share information with friends and how to have a balanced conversation.

Transition classroom bulletin board to remind students of their class.



## School News

### High School Explorers

Our next High School Explorer gathering will take place on Saturday, April 25th from 1 - 3pm. No need to worry about traveling we will be taking a virtual field trip via Google Meet. If you are interested in participating please email Ms. Gibson (cgibson@center.school) for more information including the Google Meet code.

### Spirit Week

Remote learning does not have to mean we can't have school spirit. Show your spirit when in class each day. Take selfies wearing your spirit wear and send them in!!!

### Parent/Guardian Support Group

Before spring break we offered and held a therapeutic support meeting for parents/guardians to share experiences and strategies to survive remote schooling. Many of you asked if we could do this again. We will be holding another therapeutic parent/guardian meeting later next week (April 20-April 24).

The date and time still need to be determined and will be forwarded to you earlier in the week so you can make plans to attend.

<b>Monday</b> 4/27	"Hat Day"
<b>Tuesday</b> 4/28	"Team Day" Wear your favorite team apparel!
<b>Wednesday</b> 4/29	"Crazy Hair Day"
<b>Thursday</b> 4/30	"Throwback Thursday" Dress from your favorite decade!
<b>Friday</b> 5/1	"Future Day" Think outside the box and put together something that futuristic!

Brought to you by Student Activities

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Sat. April 25</b>	High School Explorer's Virtual Trip (1pm-3pm)
<b>Mon. April 27- Fri. May 1</b>	Spirit Week
<b>Fri. May 15</b>	Mid-Point Marking Period 4
<b>Fri. May 22- Mon May 25</b>	No School- Memorial Day Weekend
<b>Tues. May 26</b>	Back to School (remotely?)

Sincerely,



**Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi**  
**Principal**