

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians: (Week 7 of remote learning)

Next week, May 11- 16, is designated “Special Education Week” by state statute. All students, parents, teachers, child study team members, administrators, and school board members involved in ensuring educational access and equity for students with disabilities are recognized. In New Jersey over 241,000 children receive special education instruction and services in public and private schools.



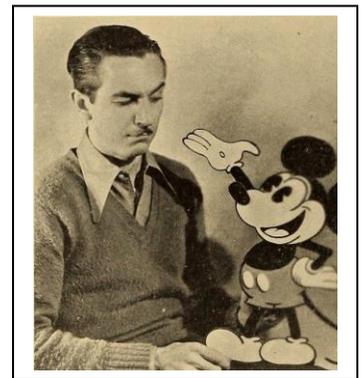
This past week Governor Murphy not only closed schools for the rest of this academic year, but also passed Executive Order #107, which prohibits schools from holding public gatherings of any type, including celebrations, ceremonies, or graduations. Due to these restrictions we are now making plans for our end of year graduations. We will be celebrating the graduations of our students moving to the next school level virtually and once those plans are finalized, they will be shared with those families. We are also looking at holding other end of year activities, if possible, virtually and will have more information going forward.

Finally, **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** to all of our moms!! This year's Mother's Day has special meaning because mom is doing even more to help us out during this covid-19 crisis and is working even harder every day. No, you can't reward her this year by going out to a nice restaurant, so be extra creative in showing her your appreciation for all she does. Try a simple hug and thank you. I know my mom would take that any day over a dinner.

FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Ms. Gibson's ELA 12 class is continuing their work with Biographies. Students are learning to identify reliable and unreliable sources. They are also continuing to work on our ability to differentiate between fiction and non-fiction sources. For our current project we are researching and learning about the fascinating life of Walt Disney!



Mr. Leichtling's Language Arts classes continued their plunge into the chaos of Rome's civil war in the shadow of Caesar's death as told through Shakespeare's quill.

Now the legions of Brutus and Cassius are marching to Philippi for their day of battle with those of Antony and Octavius. Caesar's ghost has visited upon Brutus in the night and students await to see if this foreshadowing will ring true. Students have continued to explore the story and storytelling through both the script and a film adaptation, flushing out the major themes and details along the way.

For Friday's Funday, Mr. Leichtling organized a Minecraft server and Google Meet for several students. Students constructed a base, explored, and students worked cooperatively to survive the monster filled nights. They also got to meet with their friends, hangout, and socialize together, even while so far apart. While many had left to explore distant islands, a few gathered for a group screenshot before the server closed.



Ms. Livelli's LAL students have started researching for their biographies. Graphic organizers help us keep our information chunked and organized, while we take notes from our sources. History 1 students are busy researching an inventor from the Industrial Revolution Era and preparing a google slide presentation. Her American History students are playing learning games using Sheppard Software, which is an educational software program. With this program, they have been fine tuning geography skills in recognizing states, capitals, and landforms.

Mrs. D'Alessandro's Geometry students are investigating and applying the Pythagorean Theorem to right triangles in order to find missing lengths. Her Pre-Calculus class is sharpening skills on applying the rules of exponents in order to continue their study of exponential functions. *Who remembers what a negative exponent means?*

Another one of her Geometry groups has been learning all about 3-D shapes. It has been fun building these models out of their 2-D nets. Students have all shared lots of cool objects from around their house that represent these figures. Next week they will begin to investigate the volume of some of these figures and learn new formulas.

Dr. R's Consumer Math class is learning about the difference between simple interest and compound interest. Everyone in Dr. R's Algebra 1 class is now working on a different aspect linear equations and their solutions. Aditya has successfully solved his first linear equations without the use of pictures. James is flying through ratios and proportions, and Grace is working hard at solving equations with pictures.

Middle School

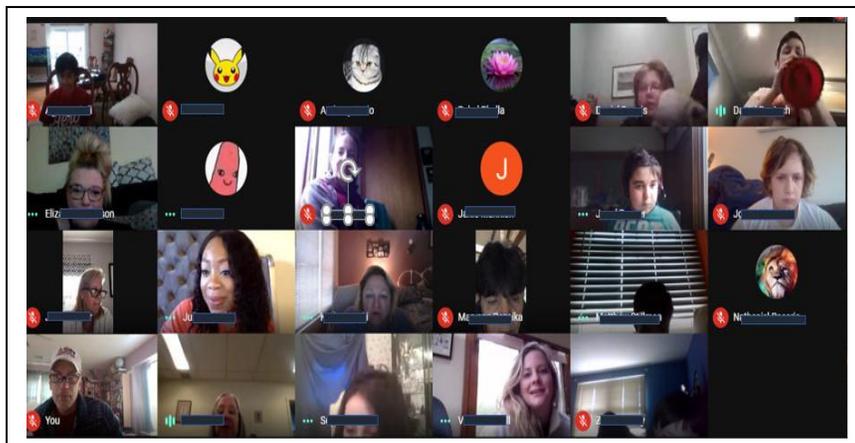
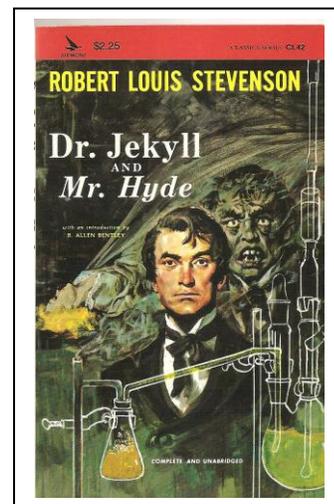
Mrs. Burak's English class has started a Biography project. Students watched an informative video on the differences between Primary and Secondary sources. On a provided Google Doc, students were provided a definition and examples of both types of sources. They were then given a list of potential people to research. Students spent the period researching and watching video clips of those individuals. Following this activity, students completed a Google Doc on which they were required to write two or three sentences on why they chose those two specific people. Some of the reasons were "they were rich," "they were athletes", "they played a significant part in shaping the United States", and that they wanted to know more about this person. All students will be given two different graphic organizers to help them with the information collection aspect of this project. Students will be required to add graphics to their project such as pictures and time lines. They will then share their biography project with the class via Google Meet.

In Language Arts, Ms. Harrison's class completed reading "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde". Students rated the novel an 8 out of 10! One student enthusiastically commented, "I liked the plot, storyline and the twists and turns." Another student excitedly said, "It was unpredictable!" The class worked very hard as a group to complete the novel, analyze characters, and document the challenging timeline of both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In addition, students discussed ethics and morals, the importance of surrounding yourself with positive people, and having friends you can rely on. The class highly recommends "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" to people looking for an exciting novel to read.

Ms. Small's Social Studies class completed their unit on Ancient India. The culminating project was a research report comparing village and city life in India. A rubric was provided to help guide students through the report. Through using both the social studies readings and the internet, students reinforced what was learned in class while discovering new facts about India. The report provided an opportunity for students to not only show what they learned about the culture in various parts of India, but also to gain experience with writing papers and using the internet to find supporting information. I am proud of the effort students put into their reports. Starting next week, the class will be learning about Ancient China.

In Ms. Akushie's Language Arts class the students presented their Biographies using Google Meets. The students had another opportunity to share interesting facts while doing research. In Math class students participated in a Math Scavenger Hunt. The students were required to find a certain number of items related to skills that they've reviewed. Once they found the items, they were shared in the Google classroom.

On Friday, the Middle School enjoyed the Friday Funday activities. In Science, some classes watched science-based videos, while others played Science games. The Math classes enjoyed a scavenger hunt. They were given a list of several items to be found. Once found, they showed them to their teacher via Google classroom or Meet. Some math classes utilized a cool math website to play a game or play online chess or



checkers. The day culminated with a Middle School Brunch. It was great to see the staff (including the counselors) and students connect. They shared what their favorite activities of the day were. Some gave helpful suggestions for the next time we all “meet” together. The Middle School team is proud of the effort we are seeing from all of our students. We hope everyone has a joyful weekend and Mother’s Day!

Elementary School

Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class completed their informational writing this week. They used their graphic organizer to guide the writing of their first draft. We learned about writing a strong lead to HOOK our readers as well as how to use expert vocabulary words to enhance our final copy. Students enjoyed a scavenger hunt outside this week in which they searched for things like pinecones, something beautiful, a bird, and a bumblebee. We also celebrated National Astronaut Day on Tuesday by listening to “I Want to Be an Astronaut” by Eric Braun being read by astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor in space. We learned that astronauts in space eat at a dinner table just like we do. In Social Studies, we continued our study of national landmarks with our visit to The Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.



Ms. Bailey’s students shared posters they created depicting an idea which had an impact on them from the unit they studied on social learning. Topics highlighted were perseverance, taking small steps, and having a growth mindset. Cinco de Mayo was celebrated with a virtual field trip to a fiesta and parade on Tuesday. Students continued making progress in operations with fractions in Math. Everyone had a great week!!

Speech and Language

This week some of the students have been learning the elements of a narrative in preparation for writing their own stories using the illustrations of Ira Marcks (Marcks is an illustrator and teacher. Tiger Trap Studio is his home base). Additionally, Students have been working on improving their automaticity for capitalization, spelling (long vowel patterns and suffix endings), and punctuation while others learned how to expand their sentences using predicate expanders “where” and “how”, in addition to connecting ideas using transitional phrases. In other sessions, we learned about perspective taking of the people all around us, so that we can modify our own behaviors accordingly. Furthermore, a number of high school students are catching up on their Julius Caesar assignments.



Reading/Literacy Support

All of the students receiving Reading/Literacy Support are continuing to grow with the acquired skills in all areas. This week, Mrs. Eachus would like to salute the gentlemen of the Period 6, College Prep Language Arts class. These students have taken a hiatus from the rigors of Literature to enjoy

contemporary novels. Practicing an informal writing style, students learned to distinguish a book review from a book report.

They are reprinted here with student permission. We hope that you are enticed to try one of these novels for recreational reading!

Maximum Ride: Angel Experiment by James Patterson

If you are someone who likes science fiction then you would like Maximum Ride: Angel Experiment by James Patterson. The book is about six children who were put through experiments and are trying to find the reason why. The way James Patterson puts you in the main character's point of view, (pov) it gave you a sense that you are the character and is experiencing the journey. The story tells about the journey of Max and her "flock" finding their place in life by finding their parents and ask them why they gave them up.

The reason I suggest this story is the way James Patterson tells the story in the pov of Max who is one of the main characters. Another reason I suggested the book is that it is full of action and suspense moments throughout the book.

Another reason I picked this book is that it shows that children can look out for each other to get by in the world. I say this cause in the story when the group is separated from Max and Angel they look out for each other while saving Angel.

For these reasons I highly recommend Maximum Ride: Angel Experiment. –I. Washington

Life, the Universe, and Everything by Douglas Adams

After reading the first two books in the series, I had an idea of what I was getting into. Of course, that idea wasn't good enough, because I'm 20 chapters in and still have no idea where the plot is going.

The main characters are separated at the ending of the previous book due to circumstances involving a spaceship being flown into the sun for the spectacle of it and maybe a guy who is currently dead for tax purposes. Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect were left stranded on prehistoric Earth approximately 2 million years before the events of the first book, and have since parted ways out of boredom. One thing kind of leads to another and suddenly Arthur and Ford have ridden through the aeons on a couch.

To an outsider, it might seem that the book is about to dive into the struggles of isolation and the impact it has on the cast. This impression will be short-lived, however, when the reader finds that the robot character Marvin is now being approached by a mattress named Zem, and is then told by the narration that all mattresses are named Zem and have their actions described with words that do not exist.

Character development in this series is very limited, as there isn't any place for it in these books. There is a lot of world-building that is not at all seamlessly worked into the story. However, seeing as all of the world-building is done for comedic effect, one can reasonably assume that it is inserted abruptly into the book in paragraph-long tangents simply to add to the absurdity of it. Through the use of sarcasm, surrealism, absurdity, and irony present within the first four pages, the author is immediately able to set a nonsensical tone.

I would absolutely recommend this book. Unless, of course, you don't have the kind of patience or time to learn about Judiciary Pag or, as he is formally known, Zipo Bibrok 5x108, and the kind of women he prefers in between scenes explaining the backstory of the race that seeks to destroy all life and simplify the universe.—L. Benning

Phys. Ed.

In High School PE, students wrapped up our 2 weeks of 1980's fitness trends. We did aerobics with Jane Fonda and Richard Simmons, and did a strength workout with America's physical trainer, Tony Little. Next week students will be moving on to the 1990's.

Elementary students have been challenged by the High Schoolers to try more advanced workouts, they accepted and they have excelled!

Middle School PE students continued to their unit on Cardio workouts and have been doing a great job! They are really working out their muscles and keeping fit! Keep up the good work!

Art

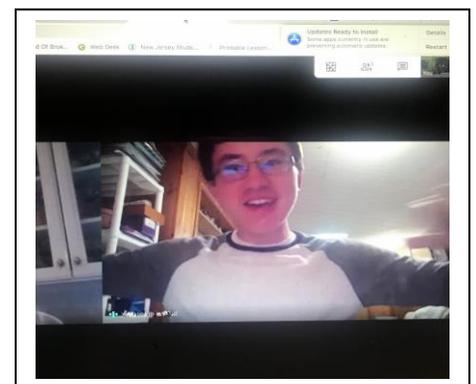
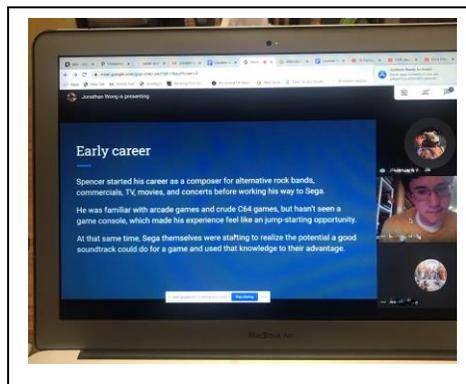
All students in all classes completed Mother's Day cards in honor of our Moms, Nanans, Aunts, Sisters, or any significant female in their lives.

Happy Mother's Day !!!!!!!



Music

High School and Middle School this week some students presented their reports. One was on "The History of the Ukulele" and a few on "Famous Composers". I also shared a video on Cinco De Mayo and we took a trip to Disneyworld (Epcot) and listened to a Mariachi Band and watched dancing. We also



learned about the organization **Playing for Change**, a movement dedicated to inspire and connect the world through music. We traveled to Brazil and Belgium, France and India, the US and Israel and watched singers and musicians all playing and singing the same song.

I am happy to report that all Elementary students have drum pads, maracas, and rhythm sticks so next week we will be doing a lot of singing and keeping the beat. On Friday, I had some students come to my class and sing karaoke for me. It was a lot of fun.

Woodshop

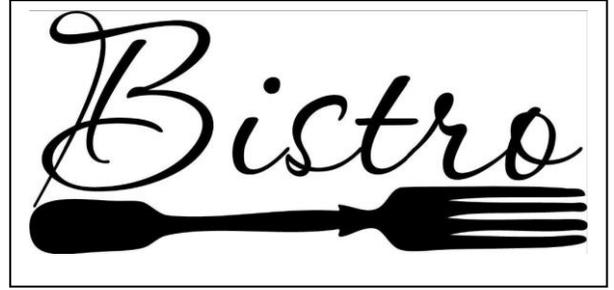
Students are continuing work on wooden kits. These kits were sent home for all Elementary, Middle, and High School students. There are a variety of kits being made, including a wooden ferris wheel, marble run, box, cabin, and airplane. The students are very enthusiastic about their projects, and many are working on a 2nd and 3rd project now. Students have been sharing tips with each other, and showing their progress during our virtual classroom. We will continue to work with the students on these exciting projects!

OT

It was so fun being able to jump in classes to see the students during Friday Funday. We are proud of everyone for working so hard during their virtual sessions.

Bistro

Bistro workers are continuing their analysis of basic kitchen equipment, their safety and use, and have made their first meat dish in the microwave. Sloppy Joes were prepared safely, appropriately, and within the allotted time frame. Emphasis was on avoiding cross contamination, ensuring even cooking, safe handling, and clean up. But to most, taste was the utmost. Yum!! Some families really enjoyed their dinners made by their children.



Career and Financial Planning / Career Exploration

Career students are finishing up their unit on Communicating with Others, understanding social cues for conversation, understanding and clarity. In addition, students learned that sometimes people from different cultures express themselves differently and need to be understood.

Career Exploration

Students in Career Explorations watched a video about how to write a resume, and then worked on their own resumes. Students included a heading with their personal information, an objective, their education, their work experience, skills they have, and activities they are involved in. They also worked on finding percentages of money amounts in IXL.

Life Skills

In Life Skills, students learned about the history of money by watching a BrainPop video and answering questions. They learned about what was used as money before coins and bills, and how currency has value. It was interesting to learn what the students feel is valuable. Everyone practiced adding money amounts by doing word problems, and played a fun game where we had to figure out what coins were needed to buy pieces of candy. If you want to play, here is the link: <https://www.roomrecess.com/mobile/CoinsForCandy/play.html>

Therapeutic Dept.

One of Mr. Coronado's Middle School groups explored the topic of happiness and what it means to be happy in spite of difficult circumstances. Mr. Coronado's Elementary groups and other Middle School groups completed and presented their hobby projects. We learned about one another's interests and even discovered hobbies that we could get into in the future. To present their hobbies, students chose to record videos of themselves, create slideshows, and drawings.

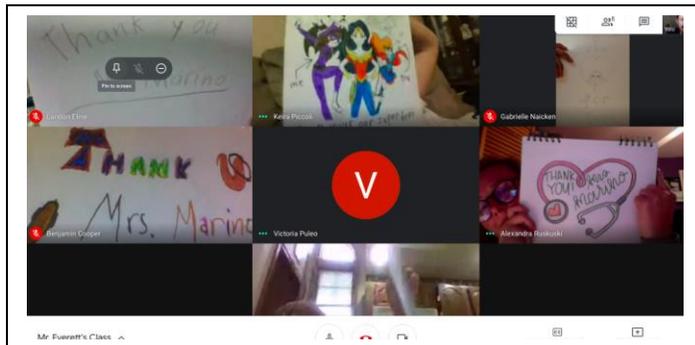
Mrs. Gorski's Middle School groups wished to have a discussion about their feelings on the Governor's recent decision to close schools for the remainder of the school year. Most of the students were deeply upset about this and needed an outlet to vent their feelings with their counselor and peers. Students also discussed that we are still lucky to be able to communicate and see one another. How technology has assisted us in this pandemic and what it would be like without it was discussed. Students tried to focus on things they are grateful for and how we will all get through this together. Peer mentors and mentees met and spoke about movies they have seen and would recommend to one another to watch and discuss during our next meeting. Everyone decided on "Forest Gump".

This week, High School students discussed Governor Murphy's recent decision to remain with virtual learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Some students felt upset about this because they miss their friends and teachers. Other students were able to verbalize and understand the necessity of the decision during this uncertain time. Students were able to connect with one another and

support one another through our video chats, consoling their peers who were more upset than others. Students were reminded of their support systems, both at home and at school, which they can lean on at any time. Students look forward to hopefully returning to school next year in September so that they can feel some sense of normalcy again.

Health & Wellness

A big THANK YOU to our Elementary Students for your National Nurses Day messages!! You are awesome and I can't wait to see your happy smiles!



School News

High School Explorers

This Sunday High School Explorer's gathering will be hosting a Trivia Game, from 11-12pm. It will be a Trivia Hour. Explorers will test their knowledge of pop culture, history, music, food, animals, and much more! If you are interested please email Ms. Gibson for more information, cgibson@center.school

On June 6th from 1pm - 2pm, High School Explorers will be participating in a Scavenger hunt. For more information please contact Ms. Gibson cgibson@center.school

Student Activities

Spirit Week- AGAIN!!!

(May 18-22)

Spirit Week	
Monday 5/18	Mismatched Day
Tuesday 5/19	Dress like a Pirate Day
Wednesday 5/20	Tie- Dye Day
Thursday 5/21	Patriotic Day Wear Red, White and Blue
Friday 5/22	TCS Skip Day Take the Day Off, You Deserve It :)

Brought to you by Student Activities

Bingo Nights

Middle School Bingo Night is May 13th 5-6pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Gibson no later than May 12th.

Elementary School Bingo Night is May 18th 5-6pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Gibson no later than May 17th.

Trivia Night

All School Trivia Night will be held on May 29th. Please RSVP to Ms. Gibson no later than May 27th.



Join your fellow classmates for our
Virtual Bingo Night!

If you are interested in participating in our Virtual Bingo Night, please email Ms. Gibson (cgibson@center.school) to sign up by the RSVP date. You will receive an email with the Google Meet invitation and your virtual bingo card.

High School:

RSVP Date: 4/30

Actual Event: 5/4 5pm - 6pm

Middle School:

RSVP Date: 5/6

Actual Event: 5/13 5pm - 6pm

Elementary School:

RSVP Date: 5/13

Actual Event: 5/18 5pm - 6pm

Prizes: Homework Passes/ Bistro Snack Vouchers for when we get back to TCS.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wed. May 13	Middle School Virtual Bingo 5pm-6pm
Fri. May 15	Mid-Point Marking Period 4
Mon. May 18	Elementary School Virtual Bingo 5pm-6pm
Mon. May 18- Fri. May 22	Spirit Week, AGAIN!!!!!!!
Tues. May 19	Parent/Guardian Therapeutic Meeting 3pm.
Fri. May 22- Mon May 25	No School- Memorial Day Weekend
Fri. June 19	Last day of school.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ronald P. Rinaldi in black ink.

Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal