

CLC MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

January 23, 2015

Leadership and Legacy

Sixth and seventh graders have been working for months on historical projects with a theme of Leadership and Legacy. In their final conferences with teachers about the projects, it was obvious how much they had learned about their topic through the process and how their abilities to conduct research and write about history had grown. The final exhibit boards, websites, and papers were on display today!



8TH GRADE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Eighth Grade Families: Please check in with your children and ask about the Community Project. These projects are being conducted by groups of one to three students and should show the variety of skills our students have gained over the last three years. Each group has a supervisor for who is offering advice as necessary, but these are really student-designed and implemented projects. Our soon-to-be graduates have lots of great ideas that they will be ready to share with you at the Community Project Showcase in April.

CAMPING TRIP FORMS

In last week's newsletter, we outlined the broad educational goals of middle school's annual camping trip and the main activities for this year's trek to Anastasia Island. Today your student received a packet of forms:

- a preliminary itinerary that you can keep at home
- an opportunity to share camping equipment or be a chaperone
- the overnight trip policies to read with your student, sign, and return
- a medical update form to complete and return
- a parental contact info form to complete and return
- a packing list that you can keep at home

An electronic copy of these forms will also be sent. The cost of the three-day trip is estimated at \$80 and includes all expenses for activity fees, campsites, transportation, and food. You will receive a note from the CLC Business Office about how this trip expense will be broken down on your billing.

DATES TO NOTE

Jan. 26 (Mon.)
Service Learning Day
Groups will help out in the HOPE kitchen, the Second Harvest warehouse, and around CLC

Jan. 30 (Fri.) **New Date**
CLC Poetry and Joke Night
CLC's outdoor stage, 6:00 pm

Feb. 2 (Mon.)
FSU Opera *The Stolen Princess*
CLC's outdoor stage, 10:30 am

Feb. 13 (Fri.)
8th Grade to Model UN

Feb. 17-19 (Tues.-Thurs.)
Annual All-Middle-School Camping Trip
Anastasia Island State Park, St. Augustine, FL

Feb. 20 (Fri.)
End of 2nd Trimester Teacher Planning Day

March 4 (Wed.)
Field Trip to see "13"
Young Actors' Theater, 10:30 am

March 9-10 (Mon.-Tues.)
IB Verification Visit



Many THANKS TO...

- **Phyllis Pancella** for conducting an inspiring master class with the Singing Circle

C L A S S R O O M U P D A T E S

As an **International Baccalaureate World School** candidate, Cornerstone Learning Community's **Middle Years Program** ensures that students inquire deeply across all the subject areas of Science, Language & Literature, the Arts, Individuals & Societies, Design, Language Acquisition, Physical & Health Education, and Mathematics. Read on for details about how this week's student-centered learning integrated academics, service, creativity, self-awareness, and international-mindedness.

science

with **Karen Metcalf**, kmetcalf@cornerstonelc.com

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8TH GRADE)

- Physical scientists spent the week working on a fractional distillation experiment. They worked carefully and safely with some new materials. I'm glad to report that many chose to repeat steps that didn't go well rather than being satisfied with work they knew they could do better. We will start the next week working on this and then move on to other methods for the separation of mixtures.

LIFE SCIENCE (6TH AND 7TH GRADES)

- Life scientists have been learning about and experimenting with two important energy converting cellular processes - photosynthesis and cellular respiration.
- We have spent a short time getting the experimental design juices flowing and thinking about this year's Science Expo. This year's theme "It Matters" has a double meaning. Ask you scientist what experiment they are thinking about , and why it matters.
- For those new to the CLC Middle School Science Expo, it's a bit different that the typical science fair. Students will be conducting experiments to test a scientific question, but this project is primarily completed at school. Materials currently in the lab are available for use, but other necessary materials will need to come in from home. If such items are on a student's materials list, I'll send home a note to make you aware before I approve the project. These are school-based projects to allow students to collaborate within and between groups. This also lets them experience some of the struggles that come with carrying out a scientific investigation and solving problems for themselves. All are of course invited for the big reveal on a date to be announced.

DESIGN

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN with **Karen Metcalf**,
kmetcalf@cornerstonelc.com

- As a follow-up to our show, students worked on evaluating their final designs. They considered whether their buildings met the initial goals they set and surveyed classmates to get independent reviews. These designers wrote about possible improvements to their buildings and thought about the potential impact of their pieces on the target users



GRAPHIC DESIGN with **Laura Young**,
lyoung@cornerstonelc.com

- Look for a yearbook order form coming home today with your student and via email.
- Students on yearbook staff receive a complimentary copy of the yearbook and do not need to order one.
- You can also place an ad in the yearbook, recognizing your student or your business. Ad prices are as follows: full page \$95; half page \$55; quarter page \$35; business card \$25.

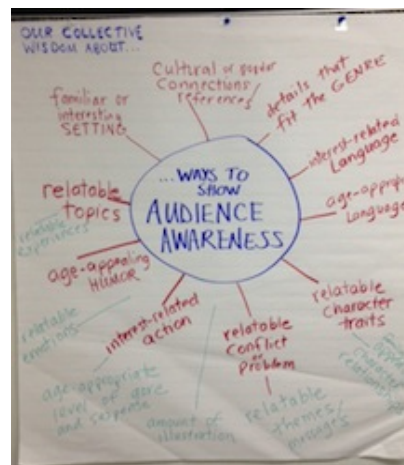
INTERACTIVE FICTION DESIGN with **Laura Young**, lyoung@cornerstonelc.com

- Students are showing a lot of independence as they develop their second IF project. Using their notebook

from the first project to guide their process, they are setting more advanced goals, following the design cycle with less guidance, and tending to areas they can improve.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

- Students did a final round of editing for History Fair projects in language arts this week. In other settings they had parental or peer help with editing, and their task here was to give it one more look on their own and then with me so that we could have mini lessons about any residual corrections. I really enjoyed talking with students about this work.
- Most students also made progress on their personal writing projects.
- For independent reading, we continued to solidify our understanding of ways to show audience awareness.



CIVICS & ECONOMICS

with Jessica Kimelman, jkimelman@cornerstonelc.com

- Today was the CLC History Fair! 6th graders will be dealing with this material again as they move into 3rd trimester, in the form of a research paper. They should have most of the research complete, but may need to fill in some areas when it's time. 7th graders will have a different project during 3rd trimester.
- Each class spent one day working on Chapter 4 in the book, rather than having to take homework time for this material. This covered some of the important Amendments added to the Constitution in later years that relate to voting, citizenship, rights, affirmative action and racial profiling.
- Each class also had a study/quiz-prep day this week to get ready for quizzes next week. 8th grade will take the Constitution/Amendments quiz on Monday, and 6th and 7th graders will take it on Tuesday.

PERFORMING ARTS

with Patty Callender, pcallender@cornerstonelc.com

FUSION BAND

- We are continuing to work on the 12 bar blues progression. Students have also begun working on their own arrangements of student-selected works in small groups.

SINGING CIRCLE

- This week we had a special visitor in Singing Circle: Phyllis Pancella (AKA Nathaniel's mom) spent Wednesday with us conducting a master class. Students sang for Phyllis, and she coached them on the music they had chosen to sing for her. We came away inspired and reinvested in our musical learning! Thanks Ms. Phyllis for sharing your time and talents with us!



VISUAL ARTS

with Jana Kiwala, jkiwala@cornerstonelc.com

2D ART

- 2D students are learning about themselves as they explore creating without a plan and creating with a plan.

3D ART

- 3D students are working on their written review of the first projects of the year.

SPANISH

with Caroline Hazelton, chazelton@cornerstonelc.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH (6TH GRADE)

- By learning present tense verb conjugation and studying the most common 100 verbs in Spanish, students are learning how to communicate about everyday life. They spoke about family life, such as who does the cleaning in their homes or what their family watches on TV, school-what their study habits were on weekends, their homework preferences, and looked at shopping fliers to determine the best deals.
- Students should work on memorizing the verb endings for -AR verbs, as there will be a quiz the week of February 3 (exact day TBD).

SPANISH 1 PART A (7TH GRADE)

- 7th grade is reading, writing, and speaking about normal life routines of themselves and others. They read an essay about life in New York City. They spoke about family life -- who does most of the cleaning in their houses -- and entertainment preferences of their families. They also looked at cell phone ads in Spanish to determine which was the best deal.
- Students also reviewed the verb endings for -AR verbs, which they should continue to memorize at home. There is a quiz scheduled for the week of February 3 (exact day TBD).

SPANISH 1 PART B (8TH GRADE)

- 8th grade is developing the skills needed for storytelling by using the preterite (past) tense. They have read, written, and told stories about the best day of their lives, an unforgettable day, and a time they spoke without thinking and regretted it. They also watched the first five minutes of *Up* (a silent clip) and wrote a summary of the events in Spanish.
- Students are also examining pop culture in Latin America. They are reading and discussing memes and popular sayings in Spanish.
- In this class, we are working on making comparisons in Spanish. Students rated the worst restaurants in Tallahassee.

MATH

with Ai Ying Choong, achoong@cornerstonelc.com

6TH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

- Students reviewed operations with fractions especially multiplying and dividing fractions in preparation for a test next week. They are getting better at cross-reducing before multiplying and also using the reciprocals in dividing fractions.
- We continue to explore the use of variables, and translate words into mathematical operations. They also practice evaluating variables by substituting them with the given values.
- They had a full dress rehearsal of the Operation Central play this week, with Ms. Patty Backas' help. Next week's plan is to have students leave their note cards in class and to get really familiar with their lines, so that we can perform the play to 4th and 5th graders in the first week of February.

HS ALGEBRA 1 PART A

- Students continued their practice of solving one-step equations. They added notes to their equation books and learned how to use the reciprocals in order to solve equations with fractions. Later we investigated two-step equations. Through a webquest, they watched a video, played online games and completed exercises to check their understanding.
- As part of their homework, students have been instructed to research and write down notes about different ways to solve one- and two-step equations in a self-made equation book. Next week, we will go into solving multi-step equations equations and solving inequalities.

HS ALGEBRA 1 (PART B) AND 8TH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

- We reviewed their study of polynomials from the week before, and discussed the different names associated to the degree of a polynomials. They studied how to add and subtract polynomials. Students practiced using problems posted around the classroom.
- Algebra 1 students learned how to use FOIL and XBOX to multiply binomials. From there, they learned how to do the reverse and factor out trinomials into binomials.

- 8th Grade Math reviewed operations with scientific notations in preparation for a quiz next week.

HS Geometry

- They completed the study of quadrilaterals by either making a foldable, or adding to their vocabulary builder sheets. This includes completing their notes on properties of rectangles, squares and rhombi. They then made a venn-diagram to compare these properties.
- We worked on writing proofs using coordinate geometry. They had to use slopes, midpoints and distance formulas with the coordinates given to determine the different types of four-sided polygons.

Math Kangaroo registration is currently closed. Competition Day is on March 19, 2015 at 4 pm. Please visit www.mathkangaroo.org for more information about the test day.

cornerstone Learning community engages each learner in a respectful, nurturing school that values

- High Academic Expectations
- Diversity
- Social and Environmental Responsibility
- Developmentally Appropriate Challenges

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