



CTL CORNER



TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Pre-Kindergarten Class](#)

[Kindergarten Class](#)

[Grades 1-2 Class](#)

[Grades 3-4 Class](#)

[Grades 5-12 English
Language Arts](#)

[Grades 5-8 Math](#)

[Grades 5-12 Science and
Social Studies](#)

[Grades 9-12 Math](#)

[Music](#)

[Art](#)

[Drama](#)

Dear CTL Community,

The year is flying by, and we are already preparing for the end of school activities and for next school year. We have record numbers of new students who have joined our CTL family this year, and enrollment is healthy for next year. Welcome to our new students, and thank you for spreading the word!

Thank you parents for sending us wonderful students who are respectful, happy and eager to learn and for your support with extracurricular activities. Also thanks to the amazing team of teachers who greet each student each day at the door with a smile and send them off happy at the end of the day. They genuinely love teaching and the students they teach. They go the extra mile each day! I love visiting the classrooms where I experience the joy of learning from both teachers and students.

We have many end-of-school activities planned to finish out the school year. Please check the *Wednesday Bulletin* each week. We posted the calendar early for April and May, and a few dates have changed so be sure to update your calendars each week. Looking forward to a fun finish to the school year and already looking forward to next year!

Dr. Linda Ellis

CTL Head of School

Pre-Kindergarten Class

Tina Schwartz

PreK has shared many wonderful experiences. The children are developing social-emotional skills in a nurturing classroom community. Friendships have been fostered and relationships have developed. The children play and communicate with one another in a positive environment full of language development opportunities where they are respectful and kind to each other with actions and in words.

Print awareness and pre-literacy skills have developed through projects with engaging play experiences and stories. Class-made books have been created with the children. Creating classroom books builds confidence in pre-readers and writers.

The children's language and literacy development increased through adult-authored stories and dramatizations. Favorite dramatizations this trimester include *Owl Babies*, *The Three Pigs*, and *Mama Cat Has 3 Kittens*. In addition to adult-authored dramatizations, stories are told by the children individually, recorded and dramatized.

In math, the children are developing important foundational concepts through poems, puppets, games and with hands-on experiences. We count and sort objects during play, make rhythmic patterns, create graphs related to our topic of study, identify shapes in the environment, and solve mathematical problems related to topics of interest.

During Science lessons, the children conducted experiments and observed the outdoors to observe and document changes that occurred. The children connected to our bird investigation. They observed birds and nests while outdoors. A study of farm animals culminated with a class-made book and dramatization of *Mrs. Wishy-Washy*. We are excited to continue investigations and experiences that support the interests of the children.

"During music class, our children learn to sing and dance while also learning 'grammatical' elements of music. Through games and songs, they strengthen their mind-body connection and develop better skills of cognition and pattern recognition." Khoren Ouzounian





Kindergarten Class

Kristi Wallington

Wow! Trimester two was a blur! Our kindergarten class is a cohesive group that cares for each other and looks forward to seeing each other daily. We are all friends and enjoy each other's company. Watching them grow and change this trimester has been exciting as a teacher.



We do a fantastic job choral reading the big books together during reading. The students grow mentally and physically each day, and watching their self-confidence expand concurrently is super fun for me. As we read, the kids often notice small details in words and delight in showing each other what they know. They like to point out how to change one word to another with the change of a letter at the beginning or end of the word. They also want to say which words rhyme and note when they have found repetition in the book. It is fun for them, and they are proud when they reveal what they have noticed. During independent reading, they have increased their stamina and focus as they read on their bean bags or in scoop seats. They look forward to moving to more challenging books.



We are improving daily in writing. We are stretching out our words and improving our approximation spelling skills. I am thrilled to read some of their stories without assistance; they are excited and gratified, too. Of course, sharing our stories with our friends is another one of our "favorite" parts of writing. They each like to sit in the author's chair, share their stories, and then call on their friends who are eager to tell them what they enjoyed about their writing.





In math class this trimester, we used ten frames, cards, dice, and dominoes to help us learn addition. We played games to make learning fun and listened to story problems to apply the knowledge in a realistic, and sometimes funny and imaginative way. We also used bear counters and MathLink cubes to make it more tangible while simultaneously helping improve our fine motor skills. Ms. Alaa helps our class on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we enjoy working with her in smaller groups. She does a fantastic job explaining new concepts and encouraging us to demonstrate our learning. We are glad she will continue helping us this next trimester.



In science this trimester we learned about the five basic human senses, but our main focus was on animals, their needs, and their habitats. We loved learning about them and doing crafts to go along with what we learned. We even made several 3D habitats which the students enjoy creating on their own now.



For social studies, we focused on self and family, kindness, fairness, working together, and community. We also looked at money, how people earn money, and where our food comes from. We enjoyed discussing these topics and acting out some of them for extra fun.



Like all the other days of the week, Friday at CTL is one of our favorite days. After the morning meeting in the Hub and doing some academics, we look forward to our reading buddies coming to our cottage. Before they come, we exuberantly select the books we will read together. Passion Project, clubs, and having pizza or Chick-fil-A helps finish the week off with an extra special touch! The only sad thing about Friday is that we don't see each other for a few days afterward. Luckily, Monday comes soon enough, and we get to see each other again.



Grades 1-2 Class

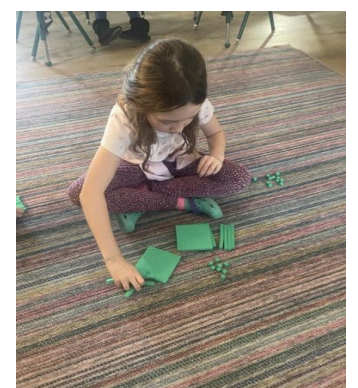
Lisa Lipar

This trimester we kicked off the new year with new ideas and class collaboration as we added new things to our learning.

Reading workshop began with new author studies. We read the works of David Weisner, Jack Prelutsky and Ezra Jack Keats. We also prepared for our upcoming field trip to Mainstreet Theater for the performance of *James and the Giant Peach* by reading the book. The students were inspired by these authors as they learned about their writing styles as well as their wonderful illustrations.

Writing workshop focused on re-reading their pieces and looking for ways to enhance or stretch their ideas further. We discussed "shades of meaning" and how we can use "juicy" words in our writing to spice it up. The class also focused on punctuation and capitalization. We will begin to focus on personal spelling inventories which are made from their own personal writing and will help them practice words they don't know so that they will be able to correct their spelling in future pieces.

During math workshop the class has been continuing to use the math vocabulary they have learned in our math talks so that they are able to apply it to their independent practice. They know when to use strategies like counting on, counting back, looking for a landmark or friendly number and revising their thinking. I have seen so much growth with respect to cooperative learning within the workshop. The kids are able to problem solve collaboratively and share their thinking with each other. They have been working on making doubles, halves, thirds, fourths, sixths and eighths, and adding ten more/less and one hundred more/less, making and comparing 4 and 5 digit numbers, looking at the parts of a whole and finding the place value to one thousand. They completed a mid-year math assessment to check progress as well. We will be moving forward with geometry and measurement. The class will be working with money. They will learn the coins and their values, add and subtract and exchange them.



Science labs were focused on our unit on Patterns in the Sky with a focus on the sun and its relationship to the four seasons. The class learned about the rotation and revolution of the Earth and its role in the changing of the seasons as well. We completed our planet research and presented our findings. The class continues to complete weekly STEM challenges. We will move on to light and sound exploration.



We focused on giving back to our community in social studies. The class visited a local assisted living facility to pass out treats and Valentine's cards to the seniors. It was a lovely event and we brightened many hearts that day. We discussed what it means to be a good citizen. Throughout the remainder of the year we will work to create a business and become producers and consumers with our Market Day project. This will be our unit on economics and financial literacy.



I am excited to continue exploring with our enthusiastic learners in first and second grade! I can't wait to see all of their growth as we finish out the school year.



Grades 3-4 Class

Melanie Welsh

We all enjoyed the week off for Spring Break. The weather has been beautiful and the 3-4 class has welcomed four new students! Welcome Ryne, Ava, Elle and Lillie

For the month of January we continued to dive deeper into the writing process. Students have been writing narrative and fiction pieces. They take them through each phase of writing. Some of these pieces will be formally published. We have introduced informational writing. The students have written many books on things that they are "experts" on. We have so many incredible writers. I can't wait to watch and guide them as they continue to grow in writing.



For reading we will focus on different genres of books. We will continue to explore the various genres and then explore in depth in the following



months. We completed our read aloud, *Hatchet*, which explored the man vs. nature conflict. We began *The Wild Robot* Number t, a wonderful fiction book. Students are completing their third book project on recent books and they are choosing creative ways to share their books.

In math we continued our geometry unit. The students enjoyed learning about lines, rays, and angles. They got comfortable using a protractor. At this point all the students need to know their multiplication and division facts. They should continue to practice these facts weekly. We will begin learning about classifying triangles this week. We will learn different properties of 2-dimensional figures, measurement, and elapsed time. The students are doing a great job and really enjoyed exploring numerical problems during daily group problem tasks. We continued to do number talks every day, as this is the best way to continue the spiral review of math concepts.



In science we have been studying weather and the factors that affect the world around us. They each researched a severe weather event, then created a Google Slides presentation and presented it to the class. The students all created a weather tool and tested it outside. They enjoyed teaching the class about their weather event. We will move on to study forces and motion. We continue to enjoy STEM activities each week. We built an alamo (and even had an attack of erasers), and we built a humpty dumpty protection device to help him survive a big fall.



In Texas history we have been learning about the Texas Revolution. We showcased our famous Texans by hosting a living wax museum. We continued learning about the battles of Gonzales, Goliad, San Antonio, the Alamo and San Jacinto. We will move on to study the Republic of Texas as our new unit. We began looking at Texas and its involvement in the Civil War and the changes our nation faced. The students work in groups, partners, and independently to learn about our state's history. I am blown away with their creativity.



Thank you all so much for your support. I am so privileged to have the opportunity to teach your children. It is a wonderful school year!

Grades 5-12 English Language Arts

Natalie Seyerle

As our school year keeps getting better, our classes keep getting bigger! It has been lovely getting to know all of CTL's new students and learning about their passions as we conference during reading and writing workshops.

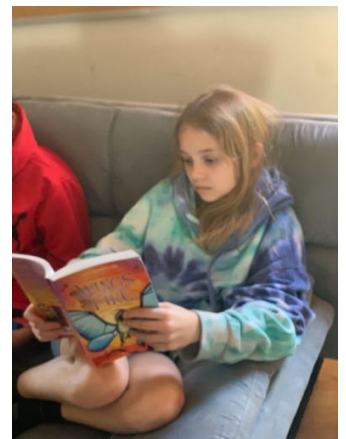
Our morning meetings are my most favorite part of the day. Lighting our new day candle and greeting each student allows me to connect with each of them. Our mindfulness cards and celebrations offer each student an opportunity to share and celebrate themselves! This trimester in grades 5-6, I have read aloud *The Little Prince* and *Touching Spirit Bear*. Both books inspired thought-provoking questions and predictions from the students.

Another great read was *The Book Thief* in grades 7-8. Although it was a little hard for a few students to get into, we pushed through and are now finished. This book has helped several students think a little deeper in the meaning of the book and the author's purpose.

In our 9-12th grade class I read aloud *The Little Prince*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Dead Poets Society*. All books were a huge success with the students and often led to strong discussions and predictions. We continued with *Carpe Diem* at the start of trimester 3.

This trimester the students were required to work on two author recommendations for our class board. This has been such a success as I have observed students from all middle and high school classes take time to read and inquire about book titles and authors they were not familiar with. Many students have experimented with new authors and genres this trimester simply through the recommendations of friends.

When I invite students to conference with me for reading workshop, I simply ask them to share their books with me. I let them take the lead on what they choose to share. I always take notes so we can refer back to them for predictions previously made.



We finished the trimester with book projects. This is a beautiful way for each student to choose a favorite book and share with peers in a creative and colorful manner. It's always such a lot of fun watching students prepare and challenge themselves with this project. Students this trimester really pushed themselves and their creativity! From a handbuilt windmill, to a song being written and sung, to a court reenactment, the creative juices were flowing!

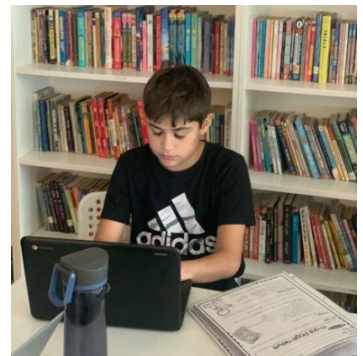
During our writing workshop I gave several minilessons on how we take a piece of writing and make it even richer with detail, giving the reader an opportunity to build a beautiful image in the mind. Our 'To Be' Verb lesson invites students to look for opportunities to replace pronouns with verbs, helping them move away from the monotonous 'I' or 'we'. For example,

I ran through the forest and I saw a large tree. I climbed up the tree and I hid among the leaves.

Running swiftly through the forest the looming presence of the great tree made me stop in my tracks. Climbing the enormous beast I hid among the thick leaves allowing myself to be engulfed in a sea of green.

Then as we begin our independent writing, we use our creativity to write rich and engaging stories that will pull the reader in. When I conference with students, I am always intrigued about what inspired them to write such a creative piece. Often it's the book they read, their dreams, or an experience. I take notes to ensure we are always growing as writers. Students are then given the opportunity to sign up for Author's Chair. This is when they can share their writing with friends and receive positive thoughts and questions. Our authors have flourished with their sharing this trimester and so many are inspired by their friends' creativity.

It has been another great trimester. I feel so lucky to be able to spend my time with such incredible young humans! I cannot wait to watch our students continue to grow and challenge themselves as both readers



and authors!



Grades 5-8 Math

Alaa Inzawi

Where has the time flown? I can't believe that we are in our 3rd Trimester and 2 more months till the school is over! I have enjoyed every moment this trimester getting to know the kids and seeing them grow academically and socially over the past few months. I am incredibly fortunate to have been their teacher and to watch them grow.



Our math class was so much fun this past trimester. We have done lots of hands-on activities, experiments, surveys and stations that included games to inquire in depth the concept of Measurement and Geometry. The kids took a break from number sense and focused their thinking on exploring shapes.



For Grades 5th/6th, we inquired into the concept of Measurement which had conversions, perimeter and area of different shapes and moved to finding the area and perimeter of combined shapes. Students enjoyed their trip to the Tree Ventures and were excited to create their blueprint projects where they drew the different tracks and converted the measurements, found the area and perimeter of each track. They have also explored how 3D are different from 2D shapes and worked on the volume of different 3D objects.



For Geometry, students navigated through coordinate grids and explored the different quadrants and integers on the coordinate grids. We connected this to real world maps and they created their own quilt designs and treasure maps! It was so much fun to see them enjoying this unit! We also explored triangles and how angles and sides of any triangle have a certain relationship. Did you know that any 2 shorter sides of a triangle when added up would be greater than the larger side? And that the sum of the angles in any triangle is 180 degrees? Students loved all the hands-on activities and exploration that helped them uncover the different theorems.

Our data handling unit was so much fun too! Students loved the different stations done in class where they played games, recorded their time,



created a frequency table, and then changed their data into different types of graphs. Students learned a lot of different graphs this trimester; dot plots, double bar graphs, stacked bar graphs, scatter plots, stem and leaf and a lot more. Students in groups created their own survey and visited different classrooms to collect data and change into either a double or stacked bar graph.



The 7th/8th graders started the 2nd trimester with the measurement unit where they refreshed their memories on conversions and then worked on areas and perimeter of combined shapes. After our Tree Ventures trip, they were excited to turn the different tracks into a blueprint and convert and then find the perimeter and area of each track. They have also experimented with rice to figure out the relationship between the different 3D shapes such as Sphere, Cylinder and Cone. They made connections between the volume of each 3D shape and wrapped their unit with a choice board where some connected math to art by creating a 3D shape of their choice, calculating its dimensions and ending up with the same volume. Students also built nets of 3D shapes and figured out the lateral surface area and total surface area.



During the unit on Geometry, students worked together to figure out transformations of 2D shapes including, dilation, translation, rotation and reflection. They learned new formulas of how to transform a shape using coordinate grids and created their own designs to show their understanding. They have also worked together on angle relationships and understanding better supplementary, vertical opposite, complementary and transversal lines and how they create new angle relationships. We have worked afterwards on perfect square roots and estimating square roots that are not perfect using a number line. This helped them understand better the Pythagorean theorem as students enjoyed creating right triangles using the geoboards and figuring out the missing side of any right triangle using the theorem.



We are excited to end our year with a lot of more math fun that will include for 5th/6th graders rational numbers and rational numbers operations and finally doing expressions, equations and inequalities as this will be good preparation for those moving up to 7th grade next year!



As for 7th/8th graders, they will inquire this trimester more about equations and inequalities on both sides and linear equations. We will also wrap up the year with data and probability.

I am so excited and looking forward to ending the year with such a wonderful bunch of students!

Grades 5–12 Science and Social Studies

Amy Kiddy

Again, where has the time gone? We are already at the last trimester of school with so many rich experiences and events having passed us by over the course of the school year. We have continued to explore, experiment, and collaborate each and every day in science and social studies. We have learned so many new things and been busy all second trimester!

In grades 5-6 science the students shared their *Journey to the Center of the Earth* stories and graphic novellas. We had stories with giant drills, cars, falling into caverns and volcanic tubes, and exploring strange and wonderful worlds. After our story sharing, we learned more about the animals that lived over the course of the Earth's history and the five major mass extinctions that have already happened on Earth. After a review of food webs, the students created and played a game of food web jenga to reinforce the new information learned and as an experimental form of exploring food webs and sources, the next science day students were afforded the opportunity to dissect owl pellets or owl vomit. Within these sterilized balls we can find bones and undigested remains of the things the owl has eaten, allowing us to be aware of the types of things each owl has ingested in its bid to survive. The students enjoyed this immensely especially when larger bones were found like whole skulls and large limb bones. We finished out our Earth



and its makeup unit by learning about the tectonic plates of the crust and Alfred Wegner's theory of continental drift and Pangaea. They were amazed to know that the crust plates are all still moving between 1-3 inches every year and wonder where they will be in another million years. Currently we are learning about space by creating a living planetarium for the school community. We have planets, stars, a light show, and loads of information to share and the students are diligently working on preparing their exhibits and getting ready for this fantastic way of sharing their learning with everyone. They can not wait. Our last bit of work has been on our extended learning projects where students are learning more about snakes and their venom, helium density, snails, circuits, 3-D printing, and much, much more.

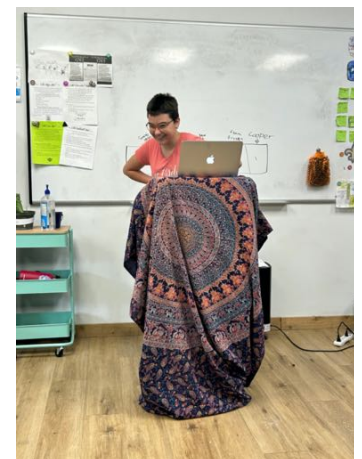
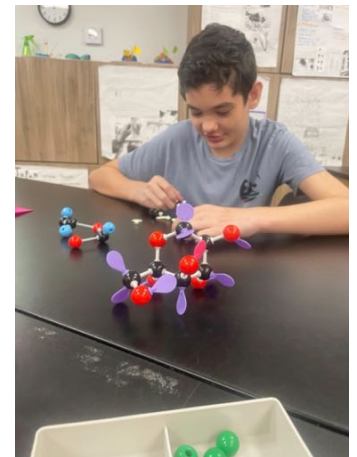
In 5-6 social studies we are continuing to learn about ancient civilizations from around the world. We created a map and a timeline of the ancient world and civilizations that existed in the time period 9000 BCE through 500 CE. We explored the five oldest known civilizations so far: Uruk, Gobekli Tepe, Skara Brae, and Caral Supe. Recent research and evidence have also led archeologists and historians to include Stonehenge in this list because there is evidence that it was a part of a civilization even if its exact purpose is undetermined. We learned about their food, clothing, government, militaries, housing, and many other important aspects of each civilization. After sharing all of our exciting discoveries we created art representations of our favorite civilization, our own geoglyphs, and learned about barley, a common crop during this time period and cooked ancient barley recipes. We held a cook-off and we made barley cheese casserole, barley pudding, and chicken and barley soup. The winning recipe was the chicken and barley soup with the barley pudding a close second! Currently, we have moved further up the timeline to twelve other civilizations with each student researching and learning about one of the twelve. Again they are learning about things like their civilizations, government and laws, military and defense, life and culture, rise, fall, and height, trading and economy, class system, education, and technology and innovation. When they are done researching they will share with each other their knowledge and help host a day to explore activities that reflect important parts of



their civilizations. The students have also continued their books and blogs work by continuing to read biographies of significant people and posting blog entries about what they are learning to share with everyone.

In 7-8 grade science our focus on chemistry-related science continued as we applied what we learned in the first trimester to further learning. We delved into biochemistry by a close exploration of macromolecules, what elements they are made of, what the molecules look like, how cooking affects them, how they are processed, and much more not only in plants but in animals. We explored these concepts with webquests, videos, making models, cooking different foods, experiments, and creating videos. Students learned that animals and humans must ingest their macromolecules, but plants are able to create their own through photosynthesis. Cooking changes the macromolecules, but they give us the nutrients we need to live. After ending the macromolecules unit, we moved on to the Earth and Its Processes by reviewing tectonic plates. We experimented with currents and convection around each plate to predict where we thought they may move in the future and how this will affect their climates. After this, we learned about the different plate boundaries and predicted what natural disasters are likely to happen at each boundary type. We chose a city on a boundary and researched the natural disasters that actually happened to see if it lined with their predictions. We are now learning more about each type of natural disaster and preparing presentations to share with classmates. After our journey through natural disasters, we will focus on synthetic materials in our world. Students also enjoyed learning more about their extended learning projects in topics like bacterial growth and development, altering bacterial DNA to make them bioluminescent, creating lava lamps and why those would work, and many more exciting topics.

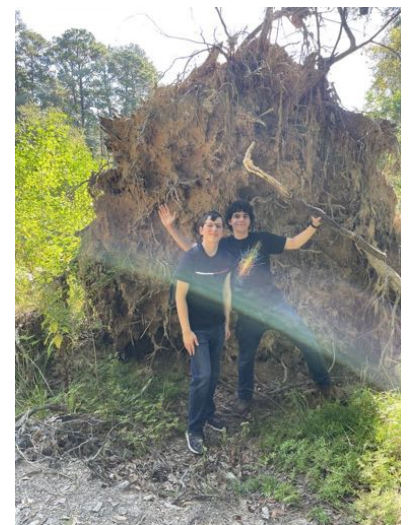
For 7-8 social studies students learned about how colonists traveled to the colonies, the cost and experience of such a journey, and what life was like in the early colonies once they arrived. They experienced this life first hand by role-playing, daily life events, jobs, and salaries. While living and experiencing their colonist lives, they have started



learning about events in the colonies that led to the American Revolution like The Stamp Act, The Tea Act, The Boston Massacre, and The Boston Tea Party. Currently, they are debating and discussing how to get the king to remove the Intolerable Acts from law and get representation within the British parliament. Next, they will learn about Lexington and Concord and the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the actual American Revolution leading us to the creation of our Constitution and The United States of America.



The 9-12 graders are still enjoying hands-on learning in Environmental Science. Each student is continuing to individually study different ecosystems both urban and rural through research and a pen pal research partner somewhere in the world who can help them gather real world data and information about their ecosystem at the location they are learning about. We are finalizing our data collection of these ecosystems and beginning to analyze the data we collected by creating graphs and visuals to help understand and compare the data between urban and rural settings including the preserves we have visited. Our latest fieldwork trip was last week and we explored Section 9 of the Lone Star Hiking Trail that ended at Double Lake. The students collected samples and pictures in order to recreate their experiments from George Mitchell Preserve and compare the data and information collected from both trails, again comparing rural and urban environments. We have started exploring loss or change in ecosystems by looking at global warming, plastic pollution, overpopulation, loss of biodiversity, oil spills, and many other loss or changes in ecosystems by reading articles, having speed discussions, and round table discussions. Through videos, further discussions, experiments, and more fieldwork we will explore more about these changes and loss as well as finding ways to mitigate or lessen these changes. Students are still working on their chosen extended learning projects on water filtration, homeopathic inhalers to prevent inflammation, asthma, and other damaging health concerns, eco-friendly burials, wolves, whales, and multi-purpose, climate controlled animal enclosures.



In Government and Civics, 9-12 students completed their mock election with one final debate and lessons on laws and ethics in elections and politics. After completing our election, we began our

study of Economics. We learned about supply and demand, needs vs. wants and basic economic principles. Students have continued learning about more economic principles by creating small cottage industry businesses that are helping with supplying food to the Spring Dance. Guest speaker, Mr. Ryan Smith has been a wonderful financial advisor to our budding business owners. Books and blogs have continued to explore prisoners of war, code-breakers from World War 2, former presidents, and the first Japanese woman Emperor. It has been an amazing year!



Grades 9-12 Math

Keith Kiddy

All the math sections have been doing extremely well! They have overcome any difficulties by open class discussion involving everyone to help solve difficult problems.



This method of everyone joining in has helped by refreshing the subjects for students who are past the subject material, sparking new ideas for those who are currently working on the question at hand, and helped the students in previous classes to stretch themselves a bit.



The students have supplemented their class work with videos and discussions relating math to real world problems and how our ancestors used math, particularly in architecture. The students are working on a composting structure based on the pyramids and the ratio of the "grand square" which was used in the construction of the pyramids.



Algebra I and Algebra II students are learning and going strong. Some students have started studying Statistics, and Trigonometry students have started studying Pre-calculus this semester and things are going well.



Music

Khoren Ouzounian, Ethos School of Music

We are excited about our partnership this year with Ethos School of Music to teach our PreK through Grade 2 music program. Khoren is a nationally recognized educator, composer, conductor, organist, pianist, and entrepreneur. As the founder of the Ethos School of Music, his students have successfully enrolled in conservatory and college music programs throughout the United States, and he is well recognized for his work as a teacher-trainer and master class presenter.



Khoren's philosophy and methodology in teaching has garnered international recognition and acclaim at such events as the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, and his contributions have been published in *The American Music Teacher*, the journal of the Music Teachers National Association. Khoren's compositions and arrangements have been published and presented by Celebration USA™, Faiths United of the Woodlands, and in LDS church services throughout the U.S. Khoren holds a Master's in Music from Rice University where he specialized in piano performance and composition. He also studied piano performance and pedagogy at Houston Baptist University and at Brigham Young University where he also majored in comparative literature and economics. As a performer and collaborator, Khoren has performed extensively throughout the United States both conducting and performing solo and collaboratively on organ and piano. Most recently he has launched a chamber music series in The Woodlands in conjunction with Glade Art Gallery where he has been hosted many times. Because of his foreign language and comparative literature training, Khoren is fluent in Italian, French, and conversant in German, making him highly sought after as a vocal coach.



We look forward to the kindergarten and grades 1-2 end-of-year music performances on May 25 at 10:00 and to our future partnership with Ethos.



Paul Sommer

We continue to be excited about the addition of the CTL Band this year. Director, Paul Sommer, meets with our 13 band members, grades 3-8, each Tuesday morning. Mr. Sommer is the founder and band and orchestra director of Instruments of Praise! Since 1993 he has directed over 100 private school and homeschool bands and orchestras in the Greater Houston area. His professional life includes teaching, performing, speaking and conducting at various schools and churches. He has a B.B.A. from Baruch College in New York. Throughout the years, his bands and orchestras and students have been recognized for their musical excellence and individual achievements and have received numerous awards.



We are looking forward to the CTL Band's end-of-year band performance on May 9, 2023 at 11:00. After the performance we welcome parents and students in grades 4 and up who are interested in band for next school year to meet in the HUB for an informational meeting and to sign up.

Art

Susan Feathers

CTL students continue to impress me with not only their creative projects but their enthusiasm for art. We used several different mediums throughout the grade levels, and they have made beautiful displays in our hallways. Plus the entire school worked together on a group art project of paper hearts that ran the length of the main hall by the classrooms.

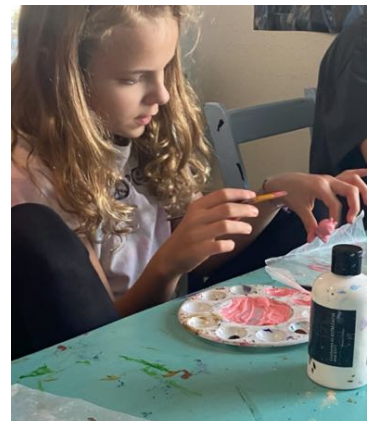
Kindergarten expanded their use of art materials from off of paper into sculptures. We learned about what 3D means and the differences from 2D. They used sticks, yarn, cardboard and clay to make a variety of sculptures over the course of the trimester. Each student got to glue, cut, paint and sculpt to create several 3D art pieces. Students also learned the difference between opaque and transparent when making artwork with plastic transparency screens and paper for collage pieces. The art this trimester was very hands-on which kept little hands busy and worked on fine motor skills.



Grades 1 through 4 experimented with unique types of art this trimester that went beyond traditional tools. They first used magazines for collage where they ripped and cut paper in order to create a specific shape. They also colored with oil pastels to create a sound or noise. This was a bit difficult for the students having to draw something so abstract, but the end results were stunning. Lastly they learned the term encaustic, which is painting with wax and pigments. This was trickier than traditional painting and made some kids rethink their designs, but they loved the texture it brought to the canvas.

The upper school art class has also been hard at work this trimester and are always eager to have more time for art. To start the trimester we worked on our observational skills. This included taking an item from real life and drawing what we see. As an artist this is not only a great skill to have but improves hand-eye coordination and encourages attention to detail. The class had been asking all year to work with clay so we finally got the chance to delve into creating sculptures. The students learned about using both air dry and polymer clay, which are two very different techniques. At the end of the trimester students learned about the term monochromatic and how to work with only one color palette. Each student chose a color and used this to create all areas of the painting or drawing.

It was a messy, creative and colorful trimester, and both myself and the kids had a blast creating artwork. We only have a couple more months of school left, but I know they will continue to impress me with the ideas they come up with.





Drama

Amy Kiddy & Mary Beth Goss

We continued practicing and creating sets for our play *The Day the Skinny Jeans Saved the Universe*. This culminated with our performance of the play at the holiday program. It was a wonderful performance, and the students acted out their parts while staying in character and entertained everyone there.



The second semester Mary-Beth Goss took over the drama class. Once again, students chose either art or drama as their enrichment class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The drama students chose the play *Order Up!* and auditioned for parts. Several students took on the role of back-stage crew which will be a big help for everyone to have students dedicated to this as well as students dedicated to only their roles as actors and actresses.



Order Up! Is hilarious and engaging for all. When it comes to fast food, people are particular – very particular. In this quick succession of quirky customers, the Order Up! restaurant takes on everything from weird food allergies to fanatical health inspectors, from the fear of eating to someone wanting to hide in the restroom, and on and on and on. We're excited to put on this performance for you on May 18 at 6:00 on the Children's Courtyard stage.

Physical Education

Mary Beth Goss

PreK & Kindergarten students have been moving their bodies in creative ways. We've been working on fast and slow motions and trying to increase our speed. They have been racing and measuring who can kick or throw a ball the furthest. They've also been enjoying nature walks and discovering plants and insects along the way.



For our warmups this trimester, grades 1–2 and 3-4 students have been enjoying laps along with Animal Running which is a warmup that



increases endurance. The students do sprints and act as if they are a different animal to increase or decrease speed and to also add a fun element to running. We've ventured into a soccer unit where we have been learning how the game is played by discussing the rules and regulations. We have been practicing our dribbling and kicking the ball into the goal using games like Red Light, Green Light to put a spin on it. Students have taken turns as goalie, and we just started having some scrimmage matches. In addition to our soccer unit, students have been enjoying Gaga Ball to end the class and the occasional game of Capture the Flag.

Grades 5-12 students always come to PE with such a good attitude and are always ready to have fun at the end of the day. A lot of times I let them decide what we do for the day. Lately, they've been playing Soccer, Gaga Ball and Volleyball the most. From time to time, they enjoy playing Dodgeball or Capture the Flag. We're collecting ideas and starting to prepare for Field Day on May 24th from 9:30-11:30. We hope to see you there!