



# CTL CORNER

Center for Teaching & Learning | 26131 Kuykendahl, The Woodlands, TX 77375 | 832-474-8214

*The Best  
is yet to  
Come*

## Important Dates

**May 3** - CTL Parent Council, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at the CTL Library to discuss CTL's Needs Assessment

**May 6-10** - Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 10** - Deadline to order a CTL Yearbook online at <https://www.treering.com/validate?PassCode=1014599995451624>

**May 13-16** - Trimester 3 Club Showcases during Morning Meeting at the CTL Library

**May 14** - Parent Appreciation Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at the CTL Library

**May 17** - Deadline to contribute to class baskets for the CTL Silent Auction

**May 20-23** - CTL Talent Show during Morning Meeting at the CTL Library

**May 20-23** - Portfolio Workshop, CTL students will put together portfolios for Trimester 3



## Looking Toward the Future

What an exciting year this has been, complete with wonderful students and supportive families, powerful and engaging learning experiences and an enthusiastic and dedicated team. We are looking forward to the many exciting events planned between now and the end of school.

We are already getting ready for the next school year, and we will be actively engaged in planning this summer. Some of us will be in workshops, some will be in camps, everyone will be reading, and all of us look forward to spending quality time with our families. We are pleased to report that all our teachers will be returning next school year except for Abby Salazar. Abby is working on her master's degree and will be taking time off to delve deeper into an internship and follow her dreams. We are excited for her but will miss her.

Plans for CTL High are well underway, and we are looking forward to diving into 9th grade next year as we prepare a high school that is a direct extension of CTL's PK through 8th grades. From the words



## Important Dates

**May 23** - CTL Drama Class Performances, Live Music by CTL Students, and a Community Fundraiser with a Silent Auction, Food, & More!

**May 24** - Staff Workday - No School

**May 27** - Memorial Day - No School

**May 29** - CTL Field Day at Wendtwoods Park, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; CTL Yearbook signing, 1-3 p.m.

**May 30** - Last Day of School; 8th Grade Graduation 10-11; Student-Led Conferences 11-12;; Early Release at 12:05 p.m.

**May 31** - Staff Workday

## Important Reminders

\*Please have your child at school by 7:55 a.m. every morning so he/she does not miss our Morning Meeting that begins at 8 a.m.

\*Please make sure your child has a snack, lunch, and water bottle every day, and tennis shoes on PE days.

\*Invite your child to show CTL school spirit by wearing his/her orange CTL t-shirt on Fridays.

\*Spray your child for mosquitos on P.E. and outdoor activity days



of our 7th and 8th grade students when asked in a high school-planning meeting, *How do I want to feel when I leave school?*, they shared their wisdom like this:

ready to come back to school the next day  
happy, excited  
relaxed, happy, energized, enriched  
happy, properly educated, and safe  
comfortable, looking forward to tomorrow, relaxed  
refreshed, learning at all times, inspired  
that feeling you get when you want to share your day with parents  
safe, comfortable, pumped  
relaxed, accepted, calm, comfortable

Wow! Take notice of the themes that emerge—relaxed, happy, and comfortable. The exact feelings that parents want when they pick up their kids and the way we all want to feel at the end of each day. And CTL High is a high school designed with this in mind.

At CTL High we will continue our vision and mission where we are committed to *igniting and growing a love of learning in every student, teacher, and parent*—the torch that carries us through each and every day. Where we learn with excitement. Where we learn with passion. Where we are immersed in a contagious and magnetic learning environment.

CTL High will be an early college high school model. We have been for several years collaborating with Lone Star College to prepare for this exciting journey. It will be a place where our CTL students can learn how to be successful in high school and college, in their future professions and in life. We know that even the future of our CTL students will be a discovery. Their professions may change several times throughout their lives. We cannot know what jobs we are preparing them for because many of those jobs do not even exist yet. But we do know they will be confident in their abilities to try their wings, to think outside the box, to be creative, to take chances, to learn.

The excitement of taking student ideas has assisted us in our work with the builder and designer. Just like the writing process, with each draft we applied the feedback of students, parents, and teachers. Using this feedback is what allows for the natural edits and revisions, and we look forward to unveiling the latest revision in the near future. CTL High will occupy the upper floor. The second floor will be haven for CTL High students--the learning oasis of grades 9-12 complete with a study cafe and indoor-outdoor style classrooms and terraces.

Our new location beginning in the fall of 2021 is nestled in the trees, surrounded by nature and backs up to 15 acres that we purchased last May. This new location will provide a country feel surrounded by the conveniences of the city while providing students with that link between nature and learning. It is a school of our dreams that enriches our vision and research base of the importance of nature in kids' lives and child development. We will have gardens, baseball



fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, animals, and outdoor classrooms. CTL students will have a balanced experience between indoor and outdoor learning.

It has been our privilege to work with each and every one of you to educate and guide and mentor these students. We encourage you to continue the learning this summer as you spend quality time with your child listening to them and answering their questions. Have a fabulous summer filled with sweet, happy memories with your families!

It is our sincere mission to continue to be the beacon of light in your child's education. We look forward to 2019-2020! We will see you when we return in August.

**Linda Ellis**

### *Pre-K Class*

This was a fun and exciting month for Pre- K. First, I would like to express how wonderful our class performed at our school musical. They had so much fun. They are future superstars!

Moving on to our butterflies...They completed their metamorphosis, received their wings right on schedule, about fourteen days after the chrysalis stage. After a couple of days of scientific viewing, we scheduled a butterfly release. Pre-K students were excited to see the butterflies fly away and find a new home on our playground. We also enjoyed a fun and challenging egg hunt. Twelve eggs were hidden for each student with his/her name on them. They had to locate only the eggs with their names and not tell their friends where their eggs were hidden. This was quite a challenge for a four-year-old.

Our next big adventure was the class field trip to the Houston Zoo. Everyone was excited to ride the big bus to visit the animals and loved seeing the animals we have been learning about in science workshop. A huge thank you to all our parent volunteers who contributed to a safe and fun experience for the children!

Some of our favorite books this month included, *The Surprise Garden*, *Planting a Rainbow*, *The Tiny Seed*, *In the Tall, Tall Grass*, *African Animals*, *Rainforest Animals*, *I am Earth*, *Oh, Say, Can You Say Dinosaur?*, *Aliens Love Dinopants*, *Mama Saurus*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?*

Pre-K has been busy in science workshop this month. We planted beans in our sprout houses and watched the seed transform into a plant. We also learned about worms during our worm investigation. We discussed the habitat, diet and dangers for the worm. We also learned it's hard to tell the head from the tail.

During our dinosaur unit, the Pre-K paleontologists had the best time digging for dinosaur bones, fossils and eggs during our



dinosaur dig. They went fishing like a pterodactyl at our water table and erupted a volcano.

With our last month approaching, we have lots of fun ahead of us. We will be looking forward to field day and lunch at the park, compiling our last portfolio of the school year and plenty of playing with our friends.

**Beckey Billings**

### *Kindergarten Class*

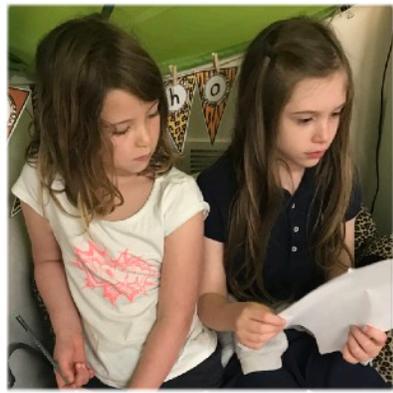
Greetings from kindergarten for the last time this school year. I cannot believe our time together is coming to a close. This group of children has been an absolute joy to teach and learn with. We have created memories together to last a lifetime. I am proud but sad to see them move on to first grade.

This month has been a whirlwind of accomplishments. The students delved into complex non-fiction texts and chapter books. Everyone is heading into first grade reading above the level that is typical for children finishing kindergarten. They have developed a genuine love for literature and can get lost in books for long periods of time. They have progressed to reading "in their brains" instead of aloud. As authors, the children have written many of their own BOOKS! This is something they looked forward to eagerly for months. I am certain you will enjoy some fantastic summer reading when these book collections come home.

We spent time discovering forces of motion in science with a focus on pushes and pulls. A class favorite was our study of magnets. The students enjoyed the mini labs and recording data that integrated well with our study of graphing in math. We also explored standard and non-standard measurement and 3-D shapes which tied back into our science lessons. The students began to notice the strong connection between math and science.

In social studies, we learned about the great state of Texas. We located Texas on a United States map. We discussed a variety of state symbols such as the Lone Star Flag, mockingbird, pecan tree and the bluebonnet. An interest in maps led us to a brief study of basic map skills that we put to use during our field trip to the Houston Zoo. It is safe to say that our field trip was the highlight of our year! The bus ride alone seemed to be a huge hit with the six and under crowd! Our driver, Elvis, was friendly and entertaining. Though it rained lightly during our adventure, it didn't dampen our spirits. It was incredible to watch little faces light up as they observed the animals and habitats we studied earlier in the year firsthand. It is one thing to research and read about animal adaptations but another thing to witness reptiles using camouflage as protection right before our eyes. Life is all about experiences.

With that in mind, I wish you all a summer filled with experiences to cherish. Before you know it, your little one will be all grown up. Spend time together without electronics. Talk and laugh. Imagine



and dream. If the opportunity presents itself, travel together. Talk about the places you go and the things you see. Childhood is a magical but fleeting time. Soak it in like the summer sun. Thank you for sharing your most precious children with me this year at CTL!

**Annie Manning**

### *1-2 Class*

This month sure flew by. The class was excited to participate in another field trip. We walked to Sub Zero for some exciting experiments with nitrogen and to learn how their ice cream is made. The best part was tasting it! The class was well-behaved and represented CTL with pride.

Thanks to all of our mystery readers this past month. The class really enjoys having guests. I would also like to thank Alejandra Oropeza, Sebastian's mom, for coming in and sharing her iMovie of her wonderful trip to India with the class. It was a nice experience for the kids to learn about the country.

In our reading and writing workshops, the class was introduced to different types of poetry. They wrote an acrostic poem, and some students created diamanté poetry as well. They also learned about the authors Tedd Arnold and Marcus Pfister. The students are working to finish their pieces so they can publish them for their portfolios by the end of May.

The class continues to work on economics in social studies workshop. They learned about needs and wants, goods and services, consumers, producers, opportunity cost, spending, saving and charity. They loved our big Market Day on May 9th with the 3/4 class.

Math workshop was all about geometry, time and measurement this month. We will continue with this until the end of the year. We explored 2- and 3-dimensional shapes and their properties. We continue working with fractions, money, and addition and subtraction up to three digit numbers. I am continuing to notice more math thinking and more participation during our math talks.

In science workshop we tied up our sound unit and began our unit on the behavior of light. We completed experiments on refraction. We also talked about reduce, reuse and recycle in honor of Earth Day. The class discussed the many ways to keep our earth clean and how they can reduce the use of electricity and water. We also completed STEAM activities both in groups and individually. The class discussed their findings and came to realize that not all engineering works the first time. They are understanding the importance of revising their thinking and that design is often a process needing several changes before being successful.

May will be a busy month as we work to finish all topics of study, complete assessments and prepare our portfolios. There are many upcoming activities as well including the talent show, field day, our



fundraiser and yearbook signing. We look forward to an exciting month as we close out the school year.

**Lisa Lipar**

### *3-4 Class*

May is a busy month! We are wrapping up many concepts and topics. In reading workshop students continue to read independently with self-selected books. Students are working to complete a book project from a choice of different activities. In writing workshop students are working with a partner to edit and revise a piece of writing for publication. Students edit and revise their own piece then work with a partner to give constructive feedback to each other.

Math workshop is all about fractions! Composing and decomposing fractions, adding fractions, and comparing fractions with different numerators and denominators. During daily mental math students continue to solve 2- and 3-digit multiplication equations.

In science workshop we are focusing on research of different topics. Students generated ideas for what they wanted to learn more about. We are researching, taking notes, and creating a presentation to teach each other about what was researched. Money, money, money!

Social studies in May is all about economics! Students participated in real-world, student-created businesses. They were able to shop and run a business. Each business was required to have a product or service, marketing, receipts, cost sheets, record of sales and adjust prices depending on supply and demand.

**Corrie Sheldon**

### *5-8 Reading Writing Workshop*

It has been an extremely busy time of year for us in reading and writing workshop. We are focusing on getting our class read aloud, *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, finished in 7th and 8th grade. We are loving the creative use of different narratives to piece the story together. The author, Maria Semple, uses emails, doctor's letters, and newspaper articles, among other things, to pull the storyline together.

In 5th and 6th grade, we have been enjoying *Dolphin Song* by Lauren St. John. We have been enjoying the drama of this story, and we are all on edge as disaster has just struck the main character.

Following another successful Publishing Day, where we shared our finished pieces with our classmates, we have been working hard to put our end of year class anthology together in writing workshop. This has involved careful editing from everyone and us all working to incorporate typesetting guidelines. This is a new process for a lot of students, so it has provided us with a great learning opportunity. Details of how anthologies can be purchased will follow in due course.

**Caroline Harrison**



### 5-8 Math Workshop

A great year of mathematics at CTL is coming to a close! Students have excelled with their mental math abilities and number sense. Fifth and sixth grade mathematicians have just completed an introduction to algebra based on the context of the California Frog-Jumping Contest of Calaveras County. Students were solving one-step and multi-step algebraic equations embedded within the context of frogs' jumps and steps. Students constructed their own methods for determining the length of one frog's jump. Drawing pictures, number lines, double number lines, working with multiples, and solving equations were just some of the strategies shared by students when solving. These students have worked diligently to build a strong algebraic foundation upon which to build.

In seventh and eighth grade, math students have been exploring the ups and downs of personal financial literacy. By investigating savings, debts, loan options, tax rates, insurance costs, etc. students created budgets by which to live. Their knowledge was put to the test when we played our real "Game of Life." Students randomly selected jobs, salaries, tax rates, debt totals and savings totals. Based off of their budgets, they selected housing, transportation, groceries, insurance and more. After each "year," students received updates to their lives. *Can you believe how much it costs to have a baby?!, I'm not having a cell phone when I'm older because it's too expensive!., and My spouse better not have very much debt. I can't afford it!* were just a few of the outstanding questions and comments that took place throughout the game. Connecting math to our real world is a focus of CTL mathematics. We all had a great time investigating how so many choices affect our financial future.

**Claire Want**

### 5-8 Science Workshop

To finish the year fifth grade will be studying Earth Systems and Interactions and Water Sources. The students will be expected to describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on earth. The student will also be expected to develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere interact.

To finish the year sixth grade will be studying Energy Transfer Optimization and Energy Transfer Between Objects. The students will be expected to apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer. They will also be expected to develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.

To finish the year seventh and eighth grade will be studying Mutations and Reproduction and Variation. The students will be expected to develop and use a model to describe why structural



changes to genes (mutations) located on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to the structure and function of the organism. The students will also be expected to develop and use a model to describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.

**Laura Wellbrock**

### *5-6 Social Studies Workshop*

We have completed our study of the Revolutionary War and are in the midst of exploring Manifest Destiny and the expansion of America into the West. The early 1800's was a fascinating and exciting time for the birth and expansion of America and the 5/6 social studies students have once again undertaken individual research projects to explore different events and people who helped the spread West. We have studied the expedition Lewis and Clark undertook to chart undiscovered parts and the many trials and tribulations they endured to reach the Pacific Coast, the Louisiana Purchase, the California Gold Rush, the Annexation of Texas, the Acquisition of Florida, the immigrants, the animals, the pioneers and many more fascinating explorers and scenarios.

The students undertook guided research to explore their topics. I did this by having them identify a topic that interested them and then they undertook research to build a basic understanding of their event. After this they developed a series of questions that had arisen from their introductory research. They then undertook deeper research to answer these questions and gain a better understanding. Once they had compiled their information they were required to write a one-minute speech and gather a range of images that supported the information they were presenting.

I was really impressed by the work produced by all students. They formed a clear understanding of their event and were able to communicate their ideas to the class. This helped everyone gather a clear knowledge of the many facets that contributed to America's expansion West and evolution toward the diverse nation it has become.

We will now be moving forward to explore the factors that helped drive apart the North and the South in the mid-1800s and what things influenced and impacted the outcome of the Civil War.

**James Milner**

### *7-8 Social Studies Workshop*

We paused our study of American history in order to undertake a fascinating research project which was inspired by Earth Day. Each student selected his/her own topic to investigate, and they were tasked with producing a properly-formatted formal essay, including references, on the topic. They were also working hard to create a visual presentation to teach their fellow students about their new area of expertise.



**Caroline Harrison**

### *PK-8 Art Workshop*

We've been busy this month preparing beautiful collaborative art pieces for the upcoming CTL Auction. Be ready to be WOW'd!!

In addition, students have been introduced to the scientific concept TURBULENCE and how Van Gogh illustrated this natural phenomenon. Pre-K explored the various shapes that can be made with yarn and glue as they studied turbulence. Exercises in "painting with yarn" evolved in difficulty with each grade level. This process encourages students to better understand turbulence and its relation to objects, wind, clouds, light, etc.

Kindergarten students, inspired by Van Gogh's floral paintings, enjoyed creating three dimensional flowers to top off their two-dimensional vases. First and second graders were introduced to Mark Kistler's "You Can Draw in 30 Days" as they illustrated their own floral paintings. Grades 3-4 used their print-making skills to create block print flowers – a contemporary response to Van Gogh's floral arrangements.

The next few weeks grades 3-8 will be busy preparing backdrops for the drama performances on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Pre-K through second graders will continue their exploration of Van Gogh's artistic style with both two- and three-dimensional techniques.

I want to thank everyone for the lovely flowers sent during Teacher Appreciation Week. All classes enjoyed drawing and painting them. Also, thank you to those who sent gifts—I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!

**Abby Salazar**

### *5-8 Drama Workshop*

Grades 5-8 drama have had a great month since our last update. I have finished writing our last two plays for the year, and we are looking forward to showcasing the students amazing talents and development toward becoming acting superstars.

Our first play will be an exploration of aliens dropping into school to try and research earth for their supreme ruler. Finley and Valeria had their lines memorized within days of getting their scripts and Adrian has done a great job taking on the leadership of this group, directing actions, and motivating the group to embrace their characters and work as a team. Our aliens, Maripaz, Natalie and Diego, are a great team, and Elise perfectly suits the role of the teacher, taking after her mom, Ms Sheldon, I think, and Nathan, Taylor and Gray.

Our second play will be a tale from Camelot as King Arthur attempts to protect his peasants and friends from his evil cousin Mordred. Hayden and Mia are adding great humor to their roles. Jaye and



Tatum are memorizing their mountain of lines. Shawn has embraced the role of the bad guy with the help of his loyal servants, Alex and Raleigh. Kyra, Asher and Noah are adding so much character to the depth of their roles.

We still have a lot of work to do for costumes, sets and learning our lines, but I am really excited to show these plays to you on May 23<sup>rd</sup> on our stage in the CTL Park. Devine Dogs will be bringing their hotdog truck into the playground, and it'll be a blast. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather and a fun afternoon for all.

**James Milner**

### *PK-8 Music Workshop*

Following our *Discovery* musical program, the music students have been focusing on music appreciation. Our students are gaining a new perspective on music through learning music history and music elements. Pre-K and K are studying about Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, otherwise known as the “Three Famous B’s of Classical music,” as well as various compositions by these artists. First through fourth grades are studying the Grand Staff in depth. They are having fun reading Bass and Treble cleft through music games and activities designed to support the educational material. Fifth through eighth grade students have quickly mastered reading the Grand Staff and will be moving on to reading pitch intervals. They have also learned the genealogy of contemporary genres like Rock, Pop, and Hip-Hop. They were able to trace these genres’ histories back to genres like Blues, Boogie-Woogie, Folk, Jazz, and Ragtime. They will soon be able to connect how the music theory concepts we have learned create the musical elements that define these genres.

**Melanie Garcia**

### *PK-4 Physical Education Workshop*

CTL students love to run and have been working hard building up their endurance. We have been playing relay fitness games which incorporate running with jumping jacks, push-ups, and squats using a deck of cards. Fun is the key to keeping them engaged and active in physical education class. We have been playing *Protect the Princess* which has helped them develop team playing skills and eye-hand coordination using balls and pins. We are super excited for field-day activities to end our fun-filled year in P.E. FUN is in the air!

**Sarina Eckhardt**

### *5-8 Physical Education Workshop*

Fifth through eighth grades are still practicing their skills in sand volleyball. We have learned bumps, serves, and the rules. We are looking to create a match for 5/6th VS. 7/8th.

**Laura Wellbrock**