



# CTL CORNER

Center for Teaching & Learning | 5125 Shadowbend Place, The Woodlands, TX 77381 | 832-474-8214

## Important Dates

**May 1** - Pizza at the Park and Fitness Fun at 11:45 a.m., followed by our Parent Council meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**May 4 - 8** - Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 11** - Parent Appreciation Breakfast from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Please come for breakfast and let us celebrate YOU! More information to come.

**May 18 - 21** - Student-led Conferences/Portfolio Preview from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please look for a SignUpGenius email coming soon.

**May 22** - Enrichment Club Showcase from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**May 25** - No School (Memorial Day)

**May 26** - K-2 Talent Show at 8:15 a.m.

**May 27** - 3-5 Talent Show at 8:15 a.m.

**May 28** - 6-8 Talent Show at 8:15 a.m. & Student End-of-School Picnic from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## Important Reminders

\*Please ensure your child is at school no later than 8 a.m. for our daily Morning Meeting that begins promptly at 8 a.m.

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

\*Encourage your child to show CTL school spirit by wearing his/her CTL t-shirt each Friday.



## Hooray for May!

Wow...can you believe it's already May? Where has the time gone? As the school year comes to a close, we could not be more proud of our CTL students, teachers, and parents. We are grateful every day for all who have helped the dream of CTL become a successful reality!



In April we enjoyed our first field trip to Main Street Theater in Houston to experience *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and then had lunch and played at Discovery Green Park prior to driving home. For many students the bus ride was the highlight of the day!

We were also happy to announce our new school location beginning with the 2015-16 school year at 26131 Kuykendahl Rd, The Woodlands, TX 77375, near the northwest corner of Kuykendahl and Creekside Green, in the Village of Creekside Park. We have enjoyed our year at our current location, but we quickly outgrew our space and must move on. We made sweet memories here though that will last forever. We have also added two new teachers for next year — Caleb Cannon for grades 5-8 Math/Science/Social Studies and another amazing teacher for grades 3-4 to be announced in June.

May is sure to be a busy month with so many preparations for the end of our third trimester and school year. Parents are encouraged to attend our Parent Appreciation Breakfast...be looking for an invite coming soon! Parents will sign





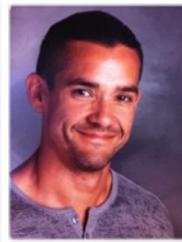
up for a time to meet with your child and his/her teacher(s) for Student-led Conferences/Portfolio Preview and will be invited to attend our Enrichment Club Showcase and Talent Shows. We will also have a culminating activity for our CTL students, the CTL End-of-School Picnic, on the last day of school. More information to come.

What an amazing school year! It has been even more exciting than we could ever have imagined. Thank you to CTL students, parents, and teachers for your support in making this year memorable for all.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
We invite you to email any of our CTL team members by clicking on their names in this newsletter, which are linked to their email addresses.

*Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain*

*Introducing Caleb Cannon...*



We are excited to introduce you to Caleb Cannon, our new 5-8th grade Math/ Science/Social Studies teacher beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Caleb earned his B.S. in Education from the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Upon graduating, he accepted a teaching position in Galena Park ISD in East Houston. Caleb spent six years in GPISD serving as a regular education teacher, gifted and talented teacher, and science specialist. He received many accolades during his tenure there including a Rookie of the Year Award and Honorary Nominee/Graduate of the District’s Future Leaders Academy. Upon moving to Humble where

Caleb and his family currently reside, he accepted a teaching position with Humble ISD. In addition to earning his Masters in Science Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas - Arlington, Caleb also served in several leadership capacities while teaching in Humble. These include curriculum design and leadership for math and science, student teacher mentoring, and serving as a Mentor Member in the Lake Houston Math Collaborative through Rice University. Caleb holds Texas teaching certificates for elementary and secondary education in all content areas for 1st through 8th grade, as well as supplemental certifications in Gifted and Talented Education. He is very passionate about math and science and often finds himself consumed by books about physics and biology. "I've always had this desire to accomplish greatness in the classroom," he says. "A greatness that can only be seen in the thinking of the students I teach. CTL will be the perfect environment to make this happen."

*K-2 Class*



As we come to the close of our first year at CTL, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for sharing your children with me. What an exciting experience it has been! I have truly enjoyed every minute of my time with all of them. We have learned so many new things: one of the most valuables being friendship.

We’ve been studying the life cycle of butterflies and frogs in science. The class observed five live caterpillars as they went through the metamorphosis into butterflies. We released them into the natural habitat last week, and they recorded their observations in their individual books. They will be included in their portfolios so be sure to look for them.



All of the students are challenging themselves in math as they continually work toward their goals. It is always a joy to hear students ask for a challenge! We will be completing our Math Inventory to see what each child's strengths and challenges have been.



Reading and Writing Workshop has proven itself again! Each and every student has shown incredible growth. It's amazing to go back and look at the very first pieces of writing they completed in September and compare it to their writing today.

We have many more experiences to keep school exciting through the end of the year. Please make sure to check daily folders for future notes.

Thank you so much for supporting your child through his/her learning process. It means so much to their success! Enjoy the rest of the school year.

*Lisa Lipar*

### *3-8 Language Arts*

The third through fifth grade class is enjoying the read aloud of *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. Through this story students are introduced to new vocabulary and identify the different conflicts experienced by the protagonist. Although several students have previously read the book, they are relating to the story in new ways.



The sixth through eighth grade class read aloud is *The Paperboy* by Vince Vawter. The story is unique in that it is told through the mind of a child who stutters and writes the way he wishes he could talk. This style of writing has given students another example of how authors use the written word to help readers connect with characters. Students have enjoyed moving through the story with the protagonist and are identifying plot elements throughout.

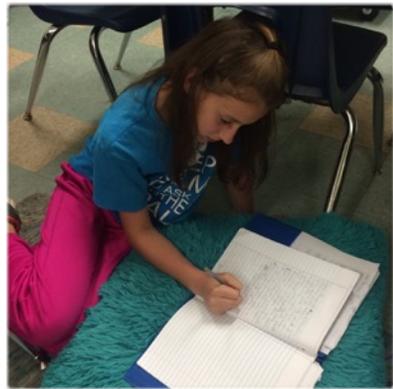


All students will be completing their final book project for the year in the next couple of weeks. The project should be completed at home and brought to school on the day of presentations. Watch for more information to come home this week.

Thank you for encouraging your children to read at home every day. This has a great impact on their progress as readers and writers!

Third through fifth grade students are being introduced to/continuing to practice cursive writing. A brief lesson is taught in class and a practice sheet is sent home most days. They are also working on their final pieces for publication. We have used the read aloud as a model for the use of conflict in a





story, and students are focusing on this element in their own fictional stories. We will continue to meet the instructional needs of our writers through individual conferences.

Sixth through eighth grade students have been researching for their multi-genre projects. They will write five different genres related to their topic of choice in the next two weeks. We are pleased with their progress on the project thus far and look forward to seeing their final presentations.

Angela Bailey

### 3-8 Math/Science

This month the third to fifth graders began studying life science. We identified plants that grow naturally around our school and will be submitting our data to a project where we will soon be comparing our schoolyard with others around the nation. We have learned about food chains and food webs and the role of producers, consumers, and decomposers. We even made four terrariums for our classroom where we can observe earthworms. We have learned about adaptations of plants and animals and how those help the organisms survive. We really enjoyed using different tools to represent bird beaks and trying to pick up different foods with those "beaks!" We are now learning about inherited traits and learned behaviors. We will each be studying an animal to learn about how its inherited traits and learned behaviors help it survive in its environment. During the next few weeks we will complete our interactive study of schoolyard ecosystems, life cycles, and metamorphosis. We will end the year with some fun engineering and design activities.



The sixth to eighth graders have also began to study life science. We have studied how various organisms interact with their ecosystems as well as symbiotic relationships between species. We have learned about how ecological succession occurs in different ecosystems. We spent some time outdoors observing the plants and insects near our

school and then learned about ways to identify them, including using dichotomous keys. We have learned about cells, primarily plant and animal cells, and the organelles that make up those cells. Now we are studying different systems of the human body and how they function. Next month, we will learn about genetics and participate in an interactive study of inherited traits. We will end the year with some engineering and design activities as well.

Last month in math, the third to fifth graders worked on decimal concepts, geometry concepts, and data analysis. Depending on the needs of the students, these are some of the skills they may have worked on:

- Memorization of multiplication facts
- Decimal concepts
- Area
- Perimeter
- Volume





- Lines, rays, and angles
- Measuring and drawing angles with a protractor
- Attributes of triangles and quadrilaterals
- Lines of symmetry
- Frequency tables
- Line/dot plots
- Stem and leaf plots
- Scatterplots
- Interpreting mean, median, mode, and range

Next month we will continue to work on data analysis and will study probability and financial literacy.

Last month the sixth to eight graders completed a study of linear equations. We are now working on data analysis. We have looked at frequency tables, dot/line plots, stem and leaf plots, and histograms. We are applying the concepts of mean, median, mode, and range and learning how those help us interpret data. We will continue this study next month and then will study probability.

In Algebra, we finished our study of quadratic functions and their equations. We are now wrapping up our course with looking at piecewise functions, inverse functions, arithmetic and geometric sequences, transforming graphs, and solving quadratic equations.

*Stephanie Phipps*

*3-8 Social Studies and K-8 Art*

	<p><i>Month in Review</i></p> <p><b>Month of April 2015</b></p>	 <p><b>Month of May 2015</b></p>
<p><b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b></p>	<p>April 2015 marks the beginning of a new and fresh unit for the students of Grades 3 – 8: The History of the United States of America! They will be engaged in the following Social Studies inquiry projects and learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Pilgrims, The Decision to Leave England, The Mayflower, &amp; The New World</li> <li>o Researching and Understanding the American History</li> <li>o Researching and Understanding the American Revolutionary War (The Reasons, The Opposing Sides, and the Outcome)</li> <li>o Researching and Understanding the Declaration of Independence</li> <li>o Facts and Brief Histories of the 50 states</li> <li>o Student-Choice USA States' Art &amp; Biographical Projects</li> <li>o Student-Choice Written Expression Projects</li> <li>o Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning</li> </ul>	<p>May 2015 is here! This month marks a research-filled month for the students of Grades 3 – 8. We will complete our unit on the history of the United States of America, and we will begin our inquiry-based unit about the world and world history. Here is a glimpse of the activities that we will be engaged until the end of the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Facts and Brief Histories of the 50 States Through Student-Choice USA States' Art &amp; Biographical Projects</li> <li>o USA Symbols and Fun Facts</li> <li>o Student-Choice Written Expression Projects</li> <li>o Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning</li> <li>o Researching the Countries Based on Student-Choice and Interest—Students will become travel guides for their self-selected country, in which they will be the historian, travel guide, geographer/map creator, and culture expert of their country. Students will create power points to showcase their findings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ART</b></p>	<p>During the month of April 2015, we will continue to study various art concepts and learn more about art history through famous artists!</p> <p><b>K-2 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Playdough-Making &amp; Creating Sculptures</li> <li>✦ "Faceless" Abstract Art with Synthia St. James</li> <li>✦ Photo Distortion</li> <li>✦ Pablo Picasso's Many Art "Faces"</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art</li> </ul> <p><b>3-5 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Abstract Art and Photo Distortion</li> <li>✦ De Stijl and Neoplasticism with the Artist Piet Mondrian</li> <li>✦ Pablo Picasso's Many Art "Faces"</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art</li> </ul> <p><b>6-8 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ "Faceless" Abstract Art with Synthia St. James</li> <li>✦ De Stijl and Neoplasticism with the Artist Piet Mondrian</li> <li>✦ Pablo Picasso's Many Art "Faces"</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art</li> </ul>	<p>During the month of May 2015, we will continue to study various art concepts and learn more about art history through famous artists to close out the year!</p> <p><b>K-2 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ How I See Myself Now Through My Mind &amp; My Art</li> <li>✦ Creating Sculptures</li> <li>✦ Photo Distortion with Lines</li> <li>✦ Lines, Shapes, and Color with Vasilii Kandinsky</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art Continued...</li> <li>✦ Creative Hat-Making</li> </ul> <p><b>3-5 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Pop Art &amp; Polka-Dot Art with Yayoi Kusama</li> <li>✦ How I See Myself Now Through My Mind &amp; My Art</li> <li>✦ "Faceless" Abstract Art with Synthia St. James</li> <li>✦ Photo Distortion with Color and Lines</li> <li>✦ Lines, Shapes, and Color with Vasilii Kandinsky</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art Continued...</li> </ul> <p><b>6-8 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Pop Art &amp; Polka-Dot Art with Yayoi Kusama</li> <li>✦ How I See Myself Now Through My Mind &amp; My Art</li> <li>✦ "Faceless" Abstract Art with Synthia St. James</li> <li>✦ Photo-Distortion with Color and Lines</li> <li>✦ CTL Young Artist Mini-Lessons with Mia B.</li> <li>✦ Lines, Shapes, and Color with Vasilii Kandinsky</li> <li>✦ Nature-Art Continued...</li> </ul>

*Treva McKissic*



### Physical Education



Where to begin??? So much learned and tried in PE this past month. Our skills unit was soccer, and throughout the grades students dribbled, trapped, and passed. We played Crab Soccer with a giant soccer ball and Crazy Soccer with dodge balls, footballs, and even a foam dice. The younger class even used hula hoops to play Soccer Golf.

To keep our heart rates up, we played games with plastic bowling pins, bean bags, foam dodge balls, and even simple plastic grocery bags. Students ran, threw, caught, dodged, guarded, pulled, and tagged all in the name of keeping active while having fun.



My favorite part of PE was watching all the students come together during our cooperative

games. Everyone felt welcome when the K-2's played Survival Island (sort of like musical chairs with hula hoops) and the upper grades needed to use all their communication and



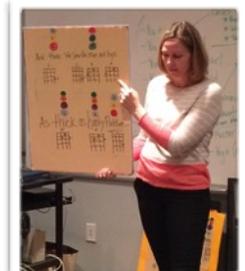
team work skills to complete Mission Impossible. The 3-5 class deserves extra kudos for taking the game seriously while also being incredibly positive with each other.

Fitness review and some student choice games for the month of May. Until next time-stay active!

*Marci Murphy*

### Music

Our young musicians have been preparing for the upcoming CTL talent show! Each class will present their own show consisting of two musical numbers by the entire class, and then individual students will present their own talents. The K-2





Talent Show will be on Tuesday, May 26th at 8:15 a.m. in place of morning meeting. The 3-5 Talent Show will be Tuesday, May 27th at 8:15 a.m. The 6-8 Talent Show will be Wednesday, May 28th at 8:15 a.m. Students who wish to share a talent will need to present it to Mrs. Chamberlain, Dr. Ellis, and myself the week of May 11th. More details to come. It does not have to be a musical talent. It can be any talent the student wants to share (poetry reading, a craft they made, a dance, etc.)

The K-2 class has been working on a special song they are learning on their new "instrument," as well as more musical symbols and "do re mi's."



The 3-5 students are learning more songs on the ukulele and started this month on group instruments (rhythm sticks, song chimes, glockenspiels, hand bells, and maracas) and learned how to take turns using them. They also learned about musical form and structure as they listened to a song called *The Viennese Clock* and



composed their own *Breakfast Rondo*.

The 6-8 graders have done some ear training with me this month as they learned more musical symbols so they could play Music Bingo and have been excelling in their ukulele studies.

*Melissa Abbott*

### Enrichment Clubs

Fridays continue to be a blast as CTL students enjoy participating in their self-selected enrichment clubs for this trimester:

- Paper Airplanes/Craft Club
- Basketball/Soccer Club
- Jump Roping Club
- Zumba Club
- Cake Decorating Club
- Logic Puzzles Club
- Board Games Club
- Ukulele/Guitar Club
- Oral Reading/Drama Club



Please join us in celebrating our CTL students' accomplishments and talents on Friday, May 22nd for our Enrichment Club Showcase!

As always, a big thank you to our 6-8 grade students and parent volunteers who are helping lead our clubs this trimester! CTL students are continually having fun and learning from each other and you.