



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 1:

CTL Parent Council High School Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, February 3:

Jason's Deli Friday Lunch

Wednesday, February 8:

CTL Parent Math Workshop at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, February 10:

El Chaparro Friday Lunch

Grades 5-8 Choir Performance from 1:45-2:30 p.m. at The Woodlands Healthcare Center

Monday, February 13:

PreK-2 100th Day of School

Tuesday, February 14:

Valentine's Day Class Parties from 2-3 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15:

CTL Parent Reading Assessment Workshop at 8:30 a.m.

Staff Appreciation Lunch (Organized by Grades 5-6)

Friday, February 17:

Papa John's Friday Lunch

Monday, February 20:

President's Day (No School)

Wednesday, February 22:

CTL Parent Writing Workshop at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, February 24:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch

Go Texan Day

Corkscrew BBQ Family Fun Spirit Night from 6-8 p.m.

Monday-Friday, February 27-March 3:

Scholastic Book Fair & World Book Week
Trimester 2 Club Showcases at 8:00 a.m.



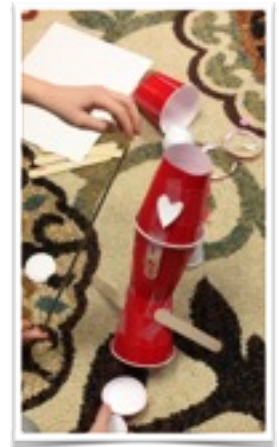
We LOVE you CTL Parents!

"Kindness is simple. It is seeing the good in everyone, and celebrating it."

--Random Acts of Kindness

We have welcomed the sunshine and beautiful spring-like days after the cold, rainy week we had at the beginning of January. Students have certainly loved being outside again to enjoy the budding grass, the gaga ball pit, the playground structure, the fairies, and the room to run and play, invasion and imagine and develop friendships.

Goodbye to a busy January and hello to an even busier February! Time flies when we are having fun! In January we celebrated some important historical and international events in morning meeting--Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Australia Day, and Chinese New Year. Thanks to those parents who joined us for those celebrations. In February we look forward to the PreK-2 100th Day of School parade, Valentine's Day parties, Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week and National RAK Day, Presidents' Day, and Go Texan Day with its evening of fun and great food at Corkscrew BBQ! Thanks to the Buchmans for hosting this CTL social event again this year. Last year's event was so much fun. Hope to see everyone there! We end February with



Important Reminders

*Please ensure your child is at school by 7:55 a.m. All students arriving after 7:55 a.m. will be marked tardy.

*Please ensure your child has a snack, lunch, and water bottle every day and tennis shoes on PE days (Mondays and Wednesdays).

*Please ensure your child wears his/her CTL t-shirt each Friday.

*Please check your child's teacher's Shutterfly webpage for class announcements, homework, and resources.

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

*Please check out our CTL Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CTL.TheWoodlands/> and subscribe to our CTL Parent Council Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctlparentcouncil/> for updates about our students, classrooms, and school!



the beginning of World Book Week, our spring Scholastic Book Fair, and Trimester 2 Club Showcases. It is sure to be a fun month!

On February 17th we will celebrate National Random Acts of Kindness Day with other individuals, groups and organizations nationwide, and we will celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week, as we do each year, with the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation (<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/get-inspired>). The RAK Foundation is an internationally recognized non-profit organization founded upon the powerful belief in kindness and dedicated to providing resources and tools that encourage acts of kindness. We encourage you to go to their website and celebrate with your children and with us this month. Let's add a little kindness to our world at CTL and beyond!

You are all amazing! Thanks to each of you who requested and attended our Reading Strategies Workshop and to those who attended our February Parent Council Meeting to launch ideas for our Proposed CTL High School. Thanks for your interest, your ideas, and your questions. We will continue with follow-up high school exploration meetings for interested parents. If you missed the high school session, you can link to the handouts in the February 1 Wednesday Bulletin. We are looking forward to working with CTL parents in this new venture. At your request, we also have more parent workshops scheduled for this month--February 8 for Math Workshop with CTL's math teachers, February 15 for Reading Assessment with Dr. Ellis, and February 22 for Writing Workshop with Dr. Carroll. When we named this school the Center for Teaching and Learning, we envisioned a school that would serve as a hub of learning for everyone--the students, the teachers, the parents, the community, and teacher candidates and practicing teachers from around the state. We are now serving in all these capacities. We love that you are such learners!

We also thank the parents for your support of CTL in other ways. You have literally run with the sprinkling of the idea of hosting a spring Gala, and your enthusiasm is contagious! We can't thank you enough. Thank the Butlers for hosting the event at their home and to all parents who are busy with preparations. All of you are welcome to join this energetic group of parents in the library from 2:00 to 3:00 Thursdays.

Where is this year going? We are already in the middle of re-enrollment for next school year, and our wait pool grows. On February 16 we will begin to enroll many new students waiting for a spot. We can't believe we are almost through Year 3 at CTL. What a joyous celebration!

Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being such an integral part of CTL's success! And thank you for your enthusiasm in all that you do. We love you!

Dr. Linda Ellis, Jennifer Chamberlain, and Paige Lewis





Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-K started off 2017 with a Texas style snowball fight. After carefully planning and strategizing, we gathered our snowballs (cotton balls) and proceeded across the hall to the Investigators' classroom. They never saw it coming. Snowballs were everywhere. This began our discussion about snow and how a snowflake is made. We actually made a snowflake crystal as one of our science experiments. Additional science adventures included the blubber experiment. This showed us how the polar bears and other arctic animals stay warm. The Pre-K class has enjoyed playing in the class igloo complete with icicle lights. Some yummy fun activities included glacier iceberg fishing snack and marshmallow snowmen which, created and consumed by the class.



In social studies we read *My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* that was written by his son. We discussed why we celebrate his special day. We also had fun celebrating Australian Day. Catie and her brother Liam shared some interesting facts about Australia in morning meeting. We celebrated Chinese New Year by painting a dragon mask and making dragon puppets followed by a small parade for the front office.

In February we will discuss Valentine's Day, President's Day, and the weather.

Becky Billings

Grades K-1

January was a blur! We came back from the holidays and started to get settled into our routines, and then I had to make an emergency trip to Nebraska for my grandfather's funeral. Thank you for your kind words and understanding of my need to be back home again.

It happens every year in January. Something changes. Our home and school schedules settle back into a normal routine. The kids have grown, and reading workshop looks different. It's the time of year when all the strategies we've been learning seem to "click," and I see students' reading abilities and engagement take off. This January was no different. It's exciting to see them becoming readers who know how to select the books they will enjoy and not want to put a book down.

In writing workshop we have been talking about how to add more to our stories to help our readers better understand our thoughts. Early writers often list events and don't always think of adding the details that will describe the setting, characters, and events of their stories. The students have been using these mini lessons to help them write personal narratives, fiction, and even some poetry this month.

In math we have been working on place value to the 100s and 1000s. It's so important to develop a strong understanding of what each digit in each place value position really means. It helps us make estimates, determine if our answers are reasonable, and compare numbers. Next month we will be using what we've learned about place value to add and subtract with larger numbers. We will also be looking more closely at how to create and use graphs. We will be celebrating the 100th day of school with some fun math activities. Be watching for more details to be coming soon.



In science we enjoyed learning about animal adaptations. Most students already had a basic understanding of the idea that animals have body parts and behaviors that help them survive, so we did several experiments related to adaptations and ended with an exciting "Who Would Win?" project. Each student studied the adaptations of an animal and then, just like in the "Who Would Win?" books, two animals were compared and "went to battle" to see which one was better adapted to win. We are now looking into plant adaptations and will follow that with a study of how animals protect their young.

In social studies we learned about economics, including concepts such as wants and needs, consumers and producers, and goods and services. We also began our study of China. So far, we have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, the Chinese calendar, and some inventions from China. In the next month we will be learning much more about life in China and researching the answers to some of our own questions about this country.

I'd like to ask for your help with two things at home. Please make sure your child is reading 30 minutes daily from "just right" books outside of school. This can be a combination of you reading to them and them reading to you, but it is the most important thing you can do to help your child become a strong reader. The other thing is related to math. In addition to the review sheets that I send home each Monday, I'd like to ask if you would help your child work on fact fluency, or memorization. Knowing the basic addition facts is a critical skill as we move on to more challenging concepts. You can do this in fun ways by playing board games with two dice, playing flash card games, or using math apps. Let me know if you need more ideas on how to help your child.

Stephanie Phipps

Grades 1-2

We started the new year off with a bang! The Explorer class was ready to get back to our routine. We celebrated the new year by looking back on 2016. The students wrote about their goals for 2017. We focused on our school-wide goal in which students were asked to think of one word that would help shape their new year. The beautiful rock garden out in front of the building has all of their creations on display!

The class studied Jan Brett, Lois Ehlert and Shel Silverstein this past month. We completed author study activities to learn more about their different writing styles and even their illustrations. Students were able to compare the stories read to find similarities and differences among the authors. We focused on naming the parts of personal narrative (beginning, middle and end) and finding small moments in our writing. Dr. Ellis came in to share reading/writing connection lessons with us as well.

In our math workshop the class played games and worked with many hands on materials to find out how to make equal groups, create three and four digit numbers and compare them, create bar graphs, line plots and tally graphs, work with doubles in addition, and sorting/counting coins. They are moving on to telling time to the quarter hour/minute, multiplication, geometry and properties of multiplication and division/equal shares/equal groups.

Science was exciting as we studied the many adaptations of plants and animals. The class looked at different habitats and how plants and animals survive in each of them. We are studying the growth and survival of a Venus Fly Trap that our student teacher, Miss Corbin, so kindly brought in for us to observe. We will be moving on to study heredity (inheritance and variation of traits) beginning in February.



Our social studies unit began with economics. We discussed goods and services, producers and consumers and how to earn, save and spend money. Next, we will explore Ancient China as we watch videos, read books and research the many fascinating aspects of the Chinese culture. We are excited to welcome some of our CTL family members as they will be joining us to share their family customs and traditions.

The Explorers excited as we move into February and plan for Valentine parties, Go Texans day and President's Day. Also, please be sure to check out our Math Workshop on February 8th and our Reading Assessment workshop on February 15th. I hope to see you there as we have put together some great information for you.

[Lisa Lipar](#)

Grades 3-4

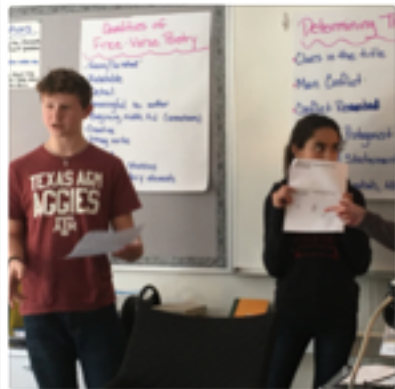
It didn't take long for the Calculation Crew to jump back into the swing of things in January after the Christmas Break. We all came back refreshed, renewed, and ready to tackle 2017!

In reading, we have been enjoying our read aloud, *A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord. It has proven to be a heartwarming story about unexpected friendships. We've enjoyed our journey with Tiger Lily in her hometown of Maine as she befriends a young migrant worker, Salma, in the blueberry fields that saves Lucky, Lily's blind dog, from running away. Because of this read aloud, we've discussed what it's like when best friends drift apart, the uncomfortable feelings accompanied with taking risks, and what it is like when we are faced with hard choices. For our next read aloud we venture into the world of fantasy with *Gregor the Overlander*. Thanks to the generous gift card from parents at Christmas, our class was able to order tons of new books. Sequels, new graphic novel series, and several chapter book requests were ordered via Amazon. Students have enjoyed passing along the new books to each other.

In writing workshop we have stepped up our publishing game. Our class now has a binding machine! Students have enjoyed using Google Docs to create their stories. They have used the share feature to work collaboratively with peers to revise and edit their writing. We have learned how to add a title page, table of contents, insert page numbers, and even add a dedication page. Students love making front and back covers. Beautiful illustrations adorn the front covers, and back covers look professional, complete with student pictures and blurbs about the authors. Once bound these stories sit on the shelves with all the other books in our classroom library. During reading workshop students have enjoyed reading their peers' newly published books. We truly see ourselves as authors!

In math we have put our knowledge about rounding and place value to good use. As we continue with multiplication and division in both grade levels, we see why it is important to know our place value and the ability to round. For instance, when doing 23×2 , students know to first multiply the ones place and then the tens place. To know if the answer is reasonable, we estimate the answer by rounding the problem to 20×2 . In fourth grade we are moving toward long division while finishing up two digit times two digit numbers. Fractions and geometry are just around the corner.





In science we have constructed several small “never ending” books folded so when you start with the first stage of the cycle and flip through the booklet, you come back to the first stage and keep going. The illustrations show the continues life cycles of both plants and animals. After a few super windy days in January, we discussed how wind plays a part in life cycles, especially plants and the spreading of their seeds. We expanded our discussion to wind energy and did a STEAM challenge in which we engineered our own Puff-Mobiles. Each pair of students received the same materials and were challenged to make a small car powered by wind energy - their own wind (breath)! Up next we will study inheritance and traits of animals.



In social studies we have utilized our Google Classroom to do research in small groups. In pairs students are researching the likes of George Washington, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin. Students are using their Google accounts to keep track of research and prepare it for presentation to the class. Our study of the original colonies is coming into focus as we are beginning to see how the United States came to be. As we continue this research, we will move into a study of civics and economics.

Melanie Smith

Grades 5-8 Language Arts and 7-8 Social Studies

In reading workshop for Grades 5 and 6 we have noticed tough questions raised by a character that reveals his/her inner struggles. Noticing these questions gives us insight into the theme of the books we read and creates opportunities to make connections between the author's thinking and our own thoughts. Our reader's roundtable discussion of these questions gave us the opportunity to understand the purpose of noticing tough questions in books. Next, we will be noticing the life lessons that affect characters in the books we are reading. The 7th and 8th graders continue to immerse themselves in engaging books. They enjoy the thought-provoking discussions taking place around the books being read independently, as well as those about our read aloud of *SYLO* by D. J. MacHale. Our focus in class has been on determining the themes of the books we read. We have considered how conflict, changes in the protagonist, and meaningful statements help determine the overall theme of a book. In the coming weeks our discussions will dive deeper into questioning author's intent in the books we read.

In writing workshop for Grades 5 and 6 students completed necessary revisions and edits in their memory poems and have published their second free-verse poem of the trimester. If you have time, be sure to check out the creative “My Favorite Part of Me” display outside the language arts classroom. Students are extremely proud of their work! Our focus in the coming weeks will be on writing imaginative stories. Many students have already begun writing a fictional piece and are ready to take it to the next level. The 7th and 8th graders are polishing their memoirs with a focus on utilizing dialogue to develop characters and replacing weak verbs. Next, we will focus on flash fiction in writing workshop.

7th and 8th grade social studies has focused on researching a constitutional issue. Students considered both individual rights and the common good while developing their own position on the issues they chose. The constitutional issues being researched are: gun control, the death penalty, miranda rights, student searches, and student expression - school uniform & dress codes. At the



end of the week, students will present their research and positions to the class.

Angela Bailey

Grades 5-8 Math and Science and 5-6 Social Studies

We have had a terrific start to the new year! In math students worked diligently setting up their cupcake shops in a math PBL. Students are choosing recipes, developing ingredients lists and calculating prices of their needed ingredients. Students were surprised to discover how much math was involved in setting up a cupcake shop. In February we will continue our cupcake shop PBL to learn about writing equations and inequalities as a way to determine when our shops become profitable.

Science heated up as students learned about energy transfer. Each student was tasked to create a new insulated container for a cooler company. They used all their knowledge of heat transfer to create a container to keep a water bottle frozen in the sunlight. We finished our study of matter and mass with a quick unit of the conservation of mass. February brings the winds of change to our science lab as we begin studying physics. Check back next month for photos of our student-designed roller coasters.

Students took on the role of World War I soldiers in social studies as they wrote journals documenting life in World War I trenches. Our unit on World War I ended with students representing a country and creating their own version of the Treaty of Versailles. In February we will move forward in history to investigate World War II.

The 7th and 8th graders worked together to become exponent operations masters. They became travel agents for the fictional country of Exponent Land. Each student created a travel brochure explaining the rules of the Land. 7th grade then focused on using inquiry and cooperative learning to learn about ratios and unit rates as the 8th graders began polynomial operations and factoring. In February the 7th graders will transition to graphing and solving multi step equations and inequalities. 8th graders will complete their study of polynomials and then apply the exponent and polynomial skills they have learned to their study of quadratic equations.

In science students are working in pairs to create proposals for the CTL student gardens. Each pair must create a proposed design for a garden that includes using vertical space and stays within a specified budget. They have researched harvest schedules, growing zones, and plant needs. This PBL also incorporates many math skills such as geometry and ratios. In February, students will continue their study of life science by exploring biodiversity in plants and animals.

Lori Williams

Grades PK-8 Music

Music classes at CTL have been learning new music concepts through folk songs and singing games. Specific music concepts are taken from each class's collection of songs. Music literacy is achieved in a fun way for students.

Pre-K

- Tuneful singing
- Partner activities
- Following Directions of the lyrics of songs

Grades 1-2

- Quarter note and eighth notes in 4/4 meter



- Preparing to learn quarter rest in 4/4 meter
- Head voice, tuneful singing

Grades 3-4

- Sol and mi of the do-re-mi...major scale
- Preparing la of the do-re-mi...major scale
- Practicing quarter note, eighth notes and quarter rest in 4/4 meter
- Preparing half note in 4/4 meter

Upper School Choir

- Preparing February program to present at local retirement center
- Singing two part music
- Reading through sight reading and keyboard playing

Diane Engle


Grades PK-8 Art

<p>Artists and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons...</p>	 <p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist Rene Magritte</p>	 <p>The Life & Artistic Style of Artist Gustav Klimt</p>	 <p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist Pablo Picasso</p>
	 <p>The Life & Artistic Style of Artist, Fashion Designer & Children's Book Author Julia Denos</p>		
<p>Art Read-Aloud Books and Famous Paintings that Sparked Our Art-Creating Experiences...</p>			
<p>Artwork We Have Created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacGrippe's Marvelous Hat-Inspired Bowler Hat Paintings in the Style of "High Society" • Swatch: The Girl Who Loved Color-Inspired Abstract, Original Creations • Pablo Picasso's Blue Period-Inspired Monochromatic Self-Portraits • Gustav Klimt's Gold Paintings-Inspired Monochromatic Self-Portraits • Abstract Watercolor Paintings • Original Fashion Designs and Sketchbook Mini-Lessons for Drawing Techniques 		

Treva McKissic



Grades PK-8 Physical Education

January 2017	Coming in February 2017
<p>Physical Education Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All CTL students participated in NFL style group fitness exercises in honor of the 51st Super Bowl game being played in Houston, Texas ➤ Pre/K - 2nd grade students played <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Spaghetti and Meatballs ◦ Spiders and Flies ◦ Basketball ◦ Earth Ball Volleyball ◦ Steal The Bacon ➤ 3rd - 8th grade students played <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Basketball ◦ Volleyball ◦ Battle Ball <p>PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We began to open up and share with each other about how emotions can drive our behavior. • Students created emotion posters that have become a focal point in our enrichment classroom. During the rest of the school year we will continue to share experiences with emotions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Joy ◦ Fear ◦ Disgust ◦ Anger ◦ Sadness 	<p>Physical Education Pre/K - 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DANCE DANCE DANCE !!! • CTL students will jump and move to square dance classics like Cotton Eye Joe and The Virginia Reel as well get moving to modern songs like Can't Stop the Feeling by Justin Timberlake. • On Monday, February 13th we will celebrate our 100th day of school! We will complete 100 exercises in PE. <p>PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February is Heart Health Month - students with play a heart healthy exercise game and take a healthy heart pledge. <p>CTL Pyramid of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ During February we will spend time working on the our HARD WORK building block of our PE Pyramid of Success. 

Grades 5-8 Drama

January 2017	Coming in February 2017
<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ We have been working hard in drama filming our CTL version of "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News!". Students have learned valuable lessons about set design, props, makeup and costume design. So far we have filmed anchors Ruby Red (Anna Carlson) and Pete Charming (Andrew Winter) with reporter Wanda Whereabout (Haylee Smith). Wanda interviewed Sleeping Beauty (Abbi Buckman) and David Dashing (Aiden Butler). We created and filmed a weather segment with Gabby Longoria as Sally Sprinkles and reporters Katie Lean (Haley Lien) and Hasket Hansen (Rohan Balla). We only have two more scenes to work with students acting the roles of the three little pigs and many more. Stay tuned! 	<p>5th-8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students will continue to take home play scripts to read and critique in preparation for our spring show. ★ Students will spend the beginning of February finishing up filming of LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News! After filming is finished the editing process will begin. Drama students will be asked to help pull it all together using iMovie applications. We can't wait to show our CTL friends and family the final product.

Trisha Brandimarte