



# CTL CORNER

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

## Important Dates

### Monday, May 1:

Principal's Day

### May 1-5:

Teacher Appreciation Week

### May 1-10:

Spring MAP Assessments

### Monday, May 8:

Kendra Scott Fundraiser 6-8pm

### Wednesday, May 10:

Parent Appreciation Breakfast  
7:45-8:30am

### Thursday, May 11:

Grades 5-6 Wax Museum 8:30-10am  
Pre-K Field Trip to The Woodlands  
Children's Museum 9:30am-2pm

### Friday, May 12:

El Chaparro Friday Lunch

### Saturday, May 13:

Family Fun Day at Ms. Kinzel's Farm  
10-1pm

### May 15-19:

Trimester 3 Club Showcases 8am

### Wednesday, May 17:

Parent Planning Meeting 8:30am  
Spring Music/Drama Program  
6:30-8pm (Students arrive at 6pm)

### Friday, May 19:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch

### May 22-23:

Talent Shows 8am

### Wednesday, May 24:

Field Day/Picnic 9am-12pm

### Thursday, May 25

Yearbook Signing Party

### Friday, May 26:

Last Day of School  
Rising Up Ceremony 8am  
Early Dismissal 12pm  
Student-Led Conferences 12-2pm



## Hello, Magnificent May!

Not only has April come and gone quickly, but the year has also! It seems like we just got started. Time flies when you're having fun, and we've had our share of it this year. We are so thankful to be settled into our new location with room to spread out, and for the first year since we opened as a school, we will not be moving this summer. Hooray! We feel settled, and that is a great feeling!

It's hard to leave April and move into May without once again thanking each of you for facilitating, contributing to, and attending the *Turning a Page for CTL: An Evening in Wonderland* Gala and Community Fundraiser on March 31. During April, money has continued to pour in to a total sum of \$33,016. Expenses totaling \$2,324 have left a profit of \$30,692. The great news is that our CTL team has now received everything on their STEM wish list plus four new projectors, all totaling \$9,793, leaving a gala balance of \$20,900. Teachers and students are already teaching and learning with the new resources, and our CTL Team members are creating new wish lists for resources for the coming school year. A special thank you again to the fabulous gala committee for working



## Important Reminders

\*Please ensure your child is at school by 7:55 a.m. All students arriving after 7:55 a.m. are marked tardy and will miss morning meeting if not in the library by 8:00.

\*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!



tirelessly to carry out this magnificent endeavor and to all who participated. We sincerely and deeply appreciate your generous contributions that have put and will continue to put cutting-edge technology and resources in classrooms in order to enhance the teaching and learning opportunities for CTL students.

Thanks to CTL parents who continue to organize fundraisers that provide opportunities for parents to mingle with each other while bringing in funds to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Family Fun Night at the new Fuddruckers at Creekside Park on April 21 brought CTL families together for an evening of great food and fun. And thanks to Shannon Petillon for once again organizing the Kendra Gives Back fundraiser. Join us from 6:00 to 8:00 on May 8 at Kendra Scott at Market Street for an evening of treats, drinks, shopping, and camaraderie. It is sure to be a fun evening like last year.

Thank you to the grade 3-4 parents who fueled our spirits with a fabulous Staff Appreciation Luncheon on April 12. And to our amazing upcycling moms—Cecille Wright, Laurie Robertson, and Rebecca Masciola—for teaching us more about upcycling as a way to preserve our earth. They were with us the entire week of April 17th through the 21st leading up to Earth Day, facilitating upcycling activities on the playground and in the art room during recess and coordinating the sharing of those projects in morning meeting. And thanks to John and Faye Geiger who organized and picked up the recycling all year.

We love morning meeting as our way to start the day! Students also shared poems they wrote in celebration of National Poetry Month and amazing STEM projects including K-2 space exploration dioramas, 3-4 bat habitats, and 5-6 roller coasters. Grade 7-8 taught us about Internet safety.

Learning in April extended outside the classroom as 5-8 students and teachers traveled to Battleship Texas State Historical Site and when K-4 students and teachers traveled to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Pre-K students will go to The Woodlands Children's Museum on May 11 for their field trip. We appreciate the parents who travel with us on these learning adventures to ensure the safety of our students and provide transportation.

Another tradition so important to our history with an unveiling this month is our CTL Yearbook. We just can't wait! Thanks to Anne Peebles for beginning this tradition last year and once again for undertaking this time-consuming and arduous task. The students are already looking forward to their yearbook signing party the last week of school.

International Day was a new experience for us this year. We are fortunate to have such a rich, diverse international school community. We learn so much from each other, and at International Day, CTL parents and students taught us about their cultures and customs—a tradition we are sure to continue. We are excited this year also to begin a new tradition as we host our first Rising Up Ceremony the last week of school by allowing all CTL students time in the classrooms where they will be next school year.

In April, instructional specialists traveled from Region 20 Educational Service Center in San Antonio to visit CTL because they had heard of the wonderful things we are doing. They were "blown away" by what they experienced—the love of learning, the engagement level of the students, the sophistication of the language and critical thinking, etc. They came to learn more in order to help the teachers in their area, but they left wanting to start a school.

CTL was opened as a professional development school, and along with hosting teachers and leaders from other schools, we wanted to mentor teacher candidates from surrounding universities. We have had several since we opened. Now we are sad to have to say goodbye to our own Desiree Corbin who has spent this school year with us, visiting classrooms weekly in the fall and completing her clinical teaching experience this spring. Desiree chose us





because she felt CTL was most aligned with her coursework at University of Houston and Houston Baptist University. We are certainly glad she did. She has been such an asset, and we all love her. We'd like to hang on to her, but she has to leave us to begin her teaching career.

As a professional development school, CTL teachers continue to learn and share their expertise with each other and others. Congratulations to Stephanie for her recent professional presentations including "Overcoming Challenges in the ECE Classroom" and "Tools to Prepare an Optimal Learning Environment for Young Children" at the Early Childhood Winter Conference in January and "Overcoming Challenges in the ECE Classroom" at the Center in Houston for Infant Learning and Development (CHILD) Conference in April.

Our parent workshops continued in April as Dr. Carroll presented two fabulous writing workshops for CTL parents, ending with a graduation ceremony. Those who attended want to continue next year with a reading-writing group and hope others will join in the adventure. They learned of how we teach writing at CTL and also learned the joy writing can bring and the bonds formed when writing and sharing with others.

May is bitter sweet as it ends a magnificent year—the best yet! We honored our fabulous Ms. Maia on Administrative Professionals Day, and we began May with celebrations of Principals' Day and Teacher Appreciation Week in honor of our amazing CTL team members. Thanks to parents for making these celebrations extra special. To return our thanks to you, our parents, for all you have done to support us this year, we look forward to honoring you with Parent Appreciation Breakfast on May 10. We hope to see you also at one or more of our fun events that will close out our school year! Please check out your Wednesday Bulletin each week for more details about all events to come. We look forward to an exciting month and wish you a Magnificent May and a fabulous summer break with your family!

[Dr. Linda Ellis](#), [Jennifer Chamberlain](#), and [Paige Lewis](#)

### *Pre-Kindergarten*

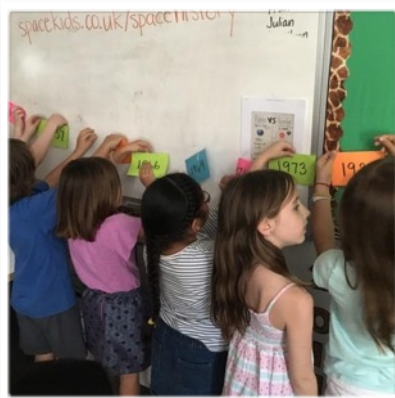
April was a busy month for Pre-K. We started our fun with International Day. We all enjoyed visiting and learning about the different countries and their customs. Pre-K's favorite activity was all the fun snacks.

Our egg hunt was fun and challenging. We had to search for the eggs labeled with our names and try our best not to tell our friends where their eggs were hiding.

In science, we started off with a worm investigation and exploration. Most of the students enjoyed digging for the worms. We found that the head is the most sensitive part on their body. Our next unit was dinosaurs. We studied many of the dinosaurs and learned that some were herbivore and some were carnivores and that paleontologist are scientist who study fossils to learn information about dinosaurs. We also made dinosaur footprint fossils. The best day was our Dino Dig Day. We all became Jr. Paleontologists. We divided the dig into four stations. The first station was a dinosaur nest full of dino eggs students were able to crack and see baby dinosaurs. Station two was a working volcano showing how a volcano erupts. Station three was dino fishing. Using our water table, everyone was able to catch a fish like the pterodactyls. Station four was our excavation site. Students mimicked a fossil dig by unearthing dino bones and eggs. Famished after their dino dig, students decorated chocolate volcanos cakes. What a yummy close to a fun day.

We are looking forward to the last few weeks of school with our friends.

[Becky Billings](#)



## Grades K-1

I can hardly believe we're down to the last few weeks of the school year. We've had so much fun together as we've developed new friendships as well as academic skills. Everyone is a little sad that we're nearing the end, and yet we're filled with excitement as we look forward to summer adventures. In the next few weeks, we will complete some end-of-year evaluations and finish our portfolios for this year. It's always fun to see how far we've come!

In reading workshop, we decided to do an author study on a favorite poet, Shel Silverstein. We enjoy his humor, funny illustrations, and impossible situations. We'll be reading works by another famous poet, Jack Prelutsky, for our final author study. We recently began a new chapter book by Roald Dahl, called *Matilda*. Many of the students are familiar with movies based on his books but didn't realize they were books first. Dahl has such strong character descriptions in this book that we've already had some intense conversations about the people in Matilda's life.

In writing workshop, the students have been writing a variety of genres, many trying genres they have not attempted in the past. Several students have decided to publish some of their books to put on our bookshelf for classmates to enjoy. Recently, we have begun to look at poetry. We are seeing that although poetry may look and sound different than the other writing we've done, we can use many skills from other types of writing to help us write poetry and vice versa. We've talked about using details and sensory images and will continue to discuss other common features of poetry next month.

In math, we really enjoyed our ramp making project. Through this activity we practiced measuring and comparing lengths, making graphs, and even had an introduction to the concept of averages. We are currently learning about the attributes of 2D and 3D shapes and will finish the year with a focus on fractions.

In science, we finished our study of space with the presentations of the dioramas the students made at home. They enjoyed sharing their new knowledge with the group, and we learned so much from each other. Our ladybugs recently emerged from their pupae, and we released them on our playground. We enjoyed getting to observe them go through their lifecycle and were a little sad to let them go. Every time we see a ladybug, we wonder if it might be one of ours. We have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of chicks for the past three weeks. We learned about how the embryo develops in the egg and even did some experiments with unfertilized eggs. This week, they finally started to hatch, and we are amazed at what can happen in just 21 days. We are looking forward to seeing the chicks again at Mrs. Kinzel's farm.

In social studies, we completed our study of space exploration and then began our study of Egypt. We have enjoyed learning about the hieroglyphics, pyramids, culture, pharaohs, and of course, the mummies. Visiting the Egyptian exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science was a highlight because we got to see the things we had discussed in class. We will be finishing our study of Egypt this month.

[Stephanie Phipps](#)

## Grades 1-2

April was fun for our class. We had many fun activities going on both in and out of the classroom.

In reading workshop, I read various chapter books to the class during our read aloud time. Students enjoyed practicing their predicting and visualizing skills.





During writing workshop, we focused on poetry and the many ways it can be written. The class practiced writing a few of their own that will soon be published in a class book. We read many poetry books from various authors as well.

Math was busy as we dove into fractions, multiplication, geometry and probability. The class was excited when we worked with M&Ms to sort, tally, group and collect data to understand probability. We also used many games and manipulatives to make arrays and equal groups for our lesson on multiplication. We sorted shapes by their attributes and found out how many sides, faces and vertices there are on the various 3D shapes.

Science was very exciting this month as we finished our space exploration unit with the presentation of our awesome dioramas. We discussed the importance of Earth Day with books, videos and projects. We then moved on to study the life cycle of a chicken! We were lucky to have live eggs brought in for us to observe for the 21 day hatching process. We studied the development of a chick. It was thrilling to watch as the tiny fluffy babies made their way into the world!

The class traveled to ancient Egypt in social studies. We read about the various ways of life for the Egyptian people thousands of years ago and learned about the famous pyramids, gods, goddesses, pharaohs, hieroglyphics, mummification, the Nile river and its importance to life in the region, and the many artifacts still seen today. The class enjoyed a hands-on experience of Egypt with our tour of the Hall of Ancient Egypt during our field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It was such an educational experience for all.

May will come and go fast as we close out the school year. We will work to complete our 2016-2017 portfolios. There are many things on our school calendar, so make sure you check them out!

[Lisa Lipar](#)

### *Grades 3-4*

Where did April go? I can't believe May is here and we are staring in the face of the end of school. This time of year is bittersweet: warm temperatures and tempting sun rays make us anxious for the freedom of summer days, but yet we all feel the twinge of sadness as we say goodbye to our friends for the summer break. Before we go, we will reflect on all the fabulous activities and learning that occurred this year as we complete our last set of self assessments to place in our portfolios.

In reading workshop, we are continuing to read *The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson. Besides learning to empathize with the main character, Matthew, and what it's like to live with OCD, we are left guessing every day, "What happened to Teddy?" Teddy is the toddler living next door to Matthew who mysteriously vanishes. This read aloud has cultivated suspicions and ignited theories which students defend as we continue chapter by chapter. During independent reading, many students have continued to read the *Gregor the Overland* series after we finished book one last month. We've also stumbled upon a new series, *Franny K. Stein*, a chapter book series about a young girl in love with science. Students are continuing to keep track of their daily reading habits on their reading logs which are now in Google Sheets. Students have enjoyed seeing their bar graphs go up every day as they reach their reading goals.





April was National Poetry month, and many students choose to write poems during writing workshop. We read many poems by Ralph Fletcher and tried our hand at black out poems in which we “black out” words in newspaper columns that we didn’t want, leaving behind a trail of words we wanted. The trail of words became the poem. Many students wrote so many poems, they published them all in a book of poems. Students also experimented with point of view in poetry as they wrote poems from the point of view of objects in the room: the recycling bin yearning for people to recycle paper, the tree frog explaining what it’s like to be a class pet, and even the pencil sharpener greedily chewing on dull pencils. Because we’ve had the egg incubator in our room, as we watched chick after chick hatch, many students chose to write about them. There were chick poems, chick chapter books, and nonfiction pieces of writing explaining how chicks hatch. Students have truly embraced how to use daily life experiences as opportunities to create wonderfully crafted pieces of writing!

In math, students used pool noodles to explore naming fractions, relationships between two different fractions, and how to add and subtract fractions. All the work we’ve done practicing our multiples and finding factors paid off as students were required to find common denominators in order to add different fractions. Our measurement unit had third graders practicing telling time to the minute and elapsed time while fourth graders reviewed standard and metric units of length and capacity. We will round out our year in math for both grades with geometry.

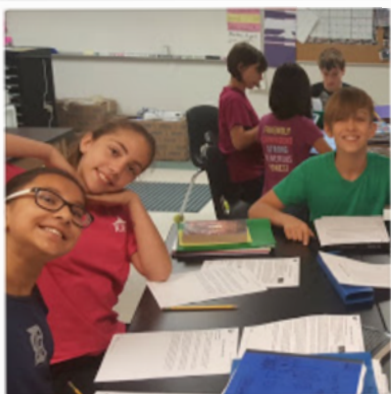
In science, students tackled yet another STEAM project by creating several different types of carnivorous plants. Students worked in pairs to recreate the habitats and a model of a carnivorous plant. Not only did students present their plants to their peers, they took over the library and presented to all of the grade levels as they cycled through. We finished our plant and animal adaptation unit by creating public service announcements about different types of endangered animals. Students worked in groups to research their animal and then with the use of props and backdrops they presented their PSA while being recorded. PSAs will be made into videos to share with peers and other CTL students. We will wrap up science this year with a study of weather and climate.

In social studies, students have been reading quite a few current event magazines. Both *Time for Kids* and *Scholastic News* have been wonderful magazines for students to read about national and global news. Besides learning about a variety of current events, we’ve talked extensively about knowing how to read nonfiction material because it is an important life skill that will help students to become informed citizens. Students will finish out the year with our Texas History studies by reviewing all of the major battles that led to Texas’ independence.

Several people are in need of a big thank you! First, thank you to the many parents who helped students with upcycling and the planting of trees the week of Earth Day. Thank you to Mrs. Debbie Kinzel for graciously bringing several eggs along with an incubator and nursery to CTL. Students have been fascinated with the chicks hatching. Thank you to Mr. Arron Kok and Mrs. Aimee Shupe for chaperoning our field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Gieger for taking time out of your schedules to pick up our recycling bin every Friday without fail. Your efforts have helped to shape positive habits in our students. Finally, from the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of my third and fourth grade parents. Thank you for all the wonderful teacher appreciation gifts and most importantly, thank you for trusting me with your children. It has been my pleasure to be with them every day and cultivate a love of learning in them all. I will miss them greatly over the summer but can’t wait to see everyone next year.

Melanie Smith





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

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of our last trimester. The classroom is a buzz of activity as students are working to complete their final pieces of writing and working to meet their reading goals. It's exciting to see the dedication and creativity put forth by students. They have all grown tremendously as readers and writers this year. A key component to this growth has been the support students give to each other as readers and writers. They are able to recommend books specific to a peer's interests and give meaningful advice during author conferences and share sessions.

The fifth and sixth grade read aloud is nearly complete. Many students have already chosen *The Green Glass House*, by Kate Milford as their favorite of the year. We are all eagerly waiting to find out if our predictions prove to be correct when the mystery is solved. The seventh and eighth graders enjoyed the read aloud of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Our final read aloud of the year is *Scar* by J. Albert Mann. This is a Revolutionary War tale that coincides with our current social studies unit.

In writing workshop, the fifth and sixth graders are working to complete their final pieces of the year. Several students are writing fictional stories of varying genres, and a few have decided to write a collection of free verse poems. We have been focused on proper comma usage, end punctuation, use of dialogue, and polishing pieces for publication. The seventh and eighth graders are completing *This I Believe* essays. It's been exciting to watch their growth as essayists! In addition to working through the essay format, students have focused on utilizing semicolons and colons, varying sentences, and effective introductions and conclusions.

Social studies for grades seven and eight has been focused on the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. Students completed research and created skits for their peers to enact in order to demonstrate their understanding of these important events. Students are now completing a web quest in order to gain a better understanding of the battles of the War of Independence.

[Angela Bailey](#)

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

The Einsteins have worked hard while learning how to plot points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. We learned how to write a point using the correct notation and even plotted points representing different buildings to create a city map. The last two weeks of April we changed hats and began studying the relationship between area and volume in rectangular prisms to master simplifying expressions and solving for x. They have utilized their understanding of inverse operations, multiplication, division, decimals, and fractions to algebraically determine an unknown value. We also learned that equations are like balances and used online simulators to explore the relationship between balanced and unbalanced equations. In May students will complete their study of geometry and then begin preparing their portfolios.

We spent a majority of April exploring waves. One of students favorite activities was using different mediums to build telephones and test which medium allowed sound waves to travel most effectively. We also were introduced to the concepts of digital and analog signals and light waves. During the month of May, students will be completing lab activities from topics we covered throughout the year.

We completed our study of World War II by learning about VE Day and VJ Day. We also finished our read aloud of *Prisoner of War* by Michael Spradlin. It was a wonderful story of personal struggles, adversity, determination, and



triumph. Everyone cheered as the main character was finally released from his POW camp. Students then selected a famous figure from the era of World War II to research and then wrote a biography of that person's life. In May, students will be portraying the person they researched in our wax museum. Students will also be creating a class-wide Google Slides presentation of different wars the United States has been involved in.

In March the 7th graders worked together collaboratively to master simple probability. They used manipulative such as dice and coins to determine theoretical and experimental probabilities. 8th grade started April by completing their study of quadratic equations and their new dove head first into radicals. In May the 7th graders will finish their unit on probability by exploring compound events. 8th graders will complete their study or radicals by solving radical equations.

Students completed their study of genetics by creating public service announcements explaining sickle cell disease. We then began studying block-based coding and robotics using Sphero SPRK robots. Keep an eye out for a special project they are working on!


*Lori Williams*

### *Grades PK-8 Music*

All of the students in music at CTL will participate in the May 17 Spring Program. The classes have been working on game songs and dances to share at the program. They are even practicing a community dance in which they will invite parents and teachers to join in. It will be easy and fun!

*Diane Engle*

### *Grades 5-8 Drama*

MARCH 2017	Coming in May 2017
<u>Physical Education</u> PreK - 2th Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Daily Dozen warm up exercises</li> <li>• Flying Disc skills</li> <li>• Flying Disc Golf Game</li> <li>• Indoor PE BINGO Game</li> <li>• Smiling Minds</li> </ul> 3rd - 8th Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring FitnessGram</li> <li>• Chaos</li> <li>• Soccer review</li> <li>• Flying Disc skills</li> <li>• Flying Disc Golf Game</li> <li>• Indoor PE BINGO Game</li> <li>• Smiling Minds</li> </ul> <u>PSHE</u> (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Pre-K - 8th Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental Health Presentation</li> </ul>	<u>Physical Education</u> Pre-K - 8th Grade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Field Day Games!</li> </ul> <u>PSHE</u> (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Eat Smart and Sleep Smart!</li> <li>★</li> </ul> CTL Pyramid of Success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ In May we will finish building our PE Pyramid of Success. We will discuss POISE, CONFIDENCE and PERSONAL BEST!</li> </ul>
	





## Grades PK-8 Physical Education

MARCH 2017	Coming in APRIL 2017
<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <p>★ Drama students have been busy learning lines and bringing their characters in the complaint department to life. It has been exciting to watch the students come together on this project. We were able to have two very productive after school rehearsals in April. Thank you to our parents for making your children available for these practices (I know how crazy schedules can be).</p>	<p>5th-8th Grade:</p> <p> </p> <p><b>COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT</b> <i>and Lemonade</i></p> <p>Wednesday, May 17th at 7p.m. New Hope Christian Church 7575 Alden Bridge Drive The Woodlands, Texas 77382</p>

Trisha Brandimarte

## Grades PK-8 Art



<p>Artists &amp; Authors and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons... &amp; Special Thanks to Dr. Puig for Sharing Her Art with Us!</p>	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist &amp; Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci</p>	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist M.C. Escher</p>	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist &amp; Sculptor Amedeo Modigliani</p>
	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist Children's Book Author Don Freeman</p>	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Children's Book Authors &amp; Illustrators Anthony Brown &amp; Hanne Bartholin</p>	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Children's Book Authors &amp; Illustrators Anthony Brown &amp; Hanne Bartholin</p>
<p>Art Read-Aloud Books &amp; Works of Art That Sparked Our Art-Creating Experiences...</p>	<p>A RAINBOW OF MY OWN Don Freeman</p>	<p>FRIDA AND BEAR PLAY THE SHAPE GAME ANTHONY BROWN &amp; HANNE BARTHOLIN</p>	<p>THE SHAPE GAME ANTHONY BROWN &amp; HANNE BARTHOLIN</p>
<p>Artwork We Have Created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A Rainbow of My Own</i>—Inspired Original Rainbow Creations</li> <li>• <i>Tessellations</i>—Inspired Geometric Abstract Sketches Based on M.C. Escher's Artwork</li> <li>• <i>Frida and Bear Play the Shape Game</i>—Inspired Abstract Drawings Using Shapes</li> <li>• <i>Modigliani</i>—Inspired Self-Portraits for Trimester 3</li> <li>• <i>Mona Lisa</i>—Inspired Abstract Original Drawings Based on Leonardo Da Vinci's Painting</li> </ul>		

Treva McKissic