



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

Wednesday, April 5:

CTL Parent Council Social Studies, Passion Projects, and Council Workshop at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 6:

Grades 5-8 Field Trip to Battleship Texas

Friday, April 7:

El Chaparro Friday Lunch
CTL International Day

Wednesday, April 12:

School, Class, and Individual Re-take Pictures

Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Grades 3-4)

Friday, April 14:

Good Friday (No School)

Thursday, April 20:

Grades K-4 Field Trip to Houston Museum of Natural Science

Friday, April 21:

CTL Earth Day
Papa Johns Friday Lunch

Thursday, April 27:

Administrative Professionals Day

Friday, April 28:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch



Hello April!

March came and went so quickly with the end of Trimester 2 and the beginning of Trimester 3. We appreciated the hard work of CTL students and teachers in the preparation of student portfolios and student-led conferences. The portfolio process demonstrates just how well CTL students know themselves as learners and how well CTL teachers know your child as a learner. Each round of portfolios and conferences creates a milestone at CTL as the portfolios get better and better, and with each round the students and our CTL Team learn. March also brought us Spring Break. We enjoyed hearing the celebrations of the children when they returned. After Spring Break, we caught the end of World Math Week with the Celebration of Pi Day on March 20.

Thank you all for an enchanted *Evening in Wonderland* Friday night, March 31--to the Butlers for so graciously providing your home and to the fabulous team of parents (and godparents) who dreamed, planned, prepared and carried out the event. Your hours of dedicated work and attention to every detail made the night run seamlessly. Thanks to those who so generously donated--businesses, parents, and community members--products, services, and cash for the enhancement of the education of CTL students. And what an evening of



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!



community building as we mingled, ate, laughed and just had fun together! *Turning a Page for CTL* was certainly an appropriate theme for the evening.

April brings an extension of learning as CTL students go outside their classrooms on field trips into Houston. Wednesday, April 6, Grades 5-8 traveled with Ms. Williams and Ms. Bailey to the Battleship Texas Historical Site. Battleship Texas took part in some of the most significant naval battles of the 20th century during both world wars and is now docked along the Houston Ship Channel, serving as a memorial to those turbulent times. On April 20, Grades K-4 will travel to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. One of the highlights of their trip will be touring the Mummies of the World Exhibit.

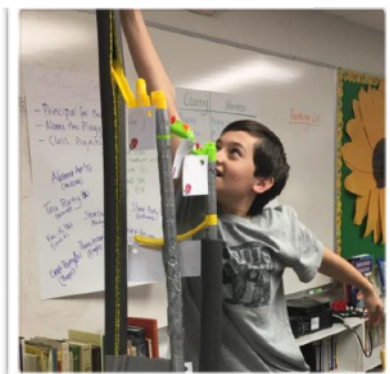
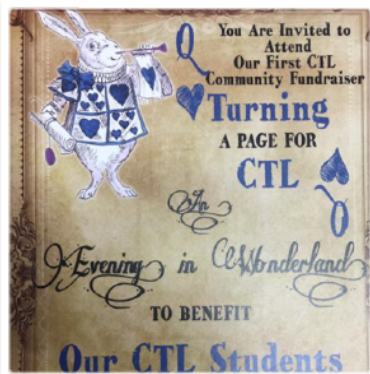
International Day was a tremendous success on April 7 as parents and students shared their heritage, customs, and culture. We are so fortunate to have such a rich mix of students from all over the world at CTL. Thanks to all parents who participated with your children in preparation for this event. Students were excited to record their learning in their passports to be used to launch rich discussions in the coming week in their classrooms.

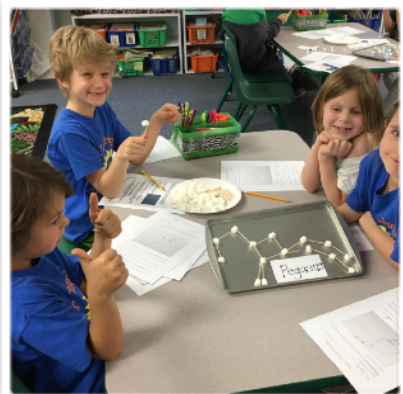
April 12 is another busy day at CTL. Thanks in advance to parents who are hosting a Staff Appreciation Luncheon. We feel so loved and appreciated! Also, Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll will be presenting another writing workshop session from 8:30 to 10:00 for CTL parents. We are fortunate to have Dr. Carroll donate her time and expertise to share CTL's writing philosophy through parent engagement in the writing process. Even if you haven't attended the other two sessions, you are welcome to attend. On that day also, we are also hosting two English Language Arts Instructional Specialists from Region 20 that serves the San Antonio area. They will tour our reading/writing workshop classrooms and debrief with us about our language arts program.

The week of April 17 will begin our Earth Day celebration through fostering an awareness of up-cycling as a way to preserve our earth. Interested parents will be assisting CTL students with up-cycling activities during recess that week to be shared in morning meetings. If you are interested in joining in the activities, please contact Paige. We will celebrate Earth Day on April 21. CTL students are also preparing to present their plans for the student gardens.

Thank you for another wonderful month! We look forward to the amazing learning opportunities in April!

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





Pre-Kindergarten

Spring is here in the Pre-K classroom. We have been discussing life cycles. The student's created a frog habitat that shows all four stages of the frog's life. We read *Frog and Toad are Friends* then discussed the difference between the two. They also studied the ladybug's life cycle and learned what a helpful insect the ladybug can be by eating harmful aphids that destroy the leaves on trees. We read *The Grouchy Ladybug* and sponge painted our version of the grouchy ladybug. We ended this segment with artwork of the grouchy ladybug. We also read *Waiting on Wings*. The Pre-K class ordered caterpillars so we are also waiting on wings. Currently the caterpillars are in their chrysalis stage. We are excited to watch the miracle of metamorphosis. Equally exciting was the butterfly life cycle snack we made and then consumed. We used marshmallows for the butterfly egg, gummy worms for the caterpillar, tootsie rolls for the chrysalis and a cracker for the butterfly.



In April we will be studying dinosaurs, going on a dinosaur dig, and traveling to Africa for a safari.

Beckey Billings

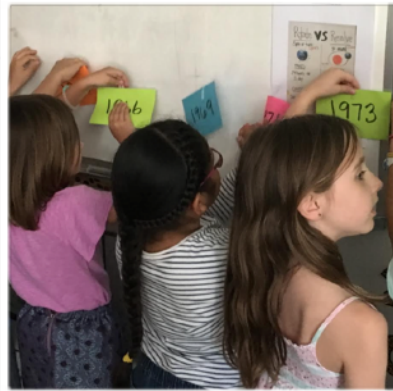
Grades K-1

Thank you for joining us in March as we shared our learning through our portfolios. We enjoyed showing our parents what we have been doing in class. As we looked back through our work and pictures, we realized that we've grown a lot since August!

In reading workshop, we did an author study on Dr. Seuss. We enjoyed his rhyming, funny stories, and made-up animals. We also discovered that some of his stories have a more serious theme such as caring for the environment or being kind to people who look different than you. For our next author study, we decided to read the works of the poet Shel Silverstein. This month, we decided to start reading a chapter book as a read aloud. Our first book was *Judy Moody Was in a Mood*, the first in a series of books about an independent and adventurous third grader. This month I'm introducing a favorite character from my childhood, Ramona Quimby.

In writing workshop, many children had expressed interest in writing "how to" books, so we spent some time looking at the features of how to books. We read some that are nonfiction, teaching us how to do or make something. We read others that are fictional and talk about how to do things like catch a leprechaun or be a hero. We also made lists of things in which we are experts that we may want to teach others to do through a book. Many children decided to give this genre of writing a try this month. At the end of the month, we began publishing books with laminated covers and plastic binding. We had to really think about our audience, our classmates, who would be reading our books and what would make our books easily readable, interesting, and enjoyable.

In math, we have been collecting data through surveys, making graphs, and interpreting graphs. We have been learning to tell time on digital and analog clocks, which is always a really exciting accomplishment. Currently we are learning about measuring length. We are making ramps and will be comparing the lengths that marbles roll when we change our ramps or use different types of marbles. Next month we will continue to work on data and measurement and



will also learn about 2D and 3D shapes.

In science, we completed our study of heredity in plants and animals. We began a study of space that will be combined with our social studies topic of space exploration. Many of the children already have some knowledge about the planets, sun, and moon, so we are extending what we know. We are really excited about the individual research projects we are completing at home so we can teach our classmates something about space or space exploration. We also have a new "pet" in our class. We received some ladybug larvae and have been observing their growth. We will keep them as they go through the stages of pupae and adult and then let them free on our playground. Next month we will continue our study of space and seasons and will also take advantage of the spring weather to revisit some earlier concepts of plant and animal life cycles.

In social studies, we have finished our study of China. A few of our favorite activities were learning to eat with chopsticks, playing ping pong, making lanterns, and working with tangrams. We are currently studying space exploration. We've been working on a timeline of important events in space exploration which you can see displayed in the hallway. We were excited to add an event that we actually got to watch when SpaceX launched a reused rocket for the first time in the history of space exploration. Next month we will continue to learn more about space exploration and then begin our study of Egypt. We will actually get to visit the Egyptian exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science later in the month.

Stephanie Phipps

Grades 1-2

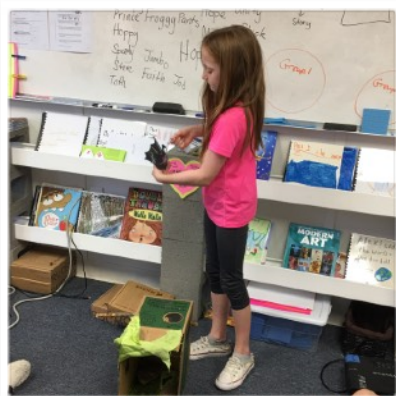
This month was another great month for the Explorer class with so much going on! We celebrated many fun events this month. We started out the month by getting ready for our portfolio presentations. The class did an amazing job sharing all of their work with you. You all should be proud of them. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with some fun green snacks, and we even created leprechaun traps in STEAM! We also celebrated the end of our unit on Ancient China with a fun week of centers reviewing many of the traditions, sports and customs of Chinese people.

In social studies, the class learned how to play Ping Pong which is the national sport of China. They also learned how to make the Chinese characters/letters to spell their names. We learned how to use chopsticks and even ate our own homemade fried rice with them. We also watched a video on schools in China, and we made lanterns and tangrams. The class really enjoyed that week.

In science, we started our study of space. This topic will be studied in social studies as well as we are studying space exploration and people of space. The kids are excited to share their "Space Place" dioramas this month. We watched the Falcon 9 rocket launch. This was especially exciting because it was history in the making, and we got to add it to our timeline! We created constellations in STEAM, and the kids really showed their teamwork and cooperation to complete their tasks.

Math workshop has kept them busy working with fractions, measurement, telling time, 3 digit adding and subtracting, counting money and word problems. They have been working hard to stay on task and finish all of their stations each week. The class worked well in their teams and with their partner activities.

In reading and writing workshops, we focused on what authors include in their books. We looked at the dedication page, title page, table of contents and about the author section. They worked to incorporate these into their own books. We



began publishing this month. The books will be added to our classroom library to be shared with our class. We will send them home at the end of the year.

April brings us our first field trip of the year! We will travel to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and will visit the mummy exhibit and the ancient Egypt hall. The class is anxious to learn all about ancient Egypt. Information will be sent home soon.

Lisa Lipar

Grades 3-4

March took us on many adventures! From the hectic pace of portfolio preparations, to the relaxing week of Spring Break, to the coming back and remembering our daily routines, we had quite an interesting month.

In reading workshop, we finished *Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins. It was bittersweet. We all became so invested in Gregor's story and attachment to his adorable little sister, Boots, that although satisfied at the culmination of the adventure, we didn't want it to end because we were going to miss our friends. Many students have gone to the public library and checked out the second series, *The Prophecy of Bane*. It's wonderful to see the excitement and joy reading brings to the students—so much so that they clamor to get the next book in the series! We are currently reading aloud a new story, *The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson. It is a page-turning mystery that gives us a glimpse into the life of a young boy dealing with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Our discussions have led us to explore ideas of empathy and acceptance. New to our reading workshop is the ability for all students to keep track of their daily reading in a Google Spreadsheet. As students record their daily number of minutes read and pages read, they watch their goal charts move up in percentages. Students are now recording their reading habits not only at school but at home as well.

In writing, collaboration has become the name of the game. Many students are teaming up to write poetry books together as we continue our study of poetry. Ralph Fletcher has proven to be an outstanding guide to us in our poetry study as we used many of his poems as mentor text. *Squished Squirrel* and *My Little Brother* are some of our favorites. As we continue to analyze free verse poetry, the poem *Maybe Dats Your Pwoblem Too* by James Hall showed us how to write in free verse, with humor, and from a different point of view.

In math, third grade students are feeling grown up because they have realized as they continue to practice writing equations and expressions for word problems, they are actually diving into the first phases of Algebra. Fourth grade students have been tackling long division. We've spent a long time on using base ten blocks to represent the concrete stage of division. This has helped students tremendously because now many of them can complete long division on an abstract level without models. All students will be moving into fractions soon. With a solid foundation of understanding the concept of division, fractions should be easy for students to recognize, write, add and subtract.

In science, we have been studying animal adaptations. Students were challenged to not only research bat adaptations through a Google Classroom assignment, but they also completed a STEAM challenge to create a bat, focusing on its adaptation that allows it to hang upside down and fold its wings in over its body. Students were able to use their combined technology skills of researching with their creative engineering skills to not only make the bat but also create a habitat for it as





well. We will continue our study of animal adaptations by looking next at carnivores plants, specifically the Venus Flytrap.

In social studies, students will study Texas history this last trimester. We have begun by researching the Native American tribes that lived in Texas before it was colonized. Students have been working in partners and groups to research and present their findings. It has been interesting to learn the influence of the Native American tribes on Texas culture and how many things we do today that have been influenced by those who lived here long before us.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who helped to organize our Gala and to all of the parents that contributed to the auction items. We are excited to purchase materials that are going to take our STEAM challenges to the next level. Our students are already excited every time we engage in STEAM, but now they can explore science, technology, and math concepts at all new depths of study!

Melanie Smith

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

Students did an excellent job presenting their portfolios last month! We enjoyed the time we were able to spend with parents talking about each child's progress in reading and writing.

The genre for the read aloud in both middle school classes is mystery. Students are enjoying listening to the stories unfold and using their sleuthing skills to determine relevant clues in naming suspects. We are keeping track of clues, motives, opportunities, and alibis as we read. Students are highly engaged in their independent reading. Several students have given book talks recently and inspired their classmates to add more books to their list of books to read. The 5th through 8th graders have completed over 500 books this year, and their novels are growing in complexity. Thank you for supporting our readers by encouraging them to read at home for at least 30 minutes each day.

In 5-6 writing workshop, many students are completing pieces they were working on last trimester while others have begun new pieces. We have revisited paragraph usage and are currently learning how to properly use commas to enhance writing. I will continue to teach child-specific conventions through one-on-one conferences. Grades 7-8 wrote a book review about a favorite novel last month. They enjoyed reading effective book reviews written by students which led to adding additional titles to their list of books to read. We are currently reading effective essays in preparation for writing our own essays in class. It is exciting to see the students grow as writers!

7th and 8th graders began the new trimester learning how to avoid plagiarism in social studies class. They learned how to summarize and paraphrase their research and properly cite sources. We have recently begun a study of colonial America and the path to the American Revolution. Students will discover when citizens felt it became necessary to rebel against their government, what principles of government are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, and how the Continental army was able to win the war for independence from Great Britain.

Angela Bailey

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

The Einsteins have been working diligently 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 about how equations are like balances and used



online simulators to explore the relationship between balanced and unbalanced equations. In April, students will begin graphic points in the coordinate plane, and then begin studying geometry.

Our study, and love, of physics continued this month. Students used their knowledge of Newton's 3 Laws of motion, friction, and gravity to design their own marble roller coaster systems. This was a challenging project, but everyone designed amazing roller coasters. Some of our younger students were inspired to design and build their own roller coasters and marble runs. April brings in a new unit of study as students begin exploring waves.

In March, the 7th graders applied their understanding of equivalent expressions to solving multi-step equations. 8th grade hit the ground running with their study of quadratic equations. They have mastered how to write quadratic equations in the standard formula as well as how to find the roots, vertex, and line of symmetry of a quadratic equation. In April, the 7th graders will finish their unit on equations and inequalities and then begin studying probability. 8th graders will turn their attention to radicals.

As an end-of-unit project in science, students presented online multimedia slideshows explaining the biodiversity in an assigned ecosystem. Students then began studying asexual and sexual reproduction and genetic make up and variation. In April we will continue our study of genetics by exploring protein expression and genetic mutations

All 5-8th grade students celebrated Pi Day a bit early since 3.14 occurred during spring break. Students celebrated with circle shaped costumes and food. We read stories about Pi and built a chain representing each digit of Pi that was almost 800 links long!

The 5th and 6th graders have continued studying the causes of World War II in social studies. We watched a documentary explaining how Adolf Hitler was able to rise to power, and then they wrote a summary of the movie. I also began a read aloud, *Prisoner of War* by Michael Spradlin. This book explores the Pacific Front of World War II and discussed the harsh world that soldiers experienced during the Bataan Death March and captivity. In April students will begin research on a war of their choice and develop a presentation to share with the class.

Lori Williams

Grades PK-8 Music

All classes in music have worked on tuneful singing. Pre-K uses lots of echo activities. The other elementary students are reading and writing music from the staff using the do, re, mi note names. They are able to hear tones played, write the notes on the staff, sing the notes, and identify a known song. Most of the songs in music class are folk songs and singing games. Students will demonstrate some of their singing games in our spring music program.


Upper music students have been working on a repertoire of 2-part music. In addition, they are beginning a study of the musical genre. They have begun two songs from a Broadway musical and will perform these at our spring music program.

Diane Engle




Grades 5-8 Drama



MARCH 2017	Coming in APRIL 2017
<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <p>★ We celebrated our 50th Day of Drama on March 21st. The day began with a viewing of "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News!" during morning meeting. It was a huge success! We received countless compliments from teachers and students. GREAT JOB DRAMA! Drama students enjoyed a well deserved cast party. We had personalized balloons and ice cream sandwiches. I asked the kids draw a picture of themselves in 50 years and finish the sentence "In 50 years I will ..." It was great fun to share our hopes and dreams for the future. I am currently working with Mrs. Smith to convert our iMovie into a YouTube video so we can share it with our CTL family and friends. Stay Tuned!</p>	<p>5th-8th Grade:</p> <p>Casting is set for our spring production and we have began rehearsals. Our spring play is titled Complaint Department and Lemonade written by Kamron Klitgaard. This fast moving comedy is about a complaint department that takes on everything from Oreos to songs stuck in the head to the price of cheese. Could there be any hope for someone in charge of this department?</p> <p> COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT <i>and Lemonade</i></p>

Grades PK-8 Physical Education

MARCH 2017	Coming in April 2017
<p><u>Physical Education</u> Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <p>★ On March 2nd we read "Oh, the Things you can Do that are Good for You!" in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Portfolio Reflections • Airports and Airplanes • Pizza Tag • Fitness Feet Footprints • Jump Rope Battleship • Indoor PE Candyland Game <p>3rd - 8th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Portfolio Reflections • Hit Ball • Jump Rope Tricks • Battleship • Ping Pong • Indoor PE Candyland Game <p>PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March is Brain Injury Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We discussed the importance of protecting our brains and wearing helmets. 	<p><u>Physical Education</u> Pre/K - 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Spring Fitness Testing ◆ Hopscotch Around the World <p>PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) ★ Eat Smart and Sleep Smart!</p> <p>CTL Pyramid of Success: ★ During April we will spend time working on the our FITNESS and SKILL building blocks of our PE Pyramid of Success.</p> <p></p>

Trisha Brandimarte



Grades PK-8 Art



<p>Artists, Authors, & Poets and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons...</p>	 The Life and Artistic Style of Illustrator & Artist Ruth Sanderson	 The Life & Artistic Style of Impasto Painter Ann Marie Coolick	 The Life and Artistic Style of Cartoonist & Children's Book Author Gabriel Alborozo	
<p>Art Read-Aloud Books that Sparked Our Art-Creating Experiences...</p>				
<p>Artwork We Have Created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butterflies Fly</i>—Inspired Watercolor Butterflies • <i>Where Have the Unicorns Gone?</i>—Inspired Imagination Workout & Unicorn Drawings • <i>Let's Paint</i>—Inspired Abstract Paintings Using Newly Created Painting Ideas • <i>No One Saw: Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist</i>—Abstract Drawings • Abstract Impasto Paintings based on the work of Ann Marie Coolick 			

Treva McKissic