



# CTL CORNER

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

## Important Dates

### Monday-Friday, February 27-March 3:

Scholastic Book Fair/World Book Week

Enrichment Club Showcases at 8:00 a.m.

### Tuesday-Thursday, March 7-9:

Early Dismissal at 12:05 p.m.

Student-led Conferences

### Wednesday, March 8:

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

### Friday, March 10:

Papa John's Friday Lunch

### Monday-Friday, March 13-17:

Spring Break (No School)

### Wednesday, March 23:

CTL Community Open House from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### Friday, March 24:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch

### Friday, March 31:

El Chaparro Friday Lunch

CTL Gala Community Fundraiser from 6:30-11:00 p.m.



## Welcome to Marvelous March at CTL!

*Cat: Where are you going?*

*Alice: Which way should I go?*

*Cat: That depends on where you are going.*

*Alice: I don't know.*

*Cat: Then it doesn't matter which way you go.*

— Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

This famous dialogue between Alice and the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland* resonates perfectly with CTL's vision, for Alice didn't know where she was going. We do! *We will ignite and grow a love of learning in every child* guides everything we do at CTL, for we know that if students love learning, they will learn in school **and** when they are not with us—they will be lifelong learners. This becomes even more evident at the end of each trimester as we read CTL students' self-assessments where they reflect on their learning and set goals for future learning. And you experience it in the teacher narrative reports where teachers reflect on each student's strengths, accomplishments, challenges, and goals. Once again you see it each trimester during the student-led conferences and



## 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!



browsing through the portfolios.

Alice has inspired us this trimester as a dream came to life with the birth of CTL's first gala—*Turning a Page for CTL: An Evening in Wonderland*. Our talented parents have many surprises in store for an evening of fine food, entertainment and fun. The CTL Team and Parents have worked hard to bring this dream to reality—planning and gathering impressive donations for the silent and live auctions. Thanks to the Butlers for opening their home to all of us. We hope you will join us as we spend *An Evening in Wonderland* on March 31.

February was a short but busy month! We celebrated Black History Month, Chinese New Year, the 100th Day of School, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Go Texan Day! with a fun and scrumptious evening at Corkscrew BBQ, the beginning of World Book Week and Scholastic Book Fair, Trimester 2 Club Showcase, a music performance at The Woodlands Health Care Center, and a fabulous staff appreciation luncheon. March ushers in the beginning of a new trimester with the conclusion of World Book Week, Student Led Conferences, Spring Break, World Math Week, and new clubs on Fridays. In March we also celebrate the birthdays of many inspiring minds. Here are a few quotes for you to enjoy:

*Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You.*  
-- Dr. Seuss (Born March 2)

*When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.*  
-- Alexander Graham Bell (Born March 3)

*Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.*  
-- Albert Einstein (Born March 14)

*What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?*  
-- Vincent van Gogh (Born March 30)

Thank you for sharing your children with us and entrusting us with being your partner in their education. Please know that we are always here for you to support you in the journey.

We wish you an amazing Spring Break with your family! We hope to see you for an *Evening in Wonderland* on March 31.

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







## Pre-Kindergarten

In Pre-K we have welcomed a new student, Danielle, to our class. We are excited to have a new friend join us at CTL.

We started our month learning about Groundhog's Day, Punxsutawney Phil and the history behind the holiday. In science, we learned about shadows and used flashlights to complete our science experiment. We created a negative art piece showing shadows of our hand.

On February 13 we continued our celebration with 100 days of school. Pre-K students brought snacks to share and we counted 100 snacks. The next day we celebrated Valentine's Day. Mrs. Peebles was kind enough to share her chocolate fountain for our party. Apples, strawberries, pretzels and a few Pre-K were all dipped in chocolate. We played a conversation heart stacking game and handed our Valentine cards to our friends.



In social studies we discussed President's Day and talked about a few of our famous presidents. We completed the study by making George Washington three corner hats.

One of our favorite science experiments was the color exploding milk. Students loved the chemical reaction and the exploding burst of color.

In math we have been discussing three dimensional shapes, ten frame and base ten concepts.

Next month we will discuss Spring, dinosaurs, and insects.

## Becky Billings

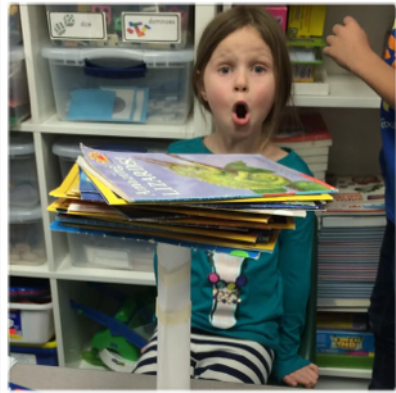
## Grades K-1

February was a fun month for the Investigators with two big celebrations. Thank you for your help in providing supplies for us to celebrate the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day! March is a month of reflection for us as we think about what we have learned and what we still want to accomplish and as we prepare our portfolios to share with you.

In reading workshop we are enjoying our author study of Mem Fox. We were inspired to learn more about this author and read her books after Mrs. Lewis shared one of her favorite childhood books on Australia Day. The Investigators have begun to look not only for books they can read but also for books they truly enjoy. They are each figuring out their favorite genres, characters, and authors. This month we discovered that many of us enjoy the rhyming and silliness of Dr. Seuss books. We've decided he will be our next author study.

In writing workshop we have been learning about writing stories about small moments in our lives. We are learning to focus on an interesting and important part of the story and stretch it out with details that make our reader feel like they were actually there with us.

In math we are using what we've learned about place value to add and subtract with larger numbers. We did many activities related to the number 100 as we celebrated the 100th day of school, including skip counting, adding and subtracting within 100, looking for patterns in the 100 chart, and STEM activities where we built things out of 100 items. Next month we will work on graphing and measurement.



In science we continued our study of plant adaptations. We particularly enjoyed our research on dangerous plants and the posters we created about them. We also learned about different animals that protect their offspring. As we now begin to learn about inheritance of traits, we are realizing that it is important for animals to protect their young so they will survive and continue to pass on their traits. One activity we really enjoyed was looking at two "parent bugs" and making "baby bugs" based on the physical traits of the two parents. Next month we will continue this topic and also learn about the traits plants pass on to their offspring.

In social studies we have continued our study of China. We have enjoyed comparing our lives in the U. S. to both modern China and ancient China. Next month we will be doing some research related to our own questions about China.

March will also be a month of reflection for us as we think about what we have learned, how we have changed and grown, and what we still want to accomplish this year. We looked forward to preparing our portfolios and sharing them with you.

### Stephanie Phipps

### *Grades 1-2*

Our month was busy with all of our fun festivities. We celebrated Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Go Texans Day, Chinese New Year, and Black History month! The kids were busy in social studies for sure this month. We also welcomed our student teacher, Ms. Corbin, who did a great job this month in our classroom. She is very energetic and full of fun activities for the class.

We studied the many traditions of China as well as the history of ancient China. The class enjoyed making their terra-cotta warriors and researching the many topics related to the country of China. We also studied our presidents and many of our famous black historians, both past and present.

Our science unit was filled with plant and animal life as well as our many fun STEAM challenges each week. The class explored the characteristics and adaptations of plants and animals, planted mystery seeds which are already sprouting in our garden on the playground and learned about heredity, traits and instincts. They also looked at the differences between inherited traits and learned or acquired behaviors.

Graphing was one of our fun activities in math as we made a real life graph of our favorite snacks. The class learned how to create their own graphs and show how the data was related to everyday life. We also got some hands-on math with our measurement activities. Math workshop was filled with many ways to measure things using non standard measurement. We measured with paper clips, cubes, legos and links. We measured things around the classroom while making predictions on the length of each item.

In reading and writing the class made connections to the stories read, discussed the different styles used by the various authors we studied, and learned how to incorporate small moments in their own writing. We appreciate our mystery readers each week, too!

We topped off the month working on our reflections and selecting pieces of their work for portfolios. The kids are very proud of their accomplishments. They are excited to share them with parents during our student-led conferences.

In March the class will be doing even more hands on science as we welcome





some new critters to our classroom. We will be studying the life cycle of a frog while Mrs. Phipps' class will study the ladybug lifecycle. We will have the opportunity to observe both life cycles together. It should be an interesting month!

[Lisa Lipar](#)

### *Grades 3-4*

February was a month of falling in love with our writing for The Calculation Crew. Every student in our class made it through the entire writing process and published a book which was bound with a laminated front and back cover. Several students even published more than one book. Student books displayed on the top shelf of one of our bookshelves. Students love reading their peers' books during independent reading time. Google document sharing continues to help students with their revisions and editing. Some of the titles of student books include *The Escape*, *The Girl Who Walked*, *The Castle Thief*, and *Loch Ness' Secret*— just to name a few!

In reading we are well into our read aloud, *Gregor the Overlander*. Students are enjoying the cliff hangers of each chapter. Action packed on each page, students are anxious to find out if Gregor finds his father. Students have enjoyed new additions to our classroom library. *Belly Up*, *Spy School*, and *Space Case*, all written by Stuart Gibbs, came to us by mail. They were gifts from the Tate family in San Antonio. While in San Antonio for the Abydos Writing Conference in mid February, Mrs. Smith was able to meet up with our former classmate, Will. He suggested the aforementioned titles and the next thing we knew, an Amazon box arrived with three new titles for us to read thanks to the generosity of his family.

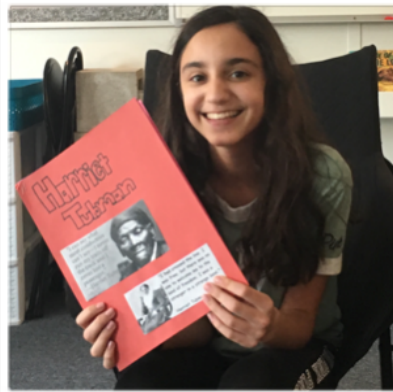
In math we have continued with multiplication and division. It has been important for students to learn the properties of multiplication and the rules of division. This has helped students use partial products to calculate larger multiplication problems. Sparkle was a favorite class game we played which was fast paced and helped all students learn to count their multiples. We also combined art with math when we completed our "Math is Sweet" graphing activity. Students sorted Skittles and gathered data about each color from the entire class. We applied multiplication and division skills in order to find the average number of Skittles the class had in each color. In March we will move into long division, fractions, and then onto measurement.

In science we discussed learned and inherited traits of plants and animals. Students were fascinated to find out that plants have learned traits such as learning to lean toward the sun. It was fun to think about the inherited traits passed down to us from our families such as hair color, height, freckles, and so on. Students learned about the connection between genes and genetics and why we sometimes have a certain eye color when neither of our parents have that color.



In social studies students presented their final research in regards to the founding fathers of America. This wrapped our study of the original colonies and how we moved from colonization to independence. We gave recognition to March 2, Texas Independence Day, and now will begin our study of Texas history.

[Melanie Smith](#)



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

The 5th and 6th graders have enjoyed the conclusion to our read aloud, *The Inquisitor's Tale*. We had great discussions about the techniques the author used to make the story more interesting and considered how the narrator's description of events affected our interpretation of the story. Students continued to notice tough questions, aha moments, and contrasts and contradictions in the books they are reading independently. Noticing these elements in stories enables us to better understand characters and the overall plot. Students gave book project presentations in both classes this month. They were eager to showcase a favorite book for the class. These book recommendations are powerful advertisements because they come from peers. Many students have added several titles to their "Books I Want to Read" list. In the 7th and 8th grade class, we finished our read aloud of *Sylo*. Students were captivated by the twists and turns in the story and were sad to see it come to an end. We have the second and third books in the series available in the classroom and students waiting their turn to read them. Students enjoy discussing the books they read with peers. These informal discussions lead to a greater understanding of story elements and author intent. It's exciting to listen to the depth of the conversations that take place during class!



Writing workshop has been especially busy in both classes as students have been working toward the completion of their final pieces of writing for the trimester. Peer and teacher conferences have been an important part of the process as students worked to polish their pieces. Students enjoy sharing their writing with the class during our author share time at the end of each period. The feedback and suggestions given by peers is powerful. They are taking the lessons learned during class, as well as those learned through reading, and applying them to their own writing. The level of writing has grown as students are experimenting with different genres and writing techniques.

7th and 8th grade focused on Black History Month and Internet safety this month. Students chose a notable African American to research and created presentations to share with the class. We all learned something new and interesting! The important topic of Internet safety was addressed through discussions and informative videos. Students created mini public service announcements to demonstrate the importance of protecting ourselves online. Many found the information to be eye-opening and extremely valuable.

It's portfolio preparation time in our classroom. Although getting the portfolio put together takes a great deal of time, it's extremely beneficial as it gives students an opportunity to reflect on their growth over the trimester. We are looking forward to sharing these creative works with parents soon.

[Angela Bailey](#)

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

In Grades 5 and 6 math students finished their cupcake shops by developing equations to help determine when they would reach profitability. This lead into a unit studying the difference between equations and expressions. Students have been using the order of operations to simplify expressions. In March we will continue our study of equations and expressions and begin exploring the coordinate plane.

Science was all about physics. Students studied roller coasters to understand kinetic and potential energy. We began exploring Newton's Laws of Motion. Students designed ramp systems used to launch a marble into a cup resting on a





platform. They will be applying all they have learned to design their own roller coaster systems. Next month we will continue studying physics. Students will explore the effect of electromagnetic forces, gravitational forces and force field.

In Grades 5 and 6 we began our study of World War II by watching a documentary on the Great Depression. Students discussed how the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression were causes of World War II. We also read aloud *Number the Stars* which allowed students to connect a child and her experiences during World War II. In March we will continue our investigation of World War II.

The 7th graders spent February learning to write and solve equivalent expressions. We discussed different properties of multiplication and addition that allowed expressions to look different but also be equivalent. 8th grade focused on polynomials. They learned to multiple and factor binomials and trinomials. In March the 7th grade will extend their study to include solving 1 and 2 step equations. 8th grade will begin studying quadratic and rational equations.

In science grade 7 and 8 students completed their garden proposals. They then began studying biodiversity and how diversity among species is important to an ecosystems survival. Each student is researching an ecosystem and creating a multimedia presentation explaining the diversity of species in that ecosystem. In March students will begin studying plant and animal reproduction, genetics, and mutations.

Lori Williams

### *Grades PK-8 Music*

All classes are working on music reading. Students are learning to write so mi of the do, re, mi scale on the five scale line staff. Pre-K has been working on vocal exploration, experiencing the difference of high and low through singing games and activities. Grades 3 and 4 are expanding their music reading with more complex rhythm patterns and sofa reading which are notes of the do, re, mi scale. Upper school choir began a keyboard study in addition to studying choral music.

I am proud of the Upper School Choir! They performed songs for the seniors at a local nursing home. The residents loved their performance. Their faces beamed and their feet tapped along. Choir members then enjoyed a snack time afterward.

Diane Engle






## Grades 5-8 Drama

FEBRUARY 2017	Coming in MARCH 2017
<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ We are about done editing "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News!". Our very own 6th grader Kyra Wright has taken on a student leader role as our head technician. We are very thankful to Kyra. During the month of February students have been working in small groups with Kyra to edit our production in the iMovie application. Students are currently finishing up a bloopers reel. We are close to our finished product and we can not wait to share with our CTL community.</li> </ul>	<p>5th-8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ We are thrilled to announce the selection for our spring 2017 drama production. We will be performing:</li> </ul> <p>   <b>COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT</b>  <i>and Lemonade</i> </p> <p>Stay Tuned!</p>

## Grades PK-8 Physical Education

FEBRUARY 2017	Coming in MARCH 2017
<p><b>Physical Education</b> Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <p>We celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 13th. All CTL students participated in 100 exercises activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Pre/K - 2nd grade students had fun learning the Chicken Dance, the Hokey Pokey and the Cha Cha Slide. Lower School students began learning how to swing and hit a ball off a tee with tennis racquets and soft bats.</li> <li>&gt; 3rd - 8th grade students danced to the Cotton Eye Joe, Cha Cha Slide and Can't Stop the Feeling by Justin Timberlake. Upper School students had a blast learning a modified version of kickball called Hit Ball!</li> </ul> <p><b>PSHE</b> (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Pre/K - 8th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; We began to open up and share with each other about how emotions can drive our behavior.</li> <li>• Students have done a wonderful job sharing experiences with emotions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical Education</b> Pre/K - 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jump Rope Unit</li> <li>♦ Hopscotch Around the World</li> </ul> <p><b>PSHE</b> (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March is Brain Injury Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Students will have a "Safety First" lesson to teach about avoidable accidents</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>CTL Pyramid of Success:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ During March we will spend time working on the our ACTION and DETERMINATION building blocks of our PE Pyramid of Success.</li> </ul> <p>  </p>




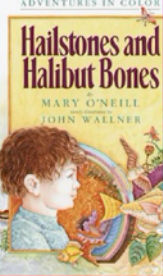


Trisha Brandimarte





## Grades PK-8 Art



<p><b>Artists &amp; Poets and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons...</b></p>	 <p><b>The Life and Poetic Style of Writer Mary LeDuc O'Neill</b></p>	 <p><b>Continued Learning about the Life &amp; Artistic Style of Artist Gustav Klimt</b></p>	 <p><b>Continued Learning About the Life &amp; Artistic Style of Artist Pablo Picasso</b></p>
<p><b>Art Read-Aloud Books &amp; Some of Our Art-Creating Experiences...</b></p>			
<p><b>Artwork We Have Created</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hailstones and Halibut Bones</i>—Inspired Monochromatic Abstract Collages</li> <li>• <i>Completed Our Pablo Picasso's Blue Period</i>—Inspired Monochromatic Self-Portraits</li> <li>• <i>Gustav Klimt's Gold Paintings</i>—Inspired Monochromatic Self-Portraits</li> <li>• Abstract Watercolor Valentine's Day L-O-V-E Paintings</li> <li>• <b>POPCORN</b> and Art Day—A Day to Celebrate Our Progress as Artists and Creators</li> </ul>		

Treva McKissic