



# CTL CORNER

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

## Important Dates

**February 6** - CTL parents are invited to join us for Pizza at the Park and Fitness Fun starting at 11:45 a.m., followed by our monthly Parent Council meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**February 12** - 100th Day of School. The K-2 class will have a 100th Day Parade at 8:15 a.m. More information from Mrs. Lipar to come!

**February 13** - Class Valentine's Lunch/Parties from 11:45-1:00 p.m. Please have your child bring valentines to exchange with each student in his/her class and \$5 for the lunch/party items.

**February 16** - Student Holiday/Staff Workday (Presidents' Day)

**February 20** - CTL families and friends are invited to join us for our second Enrichment Club Showcase from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**February 23-25** - Student-led Conferences/Portfolio Preview from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Please look for a SignUpGenius email coming soon!

**February 27** - Go Texan Day. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in western attire.



## We ♥ February!

What do we *love* this February? We *love* Morning Meetings at CTL!

Each morning we gather as a school community to share celebrations and announcements followed by a life lesson, poem, and song. Each week one of our eight CTL team members conducts these meetings around a theme that emerges from the needs of our students and school culture and climate. In January, for example, we focused on kindness, the environment, and safety.

Morning Meeting is a time each day for learning and bonding -- an important start to our school day. Beginning with Morning Meeting, the CTL vision to *love learning* is evident throughout the day in the faces of our students. We hope it is also evident to you at home!

Each student will have the opportunity to share their *love of learning* and *hard work* with all of us in our second trimester Student-led Conference Portfolio Preview, scheduled the week of February 23. Look for your invitation soon to schedule your child's SLC. We look forward to it!

***Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain***

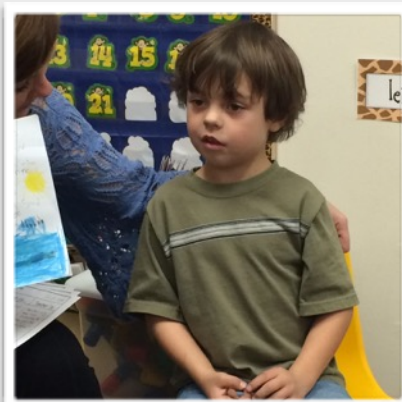
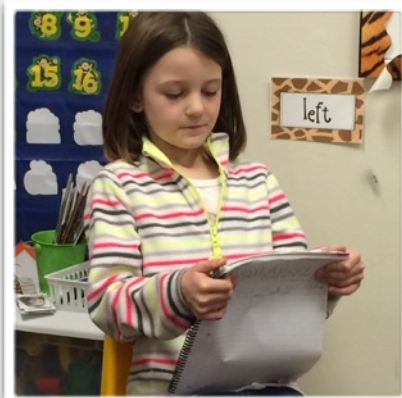


## Important Reminders

\*Please have your child at school before 8 a.m. every morning so he/she does not miss our Morning Meeting that begins at 8 a.m.

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

\*Invite your child to show CTL school spirit by wearing his/her CTL t-shirt on Fridays.



## K-2 Class

As January came to an end the Explorers were full of new information! We learned about Black history. The class also worked with fractions, shapes, and money. We are completing our science unit on rocks, soil, water, and landforms.

The class has done some fun experiments to explore these topics.

This month we will be moving to weather, clouds, and lightened shadow. We are also learning about the state of Texas and its history. Our 100th day celebration is coming up on February 12th, and we are going to have an exciting day!

Please look for information soon! I can't wait to get started on our February activities.

Remember to place your book orders in a timely manner as they take about a week to come in. Don't forget that we will have our



second trimester portfolio preview days toward the end of the month during our student-led conferences. Please make sure to look for sign-ups!

If you have any question, please feel free to contact me at [llipar@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:llipar@centerforteachingandlearning.com).

**Lisa Lipar**

## 3-8 Language Arts

Students have worked hard in language arts this trimester. We are proud of their progress!

They have read many books in reading workshop and are currently deciding on one title to showcase with a book project. They have an *Ideas for Book Projects* handout in their Take Home Folders. They will let us know which book and project they have chosen by Monday.







Following is a schedule leading up to final projects:

**January 27-February 6** - Editing conferences with Ms. Bailey and Dr. Ellis

**February 9-11** - Book Project Presentations

**February 12** - Publishing Party/Author's Celebration

Students will share their published books with their classmates

**February 17-20** - Portfolio preparation

**February 23-25** - Portfolio Preview

Please be sure your child's flash drive is in his or her backpack or pencil bag. They must have them every day for writing class.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: [lellis@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:lellis@centerforteachingandlearning.com) or [m Bailey@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:m Bailey@centerforteachingandlearning.com).

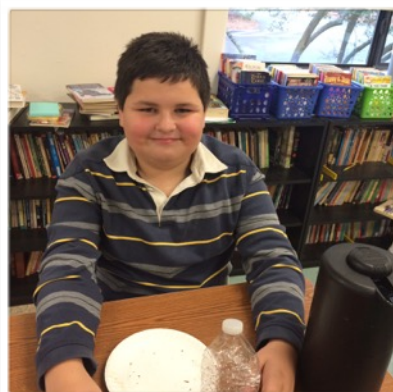
**Linda Ellis and Angela Bailey**

### 3-8 Math/Science

Last month in science, the third to fifth graders completed their research on volcanoes and earthquakes and had the opportunity to share what they learned with Mrs. Lipar's class. We then began a study of natural resources. The third graders' research focused on how we can conserve our natural resources, while the fourth graders focused on renewable vs. nonrenewable resources and fifth graders on how fossil fuels are created and used. Then we began researching



forms of alternative energy. Next month, we will continue our earth and space science unit as we study weather, climate, sun and water cycles, and space.



The sixth to eighth graders finished their research and presentations on alternative energy at the beginning of January. They studied the advantages and disadvantages of each type of energy and evaluated what they had learned to predict what energy sources they believe our country will pursue in the future. Then the sixth graders studied the layers of the earth and drew models on the basketball court which they presented as "museum exhibits" to the kindergarten to fifth grade students. The seventh graders studied severe weather and created various projects that can be used to teach younger



students about severe weather and safety precautions. The eighth graders studied the cycles of day and night, seasons, the moon, and the tides and applied what they learned to predict what might happen to those cycles in case of an unusual event such as an asteroid breaking our moon in

two. Next month, we will learn about tectonic plates, rocks, water, space and space exploration.

Last month in math, the third to fifth graders worked on multiplication and division and fraction concepts. Depending on the needs of the student, these are some of the skills they may have worked on:

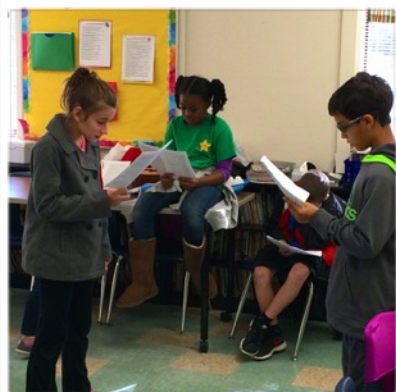
- \*Memorization of multiplication facts
- \*Function tables (input/output tables)
- \*Multiplication and division with variables
- \*Comparing and ordering fractions
- \*Equivalent fractions
- \*Adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators
- \*Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators
- \*Multiplying fractions

Next month we will work on a few more fraction concepts and then begin our unit on measurement and measurement conversions.

The sixth to eighth graders have continued to work on measurement concepts, extending what we learned about squares and rectangles to triangles, parallelograms, trapezoidal, and irregular objects. As we finish our measurement study, we will learn about the measurements of circles and additional 3D shapes and then we will go into 2 dimensional geometry.

In Algebra, we have been working with exponential functions and their equations. After completing this unit, we will begin studying quadratic









functions and their equations.

We want to encourage all students to continue to work on fact fluency at home. A few minutes a day of reviewing in the car or playing on an app can really help students gain automaticity and confidence with math facts, which is so critical for building their math skills.

We will also spend some time in math and science next month preparing our portfolios. We look forward to sharing them with you at the end of February! If you have any additional questions about what we are studying in math and science, please feel free to contact me at [sphipp@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:sphipp@centerforteachingandlearning.com).

**Stephanie Phipps**

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

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| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>  | <p><b>Month of January 2015</b></p> <p>During the month of January 2015, in Grades 3 – 8, our students have been engaged with the following Social Studies inquiry projects and learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Great State of Texas!—Learning more about the origin and history of our state</li> <li>How Texas Became a State</li> <li>Important Historical Texan Leaders and People Who Made an Impact</li> <li>Texan Wars and Conflict in the Past</li> <li>State Historical Timeline</li> <li>State Symbols</li> <li>Texan Government</li> <li>State Events and Celebrations</li> <li>Texas Yesterday and Today—comparing and contrasting Texans</li> <li>Student-Choice State Art Projects</li> <li>Student-Choice Written Expression Projects</li> <li>Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning</li> <li>Social Studies and Music Class Collaboration—Learning the significance of state songs</li> </ul> | <p><b>Month of February 2015</b></p> <p>To kick-off 2015, students in Grades 3 – 8, will be engaged in the following Social Studies inquiry projects and learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Famous Texans Celebrity Ball That Will Include: Dressing Up In Costume Like the Famous Texans, Writing 1-2 Minute First-Person, Biographical Speeches, Creating Resumes, and Creating Business Cards for the Famous Texans</li> <li>Researching and Understanding The Battle of the Alamo and The Battle of Goliad</li> <li>The History of the Original Six Flags Over Texas</li> <li>Creating Graphic Timelines</li> <li>Creating Non-Fiction Informative Books</li> <li>Learning More About Texas Geography</li> <li>Learning More About Texas Government</li> <li>State Events and Celebrations</li> <li>Black History Month Research and Celebration</li> <li>Student-Choice State Art &amp; Biographical Projects</li> <li>Student-Choice Written Expression Projects</li> <li>Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning</li> <li>Social Studies and Music Class Collaboration—Learning the significance of state songs</li> </ul> |
| <b>ART</b>   | <p>All CTL Students were involved in creating winter art throughout the entire month! Each week brought a new art project for the students to engage in. Check out what they created:</p> <p><b>K-2 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing the "2015 Me"</li> <li>State of Texas Art Project</li> </ul> <p><b>3-5 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Newer Glimpse of Myself in 2015</li> <li>I Have a Dream Inside My Heart Art</li> <li>State of Texas Art Project</li> </ul> <p><b>6-8 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Newer Glimpse of Myself in 2015</li> <li>I Have a Dream Inside My Heart Art</li> <li>State of Texas Art Project</li> <li>Artist Investigations...A Closer Look at the Life &amp; Art of Vasili Kandinsky with Maizee C.</li> <li>CTL Young Artist Mini-Lesson about Manga with Alex M.</li> </ul>  | <p>February 2015 will bring about some pretty awesome art-creating and learning opportunities for our CTL students! Also, we will be sending out more information about our Spring Art Showcase soon.</p> <p><b>K-2 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inside My Heart</li> <li>Valentine's Day Art Project</li> <li>Imagination Sketches</li> <li>My Family &amp; Me</li> </ul> <p><b>3-5 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inside My Thinking</li> <li>State of Texas Art Project</li> <li>Self-Portrait Triptychs</li> <li>Valentine's Day Art Project</li> </ul> <p><b>6-8 Class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valentine's Day Art Project</li> <li>Inside My Thinking</li> <li>Self-Portrait Triptychs</li> <li>State of Texas Art Project</li> <li>Artist Investigations...A Closer Look at the Life &amp; Art of Andy Warhol and Kadir Nelson</li> <li>CTL Young Artist Mini-Lessons with Peter M. &amp; Mia B.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>CTL Parent feedback is encouraged and greatly appreciated! You are welcome to contact me anytime with questions and concerns.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div> <p><b>Mrs. Treva McKissic, M.Ed.</b></p> <p>Social Studies Teacher, Grades 3-8 &amp; Art Teacher, Grades K-8<br/> Center for Teaching and Learning<br/> P.O. Box 131541<br/> The Woodlands, TX 77381<br/> Phone: 832-474-8214<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:tmckissic@centerforteachingandlearning.com">tmckissic@centerforteachingandlearning.com</a><br/> Website: <a href="http://www.centerforteachingandlearning.com">www.centerforteachingandlearning.com</a></p> </div> </div> |   |  |

**Treva McKissic**



## Physical Education

There were lots of laughs at PE this week, mostly at my expense as I tried to lead various dances. I decided it was a good lesson in not being afraid to try something that might make you look silly.

Although the 3-5 class may not admit it, they did have fun doing an American Square Dance, and the K-2 class showed me their awesome moves to *Alley Cat*. We didn't have quite as much success doing a cardio kickbox to Michael Jackson's *Beat It* in the 6-8 class, but everyone gets an "A" for effort!

Most students definitely preferred the jump roping unit. I was pleasantly surprised to see what talented jumpers we have and all the great tricks one can do with a jump rope. The older classes did amazing individual and partner jumps while the K-2 class worked together with longer ropes, learning both to jump and to spin the rope. Next week they will try individual jumping and continue with their dancing. The upper classes will create their own jump rope routines to close out the unit. From there it is on to balancing, stunts, and tumbling.

PE Reminders: Please have children wear sneakers!

Until next time: Stay active!

If you have any questions, please contact me at [mmurphy@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:mmurphy@centerforteachingandlearning.com).

**Marci Murphy**

## Music

January was Texas History Month at CTL so the whole school learned *Deep in the Heart of Texas*, and each class learned a different song about Texas. The Explorers learned *Old Joe Clark*, the Imaginators *The Yellow Rose of Texas*, the Inquisitors *Red River Valley*, and Choir Club *Git Along Little Dogies*.

The Imaginators and the Inquisitors started presenting their composer reports, and they are doing a great job! Each student in these classes will have the opportunity to do research at home on their chosen composer including listening to eight selections, answering questions, and presenting their findings and observations to the class.

The Explorers learned about rhythm stick etiquette and used them for the first time as we discussed beats and rhythms. The Imaginators used the ukuleles for the first time, and The Inquisitors continue to learn more chords.

We are having so much fun in music!

Please contact me at [mabbott@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:mabbott@centerforteachingandlearning.com) if you have any questions.

**Melissa Abbott**