



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

Wednesday, November 2:

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

Friday, November 4:

El Chaparro Friday Lunch

Monday-Friday, November 7-11:

CTL Trimester 1 Club Showcases at 8:00 a.m.

CTL Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday, November 8:

CTL Veteran's Day Performance at 8:00 a.m. (Grades 5-8 Music/Drama)

Friday, November 11:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch

Tuesday-Thursday, November 15-17:

Early Release at 12:00 p.m.

Student-led Conferences

Friday, November 18:

CTL Library Dedication at 11:30 a.m.

CTL Thanksgiving Feast at 12:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday, November 21-25:

Thanksgiving Break



Thank You CTL Families!

As we leave October behind and look forward to the Thanksgiving season, we have so much to be thankful for. We are thankful most of all for our parents, children and staff for you make CTL the wonderful, happy place it is. Thank you for sending us happy children ready to learn, and thank you for supporting us every step of the way.

This month is filled with excitement as our CTL students build memories to last a lifetime. Most recently, thank you for the amazing Halloween Carnival. It was a huge success! We appreciate our CTL parents for the many hours of work put into preparations, decorations, booths, and clean up and for providing all the treats. You outdid yourselves!

Morning Meeting continues to be a highlight at CTL, our favorite place for community building with the entire school—a place designed for children to share their celebrations so we truly do get to know each other and build respect for our differences. We love



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 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 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctlparentcouncil/> for updates about our students, classrooms, and school!



celebrating with them. It is also a place to celebrate special celebrations like the Diwali Festival of Light and Red Ribbon Week last month. Thanks to our parents who are so willing to share their talents, gifts, expertise, and cultures with us.

Now we move into November where we will celebrate gratitude and thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for including our wonderful parents and students, our fabulous CTL Team, a spacious new building, and a lovely, shaded playground. Thanks to parents for the additions to our playground. The gaga ball pit is a huge hit. The students are loving it! The students are enjoying the warm weather and sunshine as they make memories while getting much needed exercise and soaking in the remnants of the sun under the shade trees. We feel so blessed!

We look forward to a busy November with the many celebrations this month to culminate a wonderful first trimester. Thank you to those who attended our November Parent Council workshop where parents learned more about CTL's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program. We were excited to bring you the latest research in this area and how our amazing math/science teachers implement STEM here at CTL.

You are also welcome to attend next week's Trimester 1 Club Showcases in Morning Meeting and the Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Proceeds of the Book Fair will go to CTL to support our curriculum needs. Thanks to all the parents who are taking rotations to help the Book Fair run next week.

We will also be celebrating Veteran's Day the week of November 7. We encourage Grades 5-8 parents of students in music and drama to come watch and listen as your children perform at the Veteran's Day Performance on the 8th, and we invite all of you to come to the Veteran's Day raising of the flag at 11:00 on November 11 in celebration of Veteran's Day. Thanks to the CTL teachers for coordinating the purchase and installation of CTL's first flagpole. The flag will be raised for the first time on Veteran's Day. Ms. Smith has arranged for veterans to come train our grades 7-8 students on the proper care of the flags prior to that event.

All CTL students are in the process of putting together their portfolios for the Trimester 1 Student-led Conferences beginning the week of November 14. This is a tremendous real-world learning experience as they self-evaluate their learning and set goals for future learning as they assemble their portfolios. It is a very powerful form of assessment. We look forward to seeing each of you here for the celebration of their learning through the Student-led Conferences.

We can't learn without books. Everyone please plan to attend the Dedication of the Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll Library on November 18 at 11:30 just before the Thanksgiving Feast at 12:00. We will be honoring Dr. Carroll for donating her lifetime collection of books to CTL. Dr. Carroll is known throughout the state as the Director of Abydos Learning (formerly the New Jersey Writing Project in Texas). She has worked with thousands of schools, teachers, and trainers through that project; however, we feel honored that she chose CTL for her goddaughter Joyce Elizabeth Alba. Now she gives us another gift. She could have chosen anyone for this special contribution, but she chose us. Come join us for this special celebration.

We look forward to the Thanksgiving Feast afterwards, and thank you in advance for your contributions to make that feast special as we enjoy great food and conversation together.

A special thanks to all of you for helping us ignite and grow a love of learning in every child. We wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration.

Dr. Linda Ellis, Jennifer Chamberlain, and Paige Lewis



Pre-Kindergarten

October was another fun filled month in Pre-K. We started our fun by going on a bear hunt. The class made it through the thick oozy mud, a deep cold river, a swirling whirling snowstorm, and a big dark forest to find the bear cave. The cave was filled with sleeping bears. We were very excited that the bears left us a yummy bear snack to enjoy. The school also enjoyed an informational visit from the fire department. A big thank you to our community first responders! We also received our class pet, a Jack Russell Terrier. They voted to name him Sparkle. Sparkle has a best friend, Cupcake the horse. Pre-K Is very lucky to have such wonderful class pets.

In science and math, we constructed bats and spiders and then we tasted our creations. The consensus from the class, in case you were curious, bats taste better than spiders. To stay with our bear theme, we graphed gummy bears, conducted an experiment with gummy bears and then danced to the gummy bear song. We completed our pumpkin investigation by sink or float prediction, pumpkin seed estimation and what's on the inside.

In writer's workshop, the pre-k students have authored many books over the past weeks and enjoyed sharing their books with the class. I am excited to hear the children share their stories and I'm amazed by their imagination and creativity at such a young age.

We concluded our fun for October with the Halloween Carnival and storybook parade. Everyone looked so cute in their costumes. In November, we will be looking forward to Thanksgiving and working on our portfolio presentation.



Becky Billings

Grades K-1

October was a great month in the Investigator classroom! The highlight of our month was definitely getting class pets. Our class received a Pets in the Classroom grant from Petco, which we used to purchase three zebra danios and three guppies. Dr. Carroll and her husband, Eddie Wilson offered to get us a small mammal. After researching all of our options, we decided to get fancy mice. They don't like to be alone, and we didn't want to separate three brothers... so we ended up with three fancy mice! We have been observing their behaviors and learning how to take care of them.

In reading workshop, we have been developing our strategies for figuring out unknown words. We have also been reviewing some comprehension strategies we learned last year, such as making predictions and connections. Next month, we will be focusing on story elements.

In writing workshop, we have been working hard to write a personal narrative, a story about something that happened to us. We are beginning to think about how we can make our stories easier for our readers to understand by doing things such as adding details and putting spaces between our words.

In math, we have been working on strategies for subtraction. We are also working on improving our addition fact fluency. Next month, we will be working on strategies for adding and subtracting larger numbers, including double digits for those who are ready.

In science, we continued to work with the properties of light, including reflection and refraction. Then we learned about different ways we can use light



and sound to communicate. We also started a unit where we will be learning about different animal parts and how they help animals survive. Next month, we will continue learning about animal characteristics and then begin our study of plant characteristics.

In social studies, we finished our study of Texas and maps. We are now learning about the United States government and leaders. We also discussed several holidays, including Dia de Los Muertos, Halloween, and Diwali. Next month, we will talk more about the upcoming elections and the president. We will also be learning about Native American groups.

We would love to have some of our parents, family members, and friends be our Mystery Readers next month. Check out our Shutterfly page for available dates. We will be working hard on portfolios in the next two weeks and look forward to sharing them with you before the Thanksgiving Break!

[Stephanie Phipps](#)

Grades 1-2

October was a whirlwind! I cannot believe it is already over. Our class has been busy. We are a cohesive unit now and friendships are blossoming. It is nice to see the class work together to accomplish their goals throughout the learning process.

In reading workshop the class learned how to visualize a story. We've also been making predictions through our read alouds. We continue to review reading strategies in conferences. We will continue our author studies and learn the various techniques used by different authors in their writing. We will also learn different types of poetry and begin to write some of our own.

In writing workshop we focused on how to extend our writing using our topic "bubble maps" or graphic organizers. Students are continuing to add more detail in their writing. Our Share Chair time is critical in the building of self-esteem. It also offers positive encouragement to each student. They love to hear from their peers. The kids are always eager to share their writing with the class. We will continue to focus on punctuation and capitalization as well as extending our writing.

In math workshop we've practiced place value, expanded notation, math vocabulary, adding and subtracting within 20, double digits and comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to symbols. The challenge activities offered have been very popular and most of the students want to try them. We are moving on to subtraction within 20, triple digit addition and subtraction and repeated addition (foundation for multiplication). They will also work on organizing data and graphing.

In science we completed our unit on sound and light. Moving on to Life Science, we are learning about animal characteristics and how they adapt, survive and protect themselves in their habitats and environment. The STEAM challenges have been fun as we have focused on several Halloween activities. Teams were asked to create their own "creature catchers" and make Frankenworms dance! Continuing with our STEAM challenges on Fridays, our focus will be on animal characteristics and life cycles.

In social studies we've been learning about elections. Learning about the responsibilities of the President of the United States, we discussed what it means to be a citizen of the USA. We will continue to follow the election process. The class will also take part in a class election where they will use their voters cards they made this month! It will be an exciting experience. The class will study Native American culture and traditions in honor of Thanksgiving.

[Lisa Lipar](#)



Grades 3-4

October was a “spooktacular” month for the Calculation Crew! Scary was the name of the game with our read aloud this past month. Students were glued to the edge of their seats with Mary Downing Hawn’s ghost story, *Deep and Dark and Dangerous*. Predictions were flying from the get-go and many students were right - Sissy was a ghost and a nasty one at that! Now it’s onto Robert Hoge’s memoir, *Ugly*. Students have been quick to make connections to one of our favorite read alouds from last year, *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. We can tell already, tears and laughter are in our future with this story. Reading workshop received an awesome boost thanks to the 20 new graphic novels Mrs. Smith added to our classroom library. Thanks to all the end of the year Amazon gift cards from last school year, this year’s Grade 3 and 4 students are loving the breadth of choice they have when it comes to choosing a book to get lost in!

Google Docs has taken our writing workshop to a whole new level. As students become more adapt at typing their stories, they are also sharing their pieces with fellow classmates. Students are able to help one another revise and edit using this technology and thus make changes on the spot. Besides publishing, we continue to free write daily in our writing notebooks. Everyone’s favorite part of workshop is hands down sharing in our beloved blue bean bag - Big Joe. Authors sit in Big Joe as the audience listens to continuations of their favorite authors. By choice, some students have expanded their tales by up to eight and nine chapters! Our authors are writing an array of personal narratives, fantasy, poems, graphic novels, and picture book stories. A big thanks to Dr. Ellis for visiting our workshop to teach us about Prove Its! We’ve found many places in our writing we can bring to life for the reader with this helpful strategy.



We’ve been moving right along in math workshop. Thanks to Worker Bee Wednesday volunteers, we have a plethora of games we can play during workshop math practice. Students have practiced rounding up to hundred thousand, estimating sums and differences with rounding, using mental math to add and subtract by making ten and hundred, and adding/subtracting with regrouping. Students are realizing that mental math strategies not only make adding and subtracting easier, but they are learning much needed processes which will be used in algebraic thinking. Each time we practice our daily skills, we also challenge our thinking with enrichment activities. Special congratulations to Alexandra Shupe for being the only student to figure out our Halloween number box challenge. Moving forward, students will take their understanding of place value and basic repeated addition and apply them to multiplication and division as well as using their fact knowledge to problem solve.

As we prepare our portfolios, students realized just how much ground they have covered in Social Studies. Culminating their study of map skills, students created their own countries. Creativity shined bright as students presented countries such as Breeds (with states like Pugslyvania and Collie-rado) as well as explaining the landmarks of each country (think swimming in Sweet Ocean of the country, Candy Land, but be careful to stay inside the Bubble Gum Border). The upcoming Presidential election provides the perfect springboard into our next area of study - the history of the American beginnings along with American Civics.

Science has been full STEAM ahead! We’ve completed multiple experiments this past month that have given us great insights into our study of objects and



motions. We have created hovercrafts, measured the distance of cars traveling down ramps with a variety of incline levels, moved cars with magnets, used static electric to move tissue paper ghosts and bats, captured smoke from dry ice with overflowing bubbles, blown up ghostly balloons not using our own breath but gas from a chemical reaction, watched spiders float up and down in lava lamps, and propelled Halloween candy with handmade catapults. Through our tinkering and failed attempts, we learned several important lessons ; 1.

failure is a great teacher of what doesn't work yet moves us closer to success each time, 2. scientists must persevere to gain knowledge and understanding of how things work, and 3. objects can move with a variety of sources including gravity, our own pushes and pulls, as well as different forms of energy such as static, magnetic forces, and gas. Up next in science is the study of life cycles and group behaviors.



Melanie Smith

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

Reading and writing have taken off in the classroom! Students are engaged in their books in reading workshop and enjoy discussing them during conferences.

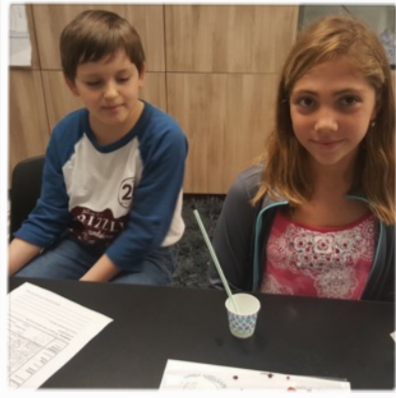
In grades 5 and 6, the daily read aloud of *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker gives us a chance to discuss story elements and author's craft in a genre that is new to most students. It's impressive to listen to the depth of thought contributed by fifth and sixth graders during these discussions! Students have had many great mentor authors to study and learn from as they've read several books since the start of school. For their first publication, each writer has chosen a personal narrative to revise and publish using tools learned through their reading as well as mini-lessons and individual conferences. These published pieces will be added to student portfolios.



In grades 7 and 8, the daily read aloud of *Colin Fischer* by Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stentz gives us a chance to discuss story elements and author's craft. Students are becoming more critical readers and are stretching each other to think with more depth. Students have had many great mentor authors to study and learn from as they've read several books since the start of school. For their first publication, each writer has written two or three free-verse poems to revise and publish using tools learned through their reading of poetry, mini-lessons and individual conferences -- tools used by published authors to appeal to the senses and strengthen verbs, leads, conclusions, titles, lines, and stanzas. These published pieces will be added to student portfolios. memoirs. In reading workshop we will begin our reading roundtable discussions.

Students have learned about the use of propaganda in WWII through analysis of posters, documentaries, and research. They studied the different types of propaganda and how each was used to further the cause of the Nazi regime. Students also learned about the use of spin in political ads, tv commercials, print ads, and social media. Through skits and the creation of a poster, students demonstrated their understanding of how propaganda and spin are used to influence others. Our next unit involves learning about different types of governments. Students will work with a partner to research two types of governments and will present their findings to the class.

Angela Bailey



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

Mrs. Williams' classes are learning by leaps and bounds.

In 5th and 6th grades, the Einsteins have been hard at work in math. We have studied fraction operations, integer operations, and our 6th graders began learning about rates and ratios by planning road trips. Our focus in science has been matter and chemical reactions. Students applied their knowledge of physical and chemical properties by solving a mystery of a "stolen necklace." They were able to discover the thief by identifying the unknown powder left behind at the crime scene.

Social Studies focused on the American Revolution. Students completed personal research project and presented their topic to the class. Students also created cereal boxes focusing on one person important to the American Revolution. Our next topic will be government and voting.

The 7th and 8th grade class has also been learning some great things in math. Our 7th graders have been studying geometry. They have studied rectangular prisms, pyramids, circles, and cylinders. In 8th grade, students have been working on graphing linear inequalities and were also introduced to domain and range.

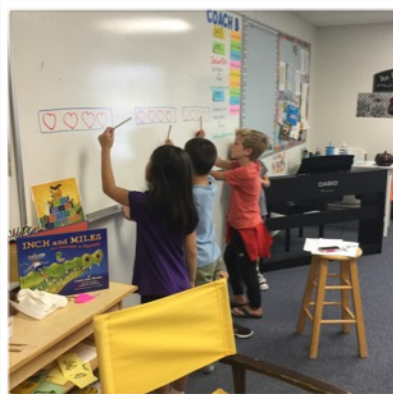
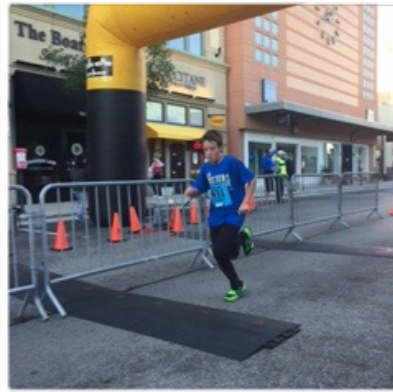
In Science, students have extended their knowledge of cells by learning about the organelles present in both plants and animal cells. Students are working hard on their life size cells using paper mache.

To see pictures of our October adventures, check out the picture tab on my Shutterfly website: <https://mrswilliams1617.shutterfly.com>.

Lori Williams

Grades 5-8 Drama

October 2016	Coming in November 2016
5th- 8th Grade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students performed several types of improvisation skits like Freeze & Justify, Character Conflict and Pick a Prop. ★ Students began learning about Pantomime and Tableau. ★ Veterans Day rehearsals and choral reading of the Gettysburg Address were a main focus in drama class. Students are ready to perform for CTL in November. 	5th- 8th Grade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ <u>Save The Date</u> Veteran's Day Performance - Tuesday, November 8th during morning meeting ★ CTL Holiday Show roles and responsibilities to be assigned and rehearsals will begin. ★ Cast auditions will be held on Tuesday, November 1st. ★ Student Portfolio Reflections



Grades PK-8 Physical Education

Physical Education

- ★ Pre/K - 2nd Grade:
 - Parachute
 - Frogs on Lily Pads game
 - Halloween Fitness
 - Foot kicking and dribbling

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

- We began a Health and Wellness unit with a lesson about self esteem. We read "I'm Gonna Like Me Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem" by Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell. Students created "I Like Me" paper flowers.
- During Red Ribbon Week students learned about making good choices and created a "I'm Going To Take Care of Myself" Promise Bracelet.

3rd - 8th Grade:

- Flying Disc
- Foot kicking and dribbling
- Zombie Tag
- FitnessGram

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

- We began a Health and Wellness unit with a lesson about self esteem. We read "I Think, I am!: Teaching kids the Power of Affirmations" by Louise Hay. Students began a positive affirmations fingerprint project.
- During Red Ribbon Week students showed what they know about the benefits of a drug free lifestyle. Students learned about drugs and addiction.
- ➔ All CTL Physical Education students participated in yoga instruction with Ms. Tayler Gyug from Yoga Pod.

Pyramid of Success:

- ★ ENTHUSIASM ~ We completed our second building block of our PE Pyramid of Success with a focus on Enthusiasm. Ask your children about Rhonda the enthusiastic robin!

Physical Education

- ★ Pre/K - 2nd Grade:
 - Underhand throwing and catching
 - Fall Fitness
 - Pizza Tag

3rd - 8th Grade:

- Foot kicking and dribbling continued
- FitnessGram continued
- Throwing and catching

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

- We will begin continue our Health and Wellness unit with a lesson about generosity and acts of giving . We will create a Web of Kindness.

Trisha Brandimarte

Grades PK-8 Music

Pre-K has been exploring vocal sounds, playing instruments, and doing activities as partners.

Grades K-1 students have been working on singing, movement, and exploring the comparatives: fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low and same/different.

Grades 1-2 students have developed an understanding of steady beat.

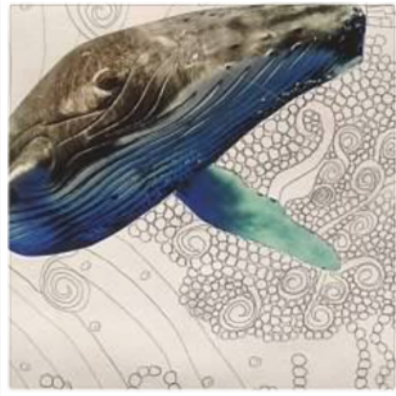
Grades 3-4 students have been reading rhythm patterns and are able to identify known songs and rhymes from the rhythm patterns that are clapped.

Grades 5-8 choir and drama students will present a Veterans Day program on Tuesday, November 8 at 8:00 a.m. They will sing each branch's song of the Armed Forces.

All CTL classes will present a Holiday Music Program on Wednesday, December 7. Be on the lookout for more information.

Diane Engle

Grades PK-8 Art



<p>Artists and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons...</p>	 The Life & Artistic Style of Artist & Children's Book Author Mary Peterson	 The Lives & Artistic Styles of Artist & Children's Book Author Joe Troiano & Susan Banta		 The Life and Artistic Style of UK Artist Ed Fairburn	 The Life & Artistic Style of Artist, Poet, & Author Austin Kleon
<p>Art Read-Aloud Books & Poetry Books that Sparked Our Art-Creating Experiences...</p>					
<p>Artwork We Have Created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Pen</i>-Inspired Black Pen and Black Paint Creative Abstract Art On White Paper • <i>Spookley</i>-Inspired Original Pumpkins with Unexpected Shapes • <i>Piggies In the Pumpkin Patch</i> Abstract-Designed Pumpkins • Austin Kleon-Inspired Newspaper Blackout Poems • "Primary Color Paintings" Inspired by <i>Let's Play</i> • Completed Van Gogh-Inspired ¾ View Self-Portraits with Watercolor Paints 				

Treva McKissic

