



# CTL CORNER

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

## Important Dates

**October 1** - Student Health Screenings starting at 8:30 a.m.

**October 3** - Parents are invited to join us for *Pizza at the Park* and *Fitness Fun* starting at 11:30 a.m., followed by our first *Parent Council* meeting at 12:15 p.m.

## Important Reminders

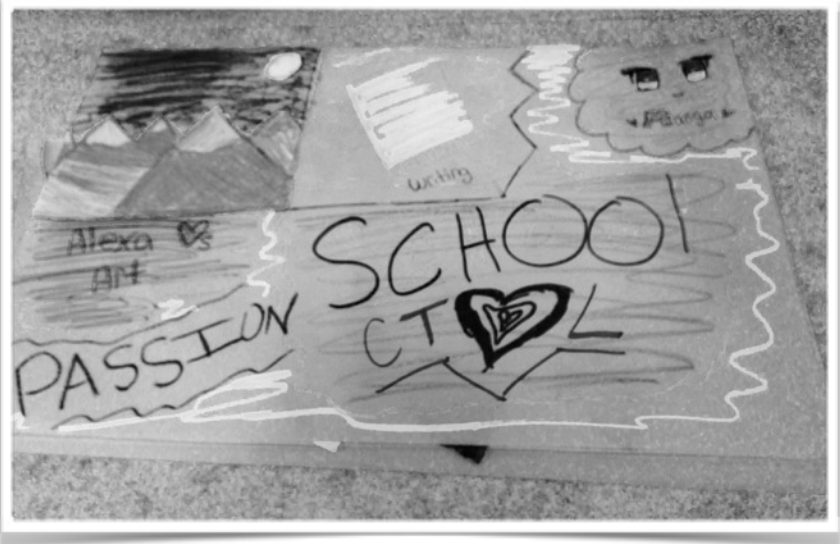
\*Please have your child at school before 8 a.m. every morning so he or she does not miss our Morning Meeting that begins right at 8 a.m.

\*Please make sure your child has a snack, lunch, and water bottle every day.

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

\*Please complete and return the volunteer form if you want to volunteer at CTL this year.

\*Student Health Screening forms are due. Please send those in ASAP if you haven't already done so.



## Hello CTL Family!

We had another couple of fabulous weeks with your children here at CTL. We are loving them and enjoying getting to know each of them better and finding out where they are in their learning, what makes them unique, what makes them feel valued, what strengths they have, and what goals we have for success this year. We look forward to seeing the progress they make as their passion and excitement for learning grows.

***Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain***





### *K-2 Class*

The Explorers have had another great week with many fun activities in our classroom. We have discovered the world of matter in science with some experiments that had exciting results! The class is learning to use the scientific method.

We are engrossed in our writing, and the kids are always excited to share their journals with the class. In math we are using manipulatives to figure out number operations. The class is beginning our unit on geography with an activity about where they are in the world! We have been reading independently and sharing our connections to the stories we read. Please remember to keep reading at home. The reading logs are due every Monday. Your support at home really helps to encourage good reading habits.

I have had the honor of leading our morning meetings this week. We discussed positive thoughts and how we can apply them to our daily lives. It has been a joy hearing the connections the students have made with the positive quotes we have shared.

Thank you for attending our open house. I hope you found it informative and helpful! I am looking forward to another great week ahead. Please remember to check your child's WILD notebook every evening. Also, make sure you check out our website! We have weekly class news and pictures for you to view each week!

***Lisa Lipar***

### *3-8 Language Arts*

Students are already immersed in books in reading workshop and their topics in writing workshop. We begin each reading class with a teacher read-aloud. In grades 3-5 we're reading *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart, and in grades 6-8 we're reading *Summer of Fear* by Lois Duncan.

The students are engrossed in the books and always begging for the next chapter. They then find their spots in the classroom where they can get lost in their own books during independent reading time.

In writing workshop we have completed several prewriting activities including Writing Territories and Blueprinting to help students find topics to write about. They are now getting lost in their own writing.







We end the class time each day with students voluntarily sharing their writing and other students sharing something they like about the piece.

We are getting to know the students as readers and writers as we confer individually during reading and writing. Our goal is that students love reading and writing so much that they have that intrinsic desire to read and write when they are not in school. Reports from students and many of you demonstrate that it is happening. Thank you for sharing in this excitement with your children!

**Angela Bailey, Jennifer Chamberlain, and Linda Ellis**

### *3-8 Math/Science*

We are having so much fun in the lab! In math, we have started breaking up into smaller groups for mini lessons and follow-up games and activities. The information I gain from our discussions and activities is helping me to get to know each student better and plan upcoming lessons and activities. Right now, we are working on various number concepts...depending on what each group needs! These groupings will be flexible and will change as students grow!



In science, we have been studying matter. In 3rd to 5th grade, the focus has been on properties of matter such as density, conductivity, and freezing point. In 6th to 8th grade, the focus has been on concepts such as subatomic particles and molecular structure of substances. We have really enjoyed the experiments and investigations that lead us through these concepts and help us understand them better!

**Stephanie Phipps**

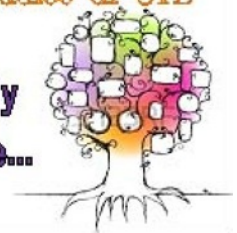
### *3-8 Social Studies*

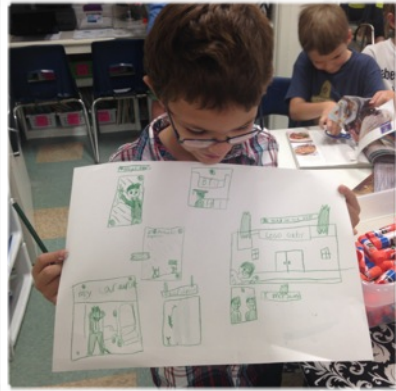
During Week 2 and Week 3, we continued with the vision of exploring more about who we are through family history research. Students were introduced to three independent projects: writing about "What Family Means to Me," creating artistic representations of "What Family Means to Me," and creating family trees. Students will have more projects to come as we continue to delve into our unit about "FAMILY HISTORY."

**Treva McKissic and Stephanie Phipps**

Grades 3-8  
Social Studies at GTL

**What Family  
Means to Me...**





## Art

Authors and Illustrators Peter Reynolds and Karen Katz served as the CTL students' art inspirations for the week in the K-2 class. In her book *The Colors of Us* Karen Katz shows readers that differences should be celebrated. In his book *The Dot* Peter Reynolds shows readers that everyone can be an artist. K-2 students created self-portraits to celebrate what makes them unique, and they mixed paints to create original "dot art."

**Treva McKissic**

## Physical Education

Although the rain forced us inside more than we liked this week, it did not keep us from being active. We continued to learn rules and appropriate behavior in PE and at recess to make sure we are safe and have fun. The social skill focus for the month is responsibility for the older children and kindness for the younger group.

The K-2 class did an amazing job learning about personal space, directional terms, and practicing different locomotor movement. The middle grades, our Imaginators, also excelled at a variety of locomotor skills and joined the Inquisitors, 6-8 grades, in team building activities with hoops and balls. Both groups did amazing working together.

Next week I will introduce more about the components of fitness, and we will find fun ways to raise our heart rate. Until then, stay active!

**Marci Murphy**

## Music

My young singers learned some solfege (do re mi fa so la ti do) this week! I am hearing some beautiful voices emerge as we sing some fun songs. Ask your child to sing you his or her favorite!

We have a wonderful guitar teacher who will come do a group class on Fridays after school IF there are enough students who sign up. They need two more to get started, so if you are interested please email me at [mabbott@centerforteachingandlearning.com](mailto:mabbott@centerforteachingandlearning.com) ASAP!

**Melissa Abbott**

