



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

March 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.

March 16-20 - School Holiday (Spring Break)

March 31 - School Individual and Class Pictures. More information to come.

Important Reminders

*Please have your child at school before 8 a.m. every morning so he/she does not miss 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.



Welcome to a Marvelous March at CTL!

February was a busy month at CTL with much learning, laughter, and love as we celebrated Black History Month, Presidents' Day, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and Go Texan Day. In addition, in Morning Meetings we celebrated unofficial holidays like Random Acts of Kindness Day, National Cherry Day, and National Tortilla Chip Day. CTL had celebrations of our own. K-2 students treated us with a fun-filled parade on the 100th Day of School, and all students celebrated Valentine's Day at our magnificent party sponsored by our amazing parents. Thanks for making the day special! Students also eagerly shared their learning with parents in their Student-led Conferences and their club projects at Club Showcase. February was a busy month and added many memories to our CTL scrapbook—memories we will not forget.

CTL students eagerly got back into the routine this week as we welcomed the beginning of a new trimester. Today we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and Texas Independence Day and look forward to a fun afternoon with parents at Pizza at the Park this Friday followed by Parent Council. Beginning March 8, we will lose an hour of sleep in the morning with Daylight Savings Time but will welcome the extra hour of sunlight at the end of the day. We are quite sure CTL parents and students are looking forward to Spring Break the week of March 16. We will finish out March with school pictures on March 31.

Thank you for celebrating Marvelous March with us!

Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain





K-2 Class

February brought a lot of celebrations with our 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, Club Showcase, Student-led Conferences, and Go Texan Day! We celebrated friendship by sharing kind notes in honor of Valentine's Day, and the Explorers were so proud as they chose their selections from all of their work this trimester for their portfolios for Student-led Conferences. What an awesome job they all did presenting their success to you!

It has been a quick month filled with many learning experiences. We studied rocks, soil, and land formations and introduced fractions, learning time, and estimation in math. Each student began writing a piece to be entered in our first writing contest sponsored by PBS. Entries will be submitted by March 12. I am excited to see what their creative minds create!



As we move into our third trimester, it will be a time to research living things, learn more about fractions, and continue to build on the foundation of skills learned thus far in reading and writing. The students have really blossomed.

Thank you for guiding your children through their growth and development. It is obvious

in their accomplishments that they thrive on your support! Thank you for continuing to support CTL. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at llipar@centerforteachingandlearning.com.

Lisa Lipar

3-8 Language Arts

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

Our first publishing party of the year was last week. This party was a celebration of all the hard work that went into taking a story through the publishing process. Students enjoyed sharing their own stories and listening to those written by classmates. Many students were inspired to try something new in their next stories after hearing their classmates share. We are extremely proud of the growth our students have shown in their





writing this trimester and look forward to helping them progress even further.

We will be completing our current read aloud books in the next couple of weeks. Students have enjoyed listening to both stories unfold and have utilized many of the skills they learned through the read aloud when reading their own books and writing their stories. 3-8 students have completed over 1,000 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 writing workshop, many students will continue pieces they were working on last trimester while others will begin new pieces. We will introduce inquiry as a way into expository writing and will continue to teach conventions through mini lessons and one-on-one conferences. It is exciting to see the students grow as writers!

We would like to thank all 3-8 students who submitted entries to the Dana K. Barber Writing Awards competition and congratulate Ellee Chamberlain for placing 3rd in the Grades 6-8 Poetry division. Congratulations Ellee!

We look forward to another exciting trimester with your children! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: lellis@centerforteachingandlearning.com or m Bailey@centerforteachingandlearning.com.

Linda Ellis and Angela Bailey

3-8 Math/Science

The third to fifth graders started the month by studying fossils in science. We learned about geologic time periods, fossil formation, fossil types, and what geologists do. In partners, students selected a real fossil to research, determining information such as the time period from which it came and how it was formed. We have begun a study of weather and climate. We are using a thermometer to measure local temperature, a hygrometer to measure humidity, an anemometer to measure wind speed, a rain gauge to measure precipitation, a windsock to measure wind direction, and even a homemade barometer to measure air pressure. At the same time, some students are studying the weather and climate of other cities of their choice from around the world. Next month, we will continue our earth and space science unit as we study sun and water cycles and space. After spring break, we will begin our focus on life science.

The sixth to eighth graders have been working on different topics within earth and space science. The sixth graders studied tectonic plates and wrote National Geographic style article describing the tectonic plates and describing the five places they believe, based on their research, are the most dangerous places to live. Most recently, they have been studying the rock cycle and how to identify rocks. The seventh graders studied how weathering, erosion, and deposition





impact the ten ecoregions of Texas and the history of the Balcones Escarpment. Recently, they began to study watersheds and pollution. The eighth graders have been studying different components of the universe. Then they began to study light years and the electromagnetic spectrum and how these are used to measure distances in space. Next month, we will wrap up our earth and space studies by studying space and space exploration and then begin our life science unit.

Last month in math, the third to fifth graders finished working on fraction concepts and began focusing on measurement skills. Depending on the needs of each student, these are some of the skills they may have worked on:

- *Memorization of multiplication facts
- *Adding and subtracting fractions with like or unlike denominators
- *Simplifying fractions
- *Multiplying and dividing fractions
- *Elapsed time
- *Measuring and converting length in the customary system and metric system
- *Measuring and converting weight/mass within the customary or metric system
- *Area, perimeter, and volume

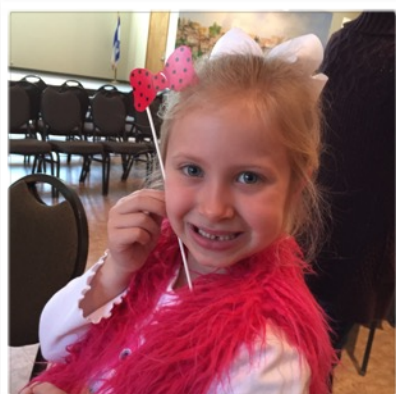
Next month, we will continue to work on measurement and measurement conversions related to weight and mass, capacity, money, and temperature. We will also be working with function tables and decimal concepts.

The sixth to eighth graders continued our measurement study by learning about the measurements of circles and 3D shapes. The study culminated with the Tin Man Project, where groups of students created a 3D creature, calculated its surface area and volume, and determined exactly how much aluminum foil



they would need in order to perfectly cover their creature. Then we started our study of 2 dimensional geometry, including how to draw and measure angles. We've found that this requires an extreme amount of precision! Next month, we will continue our study of 2 dimensional geometry and then study probability.

In Algebra, we finished our study of exponential functions and their equations. We've been able to compare these functions to linear functions and the real life scenarios that can be represented by these types of equations. The most interesting task had to have been growing








mold in the classroom and finding a function to represent its growth! After completing that unit, we began studying quadratic functions and their equations. Next month, we will continue our study of quadratic functions and will be able to compare situations represented by all 3 of the types of functions we have learned about this year.

The Department of Physics & Astronomy and the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University will be holding a physics and engineering festival on Saturday, March 28. The event includes many interactive demonstrations and hands-on experiments for kids. For more information about the festival, you can visit their website at <http://physicsfestival.tamu.edu>. If you would be interested in joining other CTL families for this event, please email me. I know our students would love to participate in this event!

If you have any questions about what we are studying in math and science, please email me at sphipps@centerforteachingandlearning.com.

Stephanie Phipps

3-8 Social Studies and K-8 Art

	 Month of February 2015	 Month of March 2015
	<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"> o 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 o Researching and Understanding The Battle of the Alamo and The Battle of Goliad o The History of the Original Six Flags Over Texas o Creating Graphic Timelines o Creating Non-Fiction Informative Books o Learning More About Texas Geography o Learning More About Texan Government o State Events and Celebrations o Black History Month Research and Celebration o Student-Choice State Art & Biographical Projects o Student-Choice Written Expression Projects o Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning o Social Studies and Music Class Collaboration— Learning the significance of state songs 	<p>March 2015 marks the beginning of a new and fresh unit for the students of Grades 3 – 8! They will be engaged in the following Social Studies inquiry projects and learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Famous Texans Celebrity Ball That Will Include: Dressing Up In Costume Like the Famous Texans, Writing 1-2 Minute First-Person, Biographical Speeches, and Creating Business Cards for the Famous Texans o Researching and Understanding the American History and the American Revolutionary War o Facts and Brief Histories of the 50 states o Student-Choice USA States' Art & Biographical Projects o Student-Choice Written Expression Projects o Self-Assessments to self-reflect on our progress and learning o Social Studies and Music Class Collaboration— Learning the significance of US songs
	<p>February 2015 brought about some pretty awesome art-creating and learning opportunities for our CTL students!</p> <p>K-2 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Inside My Heart ✦ Valentine's Day Art Project ✦ Imagination Sketches ✦ My Family & Me <p>3-5 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Inside My Thinking ✦ State of Texas Art Project ✦ Self-Portrait Triptychs ✦ Valentine's Day Art Project <p>6-8 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Valentine's Day Art Project ✦ Inside My Thinking ✦ Self-Portrait Triptychs ✦ State of Texas Art Project ✦ Artist Investigations...A Closer Look at the Life & Art of Andy Warhol and Kadir Nelson ✦ CTL Young Artist Mini-Lessons with Peter M. & Mia B. 	<p>March 2015 is the month to explore fresh art concepts and learn more about art history through famous artists! Also, we will be sending out more information about our Spring Art Showcase soon.</p> <p>K-2 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Abstract Art ✦ Photo Distortion ✦ Pointillism Paintings and the Artist Georges Seurat ✦ American Modernism and the Artist Georgia O'Keeffe <p>3-5 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Heart-Mapping ✦ Abstract Art and Photo Distortion ✦ Surrealism Paintings and the Artists Salvador Dali and René Magritte ✦ De Stijl and Neoplasticism with the Artist Piet Mondrian ✦ American Modernism and the Artist Georgia O'Keeffe <p>6-8 Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Inside My Thinking ✦ Surrealism Paintings and the Artists Salvador Dali and René Magritte ✦ De Stijl and Neoplasticism with the Artist Piet Mondrian ✦ American Modernism and the Artist Georgia O'Keeffe ✦ CTL Young Artist Mini-Lessons with Peter M. & Mia B.
<p>CTL Parent feedback is encouraged and greatly appreciated! You are welcome to contact me anytime with questions and concerns.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div> <p>Mrs. Treva McKissic, M.Ed. Social Studies Teacher, Grades 3-8 & Art Teacher, Grades K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning P.O. Box 131541 The Woodlands, TX 77381 Phone: 832-474-8214 Email: tmckissic@centerforteachingandlearning.com Website: www.centerforteachingandlearning.com</p> </div> </div>		



Treva McKissic

Physical Education

We made the most of a short month in PE. Students wrapped up the units on jump roping and dance before revisiting our previous units, basketball and catching/throwing. They all did a great job self assessing themselves on new skills and future goals.



From there it was on to tumbling, stunts, and balance. Lots of strength and flexibility exercises in this unit, but so far the highlight has been trying different partner stunts and practicing tip ups and tripods on the mat.



Of course we always start with fitness work, and this month we used some old favorites like tag as well as a new one for the older classes involving avoiding sliding hula hoops. They don't even know they are exercising!

As always, don't forget proper shoes and attire! If you have any questions, please contact me at mmurphy@centerforteachingandlearning.com.

Marci Murphy

Music

The K-2 class learned about maracas in February and were able to play some fun games with them. They learned a Valentine's song, *The Orchestra Song* with five different parts representing five different instruments and some more rounds. They, along with the grades 3-8 classes, also learned *Deep in the Heart of Texas* and other Texas songs in celebration of Texas history and Go Texan Day.

Grades 3-5 and 6-8 are still going strong presenting their composer reports. Please ask your children which composer they chose, which day they will present to the class, and what they learned through their at-home research and listening. They are also learning more chords on the ukulele and are able to sing and play at the same time! I am so proud of all our young musicians.



Please contact me at mabbott@centerforteachingandlearning.com if you have any questions.

Melissa Abbott

Enrichment Clubs

Thanks to all those who attended our CTL Enrichment Club Showcase on February 20. Students enjoyed celebrating with you. Last Friday students voted on a new round of clubs for this trimester as follows:

- Paper Airplanes Club
- Basketball Club
- Jump Roping Club
- Zumba Club
- Cake Decorating Club
- Craft Club
- Logic Puzzles Club
- Board Games Club
- Ukulele/Guitar Club
- Oral Reading/Drama Club
- Soccer Club

A big thank you to our 6-8 grade student and parent volunteers who will help lead our clubs this trimester! CTL students are looking forward to having fun and learning from each other and you!

