



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

Monday-Friday, October 3-7:

Parent-teacher Conferences

Wednesday, October 5:

CTL Parent Council Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Halloween Carnival Planning Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, October 7:

Jason's Deli Friday Lunch

Monday, October 10:

Columbus Day (No School)

Wednesday, October 12:

School Individual Photos

Thursday, October 13:

School Class Photos

Friday, October 14:

Firefighters Visit CTL

El Chaparro Friday Lunch

Wednesday, October 19:

Staff Appreciation Lunch (Organized by Grades 1-2)

Friday, October 21:

Chick-fil-A Friday Lunch

Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting at 1:15 p.m.

Monday-Friday, October 24-28:

Red Ribbon Week

Friday, October 28:

Papa John's Friday Lunch

Halloween Carnival



Welcome October!

We have had a wonderful beginning to our new school year in our new home! Thank you all for your enthusiasm and your assistance in getting our school up and running as we worked out the kinks that come with moving to a new building and a new location. Thanks to the many parents who have helped with everything from building shelves, sorting and shelving books, building playground structures, donating items, reading to children, serving as guests to share your passions with the students, and preparing materials for teachers at Worker Bee Wednesdays and throughout the week every week. Also, thank you for your kind words and for sharing your children's stories with us. Your enthusiastic support is tremendously appreciated!

Thanks also for sending us happy and respectful kids. We love welcoming your children each morning, supporting them throughout the school day as they get excited about learning, and sending them home happy at the end of the day. Our goal as always is to ignite and grow a love of learning in every child. When we hear your stories, it excites us. We just couldn't be happier.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays for our Worker Bee Wednesdays or Parent Council (if your schedule will allow it). We are excited to share the many celebrations with you this month, a fun-filled, busy October with parent



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



conferences, Diwali Festival of Light celebration, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, the Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting, Red Ribbon Week festivities, and the PK-2 Halloween Parade and PK-8 Halloween Carnival. And of course, seeing your happy, smiling faces as you drop your children off and pick them up each day.

Thank you for choosing CTL and for entrusting us with the education of your children.

Linda Ellis, Jennifer Chamberlain, and Paige Lewis

Pre-Kindergarten

CTL's first Pre-K class has launched to a wonderful start. We have been busy making new friends, learning classroom procedures and having lots of fun.

Writing workshop has been introduced and our Pre-K authors and illustrators have been busy composing their books and sharing with the class. In math we are learning our numbers and counting, one to one correspondence and simple patterns. We studied our five senses in science. All five senses were used when we popped popcorn to conclude the segment. According to the vote that was taken, tasting was their favorite sense. We participated in several experiments.

We recreated the experiment in the book *If you take a Mouse to School*, made lava flow in our lava lamps and completed a skittle rainbow color experiment. They are having so much fun!

A big thank you to the CTL Family for the many donations you have made to the Pre-K class. We are grateful for the contributions.

In October we will be looking at bats, spiders, owls and pumpkin exploration. Pre-K students are looking forward to our fall study.

To see pictures of our September adventures in Pre-K, please go to the picture tab on my Shutterfly account at <https://billingsprek.shutterfly.com>.

Beckey Billings

Grades K-1

The Investigators are off to a great start! We have enjoyed getting to know each other and developing our classroom community in our new space.

In reading workshop we have focused on developing good reading habits, such as knowing what kinds of books we enjoy, understanding how to use our classroom library, and building our stamina for independent reading. We are also developing strategies for figuring out unknown words. In writing workshop we have shared personal experiences that could become written stories and are beginning to write books.

In math we have been establishing routines for math workshop and are developing strategies for





solving addition problems. We are enjoying working with Mrs. Lipar's class for science and social studies. In science we have explored the properties of sound and are now beginning to study properties of light. We love our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) challenges on Fridays.

In social studies we have been learning about ourselves and developing classroom expectations, and we are now learning about where we live and map skills through a project where we are making Texas travel brochures. Some of our major topics for next month will be writing personal narratives, features of nonfiction text, subtraction strategies, using sound and light in communication, American government, and the upcoming election.

Thank you to everyone for donating so many items from our class wishlist! I appreciate your generous support. To see pictures from September, sign up to be a Mystery Reader, or see what else is happening in our class be sure to visit our website at <https://ctlk1.shutterfly.com>.

Stephanie Phipps

Grades 1-2

We are really enjoying our new space. The class is getting comfortable in our Jungle by getting cozy in our reading hut and on our new window seats. Thank you to the Schustereder and Peebles families for your generous donations to our classroom. The kids love their new leopard paw author's chair, and I really appreciate my new leopard print read aloud chair and tall bookshelf. They are awesome! We have voted and decided to keep our class name The Explorers.

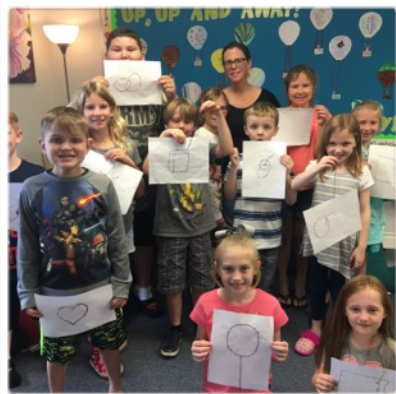
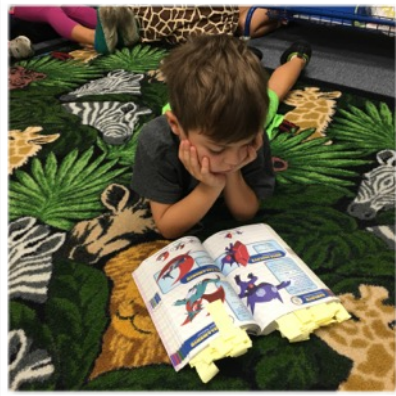


Our first month was spent going over procedures and expectations of the classroom. We worked together to create our classroom rules and consequences. The class focused on kindness and friendship during our council sessions. We discussed the importance of being a good friend to others.

In reading workshop the class learned how to choose just-right books and find a quiet place to read and stay focused. We went over reading strategies that students can use to help them in reading. Developmental Reading Assessments were completed on all students to aid in teaching. In our writing workshop we focused on how to get started by creating a list of writing inspirations and a heart map of topics to use in their writing pieces. The class was also introduced to a topic map to stretch their topics further. They are working to add more details to their writing.

In math workshop the focus has been on place value, expanded notation, math vocabulary, adding and subtracting on a number line and comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to symbols. During math workshop the class works in teams to complete four math station activities throughout the week. They are also offered a challenge activity for each rotation if they choose to complete it.

We are fortunate to be working with Mrs. Phipps' Investigators this year for science and social studies. We are completing various activities in science lab as we are studying sound and light. The teams are exploring sound waves, vibration, shadows, and how light behaves with opaque and transparent objects. They are creating devices to experiment with these elements. We also work together on a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) challenge every Friday where the students have to complete a challenge that is



presented using specific materials. It has been exciting to observe them in action as they figure out how to manage their time and materials to work together to complete their challenges. They have shown us their leadership, organization, creativity and thinking processes as they work through the activities and present them to the class. We have had some valuable discussions about what they have learned.

In social studies the class has been learning about the state of Texas by creating travel brochures. They are incorporating maps, symbols, a map key and various pictures and information about the places to visit in Texas. Their goal is to present a brochure that entices people to travel to our state.

We will continue to use reading strategies and book talks as we move forward in reading. The class will also be encouraged to stretch their writing during our conferences. They will work on building a strong foundation in writing through prewriting, organization and using resources to extend their topics.

In math we will continue to build on skills taught as we work with fact families, word problems, practice skip counting, relate addition and subtraction and practice repeated addition as it relates to multiplication. We will continue our study of light in science and transition to organisms, plant and animal parts, and life cycles. In social studies we will continue our unit on geography and community and then move to American government and leaders.

Thank you for your support and patience as we started our school year in new surroundings. It has been a smooth transition, and we appreciate all of your help and cooperation. To see pictures, sign up to be a Mystery Reader, or see what else is happening in our class please visit our website at <https://mrslipars12class.shutterfly.com>.

Lisa Lipar

Grades 3-4

Wow! Mrs. Smith's third and fourth grade class is off to an awesome start! We are super excited to be in our new spacious classroom. The first order of business for our class was to come up with a class name—The Calculation Crew.

Our crew has been busy in reading workshop organizing all of our picture books and novels, spending lots of time getting to know what's in our library, finding just right books, and learning that it is okay to abandon a book so we can find the perfect book to get lost in for longer periods of time. Writing workshop has taken off full force with several of our young authors writing fantasy stories and sharing on a daily basis. Many students are writing chapter books, and we've all come to anticipate the next chapter's action in our peers' writing.

In math place value has been the name of the game. We have practiced expressing, comparing, and ordering numbers. Thanks to Worker Bee Wednesday and all of the parent volunteers, we've enjoyed playing a variety of games that have been prepared for us on those days—Race to 100, Place Value Battleship, and U-Know Place Value cards. Science has been all about STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Students engaged in activities challenging them to synthesize all of those skills: recycling paper, working as a large group to engineer a lifting mechanism, and discovering how sound travels through different materials.





In social studies we have reviewed map skills as well as completed a community service project in which we collected cat and dog food for local animal shelters. A big THANK YOU goes out to all of the community members who have presented and share their talents in our classroom. Mrs. Rebecca Masciola shared her love for quilting with us and showed us how to embroider. We learned that quilts tell stories and this helped us tell our own personal stories in writing workshop. Mrs. Dawn Knight spent an afternoon with us explaining how she started Rufus Refuge, a non-profit organization that rescues abandoned animals and helps them get adopted to loving homes.

As we move into October, we will continue to bring in the community into our classroom as Mr. Richard Schimmel will visit with us and explain not only how airplanes work, but about his career as a commercial airplane pilot. To see pictures of our September adventures, check out the picture tab on my Shutterfly website: <https://smith3and4ctl.shutterfly.com>. For a more in-depth look at our daily activities and student artwork, visit us at www.mssmithismyteacher.com.

Melanie Smith

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

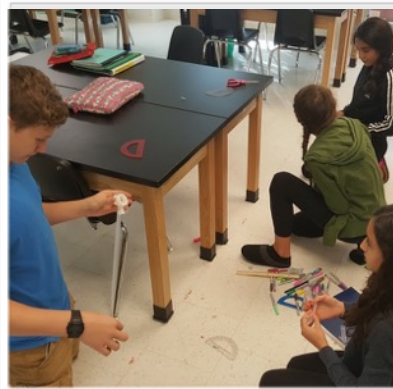
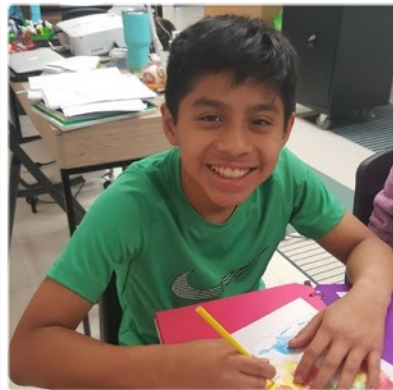
The school year is off to a great start! We are enjoying "the den" and our bookshelves full of possibilities.

In fifth and sixth grade students have settled into the routines and procedures of reading and writing workshop with ease. They have enjoyed listening to our first read aloud of the year, *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker. The story of a fox and his boy has allowed for rich discussion about the love we have for our pets and the empathy we feel for the boy, Peter. Students are eager to read their own books during reading workshop each day and have already started a book wish list for our classroom library! In writing workshop students are revising their personal narratives which are centered around a memorable moment. We have been focusing on plot structure and elaboration in order to make our stories more enjoyable for the reader. Students love to share their writing during author share time. In the coming weeks students will publish their personal narratives in writing workshop and will begin reading roundtable discussions during reading workshop.

In seventh and eighth grade we have been reading and unpacking poems each day. This has led to rich discussions regarding author's message and structures that enhance poems. Students are immersed in books during reading workshop and enjoy recommending books to classmates. In writing workshop students are drafting their first piece of writing, a free-verse poem. We have spent time discussing the importance of including ourselves in the poems we write in order to give the reader a companion while entering our pieces. We have also looked at effective leads and conclusions. A favorite time of the day is our author share at the end of writing workshop. In the coming weeks students will publish their free-verse poems and begin working on memoirs. In reading workshop we will begin our reading roundtable discussions.

In seventh and eighth grade social studies, we are having rich discussions in class! Students enjoy researching and understanding how events of the past





teach valuable lessons for the present. We began the year by defining the study of history and learning about primary and secondary sources. Currently we are studying types of propaganda and how they are used in society. In order to fully understand the power of propaganda, students have been researching how it was used in Nazi Germany.

Please visit my Shutterfly website at <https://baileycl.shutterfly.com> for class updates, sign-ups and pictures!

[Angela Bailey](#)

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

What an amazing start to school year! Mrs. Williams' classes are having a blast in their new spacious classrooms.

Our 5th and 6th grade class began the year by selecting their class name. After much debate and discussion the class settled on The Einsteins, at least for this trimester. The Einsteins have been hard at work in math. We have studied place value, adding and subtracting fractions, and integers. Science has been all about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities. Students learned the phases of the engineering design process and applied it by designing catapults and wind-powered transportation devices. During our study of the 50 states, students created state flip books and worked in groups to write songs of the states and their capitals. As we move into October we will continue working full "STEAM" ahead in math and science. In social studies our focus will shift from geography to the American Revolution.

The 7th and 8th grade class has also been hard at work in math. Our 7th graders have been hard at work learning about angles and triangles. In 8th grade, linear equations have taken over. Our focus in science has been utilizing STEAM activities to learn and apply the engineering design process, as well as an introduction to the cell. October will be full of adventure as the students design and build life-sized cells out of plastic tarps and paper mache.

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

[Lori Williams](#)

Grades PK-8 Music

PK through 8th grade students have been busy in music each Tuesday. We sing game songs that involve movement and lead to music reading. We are also singing seasonal songs. We stay busy throughout the music class, and we have fun!



The 5-8 music students are preparing to sing for Veterans Day. They will combine with the drama class to present this program. The music students will sing the songs of all the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. This program will be presented to students and families on Tuesday, November 8.

[Diane Engle](#)






Grades PK-8 Physical Education

	September 2016	Coming in October 2016
Physical Education 	<p>Pre/K - 2nd Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students played team building and cooperative games like Golf Ball Relay and Rabbit Hole ★ Students got their muscles moving with locomotor games like The Hug Game and Welcome to the Jungle. <p>3rd - 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students played team building and cooperative games like Elbow Tag, Golf Ball relay, Hula Hoop Hoopla, Builders & Bulldozers and Tic Tac Toe relay ★ Students were introduced to fitness training through use of jump ropes, hula hoops, and Fitness Cards. <p>→ All CTL Physical Education students participated in group mindfulness breathing and yoga stretching exercises.</p> <p>Pyramid of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ HARD WORK ~ We began building our PE Pyramid of Success with a focus on Hard Work. (Ask your children how they work hard like <u>Axelrod</u> the hardworking ant!) 	<p>Pre/K - 2nd Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parachute ➤ Soccer ➤ Halloween Fitness <p>3rd - 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Flying Disc ➤ Soccer ➤ Halloween Fitness Challenge <p>PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will begin a Health and Wellness unit with a lesson about Self Esteem. This lesson will lead us into Red Ribbon Week with a theme of "You Only Live Once - YOLO".

Grades 5-8 Drama

	September 2016	Coming in October 2016
Drama 	<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students got to know each other through interactive drama games like Wink Game, Pass the Noise, Zip Zap Zoom and Two Truths & One Lie ★ Students began learning Improv techniques while playing Party Host, Awards Ceremony and Night at the Museum ★ Veterans Day Performance responsibilities were assigned and class rehearsals have begun 	<p>5th- 8th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improv games and skill practice continue ➤ Choral Reading ➤ Veterans Day rehearsals <p>Save The Date ~ Tuesday, November 8th at 8am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Veterans Day Performance

Trisha Brandimarte

Grades PK-8 Art



Artists and Their Art Styles' Mini-Lessons...



The Life and Artistic Style of Artist Claire Desjardins



The Life and Artistic Style of Artist & Children's Book Author Brian Won



The Life and Artistic Style of Artist Vincent Van Gogh

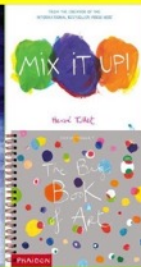
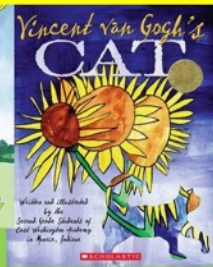


The Life and Artistic Style of Artist & Children's Book Author Herve Tullet



The Life and Artistic Style of Artist & Children's Book Author Satoshi Kitamura

Art Read-Aloud Books that Sparked Our Art-Creating Experiences...



Artwork We Have Created

- *Hooray for Hat!* and *Millie's Marvellous Hat*-Inspired Creative Paper Hats
- Desjardins-Inspired Abstract Watercolor Paintings
- Van Gogh-Inspired Self-Portraits
- Tullet-Inspired Abstract Tempera Paintings
- "Messy Art Science Color Mixing" Student-Created Color Palettes Inspired by *Mix It Up!*

Treva McKissic

