



# CTL CORNER

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

## Important Dates

**November 7** - CTL parents are invited to join us for Pizza at the Park and Fitness Fun starting at 11:30 a.m., followed by our second Parent Council meeting at 12:15 p.m.

**November 17** - CTL parents are invited to attend our 1st Trimester Portfolio Preview (Student-led Conferences) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Students will present their portfolios to parents, including their 1st Trimester Progress Reports.

**November 21** - CTL families and friends are invited to join us for our first annual Thanksgiving Feast from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

## 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. We record and document all absences and tardies.

\*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.



## Hello CTL Family!

The past week at CTL was packed with fun celebrations!

We celebrated Red Ribbon Week to unite our school in the fight against drugs. We held our first Enrichment Club Showcase -- a huge success thanks to our teachers who planned creative clubs and our students who enthusiastically shared their learning with each other. We also hosted our first Halloween Carnival -- a huge success thanks to YOU, our amazing CTL families. We could not have done this without your support. Thank you to all who helped make this event so much fun for our students and families!

We are excited about CTL's growing success and truly appreciate you spreading the word. We have welcomed five new students to our CTL family over the past couple of weeks. Hooray! We hope you all had an enjoyable Halloween on Friday, and we look forward to our continued learning journey at CTL in November.

***Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain***





### *K-2 Class*

As October comes to a close, the Explorers are getting ready for more challenges in the classroom. We have been strengthening our basic math skills and exercising our reading and writing strategies. We will move forward to introduce new skills as well as build on those previously learned.



The class was rewarded for their behavior while working as a team to complete tasks and activities. They were proud of their reward of an electronics time during class! We will continue to work toward team rewards that are voted on by the students. I am proud of our class as they were able to follow all classroom procedures with ease during my absence last week. The class has really fallen into the routines well! It was comforting to know they were so respectful.

We are thrilled to move into November with new and exciting activities ahead!

***Lisa Lipar***



### *3-8 Language Arts*

It is invigorating to see CTL students in the reading and writing zone each day! Combined, they have read hundreds of books since school began and have written hundreds of pieces of writing in various genres. For their first publication, each writer has chosen a personal narrative to revise and publish using tools we have taught through mini-lessons and individual conference -- tools used by published authors to appeal to the senses and strengthen verbs, leads, conclusions, titles, and paragraphs. Our Publication Deadline is Wednesday, November 5. This is the day we have scheduled our first Author's Celebration to celebrate their accomplishments as authors.

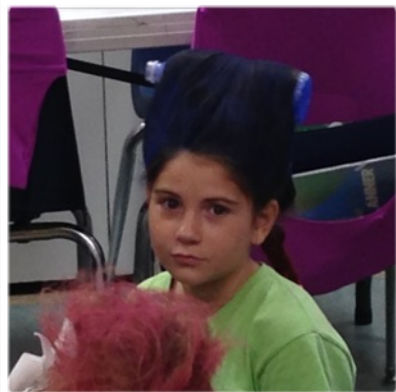


Students have had many great mentor authors to study and learn from as they've read loads of books since school started. Each student is choosing his or her favorite book to share with the class through a Book Project due on Thursday, November 6.

The week of November 10 students will put together their portfolios to share with parents at Portfolio Preview scheduled for the week of November 17.

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





### 3-8 Math/Science

In science grades 3-5 have been learning about light energy. We focused on the concepts of reflection and refraction, but we also talked about objects that are transparent, translucent, and opaque. This week we started learning about forces. We will experiment with pushes, pulls, magnetism, gravity, and friction next week. Grades 6-8 have now finished our unit on matter and have started a unit on forces, work, and energy. Over the next few weeks we will be experimenting in class and also conducting research in different areas related to these concepts.

In math grades 3-5 have been working on various skills such as estimation, mental math, factoring, finding multiples, and using the order of operations. Grades 6-8 have been working on rates, ratios, and linear equations. They have started using a "flipped classroom" model where they watch a video lesson I create for them at home so they come to class ready to get started with that day's activity. I have had great feedback from the students so far, and we are enjoying the extra time we have in class for small group and one-on-one assistance!

**Stephanie Phipps**

### 3-8 Social Studies

During Weeks 8 and 9 in Grades 3-8 Social Studies, we have wrapped up our group projects and are now in the process of presenting our findings. As presentations are given, students are responsible for writing down facts and details they learn from their peers' research. Presenters are being photographed in action, and they are taking the time to call on audience members with questions and comments. Special thanks to our parents for their support and help during this research project!

**Treva McKissic and Stephanie Phipps**

### Art

The book *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer and illustrator Pierr Morgan served as the CTL students' art inspiration for the week in the K-2 class. This book allows students to "visualize" how artists incorporate the element of lines in their art. Students explored using various types of lines (i.e. curly, zig zag, straight, dotted,



Grades 3-8  
Social Studies at CTL



Inspiring Creativity  
Through Art at CTL



Week 8 Theme...  
"Using Our Imaginations and  
Lines to Create Original Art"



Week 9 Theme...  
Mimicking Vincent Van Gogh's  
Brushstroke Technique In  
"Starry Night"





dashed, etc.) to create original works of art using oil pastels. Grades 3-8 students helped to create artwork for the CTL Halloween Carnival. They have created still-life watercolor paintings of gourds and Indian corn and helped to paint treat bags for the Carnival attendees. Students in grades 6-8 learned about the life of Vincent Van Gogh and mimicked his brushstroke painting technique used in his masterpiece *Starry Night*.

**Treva McKissic**

### *Physical Education*

The name of the game in PE for the last two weeks has been Fitness Testing. For the 6-8 grade students, results were recorded and will be discussed next week. Scores for the 3-8 class will not be addressed individually. The object was to acquaint them with fitness testing. Goal setting for both grades will occur though, and all will be retested in May. The K-2 class also focused on fitness concepts (with a little parachute fun thrown in). They practiced exercises that worked on flexibility, muscle strength and endurance, and cardiovascular endurance.



It was a busy week, but all CTL students deserve a big high five for jobs well done! Reminders: sneakers, water bottles, comfortable gym clothes, and don't forget to keep moving!

**Marci Murphy**

### *Music*

We continued our instrument petting zoo this week with the woodwind family. The students were able to experience a piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, and saxophone. We learned about single and double reed instruments, the difference in their unique sound, how to put them together, and shared characteristics of the woodwind family. Grades K-2 students even got to hear Mrs. Lipar play the piccolo and flute for them!



**Melissa Abbott**