



CTL CORNER

Center for Teaching & Learning | 25925 Budde Road, The Woodlands, TX 77380 | 832-474-8214

Important Dates

Monday-Friday, May 2-6

Teacher Appreciation Week. All support welcome!

Thursday-Friday, May 5-6

AdvancEd Accreditation Visit

Monday, May 9

CTL Parent Appreciation Breakfast from 7:45-8:15 a.m. All parents welcome!

Wednesday, May 11

Spring Music Program at 6 p.m. at Faith Bible Church. Dress Rehearsal at 4 p.m. Dinner provided for students.

Thursday, May 12

Grades 5-8 Field Trip to Space Center Houston

Friday, May 13

Parent Council from 12:15-1 p.m.

Monday, May 16

Grades K-4 Field Trip to Mrs. Kinzel's Farm

Monday-Friday, May 16-20

Talent Show Tryouts Week

Trimester 3 Club Showcases at 8 a.m. Schedule to follow.

Monday, May 23

Kindergarten Talent Show at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, May 24

Grades 1-2 Talent Show at 8 a.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Grades 3-4 Talent Show at 8 a.m.

Thursday, May 26

Grade 5 Talent Show at 8 a.m.

Friday, May 27

Last Day of School! Grades 6-8 Talent Show at 8 a.m. Student Picnic & Ice Cream Social from 10-12 p.m. Student-led Conferences-Portfolio Preview from 12-1 p.m.



Oh, Marvelous May!

April has come and gone, and what a month it was--filled with authentic learning, fun activities, and community building. CTL families enjoyed a Family Fun Evening in the Park, and many parents joined our K-4 students on a field trip to Main Street Theater in Houston to see *Harriet the Spy*. The parent-sponsored Earth-Day Up-cycle and Bake Sale aligned perfectly with our celebration of Earth Day and was a huge success as our students not only learned how fun up-cycling can be but also learned the significance of Earth Day. Many created treasures during Passion Project time on Fridays, and they all loved shopping at the Earth Day Up-cycle and Bake Sale, knowing the funds raised would go toward building natural playgrounds at the new property. CTL moms and staff also enjoyed shopping and visiting at the Kendra Scott Gives Back Party to support the 20% of the proceeds that will be donated to CTL. Thanks to all our amazing CTL parents who planned, coordinated, and carried out all of these successful events!

CTL's Community Open House was also a huge success! We appreciate all those who attended--prospective new parents and children as well as current CTL staff, parents and students. It was a nice evening that reminded us of where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. And thanks to Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll for wrapping the evening up with her wonderful testimony



Important Reminders

*Please ensure your child is at school by 8 a.m. All students arriving after 8 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 encourage your child to wear his/her CTL t-shirt each Friday.

*Please check your child's teacher's RenWeb page for class announcements, homework, and resources.

*Please check out our CTL Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CTLTheWoodlands/> and subscribe to our CTL Parent Council Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctlparentcouncil/> for updates about our students, classrooms, and school!

*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 addresses.



about CTL (Read the testimony at the end of this newsletter).

Our staff also celebrated a plethora of invigorating learning opportunities and celebrations during the month of April. Stephanie Phipps, Lisa Lipar, and Beckey Billings traveled to Spring Branch to investigate an amazing PreK program in preparation for the new beginnings of CTL's PreK-4 program in the fall. Melanie Smith presented at the Abydos Literacy Conference in Houston on April 7th through 10th. Melanie got raving reviews from Dr. Carroll after she represented CTL in our Sunday session. Many of our staff attended the conference. Angela Bailey, Jamie Marsh and Linda Ellis traveled to Edgcomb, Maine to intern at the CTL founded by Nancie Atwell over 20 years ago and that served as a model for our CTL. On April 28, Linda Ellis and Treva McKissic were excited to sit front row and center to hear Sir Ken Robinson, another of our Giants who has inspired our entire CTL team with his TED talks, his books, and his articles. We all celebrated Jennifer Chamberlain's receipt of the Abydos A+ Honor Roll Principal Award at the Abydos Conference in Houston on April 8, and Stephanie Phipps' acceptance into the Doctoral Program in Early Childhood Education at University of Houston. These field trips, conferences, and recognitions inspire us to continue our learning so we are the best of the best at CTL!

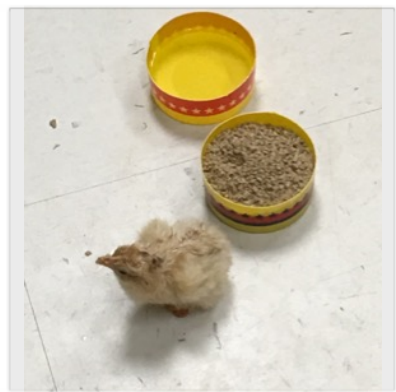
Even the flood did not dampen our spirits. We lost some books and a few portfolios were damaged, but the miracle of it all was that even though the eggs in the incubator were without electricity for 18 hours and even though the children were prepared that eggs can't go without electricity that long so they would most likely not hatch, when the children took the incubators into the house and plugged the light in on the Friday when we returned after our three-day inclement weather break, it wasn't long before they saw and heard the first peck and within three days seven baby chickens had hatched. What an exciting time for the entire school as we celebrated together! Each new day brought new life to the school!

May also promises to be a busy and exciting month with our AdvancEd Accreditation Visit on the 5th and 6th, end-of-year field trips to Space Center Houston for 5-8 on the 12th and Mrs. Kinzel's Farm for K-4 on the 16th, and the many preparations for the end of our third trimester and school year. We look forward to visiting with each of you at the Parent Appreciation Breakfast on the 9th, the Spring Music Program on the 11th, Parent Council on the 13th, Enrichment Showcases the 16th through the 20th, Talent Shows the 23rd through the 27th, and the Student Picnic & Ice Cream Social and Student-Led Conferences-Portfolio Preview on the 27th, the last day of school. We also look forward to our first yearbook, coordinated through the tireless efforts of Anne Peebles and the Yearbook Club.

What an amazing school year! Filled with challenges with the building, the size of the current classrooms and playgrounds, staff changes, and the flood, in spite of it we have built happy memories through the many opportunities for learning that none of us will forget, especially the children. Thank you to CTL students, parents, and teachers who have continued to support us through these challenges and changes. We will all be stronger for it. We look forward to moving to our new location on Kuykendahl and the many opportunities our new location will provide us for growth. Isn't that what life is all about? I am reminded of the words of Helen Keller, *Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.*

Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain





Kindergarten



April has been an exciting month in kindergarten! The highlight was definitely raising caterpillars and hatching chicks!

In reading, we have continued to work on both skills for decoding text as well as making meaning when we read. When I think of what they were able to do as readers in September and what they can do now, the growth is amazing! My favorite part of readers workshop has to be when I see two students choose to get together with a book, reading together, teaching each other, and discussing

the story! As we head into May, we will continue to work on our reading skills, but we will also be preparing for our final portfolio. We will consider what we've accomplished this year as well as what to do over the summer to continue the progress we've made.

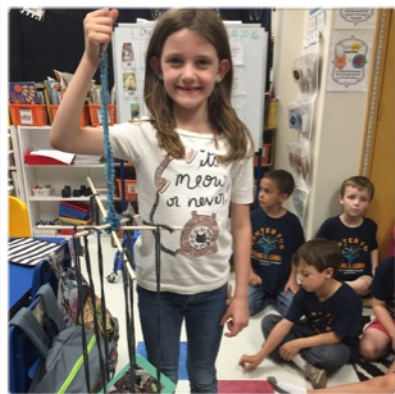
Based on the students' interest and personal goals, we have been using writers workshop to think about poetry, what it sounds like and how to write our own. We are looking forward to preparing a class book of poems to share with our parents! Each student will also be preparing a special book during our final month of writers workshop.

In math, we have been working on concepts including combinations of 10, 3D shapes, and fact fluency. During calendar time, we continue to count how many days we've been in school and use that number to develop an understanding of place value. We are also counting down to the last day of school as an authentic way of working on the skill of counting backward. We are all feeling sad that we will be down to the teen numbers at the beginning of May! This month, we will focus on measurable attributes and money.

In science, we have been studying life science, mostly focusing on the life cycles of various animals. We loved the magical experience of watching our five painted lady caterpillars grow, create chrysalises, and then emerge. We kept them for about a week and then released them so they can continue the life cycle! Mrs. Kinzel brought us an incubator and 41 chicken eggs from her farm. When we lost power for approximately 18 hours during the storms, we were worried that none of our chicks would survive. While Mrs. Kinzel usually has at least a 90% hatch rate, we feel very lucky that any of ours hatched at all! They hatched throughout the week due to their delayed growth resulting from the power outage. We ended up with 7 chicks, from a very light yellow one to some brown ones and even a "naked neck chick!" We have read about many animals that lay eggs, but it was amazing to actually see a portion of the life cycles of butterflies and chickens. We are looking forward to following up with a field trip to Mrs. Kinzel's farm in May! We will also continue our study of life cycles with a focus on insects this month.



In Social Studies, we learned about how different people live around the world. The overall idea is that people all over the world do similar things, but maybe in different ways. Our favorite part of this study was the day that students brought food representing their own culture. We enjoyed trying some new foods, and the students were so proud to share about the foods they brought. We ended up postponing our study of needs, wants, and jobs until May. Instead, we learned



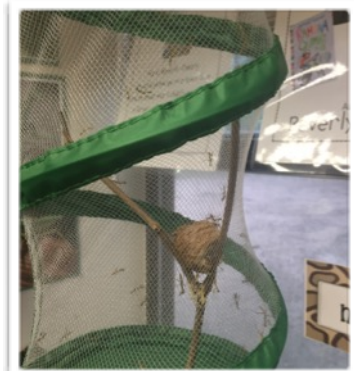
about how we can help take care of the earth through reducing, reusing, recycling, and other conservation efforts. This fit in perfectly with the CTL upcycling event for Earth Day.

In May, we will also be preparing our final pieces for our kindergarten portfolios. It has been an incredible year, full of friendship, academic growth, and personal development. We have had a great time learning and growing together!

Stephanie Phipps

Grades 1-2

Spring has sprung in the Explorer classroom! We have science everywhere this month. The class has been growing sunflowers and recording their findings as they change. They sure do sprout quickly. Also, as you know, we have been patiently awaiting the hatching of our Praying Mantis eggs as well. They hatched on April 26th. There were about 60-75 nymphs. We will be observing their growth to adults and releasing them into the environment. It will be exciting to watch their transformation. Last but not least, we have had the pleasure and privilege of being a part of caring for and hatching baby chicks. We feel so relieved to see some of them hatch as we were not expecting them to make it. During the flood days, the school lost power to the incubator which is fundamental to the development of the chicks. So we have had a few little miracles this week! The K-2 classes are observing and recording their growth in the classroom. We are so grateful to have been given this opportunity by Mrs. Kinzel who provided the eggs from her farm. We will be visiting the farm as a field trip later in May to see how our fuzzy friends have grown. Please look for information on that in our newsletter.



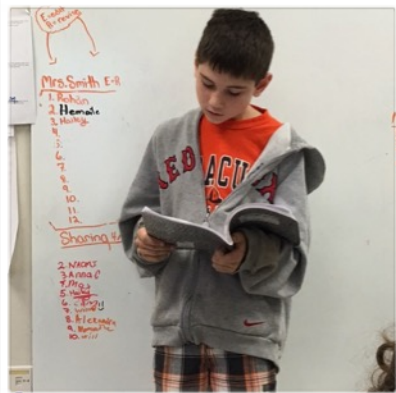
We have been intrigued by the many life cycles the students have researched this trimester as well. It has been informative to hear all of the research presented in class. The Explorers have been creative and have their presentations were wonderful!

We are also excited about working on publishing in writer's workshop. The class has been editing some of their work to be published into their own hardcover books by the end of the year. These will go home with them. This is a great way to showcase their writing talents. We have just begun this process.

The class really enjoyed the field trip to see Harriet the Spy. I was impressed with the way our class carried themselves throughout the day. They were an excellent audience and had great questions for the cast after the performance. They all stayed with their assigned chaperones and were respectful. I am very proud of them.

Our Math Workshop along with Prodigy Math is such an awesome experience for the class. They are engaged, excited and strengthening their math skills every day. Thank you for encouraging them to practice. It really does make such a difference in their learning.

Thank you to all of the parents and students who participated in our Earth Day



activities. Our up-cycling and bake sale was a success. The children were really involved in both the planning, creating and participation in the event. What a great way to involve the school in a community experience that also serves as a fundraiser for our school. Our Parent Council is such a supportive program for CTL.

Lisa Lipar

Grades 3-4

April started with a funny April Fools joke Mrs. Smith played on the students. In math, Mrs. Smith brought packets of M&M's in for students to sort and graph. At the end of the math lesson, students watched a gardening video about how to grow your own M&M's at home by planting a variety of the candy in your own backyard. Students went home with their own bag of M&M's and



many shared the video with their families.

The next day, students learned that - April Fools! - it was all a joke. We all laughed, but we also secretly wished we truly could grow our own chocolate. All joking aside, April was a month full of excitement with field trips, flood days, and hatching baby chicks.



In reading, we dove into a new read aloud titled *The Top Ten Ways to Ruin the First Day of School* by Ken Derby. We began by watching a video clip of Stupid Animal Tricks from an old episode of

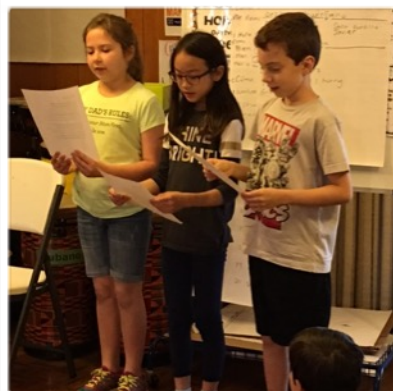
David Lettermen. The Top Ten Ways to Ruin the

First Day of School was published in 2004, has won numerous awards, and remains a favorite among reading associations that keep lists of children's favorite books. In order for us to understand Tony Baloney's motivation (the main character) we needed to have a frame of reference. We had wonderful discussions about our favorite television shows and what it means to have a "top ten" list. Tony Baloney and his antics are laugh-out-loud funny and this book has proven to be a much needed break from the serious nature of our previous read alouds. Students continue to love Reader's Theaters and even carry this love over to writing workshop where many of them are writing their own for peers to read aloud. Check out Mrs. Smith website at www.mssmithismyteacher.com and click on the Listen Up! link at the top to hear our recording of the reader's theater Sheila Rae the Brave.

In writer's workshop, the name of the game has become *sharing*. We've always shared our writing through out the year as we go through the writing process, but something magical has happened within our room and students are clamoring to share their writing on a daily basis.

On our classroom white board, we always have three lists going— sign up for a conference, sign up to print out your published writing, and sign up to share your writing. As of late, we usually have no less than 10 students on a daily basis to share. It is wonderful to see students excited about their writing as well as realizing they are authors with a purpose and audience that's eager to hear their stories. The audience has become adept at giving not only positive comments, but students are respectful and thoughtful in their constructive feedback. It is rather fitting that this past month we have observed several baby chicks hatch from their eggs. Out of the incubation period, the chicks have broken through their shells, peeping loudly for us all to hear. We have witnessed these tiny lives spring forth and we too, as writers, have burst from our shells. I feel we have





been incubating, slowly growing through our daily writer's workshop and commitment to write everyday. Now, shells have been cracked open and we have a flurry of writers excited to share their stories for all to hear!

In math, we have thoroughly covered our geometrical unit. We made an awesome foldable "lap book" containing everything we need to know about geometry. Students dove into the world of polygons, naming them and classifying them according to their shape and number of sides. This led to the study of angles and measuring with protractors. Students made the connection that when someone says, "I did a 180 and changed my mind," that this means the person turned around half way. Many students, adept in their knowledge of skateboarding and bike tricks, knew that a 360 meant going in a complete circle. We studied the types of triangles based on their angle measurements as well as finding perimeter and area of polygons and volume of three dimensional shapes. We used Starburst candy to find area and perimeter (and of course enjoying eating at the end of our lesson) and used our artistic skills to create awesome robots out of cubic units. In May, we will continue to study measurement with standard and metric units for length and liquid capacity as well as measurement of time and money.



We are continuing our study of life science with several experiments that show us how animals adapt to their environment. Students dropped water onto feathers coated with baby oil that mimicked the oil production from a duck. We observed how the water beaded up and was able to roll off the feather. Students were able to conclude that a duck preening and spreading oil on its feathers helps it to not soak up water within its feathers which would disable it from flying. We also experiment with different types of birds beaks. We used salad tongs, regular tongs, toothpicks, and droppers to mimic types of bird beaks as we gather food from a tray of soil and water. Students used the "beaks" to collect food such as worms (gummy worms), seeds, grub worms (macaroni), bugs (raisins), and nectar (water). Students were able to draw conclusions about the type of environment a bird lives in based on its beak shape and its ability to gather food. In May, we round out our study of life science with a focus on plants.

In social studies, we have studied not only Stephen F. Austin but Sam Houston as well. Students have learned how The Old 300 were early families that settled in Texas and were led by Stephen F. Austin. Many students were able to relate to our study of Sam Houston because several not only have parents or relatives that graduated from Sam Houston State University, but many students have also visited or driven by the tall Sam Houston statue in Huntsville.

May will be a month chock-full of end of year activities. Although excited at the prospect of summer vacation, I have been teaching for 23 years and I still find myself saying the same thing at the end of every school year, "Where did the time go?" I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your 3rd and 4th grade students this year. I will be sad to see them go, but my heart will be full knowing that I was given the privilege of spending these last nine months with them.

Melanie Smith

Grade 5 Language Arts

The school year seems to have picked up speed as we near the end of our last trimester! Students are engaged in revisions of their final pieces of writing, and many are collecting ideas for their next piece. Our focus in writing workshop has been on strengthening writing by using powerful verbs and eliminating repeating words and/or ideas. The classroom buzzes with creativity and hard



work as students work to polish their current pieces using the strategies taught in class. They are a fantastic group of writers!

We are nearing the end of our read aloud, *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, which has kept students on the edge of their seats trying to figure out the mystery. Several students have expressed an interest in reading other books by Haddix. Watching the students grow as readers this year has been a joy! They talk to each other about the books they are reading, often, and many enjoy sharing their favorite titles through book talks. I am consistently impressed by the depth of discussion we are able to have about books in class.



Grades 6-8 Language Arts

The month of April has flown by! Students have been working diligently on writing and revising an informational piece in writing workshop. It's been a fun genre to explore with students, as I've learned about several interesting topics through the process. Our focus has been on creating evidence paragraphs to support facts and ideas, as well as eliminating "to be" verbs and combining sentences in order to strengthen writing. Parents should expect students to complete some writing assignments at home as the deadline for completion nears.

The current read aloud, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs, has captivated students. They are asking for more read aloud time as the mystery deepens, and the discussions we have about the story are deep and insightful. I'm always impressed by these group discussions! Ransom Riggs uses rich language in his writing. Students enjoy this and notice how word choice affects the story, as well as the reader. Several students have given book talks this trimester and have encouraged their classmates to stretch as readers by trying new genres.

Grades 6-8 Social Studies

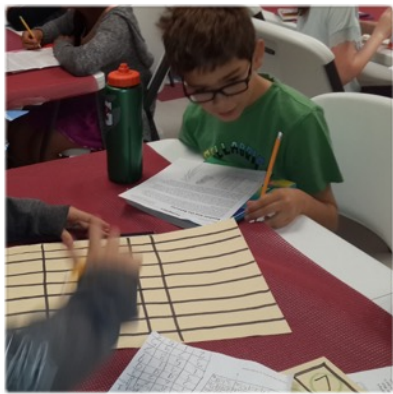
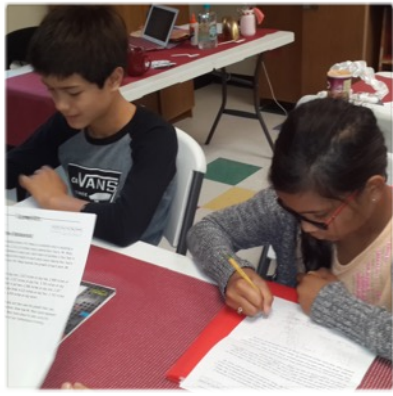
Students enjoyed learning about and simulating the caste system of ancient India. The simulations were eye opening for many as they were forced into roles that made them uncomfortable at times. Rich discussions took place after the activity. Currently, students are finishing projects related to the problem of pollution in India. They have been amazed by the severity of the problem and find it difficult to imagine having to live in some of the worst affected areas. Investigating options for cleaning up the environment has led to some interesting class discussions. Our next unit of study will be Ancient China.

Angela Bailey

Grade 5 Math and Science

With the end of the school year drawing to a close we have started working on reviewing all concepts that have been covered this year. The 5th graders have truly impressed me with their homemade handouts and practice sheets that they have made.

We are working with the most amazing creative mind in science and engineering - his crazy inventions and the 'chain reaction' effect has been the main focus in science this month. Rube Goldberg (1883-1970) was a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist best known for his zany invention cartoons. He was born in San Francisco on the 4th of July, 1883 - and graduated from University Cal Berkeley with a degree in engineering. His first job at the San Francisco Chronicle led to early success, but it wasn't until he moved to NYC and began working for Hearst publications that he became a household name. Rube



Goldberg is the only person ever to be listed in the Merriam Webster Dictionary as an adjective. It's estimated that he produced a staggering 50,000 cartoons in his lifetime. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rubegoldberg.com>.

The 5th graders have become master engineers with their exciting ideas; and have also transformed these ideas into graphic perfection using their artistic skills on the iPad. I am so excited to see the culmination of this project at the end of the year.

Grades 6-8 Math and Science

This month we have been reviewing past work and exploring some new concepts. But, the most exciting challenge was definitely the challenge Mrs. Murphy set for us. We needed to see if we could convert the 4 square to a 9 square utilizing as much of the original poles as possible and to make it cost effective. This really had their minds boggled but some great and innovative ideas were created and shared.

Genetics has been our main focus over the past few weeks. I don't think I've seen our 6th through 8th grade students as engaged as they have been during this unit, as well as, super creative. We had some magnificent looking genetic mutated creatures come to life and I am beyond happy with the depth that they have reached to extend their understanding of biology and genetics.

Please don't forget to make note of Thursday, 12th May - Space Station Houston field trip for the 5th - 8th Graders. We are all counting down the days.

Grade 5 Social Studies

We have dived into the American Revolution, The Declaration of Independence and The Bill of Rights. I am beyond impressed with the fabulous presentations. Social Studies is truly the time when I witness the 5th graders theatrical talents - best way to end off any day. We also had the opportunity to research the critical conditions which our endangered animals are forced to live in and their struggle to survive. The process of putting our small mini movie together was a giggle a minute - we have a group of true artists in our midst.

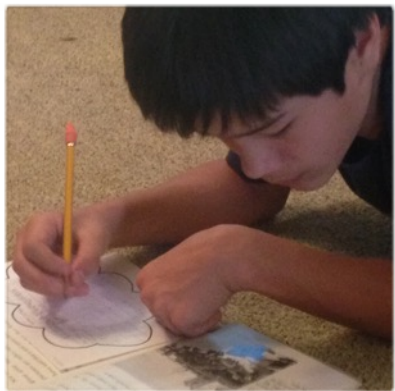
Chantal Dos Santos

Grades K-8 Physical Education

We had a ball in April! To be more precise, we had a soccer ball. April was about kicking and dribbling and what better way to explore than through the sport of soccer. Drills and games gave students the opportunity to experiment with different ways to control, pass, stop, shoot, and kick. Kindergarten through Grade 2 used their soccer ball to race around an Indy 500 track, play red light/green light, and dribble through a cone maze, toppling and setting up cones as they went. When the rain or mud forced us inside students dribbled paper balls around chairs and through each others' legs. The older grades emphasized good skill technique in various drills and then used them in games such as Soccer Ball Tag, One Base Kick Ball and Sideline Soccer. Not to leave other equipment out, students ended the unit with Crazy Soccer, a soccer style game that includes not just a soccer ball but anything else I could find in my shed to kick, including foam dice. Crazy game indeed!

Students in grades 5-8, were also given a choice to further practice soccer skills or explore skills used in football. Those choosing football practiced passing, pitching, ball carrying, hand offs and how to safely defend and remove a flag. Everyone played our soccer style games at the end of class and discussed skills used in both football and soccer.

My favorite activity during the month was the jumping jack variation practiced



in grades 3-8. Students performed not only traditional jumping jacks but four different arm and leg variations in all three anatomical planes of the body. Ask for a demonstration. Great exercise for the body and the brain!

Marci Murphy

Grades K-8 Art

Make way for May! As April comes to a close, please know that your children have been exposed to different artists and ways of making art to expand and stretch their creativity.

Noticing epiphanies and autonomy have been our themes in art class this month. Faith Ringgold, Brianne Farley, story-quilt making, "ink" art, and performing self-directed research have been a few of the catalysts to spark creativity, innovation, and thinking BEYOND the box.

The table overview is a quick snapshot of what we have accomplished in Art Class for the month of April 2016.

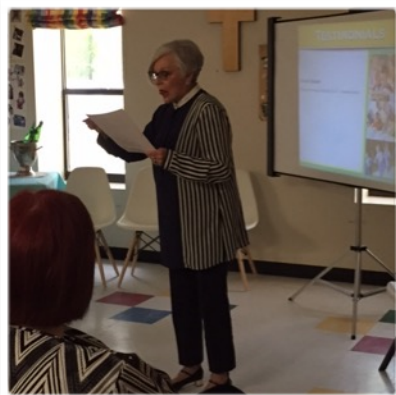
With enthusiastic anticipation, May 2016 will be the month where students will engage in metacognition, reflection, presenting their selected artists, and celebrate one another as artists and creators.

Remember to continue to ask your child what artist/writer/illustrator have they learned about for the week.



<p>Artists' Techniques & Art History Mini-Lessons...</p> 	<p>The Life and Artistic Style of Artist and Children's Book Author Faith Ringgold</p> 	<p>The Life & Artistic Style of Artist & Children's Book Author Brianne Farley</p> 
<p>A Few of Our Art-Creating & Reflecting Experiences...</p> 	<p>Creating Artwork Inspired By the Book Ike's Incredible Ink</p> 	<p>Creating Story Quilts Inspired By Faith Ringgold</p> 
<p>Empowerment Questions</p>	<p>CTL Artist Investigations-- Students In Grades 3-8 Are Researching Artists of Their Choice to Create Informative Booklets and Present Their Discoveries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is research important in life? What do I feel I want to find out? • What surprises have I discovered as a result of my research? 	

Treva McKissic



Grades K-8 Music

We have spent our three April music classes preparing for our Spring music program, "United We Sing." The students are working hard, and we are all getting excited about the May 11 presentation. Everyone should have received an email with all the details relating to our program. Please make sure you are all listening to your CD to help you get all the songs memorized.

This year has flown by! We will only have two more music classes after our program. I will be using those classes to involve all the students in lots of rhythmic fun with drum circle activities.

Debbie Kinzel

Testimony about CTL from Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll

"NANOS GIGANTUM HUMERIS INSIDENTES"

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

We are all dwarfs who stand on the shoulders of those who mentored us. We all discover truths by building on previous discoveries. How apt is this metaphor as we stand in anticipation of the next step in the development of CTL, a school that is destined to become a giant in both its physical structure as well as its philosophy of education. This giant is unique in the choices it allows children and their parents.

This notion of "standing on the shoulders of giants" is not new. There is a picture from Greek mythology showing giant Orion carrying the dwarf Cedalion on his shoulders, who, in turn, guided Orion to the East where the rays of Helios restored his sight. What a metaphor for CTL! Here we stand on the shoulders of two remarkable women and an extraordinary faculty and staff who are carrying our children to the light—the light of knowledge, the light of creativity, the light of independent thought, the light of moral judgment, the light of positive attitude, the light of collaboration, and the light of love of learning.

Several weeks ago the Houston Chronicle printed a blog "In the magnet school race, 'first choice' isn't always the best choice: Gifted and talented programs may not offer the 'sparkle that kids need,'" written by Jill Jarvis, a mother who bemoans that fact that she couldn't get her three children into any of HISD's GT's schools. She was forever on the wait list. But then she realized what really makes a school good. As she ticked off each characteristic, I thought, that describes CTL. See if you don't agree:

- The children are greeted in the morning with smiles and legitimate caring.
- The children are happy; the faculty is happy.
- The classes are small, allowing time to work with a child who is struggling.
- The homework is work done at home to re-enforce what was done at school—not as mounds of busy work or worksheets to impress parents.
- The children are encouraged to be inquisitive, to follow their interests, and to become independent thinkers.



I have been in education 57 years—taught all levels, have two doctorates—and can tell you that CTL is the school of the future. Testing has become the god in public education and scores are all that most administrators care about. Gone is recess. Gone is time to think, read, write in authentic ways. Gone is play, so foundational to solid learning. Gone is the joy of learning. My husband's doctor asked him recently, "What are they doing in public school? I have kids coming in who are deeply depressed, are contemplating suicide, and who are joyless."

For all these reasons and more, I have Joyce Elizabeth Aldaba, my Goddaughter, here in CTL where she is an honored and respected little learner—as are all the students here. And it gives me great pleasure to see her grow naturally and authentically.

Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain and the CTL faculty are not merely educators, they are visionaries—rare in today's culture, but they are our giants nonetheless, and I for one, and I know you, too, feel privileged to be part of their vision.

--Joyce Armstrong Carroll, Ed.D., D.H.

