



CTL CORNER

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

Important Dates

October 13-17 - Parent/Teacher Conference Week

October 27-31 - Red Ribbon Week

October 31 - CTL families and friends are invited to join us for our first Club Showcase from 12:00-1:00 p.m., followed by our first annual Halloween Carnival from 1:00-3:00 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 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.

*Feel free to send bug spray in your child's backpack to be applied before he or she goes outside. Please make sure the bug spray is in a zip-lock bag, labeled with his or her name on it.



Hello CTL Family!

**"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
— L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables**

Here at CTL we are so glad we live in a world where we get to experience October with children – and specifically your children! With a new season come exciting changes. Not only changes in weather and colors but also changes in our students as they settle into classroom routines and dive deeper into learning.

Super Screener visited CTL this week to check our students' hearing, vision, and spinal curvature. Students had fun as these "superhero" nurses screened them. We also had a blast today at our first Pizza at the Park, Fitness Fun, and Parent Council.

The weeks here at CTL just get better and better as we strengthen our community and build relationships based on trust, respect, confidence, and support. We will continue to assess each child and confer with them individually and in small groups to determine their strengths and needs and to help them establish goals.

As lifelong learners, we welcome this new season and see it as an opportunity for continued growth and change. We invite you to join us in celebrating the growth and changes your children have made thus far in their journeys here at CTL. We truly appreciate your support!

Linda Ellis and Jennifer Chamberlain





K-2 Class

Our class is really having fun! We have been working on so many exciting activities. The kids have been busy with science experiments about matter, word fun, learning about number operations, place value and how to tally. In Reader's/Writer's Workshop we have focused on characters and setting. Students have created self-portraits in art. We also had our first Zumba lesson in PE! The class is excited about their passion projects ranging from art and music to science! I can't wait to see what they create. We are really getting comfortable and making friends. I am working with the kids on getting along and treating each other with kindness. They are working as a team!



Please make sure you check our website weekly. I have our Peek at the Week posted. You will find all information, reminders, and lessons there. I also post weekly pictures of the kids! There are a few events coming up. Make sure you read the CTL news!

Lisa Lipar

3-8 Language Arts

Each morning, students log into their reading folders and gather on the floor for the read aloud book – *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart in grades 3-5 and *Summer of Fear* by Lois Duncan in grades 6-8 – always begging for one more chapter. They then move to their comfortable places in the classroom to immerse themselves in their own self-selected books while we confer with individual students. It's nice to see every hand up when we call time and ask, "Who was in the reading zone today?"



Students then log out and move into the writing zone, getting lost in their own stories. Even though students are writing in various genres, they will commit to one memoir piece by Monday to take to publication as we begin the revision process. Don't be alarmed if students aren't bringing writing home because we require that all writing stays in the classroom unless students have special permission to take something home. Also, don't be alarmed if you see errors. Remember, they are prewriting.

We are pleased with the students' progress. Thank you for supporting them by listening as they excitedly tell you about their books and share



their writing. It's music to our ears when you tell us they are reading and writing more at home. Reading and writing improve through practice – the more they read and write, the more they improve.

Angela Bailey, Jennifer Chamberlain, and Linda Ellis

3-8 Math/Science

In science, we are beginning to wrap up our unit on matter. The 3-5 graders enjoyed some independent stations this week where they got to test the density, solubility, electrical conductivity, and magnetism of various substances. The 6-8 graders will spend a little more time on matter as we research elements and study acids and bases next week.



In math, we continue to work on number concepts. Several groups have been working on skills such as comparing and ordering numbers and factoring. As a teacher, it's fun to see how these skills develop over time. For example, the younger students are comparing whole numbers based on place value while the older students are comparing real numbers, including fractions, percents, decimals, and negative numbers.

If you are looking for ideas on how to help your child at home, fluency with the basic math facts is a critical foundational skill. There are lots of fun ways to practice these skills. Your child may be able to teach you some card games to practice facts. I will also be working on adding some links to fun websites for math practice on my website.

Stephanie Phipps

3-8 Social Studies

During weeks 4 and 5, we worked on family trees and gave presentations. CTL guest and John Cooper Spanish teacher, Ms. Radley, came to kick-off our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. She shared her knowledge about the famous artist Frida Kahlo and read a book about her life in Spanish, while offering translations after every page. Students also created portraits of Frida Kahlo.

Treva McKissic and Stephanie Phipps

Art

Authors and illustrators Peter Reynolds and Audrey Woods served as CTL students' art inspirations for the week in the K-2 class. In her book *Quick As a Cricket*, Audrey Wood celebrates child self-awareness of

Grades 3-8 Social Studies at CTL





growing confidence. In his book *Sky Color*, Peter Reynolds gives a fresh perspective on the many ways to see our world. K-2 students created oil pastel portraits comparing themselves to their favorite animals to celebrate their individual strengths and talents. Grades 3-8 students learned various drawing techniques to create "realistic" self-portraits with oil pastels.

Treva McKissic

Physical Education

While I enjoyed a short trip up north, Grades K-2 and 6-8 experienced Zumba. All reports were that it was awesome! So great in fact, CTL invited the instructor back for our Fitness Fun Friday today. I hope everyone stood up and danced!



Grades K-2 continued practicing their locomotor skills while varying level, pathway, tempo, relationships and directions. They especially enjoyed Traffic Tag. Ask them to explain it to you! Grades 3-5 may have missed out on Zumba, but they too worked on their locomotor skills, found a way to cross "Murphy River" with hoops, and played a game of Double Tag. They continue to be good role models for grades K-2 and joined them this week for "workout buddy" activities. It wasn't all fun and games for grades 3-5. They joined grades 6-8 in performing a muscle strength and endurance circuit. Great job! Next week we will continue our exploration of the five components of fitness. Don't forget water bottles and good sneakers for PE. Please dress appropriately! Nice job and high fives to all CTL students! Don't forget to stay active.

Marci Murphy

Music

In music, grades 3-8 learned the melody and harmony for a new song called "Rocka My Soul". Then we focused on creating our own rhythm patterns with popsicle sticks. With the K-2 class, we used our bodies to keep a steady beat as we listened to "The Viennese Clock". They loved making up their own movements!

Melissa Abbott



Inspiring Creativity Through Art at CTL

