Academics

In our final week of Cycle 3 science work, we’ve learned about meiosis, the specialized cell division which generates sex cells, and how the process mixes up the genetic material of the parents. To bring together concepts of genotypes, phenotypes, genomes, alleles, recessive/dominant genes, co-dominant genes, and meiosis, we participated in The Rebop Simulation. In this simulation, students are given the genomes expressed in two gametes (one from each parent), which are then combined to create an offspring. (Being simple creatures, the rebops only have 7 genes in their genome, as opposed to us humans, who have about 20,000 genes in our genome.) Through meiosis, the students created two gametes for their rebop, which then mated with another rebop to produce two offspring. (Some of the students became attached to their rebops, and gave them names and stories. Two rebops even went home with students.) Our final science activity for this cycle will be our DNA extraction lab. We’ll be extracting DNA from strawberries. The lab will be either today or Monday.

As seventh graders continued to work on their personal persuasive essay, eighth graders began a new persuasive essay project on the pros and cons of DACA (their choice of position). Several students have presented their drafts to the class. Seventh and eighth graders also had a lesson and follow-up work on rules for quote and dialogue punctuation. Students should be wrapping up reading and responses for their choice novels this week. Beginning next week, seventh and eighth graders will each start reading one the thematic novels for Cycle 3: Fahrenheit 451, A Separate Peace, Farewell to Manzanar, and Freak the Mighty.

Our Geography and Current Events work this week began with a lesson and video on the three major regions of Oceania: Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia. Students created large maps with island groups and territories, and delineated the three regions on their maps.
The Cycle 3 science test will be this coming Tuesday, February 4. Students received the study notes this past Monday. Study notes are also posted on google classroom at:

[link]

Links to helpful review videos are also posted on google classroom:

[link]

A Rebop and its Genome  Constructing Rebops and Offspring  A Rebop Family

Thank you ♥

Level 3 Families, we are always grateful for all you contribute to our middle school program.

Questions?
PARENTS AND STUDENTS: We encourage you to contact us with any questions and concerns. The best time to call us is in the evening; alternatively, you can email or text us any time:

Robin redidin@centermontessori.org 941-544-5617 (cell)  
Beronica bjohnson@centermontessori.org 941-586-9024 (cell)  
Deana dreemelin@centermontessori.org 941-932-7662 (cell)  
Erica eandre@centermontessori.org 941-266-7636 (cell)
Mark Your Calendars

School-Wide Celebration.........................................................Friday, February 28
Spring Break...............................................................................March 16-20
No School: Teacher Work Day.................................Monday, March 23
Spring Fling..............................................................................Saturday, March 28
Frozen Jr. Musical.................................................................Tuesday, April 7
Stanford Achievement Testing..............................April 14-17
Spring Band Concert.................................................................April 30
Geometry EOC Test.................................................................May 5 and 6
Algebra EOC Test.................................................................May 14 and 15
Seventh and Eighth Grade Internships..................May 11-15
Level 3 Wilderness Adventure Trip..........................May 17-20

Regularly Scheduled:

Tuesday - Tutorials.................................3:15 - 4:30 PM

Wednesday - Mathcounts/Math Help ..............3:15 - 4 PM

- The Level 3 Team (Robin, Deana, Erica, and Beronica)

Please send any email address changes and updates to redidin@centermontessori.org