

LEVEL 3

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

Academics

Science in our second week of Cycle 3 has focused on electrical power, AC and DC current, transformers, and thermal energy (otherwise known as heat). Our study of thermal energy included heat capacity, specific heat, and phase changes. Students witnessed the incredible heat capacity of water in a demonstration where a flame was held directly under a water-filled balloon. After 20 seconds of heat from a direct flame, the balloon does not pop; in fact a rise in temperature of the balloon's water is barely detectable! We briefly discussed how this phenomenon ties in to our oceans. (The oceans can absorb an incredible amount of heat before any temperature rise occurs, but not an infinite amount of heat.) Students also created energy transformation diagrams, which illustrated that each time one form of energy is transformed into another (electrical energy into mechanical energy, for example) the unavoidable transformation of some of the energy into thermal energy will always occur. This is the second law of thermodynamics.

Finally, as part of our science work, we baked cookies for all of Level 3 in a solar oven.



The 6th graders loved the treat; they told us that they tasted just like “real” cookies.

As a continuation of our study of poetic forms, we learned about the structure of the sonnet. We began with poetic meter, zeroing in on the iamb. After brainstorming words and combinations of words which had iambic emphasis, we composed some lines together in iambic pentameter. Next, we learned about two sonnet rhyming schemes: the Shakespearean

sonnet and the Petrarchan sonnet. Students are reading and preparing written responses to sonnets this week, and they're drafting their own sonnets as well, which they'll polish up next week.

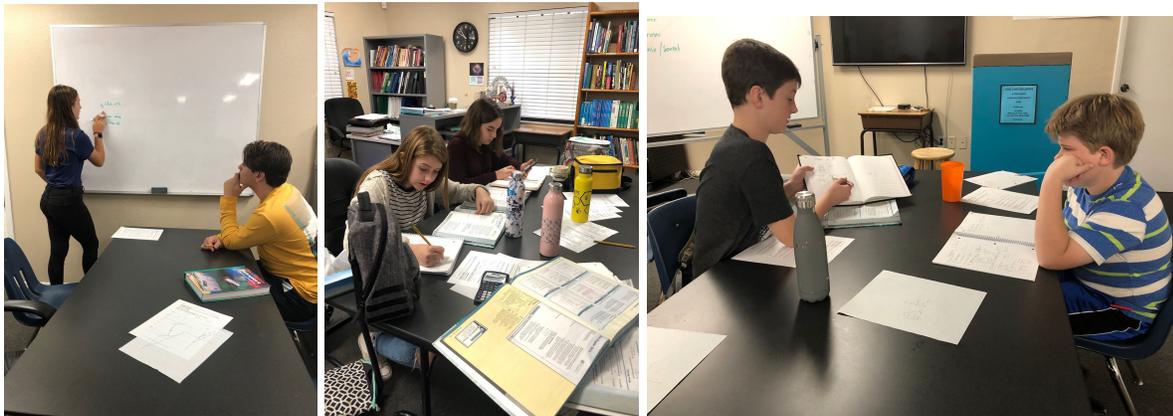
In our Personal World work, students wrote about their own experiences with assertive, non-assertive, and aggressive behaviors, and personal boundaries. Each week students are reading and responding to stories of heroic lives and people who have shown great personal power. This week the choices were Stephen Hawking, S.E. Hinton, and George Lucas. We also had an introductory Qigong session, as part of our exploration of meditation and other centering activities.

Fundraiser for Mara: Update

Words cannot express how touched we, as a staff, were by the incredible enthusiasm, preparation, hard work, and love our Level 3 community put into the fundraiser last Friday. From the carwash to the wonderful pasta dinner to the dazzling dessert table, each piece was executed with care and love. And \$3000 was raised! Thank you for letting us be part of it.

Peer Teaching

We often talk about the role of peer teaching in Montessori, and it is certainly a practice that is alive and well in 7th and 8th grade. Evidence suggests that peer teaching may be even more beneficial for the one *doing* the teaching rather than the one being taught. The benefits of collaborative problem solving, particularly in math, have been extensively written about. At one point this week, during a math time, I was struck by the amount and variety of peer teaching taking place. (Of course I quickly took some pictures, which are shared below.)



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@gmail.com
941-544-5617 (cell)

Beronica charvero.14@gmail.com
941-586-9024 (cell)

Deana dreemelin@yahoo.com
941-932-7662 (cell)

Erica eandre100@gmail.com
941-266-7636 (cell)

Thank You to...

•ALL of the Level 3 students and Level 3 parents, for phenomenal amount of work and love you put into the fundraiser for Mara!

Level 3 Families, we are always grateful for all that you do! ❤️

Mark Your Calendars

President's Day: No School.....Monday, February 18

Montessori Education Week..... Feb. 25-March 1

School-wide Celebration..... Friday, March 1

Spring Break.....Mar. 25 - Mar. 29

Seussical Musical.....April 9

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

MATHCOUNTS: Wednesdays ..3:15 - 4 PM

OUTREACH 360 Trip to the Dominican Republic: May 4-May 11

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

Please send any email address changes and updates to redidin@gmail.com
