Reflections on the Haunted House

As you probably know, the Level 3 Haunted House is a big deal. Although it’s not an academic endeavor, the design, building, operation, and break down involves planning, cooperative problem-solving, negotiation, and delayed gratification: these are all executive functions that adolescent brains are in the process of developing. The 8th graders plan the haunted house each year - an empowering experience, but laden with responsibility. They begin by developing a floor plan, then blocking it out with masking tape. They divide all of the Level 3 students into working groups assigned to different sections. (All of this is done during “working” lunches, by the way.) Eighth graders then meet with their groups to choose themes, scenes, and props. Our next step is to actually build the haunted house. We start midday the day before, and we work into the evening until it’s almost done.

The following morning, students fine-tune the lights and props, and rehearse their scenes. We notify the rest of the school as soon as it’s ready. It’s a grueling schedule, but our adolescents are committed and conscientious the entire day. This year, they took over 25 groups through the haunted house, then participated in an afterschool dis-assembly.

What would drive adolescents to work with such dedication and energy? As Maria Montessori said, adolescents like Big Work. And as recent research has revealed, the adolescent brain is especially attuned to taking big risks to get big rewards. Our middle school students are really proud of their haunted house, and they’re eager to see the reactions of each group that comes through. It is, we believe, a legitimate thrill, and a safe, constructive one.

Academics

This week we got a start on Cycle 2, the theme of which is “Exploration.” In the science portion of this cycle, we’ll be learning about a variety of microbes, fungi, and the nonliving entities that mimic life, viruses. Students should have chosen a novel to read for the first three weeks of this cycle, and should have completed their second response by today.
The 7th and 8th grade weekly work assignments can always be viewed at http://level3678.com/7th-and-8th-grades/weekly-work/. Students and parents can view individual work status on Thinkwave.

Thank you to...

(We’re touched and humbled to have so many people to thank!)

♥ Thank you to our intrepid and tireless chaperone/drivers for our camping trip:

Andrew Butler (Ellie’s dad), Kristine Fleddermann, Kerrie Rupprecht, Maggi Jane and Pierce Ternay (Diver’s parents),

♥ Thank you to all of the parents who helped with the haunted house construction: Erica Smibert, Ronin Smibert, Kerry Smibert (Grayson’s grandmother), Kelly MacLemore, Chiara Tirappelle, and Kristine Fleddermann,

♥ Thank you to Elizabeth Jensen, who picked up our dry ice,

♥ Thank you to Kerrie Rupprecht, for making a beautiful and huge fruit salad for Level 3,

♥ Thank you to Rachel Sprague (Meadow’s mom) for picking up our Halloween lunches from Chipotle,

and

♥ Thank you to ALL of the Level 3 families who helped break down and pack up the haunted house:

Ivano Tirappelle, Elizabeth and Jack Jensen, Kerrie and MacKenzie Rupprecht, Bethany and Eli Carr, alums Jenna Nimer and Conner Sauer,

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)
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Erica eandre@centermontessori.org 941-266-7636 (cell)

Level 3 Fees Due – Checks Made Payable to CMS

- ROPES fees are now past due. Please remit payment immediately….$200
- Novels and Magazine Fees are past due ………………………….$58
- Annual Land Lab Fee is past due ……$15
- Camping Trip Fee is past due …………..$100
- Wilderness Adventure Deposit Due October 15th…………………….….$200

Mark Your Calendars

No School (Veteran’s Day)...........................................................................Monday, November 11
F.E.L.T. Community Service.................................................................Friday AM, November 15
Level 3 Afterschool Social.................................................................Friday, November 15
School Portrait Re-takes............................................................................Wednesday, November 20
Grandparents and Special Friends Day..................................................Friday, November 22
Thanksgiving Break.................................................................................November 25-29
Holiday Concert..................................................................................Saturday, December 7
Winter Break.............................................................................................December 23-January 7

Regularly Scheduled:

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

Wednesday - Mathcounts ..........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