ROPES

In so many ways, ROPES is a metaphor for our daily lives together, in the classroom and beyond. We solve problems together, we play together, and we support each other in our individual challenges. We experience group and individual frustrations, and we learn to transcend them by reaching into ourselves to find resources we didn’t know we had. In our microcosm called ROPES, we experience how we can be our best selves in each of these instances. We work on inclusion and on valuing each person’s contributions. We learn to see things from another's perspective. We encourage others and celebrate their victories.

We also have fun! Our ROPES course is always sprinkled with fun games to help re-energize the group before or after difficult challenges. This year we were introduced to “Predator,” a ridiculously fun new game.

The ROPES course is one of the ways we work to educate the whole person. We hope that the seeds planted at the ROPES course will grow and flourish over our year.
**Academics**

In addition to our two days at ROPES, we’ve also been busy in the classroom! In our science work, we reviewed what students remembered about the eukaryote cell, and continued from that point to understand the cell in light of our new knowledge of classes of biomolecules. We also had a lesson on compound microscopes.

In Personal World, students chose two personal writing activities related to the first part of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Language work this week includes literature responses, vocabulary, and etymology, as well as more work on developing issue-based writing. Students have a vocabulary test on Friday.

Our Art Talk with Terry Barrett focused on the work of artist/photographer Tom Chambers.

The 7th and 8th grade weekly work can always be viewed at http://level3678.com/7th-and-8th-grades/weekly-work/. Students and parents can view individual work status on Thinkwave.

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**International Peace Day: Land Lab Planting**

Each year, around September 21, we celebrate the International Day of Peace. This year, the theme is “Climate Action for Peace.” According to the United Nations site,

“Climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere. The salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the impact on public health is escalating. The growing tensions over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country on every continent. “


We can think of no better way to observe the International Day of Peace than to plant trees at the land lab. Weather permitting, our plan is to go to the land lab next Friday morning to do tree planting. You are welcome to join us! (In fact, we’ll need a few drivers.)
Thank you to...

• All of our drivers to the ROPES course:
Katrina Matt, Ivano Tirapelle, Adan Caycho, Carrie Price, and Greg McLemore,
and
• to our overnight boys chaperone, Joe Zejavac.

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

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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 bjohanson@centermontessori.org  941-586-9024 (cell)
Deana  dreemelin@centermontessori.org  941-932-7662 (cell)
Erica  eandre@centermontessori.org  941-266-7636 (cell)

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Mark Your Calendars

Picture Day...............................................................Wednesday, September 18
International Peace Day/Land Lab Planting.................................Friday, September 20
No School...............................................................Friday, September 27
Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night.............................Tuesday, October 1
Level 3 Camping Trip..................................................October 22-24

Regularly Scheduled:

Tuesday Tutorials.............................3:15 - 4:30 PM  (starting next week!)
The Level 3 Team (Robin, Deana, Erica, and Beronica)

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