ROPES Course: September 9th and 10th
(This coming Monday and Tuesday)

ROPES
We look forward to seeing everyone for our 2019 ROPES course! We would like to leave as close as possible to 8:30 AM, so we ask everyone to do their best to be on time Monday morning. If you have not already paid your ROPES fee, please submit it to the office by Monday morning.

ROPES Packing List:
- pajamas/sleep clothes
- towel and washcloth
- loose fitting, comfortable clothes, such as shorts and t-shirts (stuff you can climb in)
- sneakers AND sandals
- socks -2 pairs MINIMUM
- swimsuit
- sleeping bag OR sheets
- pillowcase
  (pillows are provided)
- toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, shampoo, deodorant, soap…)
- hat/cap
- rain poncho
- water bottle
- flashlight
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- NO Jewelry, Jeans, OR Dark Heavy Clothes, PLEASE
ROPE'S Pickup

We request that students get picked up at Dayspring, at 4PM on Tuesday. If you are unable to pick up your child then, let us know, and we can bring him/her back to the Center for a 4:45pm pick up.

Academics

This week we started our first full cycle. The theme of our new cycle is “Connections and Origins,” and, as we always do at the beginning of each cycle, we brainstorm as a group about all of the topics that might fit into the theme. This cycle we’ll be studying classes of biomolecules, the common features of the eukaryote cell, and the energy production and consumption that takes place in cells. In our social studies work, we'll be studying Native Americans and other indigenous cultures, both in the past and also in present day.

Here is how work assignments flow in seventh and eighth grade: Students receive Learning Activity Packages (LAPs) for each curricular area. The LAPs cover the entire six-week cycle, and give the students an overview of what’s to come. (We now have back up digital copies of the LAPs on our shared drive on Google Classroom.) To break down the six weeks of work into more manageable chunks, we post a Weekly Work form, with lessons and assigned work in each curricular area, for a given week. Students and parents can always view the weekly work at http://level3678.com/7th-and-8th-grades/weekly-work/. Students and parents can view individual work status on Thinkwave. For the first half of the cycle, we focus intensively on science work. We then switch to history/social studies for the second half of each cycle. Math, Language, Personal World, and Geography/Current Events each run the entire length of the cycle.

Our science work for this cycle has commenced with lessons and experiments on the four classes of biomolecules that all life has in common: proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids. In addition to our lesson and video, each student created a graphic organizer for the four classes of biomolecules. We are in the process of doing a series of experiments to further understand these mysterious biomolecules. So far, students have performed tests for starches, and are learning about a separate test for simple carbohydrates (sugars). We also learned that we have an enzyme (a type of protein) in our saliva that catalyzes the breakdown of starch into simple sugars. It’s possible to follow the course of the breakdown using our starch test, which is negative for simple sugars. Students are especially enjoying this last experiment!
In language, students are learning to analyze and write about different aspects of an issue. This week, the focus is on gender norms, which we're exploring through the children's book *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*.

Each cycle, students are assigned two novels: a choice novel and a thematic novel. For the first three weeks of a cycle, students read a novel of their choice and write five different responses for each fifth of the novel. For the fourth, fifth, and sixth week of the cycle, students choose one of three different thematic novels, and complete five different responses for their novel. A copy of the response choices can be found at: [http://level3678.com/7th-and-8th-grades/literature-response-choices/](http://level3678.com/7th-and-8th-grades/literature-response-choices/)

**Art Talk**

For our art studies, seventh and eighth grade is fortunate to have a special guest teacher for the next several weeks, Terry Barrett, well-known American art critic as well as Professor Emeritus from Ohio State University. Terry is also the author of numerous books and articles on art education and art criticism. Art criticism focuses heavily on perceiving and interpreting art, and that is exactly what Terry is guiding our students to do.

Our first session this week was fantastic! Terry led the students in taking a deep look at several of the works of contemporary artist Kerry James Marshall. At first, Terry encouraged students to accurately describe what they saw, without interpretation. We then moved on to look at ways of interpreting the art work. Terry listened thoughtfully to each student’s ideas and opinions, and everyone offered observations and ideas.

What we as teachers loved seeing was how engaged everyone was during the art talk! We look forward to our next two art talks with Terry Barrett.

**Spanish**

We are now several weeks into our Spanish studies with new teacher, Vesna Hirschfeld. You can learn more about Vesna and her approach to foreign language instruction in the Welcome Newsletter in today’s school-wide email. Please be sure your student is bringing a 3-ring binder with five sections to Spanish class each day.
Thank you to...

• **Katrina Matt**, for volunteering to pick up our large food order

• **The Rupprecht family**, for donating three new outdoor games to **Level 3**.

**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:

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<tr>
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**Mark Your Calendars**

- **ROPES Course**...Sept. 9-10
- **International Peace Day**...Friday, September 20
- **Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night**...Tuesday, October 1
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