Academics

The science portion of Cycle 1 is complete, and we have now moved on to our history and social studies work, which we refer to as “Social World.” In keeping with our theme of Connections and Origins, students are learning about Native American peoples before European colonization and Native Americans in current times. One of our focus points is land: how did Native Americans view land ownership and land use, and what were (and are) their spiritual connections to the land? How did these views compare and contrast to those of European colonists who came to North America? Students have been completing background readings about pre-Columbian natives as well as readings about pre-revolutionary European settlers. Students had a lesson about sites that are sacred to today’s Native Americans and some of the land use rights and issues that pertain to them. In their small groups, students researched and presented information about resources, lifestyles, and beliefs of pre-Columbian Native American groups from different regions.

A focus in literature and writing this cycle has been a study of subtext in literature. Students have been learning about societal norms and gender norms, and how these norms might be expressed in the subtext, as well as explicitly stated, in a piece of literature. After reading a text together and analyzing it in a group discussion, each student writes about how various norms are expressed through subtext. Language work each week includes literature responses, apprentice sentences, vocabulary, and etymology, as well as more work on developing issue-based writing. On Fridays, we alternate between vocabulary tests and spelling tests. Students had a spelling test today and will have a vocabulary test next Friday.

Our Geography and Current Events work for this week fused with our art studies, as we’ve been learning about contemporary Native American artists, as well as artwork of contemporary indigenous artists worldwide. Our work with Terry Barrett definitely has given us the tools to look more deeply and more thoughtfully at art in general.
In Personal World, students have been reading *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, which is written in a lively and engaging manner for adolescents. Students chose personal writing activities to complete in connection with the reading each week. This week and next, students are reading about Habit 1: Be Proactive. Prior to that, students read and wrote about their “personal bank accounts,” which refers to a person’s adherence to their values, and about self care. Last week students also had a lesson on Native American medicine wheels and their symbolism.

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

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**International Day of Peace Tree Planting**

On the morning of September 20, Level 3 convened at the Land Lab to plant nine trees. Mark Reemelin, Deana’s husband, joined us to film the Land Lab and our activities with his drone. Students were also invited to bring their own cameras to take photographs. The first photo of Yara and Petra was taken by Luly.

*(Special thanks to McKeithen Growers for donating 7 red bay trees.)*
PLANTING A STAND OF RED BAY TREES
Sixth Graders with their bamboo planting, and with Mark Reemelin and his drone:

Two Very Special Pictures and a Beautiful Legacy:

Sixth Graders stand in front of a tree they planted in second grade, during a special field trip with 7th and 8th graders.

Jacob with a stand of pines he helped plant on Land Lad Day when he was in Primary.
Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night

It was great seeing so many of you at our Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night this past Tuesday! Thank you for the delicious selection of food. If you missed our event, you can still see some of the information presented at the Level 3 website:


Thank you to...

• All of the Level 3 Families who brought food to our Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night

• Mark Reemelin, for filming and photographing our Land Land Peace Day planting and also for driving students to and from the Land Lab.

• Carrie Price, for driving students to the Land Lab for Peace Day.

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

Level 3 Camping Trip .................................................................................................................................................. October 22-24

Regularly Scheduled:

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

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

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