

**LEVEL 3**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020**

# **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

## **Immersion Week**

This past week has been our second immersion week. We worked at the Land Lab, began setting up a garden, and had a human sexuality lesson from a Planned Parenthood educator on sexually transmitted diseases. We also had a presentation on the dangers of vaping by high school senior (and Center alum) Kai Fitch.

Planting is almost always part of a Land Lab visit, and this trip was no exception. We planted two longleaf pine trees, a wild coffee bush, and an experimental patch of sugarcane. We also culled some of our bamboo, cutting it into smaller segments for projects. This year we've encouraged students to bring their cameras to the Land Lab to experiment with photography. We're hoping to feature some of their photos in upcoming newsletters.

Sexually transmitted infections is a topic students encountered in Cycle 2, when we learned about viral diseases and bacterial diseases. This lesson was more personal, as students learned about the conditions under which different sexually transmitted diseases are passed along, and how they can be prevented through abstinence or use of condoms. Proper and improper use of condoms was also discussed.

In addition to the above activities, this week allowed students to catch up on any incomplete work from Cycle 2, including testing and re-testing. As a special project for Cycle 2, two of our 8th grade students, Nathan and Grayson, developed an interesting and fairly complex simulation of exploration and trade. This immersion week gave us the opportunity to try the simulation, which turned out to be well prepared, well structured and highly engaging!

Students had a lesson on the fires in Australia, and we've been discussing it this week.



Beronica prepares the sugarcane starts



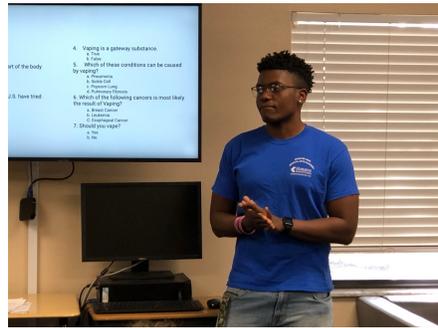
Cutting bamboo



Planting sugarcane starts



Preparing to plant a pine tree



Center alum Kai Fitch gives a presentation on the dangers associated with vaping.



Students participate in Nathan and Grayson's simulation on exploration and trading.

## Academics

Our third cycle will begin this TUESDAY. The theme of Cycle 3 is "Identity," and as part of this theme we will be learning about the structure and mechanisms of DNA and the role of genetics in defining both individuals and future generations. A major focus of our social

world work will be the history of immigrants to the United States, and how it has shaped our national identity.

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## Thank you to...

♥ Jamie Zinkham (Jacob's mom) for driving students to and from the Land Lab, and for guiding students at the Land Lab.

*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](mailto:redidin@centermontessori.org)  
941-544-5617 (cell)

Beronica [bjohnson@centermontessori.org](mailto:bjohnson@centermontessori.org)  
941-586-9024 (cell)

Deana [dreemelin@centermontessori.org](mailto:dreemelin@centermontessori.org)  
941-932-7662 (cell)

Erica [eandre@centermontessori.org](mailto:eandre@centermontessori.org)  
941-266-7636 (cell)

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## Mark Your Calendars

### Regularly Scheduled:

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

Wednesday - Mathcounts .....3:15 - 4 PM PM

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

**Please** send any email address changes and updates to [redidin@centermontessori.org](mailto:redidin@centermontessori.org)

