

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

“Make It a Great Day” Virtual 5K:

Feb. 12-14: Run/Walk

Do it with our two school groups or do it on your own!

Register Here:

https://www.centermontessori.org/uploads/6/4/9/4/64947869/5k_registration_form_final.pdf

Proceeds go to the Center Financial Assistance fund.

Academics and More

We are now at the midpoint of Cycle 3. This Friday, January 29, is the last day for science activities. This coming Monday, February 1, we'll begin the Social World portion of our cycle.

Our science test for Cycle 3 will be Wednesday, February 3rd. The students received the study notes and practice questions this past Monday. The study notes are posted in Google Classroom, in the Physical Science section.

This week our science reading and lessons have covered alternating and direct current, generators, and transformers. During my (Robin's) visit to school on Tuesday afternoon, students learned how to measure voltage and current, and they explored electrical power from photovoltaic cells. We also used a kil-o-wat meter to explore how wattage drawn from a wall socket will vary when we change the speed of a tool or appliance (in this case, our scroll saw).

Electrical Power Activities



Troubleshooting an array of photovoltaic panels



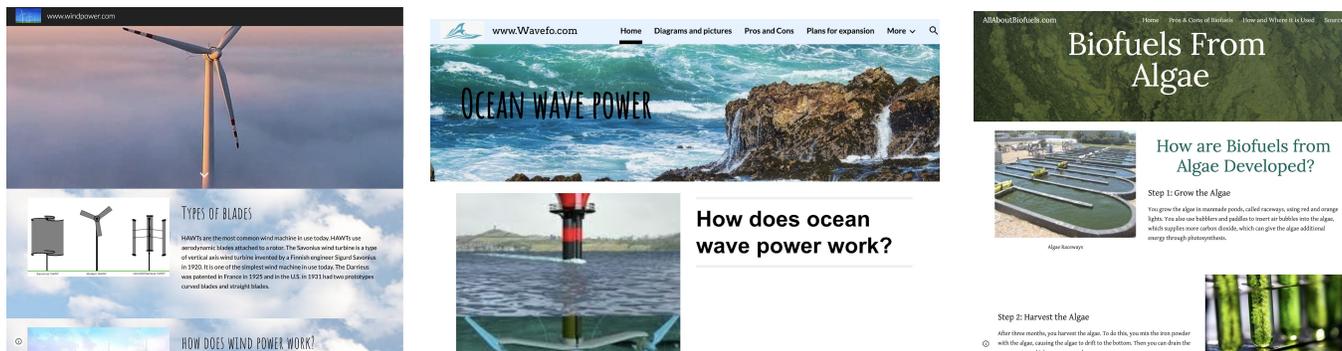
Linking batteries in parallel



Measuring photovoltaic panel voltage

Students worked in their 4-person groups to complete their websites on renewable energy sources, and they did a wonderful job! After presenting them today, each group published their site and posted the link on Google Classroom so others could browse the sites. The four websites are on Wind Power, Hydroelectric Power, Ocean Wave Power, and Biofuels from Algae.

Screenshots of Student Websites on Renewable Power



In our Geography and Current Events work this week we've begun to study physical and climatic regions of Africa. Students took a short self-quiz on rivers of Africa and we had a short lesson on ergs, hamadas, regs, and oases (all features of the Sahara Desert).

As part of our language activities this week, students were introduced to a new poetry form: the ode. After a lesson on irregular odes and figurative language, students are now trying their hand at writing their own odes. After being introduced to a new form of poetry, students read and write responses to a selection of poems using that given form.

Students have been given five different thematic novels from which to choose:

- 1984* by George Orwell (advanced choice)
- Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (advanced choice)
- The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- Night* by Eli Weisel
- The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

The book choices were presented to the students on Monday. Each student must arrange with their parents to get a copy of their novel choice by this Monday, February 3rd. The students will begin reading the thematic novels on Monday.

In our Personal World work this cycle, we are focusing on personal power, the power we achieve over our lives through our focus, our attitudes, and our choices. As part of Personal World work this week, students read and responded to an *Upfront Magazine* article about a young man with Down's Syndrome who completed the Ironman challenge. The article focused on the many challenges the young man had throughout his life, as well as on his tremendous perseverance. Late into the challenge, the young man is exhausted and faltering, but he reaches inside himself to find the discipline to finish the grueling challenge. The students were asked about what sort of mental and emotional preparation (in addition to physical preparation) it took to face a challenge like that. They were further asked to reflect on and write about their own experience, or the experience of someone they knew, in successfully facing a daunting challenge.

Level 3 Families, thank you for all of the ways that you support our middle school. ❤️

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

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