

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

HALLOWEEN

We clearly aren't doing our regular Halloween activities this year (such as the Haunted House) but we do have some activities planned that we hope will be fun for all!

1. Drive-thru: On Friday morning, October 30, Level 3 students *in costume*, will line the Center driveway during arrival time, to "greet" the other students as they arrive. Level 3 students wanting to participate -BOTH CLASSROOM AND DLP STUDENTS - should be outside of Level 3 no later than 8:10 AM. The Drive-thru event will last from approximately 8:15 to 9:00 AM, after which the DLP students will leave.
2. ZOOM Haunted House: Through the use of breakout rooms, video, animation, and tricks yet to be discovered, we are planning to do an online Haunted House experience. We'll update you as we progress. Stay tuned!
3. Families of students in the physical classroom, be on the lookout for an email from Beronica about a special in-class lunch.

Academics and More

Today is the last day of our Cycle 1 Wrap-up, and the day of our Cycle 1 Social Studies Test. This week, students have been finishing outstanding work from Cycle 1, polishing their memoir writing projects, retaking (if necessary) any earlier tests, and studying for the Cycle 1 Social Studies test. We've also seen all of our 7th and 8th graders present their individual Social Studies projects, which were extremely interesting. The student projects, whose general theme was life in colonial times, ranged from medicine, architecture, hair and barbers, food, art, to pets.

In Personal World, students are choosing an adult ally with whom they will correspond for the rest of the year. The adult ally must be 21 or older, may

not be a parent, nor someone who lives with the student. Students must get parent approval once they have chosen an adult ally.

WE ARE NOT DONE WITH THE SCIENCE KITS! We'll be using them in Cycles 2, 3, and 4.

LEVEL 3 PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT: Takeaways

Most of you have seen our information on changes in early adolescence, but sometimes it's helpful to be reminded of certain aspects of this unique time in life.

It's true that the young adolescent's brain grows extremely rapidly in the pre-frontal cortex region of the brain, the area attributed to more abstract, logical thinking. However, the *limbic system* of the adolescent's brain grows *even faster*.

The limbic system, or emotional brain, matures before the pre-frontal cortex, meaning that emotion, sensation-seeking, and social significance often override more rational ways of thinking and behaving until later adolescence. It's not that young adolescents can't reason or think logically; they excel at that. However, on many occasions, it's not the mental artillery they'll initially respond with.

As adults, it's important for us to stay calm, and if possible, a little detached during an adolescent's emotional outburst. It's important to listen without judging, and to be a source of stability in the storm. We want to validate their feelings without getting on the emotional roller coaster. That ride never turns out well.

Thank you to...

♥ All of our Level 3 Families who attended our Parent Education Night

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:

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

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