

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Academics and More

We've just finished our first full week of Cycle 2, whose theme is "Structure." Our science work this cycle focuses on more in-depth atomic structure, derived from quantum mechanics. We're also learning about different types of chemical bonding (ionic, covalent, polar-covalent, and metallic), as well as the structures of ionic solids and organic molecules. We began our science work with a lesson on how our knowledge of atomic structure has evolved over the last 150 years. We reviewed ions and isotopes, and we are now learning about the different shapes of atomic orbitals, and how they are intimately connected to the different sections of the periodic table. This last bit of material has been a stretch for students, but they've worked incredibly hard to master it and are making great progress!

Prior to the election, we studied the Electoral College and how it functions. This week, students have been avidly following the election and filling in their own electoral maps. We've had some lively discussions about whether the Electoral College should be abolished, and some of our students have written passionate paragraphs about the topic.

Our Social World work, which will start in the second half of the cycle, will cover the structure of different forms of government, as well as an in-depth study of the U.S. constitution.

Students are currently reading their choice novels. Their second literature response is due today.

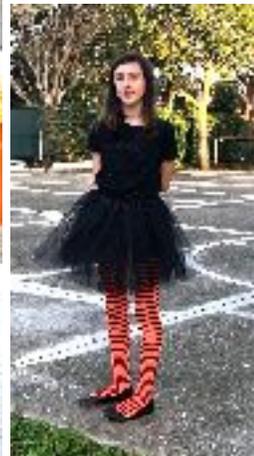
SPIRIT WEEK *and* HALLOWEEN

Wardrobe-wise, last week was a busy week! Our 7th and 8th graders planned and carried a Spirit Week that culminated in Halloween. The daily themes for Spirit Week were Pajama Day, Hippie Day, Tourist Day, Western Day, and of course, Halloween. Their announcement, which they posted in Google Classroom, is shown below, along with pictures of the week.

Because of the pandemic, our annual Haunted House was not feasible. But in our tradition of offering Halloween entertainment, several of our 7th and 8th graders filmed themselves reading "two-sentence horror stories." One student submitted an original animation, and another submitted Halloween art, all of which we compiled into a short video that became known as "The Zoom Horror Show." Below is a link to the video, if you'd like to see it.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lhwvwh1xyslsn2m/Level%203%20Zoom%20Horror%20Show%202020.mov?dl=0>

Spirit week 🎃
[PRESS UP?]
Monday: PJ's day
Tuesday: Hippies day
Wednesday: Tourists day
Thursday: Western day
Friday: HALLOWEEN!!!!



Thank you to...

♦ *Mara, for bringing yummy donuts in honor of Halloween!*



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
941-544-5617 (cell)

Beronica bjohnson@centermontessori.org
941-586-9024 (cell)

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

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