

# SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

**CAMPING? Get your PCR COVID Test Today.**

## Academics and More

We are now immersed in the Social World portion of our cycle. The theme of our cycle is “Change,” and the center of our focus is on the Industrial Revolution, one of the most dynamic periods of change in human history. As we study the Industrial Revolution, we are looking at patterns and events leading up to it, as well as its consequences. This week the students watched a video on the transcontinental railroad and had a lesson on how the railroad transformed the U.S. Students have been reading about inventions that drove the Industrial Revolution, such as the cotton gin, the telegraph, the light bulb, the Watt steam engine, the Bessemer Process, dynamite, and more.

Our Geography and Current Events work dovetailed nicely with Social World this week. Inspired by the container ship that was stuck in the Suez Canal, we began a study of canals and other human-made waterways, and how they affect commerce. This week we learned about the building of the Erie Canal, and how its impact foreshadowed that of the transcontinental Railroad. The impact of the Erie Canal also served as subject for an in-class writing.

In Personal World, we learned how actively cultivating a sense of gratitude affects us in positive and profound ways. We made small gratitude journals that we’ll be using for the rest of the year. We also watched several videos about gratitude and mindfulness. Here is the link to one of them, if you’d like to watch it:

An Experiment in Gratitude <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHv6vTKD6lg&t=17s>

### Random Acts of Science



*Calculating the Mechanical Advantage of an Inclined Plane*



*Demonstration: Decomposition of Sucrose by Concentrated Sulfuric Acid*



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## Special Guest Jamie Zinkhan on Personal Finances

Jamie Zinkhan, financial adviser and mother of Jacob, gave a financial lesson on debit, credit, and digital money management apps, such as Paypal, Venmo, and Apple Pay. Part of the discussion focused on safe and secure online practices. After a video, a lesson and lively discussion, Jamie ended her presentation with an online quiz game. It was interesting to find out from Jamie that a 13-year old can get a “limited” debit card; in fact, three of our students already have one. It’s a great way to get experience managing one’s money.

Thank you, Jamie, for the fun and informative lesson!

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## Camping Trip

Meal plans and food lists, medicine lists, and utensil lists have been created. Students have signed up for meal preparation and meal clean-up jobs. Cars and drivers are set. We’ve had a dry run of our tent set ups, taken inventory of parts, and replaced missing poles and stakes. We’re in the process of discussing behavior guidelines and COVID safety precautions, and we expect our behavior agreement to be emailed out later today. Did we mention that EVERYONE is excited?

**Pre-Camping COVID Tests:** April 16 (PCR Test) and April 19 (Rapid Test)

**NOTE: If you have already had COVID or you’ve had BOTH vaccination shots, then you don’t need testing.**



Dry Run Tent Set Up



Our New Traveling Bathroom

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### Upcoming Date to Note:

Ginnie Springs Camping Trip.....April 20 - 22

Graduation.....Thursday, May 27

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*Thank you to...*

♥♥ *Jamie Zinkhan, for a great lesson on personal finance*

♥♥ *Everyone who is joining us on our camping adventure next week*

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

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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:

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

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