

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

No School Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Academics and More

This is our first week of Cycle 4, whose theme is Power. To understand power -at least in science- you must first understand energy, since power is defined by energy ÷ time. This week we've had lessons on energy, work (a form of energy), potential energy, kinetic energy, units of energy and power, the first and second laws of thermodynamics, and how those laws apply to energy transformations. Students have been assigned several background readings, as well as a list of science vocabulary, to complete this week.

Our Geography and Current Events Work this week continued with our final topic from Cycle 2: the partition of the African continent by European powers in 1884. Students had a lesson and a reading about the events leading up to the "Scramble for Africa" (as it is known historically), and the Berlin Conference of 1884, in which Africa was divided between seven European nations. We learned about European missionaries and explorers in Africa during the mid-19th century, including the story of Stanley and Livingstone. Students are making maps of colonial territories superimposed over the current map of Africa.

Our main language focus this cycle is poetry. This week the students have been learning about traditional versus contemporary forms of the haiku. Students are interpreting and memorizing haikus by classic 17th century poet Basho and contemporary poet Gary Snyder. Students are also writing their own haikus. Students are also continuing their work on expository writing (notably essays).

The first week of Cycle 3 is also the beginning to our second semester, and as our Personal World work this week, each student set two goals for the second half of the school year. Students also wrote about what habits served them well in the first semester, and habits they want to change.

Level 3 Families, thank you for all 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