

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

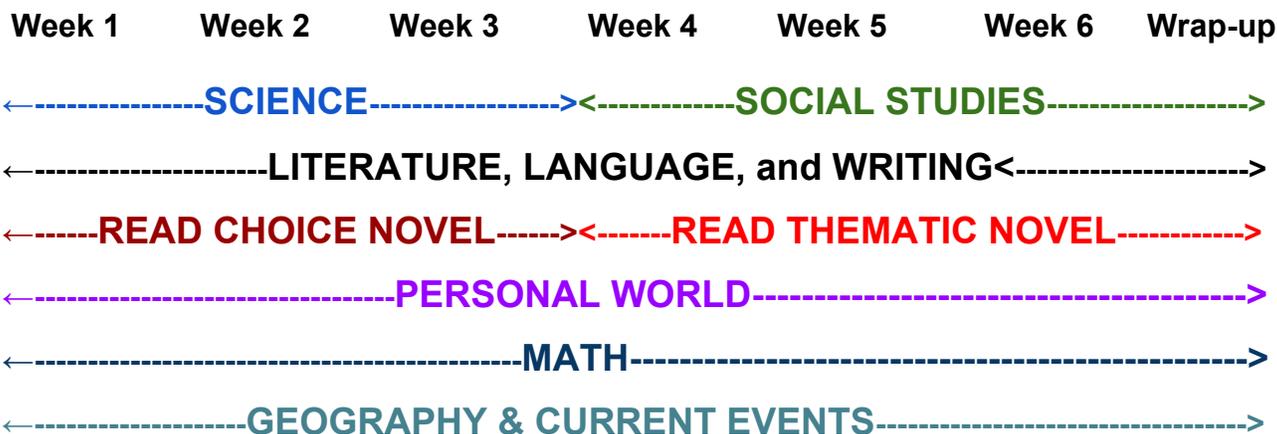
**LEVEL 3 PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT:
"All About Young Adolescents" 6-7 PM, Tuesday, October 13**

Academics and More

We've finished the science portion of Cycle 1, "Forces," and we are having our science test today. Our test policy is that 7th grade students take the test *only* if they have finished the essential work in that curricular area. We also work with them to help them understand how to study and how *much* to study. If a 7th grade student has *not* finished the work, they are asked to work afterschool with a teacher (or make an equivalent arrangement) until the work is completed. In contrast, all 8th grade students must take the test on the scheduled date. We do this in order to help them start to manage time in order to work with more rigid test dates that they'll encounter in high school.

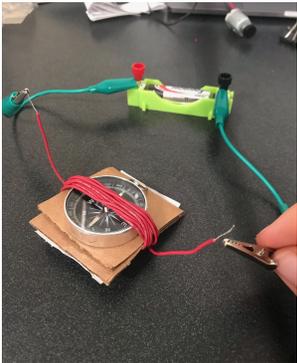
CYCLE 1

We are here



Can a student retake a test if they don't pass it the first time? Absolutely! Our main goal is mastery of the material. Students who don't pass a test the first time will take a different version of the test *after* they have completed assigned study activities.

In the last two weeks, science work focused on the electromagnetic force. We've learned about electrostatics, Coulomb's Law, electromagnetism, and electromagnetic induction. Using their science kits, students did experiments with static electricity. They built and used a simple galvanometer that could detect magnetic fields generated by electricity. We learned about electromagnetic induction by connecting our motors to our galvanometers, then using our motors as generators. To help students review their knowledge, we have a powerpoint self-quiz and a practice test (in addition to study notes). Below are some of the pictures of our science activities, mostly done as screenshots on Zoom.



Avery's Galvanometer



Petra Measuring Force vs Angle



Austin examines static electricity with an electroscope



Meadow: Static Electricity Experiment



Otis, Building his Galvanometer



Ale's Completed Galvanometer



Austin, Testing the Galvanometer



Jacob, Demonstrating Electromagnetic Induction

This week we began our Social Studies portion of our cycle. We will be applying the theme of FORCES as we examine different revolutions and the forces that have precipitated them. Our main focus will be the American Revolution, as well as the French Revolution, and how the two revolutions are connected through the revolution in thought that was part of the Enlightenment.

Students have begun group work presentations on different people and events of the American Revolution. Students also have an individual project, due next week, on life during the Revolutionary War era.

If you look at the cycle chart at the beginning of this newsletter, you'll see that students have started reading the thematic novels. Many students chose the graphic novel, *Persepolis*, and are enjoying it immensely. Students were quick to point out the connection of the Iranian Revolution to our cycle theme.

The thematic novels for Cycle 1 are:

How Tia Lola Came to Visit (Stay) by Julia Alvarez
Sarah Bishop by Scott O'Dell
Johnny Tremain by Ester Forbes
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (advanced choice)

Online Help after School

Both Beronica and I are available most weekdays (except Mondays) to help students after school (until about 4:30 PM) in any areas they may need or want help. It's been good to see students make use of this time, and we encourage them to continue!

Students should text us if they wish to set up a time.

Thank you to...

-  Jamie Zinkhan, offering to be our room parent for 7th and 8th grade.
-  Joe Zejavac, for donating a case of KN-95 masks.

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