

LEVEL 3

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 2020

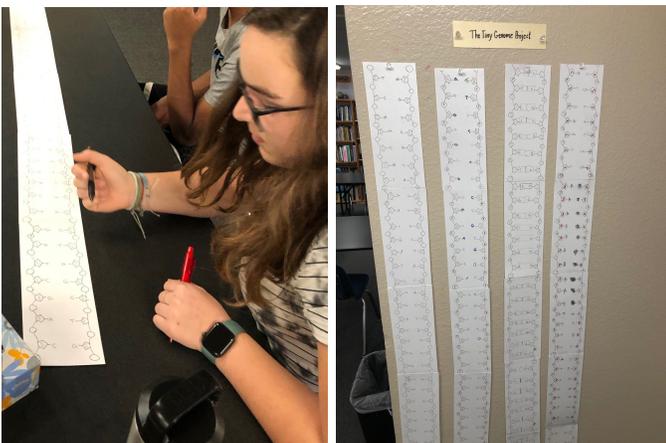
SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Academics

Welcome to Cycle 3, whose theme is “Identity.” We began our cycle this Tuesday with lessons and work on DNA and RNA structure and function. We’ve been learning about transcription (in which a gene from DNA is transcribed onto RNA) and translation (how the code held by the RNA is translated into a chain of amino acids, which are then folded into their final protein form. These processes are brought together in our “tiny genome project” simulation. Each of our four small workgroups created a gene (a very small one), for which a messenger RNA will be created. The messenger RNA will then be read and translated into a protein.

Our Cycle 3 writing work has begun with a personal persuasive essay project in which students choose a personal anecdote about something they wish had gone differently or been done differently. The students will be writing about the lesson to be learned from their experience, and will also write a “plea for change.” Students have begun reading and writing responses for their choice novels. The first response is due today.

Students had an art lesson on Piet Mondrian’s art and philosophy. After discussing Mondrian’s “guiding principles,” students each made pieces in Mondrian’s style which deliberately broke one of his rules.



The Tiny Genome Project



Breaking Mondrian's Rules

"Google Day"

This past Monday, we concluded our immersion week with a "Google Day." A Google Day is a day when students (or employees, as in the case of Google) may pursue a project of their choice, such as researching a topic of interest, creating a piece of art (painting, sculpture, video) or music, learning a new skill (sign language, soccer techniques), doing a series of science experiments, etc.

We had an interesting variety of projects! Two students worked on an ambitious video, a student studied sign language, and another surveyed peers and teachers about introvert and extrovert qualities. Two students did several experiments on heat and air pressure, and another researched the history of the comic character "The Joker." One student worked on coding for a video game, and another built a marshmallow catapult. Students will be presenting their projects this coming week.



Grant and Diego do a heat and air pressure experiment



Yara researches what would happen if a person never left their bed



Molly measures students' reaction times while studying The Stroup Effect

Thank you to...

♥ Jamie Zinkham (Jacob's mom) for driving students to and from the Land Lab, and for guiding students at the Land Lab.

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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Mark Your Calendars

Martin Luther King Day: No School.....Monday, January 20

School-wide Celebration.....Friday, February 28

Spring Break.....March 16-20

No School: Teacher Work Day.....Monday, March 23

Level 3 Wilderness Adventure Trip.....May 17-20

Regularly Scheduled:

Tuesday - Tutorials.....3:15 - 4:30 PM

Wednesday - Mathcounts3:15 - 4 PM PM

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

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

