

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Academics

In our second week of Cycle 3 science work, we learned about different versions of genes (alleles) in organisms, and how patterns of inheritance play out. In addition to our lessons and our readings and questions, we also participated in a short simulation. Our simulation, known as “The Mating Game,” helped students understand concepts such as dominant and recessive genes, and the difference between genotypes and phenotypes. Students also worked in their small groups to complete our “tiny genome project” simulation. Each of our four small workgroups created a messenger RNA messenger molecule for the gene they had created the previous week, and then, using a chart of codons-to-amino acids, translated it into the amino acid sequence which then gave them the appropriate polypeptide chain. Each group then had to decide on the 3-D structure their chain would take on, thus creating the final protein. Our proteins are now hanging in the seventh and eighth grade classroom.

Seventh and eighth graders continued to work on their personal persuasive essay. Students are in the second week of reading and writing responses for their choice novels. The third response is due today. Seventh and eighth graders are in the process of choosing among the following books as thematic novel to be read in the last three weeks of the cycle: *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Separate Peace*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, and *Freak the Mighty*.

As part of our Geography and Current Events work this cycle, seventh and eighth grade students are learning about the geography (and some history) of Oceania (the region of Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific). This week, each student tried an online geography quiz on Oceania, and created a set of notecards on islands and island groups. We also had a lesson on atolls and their formation.



Proteins from our Tiny Genome Project



Working on The Tiny Genome Project



Analyzing Results from
The Mating Game

Thank you ♥

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

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