

May 17, 2019

### Upcoming Dates...

Friday, May 17: Voyager Spring Dance

May 22 & 23: Terra Nova Testing for Voyagers

May 23: Drama Club Share

May 24: Snow Make Up Day—Early Dismissal at 11:30am

May 25 through May 27: Memorial Day Break

May 31: Elysian Student Dance Concert

June 2: Celebration of Learning Center Graduates



Thanks for another great year!

It's been all about measurement lately in the Novice room! Both math groups have jumped headfirst into measuring, and boy, are we enjoying it! Dana's math group is exploring measurement using non-standard units and comparing and measuring all kinds of spring items. They even became spring peepers and hopped like frogs, measuring their jumps! The best was when they measured themselves—my are they tall! Sarah's math groups have made the leap into measuring with standard units. They got to create pirates using exact measurements and even made a treasure map by measuring out the length between clues! But measurement isn't just about measuring things like length and width—as the Novices have come to find out this week. They have also gotten to explore capacity, weight, and even telling time!



NOVICES

In theme, we have been learning about biology and earth sciences. The Novices are learning all about plants—their parts and functions, and even got to begin to grow bean plants from seeds. After some time in our “green houses,” the bean plants were transferred into soil. We are looking forward to watching the plants develop over time as we continue to take care of them. Next, we plan to study animals and their habitats as we work together to design zoo habitats for a number of different animals.



## PLAYERS

The Player mathematicians have been reviewing before we start our end-of-the-year assessments next week. We've been comparing fractions, identifying rules for patterns; we have learned so much this year! In literacy, we have been working on parts of speech by playing Mad Libs. We have been cracking each other up with our ridiculous stories. The Players kicked off our new Biology theme by researching animals and writing our own nonfiction books. We then put our informational writing skills to work creating "field guides" about our moms as Mother's Day gifts! We've moved on to plants this week and are learning about different types of seeds and how they travel and germinate.



The Apprentices are wrapping up all kinds of good stuff and are beginning to embark on some exciting new adventures! We all finished our final literacy projects. *The Giver* created incredible, multi-faceted role playing games to simulate experiences in a dystopian society for other students. *Becoming Naomi Leon* crafted soap sculptures to represent a character in the book as well as something about themselves, and she organized a soap carving contest so that the rest of

the class could test their skills. *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* performed a wonderful skit and exceeded their goal of 1,000 paper cranes! *Al Capone Does My Shirts* researched and wrote their own pieces of historical fiction and built a model of Alcatraz Island. To top it all off, last week we cooked a meal together that included dishes from our novels as one last celebration.

Writing workshop is also wrapping up for the year. Apprentices are beginning to put the final touches on our picture book project and are eager to share the stories that everyone has worked so hard to develop.

In math, The Mathematicians are conquering decimals, shapes, and measurement. Rowan and the Girls are having fun mastering coordinate planes by creating secret messages and images for others to plot out.

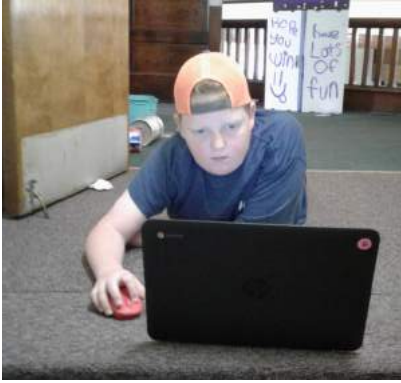
Apprentices closed out our Architecture theme with awesome experiments that allowed us to test construction concepts like foundations, piers, footings, and beams! We kicked off our Biology theme last week with a trip to the Baldwin-Reynolds House yard. We took careful field notes and pictures and are looking forward to identifying our findings! Spring is providing us with great opportunities to study plant and animal life in our own backyards.



## APPRENTICES



# VOYAGERS



This week the Voyagers got some very exciting news from National Public Radio! Amelia, Aubrey, Ezi, and Salem's dress code podcast received 'Honorable Mention' in the NPR Student Podcast Challenge. The national contest received over 6,000 submissions from all 50 states! We're proud to see our students' hard work and talent recognized at a national level!

We've been busy with many different projects during our final month of school. In Theme the Voyagers designed their own biology experiments, and are in the process of conducting them. The students learned how to make agar petri dishes and to take bacteria samples. Students are interested to know which of the two bathrooms have more bacteria, as well as which classroom. We look forward to seeing the results!!

We also wrapped up our Civil War themed literacy groups. Both groups will be ending the year by exploring Civil War poetry. The older group is studying Ballads and Narrative poetry used to tell stories. The younger group is writing poetry related to a single aspect of the Battle of Bull Run.

As we sign off from our last newsletter of the year, we want to wish our five graduates best wishes as they move onto high school. Amelia, Aubrey, Ian, Max and Ossian, you will be missed!!



Thanks for another great school year!

And good luck and best wishes to our 2019 Learning Center graduates:

Amelia Crowley  
Aubrey Garrison  
Ossian Glenn  
Ian Foreman  
Maxwell Yeager