

CCLCS Newsletter



January 2012

Director's Corner: MOVING FORWARD

This is a really great time of year to hang around the classrooms at CCLCS. Students have internalized the basic habits of mind that their teachers have worked hard to ingrain. Most kids do their homework, plan out their project work and come to class ready to learn. Setting these baselines allows teachers to work together with students and their families to move beyond attention to basic behavioral norms and get into the exciting “guts” of the curriculum.

Today I observed 7th graders dramatically reciting memorized Shakespearean dialogue, and 8th graders breaking down the patterns hidden in the Periodic Table of the Elements to find the element that they could identify with most closely.

This week I have had the pleasure of correcting a grueling 6- page test in which 8th graders have demonstrated how scientists use the dynamics of atomic structure at the smallest of quantum-level scales to learn about the fabric of the universe at the largest of scales.

Last week many of us shared in the splendor of our school's musical ensembles at afternoon and evening performances. There are few more tangible symbols of the progress that engaged middle school students can make than the sweet and confident melodies that emerge from spaces that were squeaky, discordant and tentative just a few months earlier.

The cognitive equivalent to this beautiful music is heard every day in the Shakespearean soliloquies, the flowing essays, the completed math problems and the hard-earned test grades that students produce when they are committed and focused.

That's not to say that we don't hear plenty of squeaks and missed notes. These happen every day. But we are in the business of facilitating progress at CCLCS. If students came into 6th grade fully formed and accomplished virtuosos, there would be no need for this business of ours.

So today let's celebrate the processes that lead to progress. Let's celebrate the hard work and the daily habits of mind that allow us all to keep moving forward, sometimes slowly, sometimes in fits and starts, sometimes in dramatic “quantum leaps”, towards some better, more polished version of ourselves.

Art Spark



Orleans Artist-In-Residence, Matt Kemp, is working with students (from left) Paul Titcomb, Carraig Weatherup, Sydney Berkeley and Thea Goldman to create a unique "Illuminated Nature Mobile" sculpture that will be on display in the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School when completed. These students are participants in the Art Spark After-School Arts Enrichment Program that meets weekly at the school and is generously funded by the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation. Deborah Greenwood, who is the Teacher/Coordinator of the Art Spark program, was recently awarded an Educational Min-Grant from the Cape Cod Five Cents Charitable Foundation Trust for the "Illuminated Nature Mobile" project.



Museum of Science

The Seventh Grade traveled to Boston's Museum of Science where they were lucky enough to see the traveling *Pompeii* exhibit which included plaster casts of victims who perished in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on August 24, 79 as well as a multitude of fascinating artifacts from this once-lively port town. Students also saw an IMAX film about archaeology in Greece. Students then toured the museum's exhibit halls, especially enjoying the playground and the electricity exhibits.

Winter Sports Update

We all know CCLCS lacks some things... a cafeteria, an auditorium, and especially a gymnasium. What we do not lack are two basketball teams made up of some great kids who just want to play. We have some kids who are passionate about basketball and some who have never played before. We have some who can tell you the exact measurements of the backboard and some who just want to get the ball in the hoop.

The boys team, led by parent Mark Palmer, consists of 16 boys in 7th & 8th grades. The girls team led by parents Bob Halloran and Bill Tarbokas, consists of 15 girls in 7th & 8th grades. Mr. Scichilone helps out as well. Each team gets just 1.5 hours a week of practice on a non-regulation size court at a local church. In that time, coaches run drills, put together plays and somehow make each player stronger. With such limited practice time, its amazing to watch these teams play- and win!

If you haven't been to a game, you definitely should. The season is almost over so come soon. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 1/31 @ Riverview School Boys only @ 3:45

Thursday 2/2 @ Harwich Middle Boys @3:45 Girls @5:00

Thursday 2/9 @ Chatham Middle Boys @ 3:45 Girls @5:00

Tuesday 2/14 @ Harwich Middle Boys @3:45 Girls @5:00

Thursday 2/16 @ Cape Cod Academy Boys @3:45 Girls @5:00

CCLCS might not have what other schools have, but we have some great kids who just want to play ball.



GEOGRAPHY NEWS



Orleans Cultural Center Grant

The Orleans Cultural Center graciously awarded CCLCS with the money to pay for the Geography Game Show presentation for the sixth grade. In the Fall, Neal Nichols wowed the students with his ability to draw the world by memory, as well as identify and discuss geographical locations, in a fun, dynamic way. In this interactive presentation, the students were actively

engaged as they were called up to be participants in the game show. This year, the sixth graders will be drawing their own memory maps at the end of the year. So, this presentation was wonderfully inspirational, as well as educational. A huge thank you to the Orleans Cultural Center for their support!

ALSO IN GEOGRAPHY NEWS: Congratulations to eighth grader Will Minshall who won the CCLCS Geography Bee! He will advance to the state GeoBee this spring!



Celebrating our music teachers and student musicians!



Winter Concert

Kudos to Maggie Bossi, Liz Schultz and Betsy Dorriss who have worked with our student musicians since the start of the school year to learn new pieces in preparation for the first concert of the year. Performances by the a capella group, chorus, select chorus, band, select band, jazz band and string ensemble delighted students and families alike. We are fortunate to have so many gifted musicians among us! Congratulations to everyone involved in this amazing performance!

