



**December 2018**

Dear TCS Families,

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our Thanksgiving Feast on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The food tasted delicious and the fellowship was positive. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Thanksgiving, as well.

We are quickly transitioning to our Shakespeare mode in preparation for the December 20<sup>th</sup> performance at 7:00 p.m. Please make sure you complete and return the permission slip regarding the play that was emailed to you and given to students in hard copy. I have attached one to this newsletter, as well.

Be sure to read over counselor Ethan Kline's piece about our new program to recognize the positive things our students do each day. It is our hope that by focusing on these positive behaviors it will encourage students to make better choices in their interactions with others.

Winter break begins the day after our Shakespeare play and school will reopen on January 2, 2019. I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Bill

**Important dates to mark on your family calendar:**

**December 6:** Trip to West Chester University Observatory, 9:15-11:45 a.m. (permission slip attached to newsletter)

**December 14:** Trip to University of Pennsylvania, 9:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (permission slip attached to newsletter)

**December 20:** Shakespeare play, 7:00 p.m.

**December 21:** School CLOSED – Teacher In-service

**December 24-January 1:** School CLOSED – Winter Break

**January 2:** School Reopens

**January 21:** School CLOSED, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**January 23:** Open House for prospective students, 9:15 a.m.

**January 25:** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period, end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester



## **PTO News**

We had a nice turn out to hear from therapist Mike Fogle at our Parent Coffee Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who could make it that morning. We also had a great time at Round One in Exton for bowling and arcade games. The students enjoyed themselves and were good ambassadors for TCS.

Please remember to help out, if you can, with dinner for our students on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, before the Shakespeare play. Click the link below to sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f44aaaa2fa20-shakespeare>

Be looking for information on upcoming PTO activities!

## **News from the Counselor**

Hello TCS families! Some exciting news from the counseling department is that I am currently working with the TCS staff on developing and implementing a positive behavior recognition program for the students. We want to make sure we are recognizing our students when they do something positive!

I asked our staff members to give me 3-5 student behaviors they would like to see every student here at TCS exhibit or work on improving. After reviewing the responses from the staff, I tallied up the 5 most listed behaviors. These 5 behaviors are:

- acts of kindness
- self-control
- being respectful
- being responsible
- having a positive attitude

We developed a reward system for students who are exhibiting the target behaviors. These rewards range from school supplies to drinks and snacks. In addition to the rewards, teachers will complete certificates for the student that will be displayed on a bulletin board in school. Along with individual rewards, there will also be school-wide rewards students are able to work towards earning. For example, there will be a student versus staff kickball game later in the year when the weather gets warmer. We are hopeful that by recognizing the many positive behaviors of our students, we can help our students develop, improve and maintain wanted behaviors and shy away from the unwanted misbehaviors. The program will be rolling out next week, beginning on December 3rd.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Ethan Kline  
ekline@theconceptschoool.org

## **Transitions Program** – Marti Phillips, Coordinator

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's Early Reach Program continues to work with students in transition to help them develop skills for future employment and careers. We are having monthly workshops and our first

two involved self-awareness and communication skills. In December we are looking forward to a presentation on interview skills. Students in the upper grades have taken a field trip to Manor College in Jenkintown and one of our students will be going on a job shadowing experience. Looking ahead we plan to visit Delaware County Community College in January as we continue to explore and plan for life after high school. Please call or email me with any questions ([mphillips@theconceptschool.org](mailto:mphillips@theconceptschool.org)).

### **Video Editing**

We are finishing our “Disaster” video editing project. We downloaded a video (with permission) from Discovery Education. We added a title, a logo, an introduction, and severely edited the video to between 30 seconds to 1 minute. We muted from the video clip, added music (with permission) from FreePlay Music, and added a voiceover for the movie, and finally, added credits to the end.

### **Advanced STEAM**

This class is finishing our major project for the nature center. We’ve created two Wood Duck bird houses. We started with the concept; interviewed our “client,” Miss Tilmon; researched the bird, types of wood, and the blueprints for the house; calculated the amount of wood needed; and we took a field trip to Lowes in Exton. Mrs. Fredericks’ husband cut the wood and drilled pilot holes. We assembled the bird houses and are finishing painting the outside of the birdhouses to protect them from the elements.



### **Cinema Class**

Sophia and Romeo used their "Critics on a Stick" to review the 1935 horror movie, Mad Love. This was the fourth movie this fall. Their challenge was to defend different points of view about the movie.



## Photography

The first marking period was centered on learning how to use a camera in different modes of shooting. This marking period's concentration is composition. The primary areas we'll cover are: "Rule of Thirds:" place points of interest on the intersections and important elements along the lines; Leading Lines: natural lines to lead eyes into the picture especially to an interesting subject; "Diagonals:" diagonal lines create great movement; "Framing:" use natural frames such as trees, or man-made such as windows and doors; "Fill the Frame:" Get close to your subjects; "Patterns and Repetition:" patterns, especially patterns in nature, are aesthetically pleasing, but the best is when the pattern is interrupted; "Symmetry:" both sides of image are the same. We've completed Rule of Thirds, and just started Leading Lines.





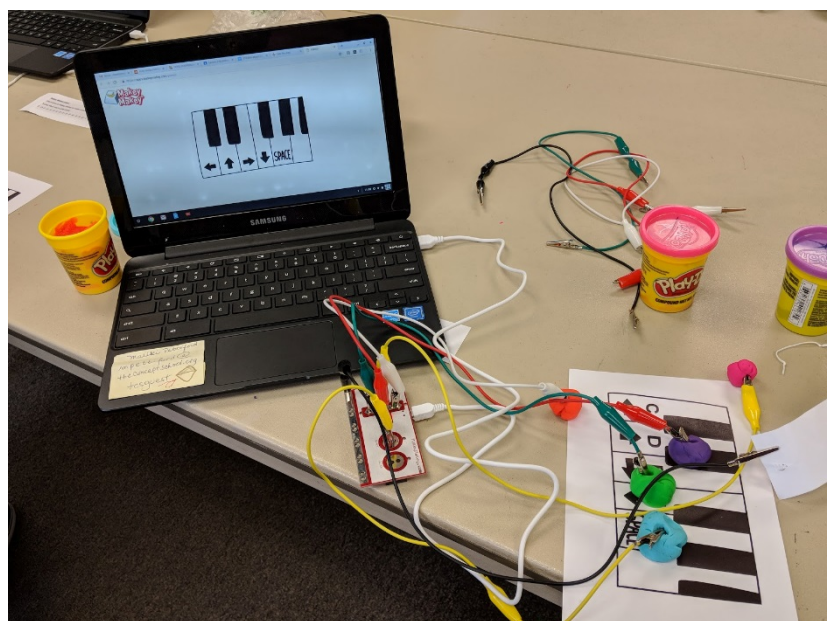
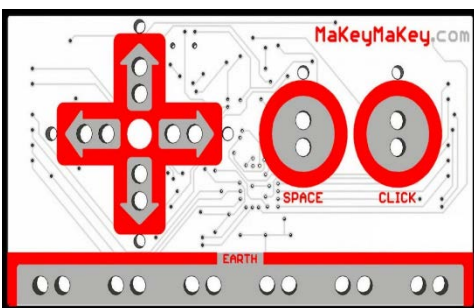


## Intro to Coding

This class is continuing the focus on learning HTML coding for websites. The students are working on a personal website that includes three pages which are linked together. The pages have a navigation bar at the top; have two pictures with author credit and attributions; have ordered and unordered lists (numbers and bullets); and paragraphs. After this project, we will start CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to make the pages aesthetically pleasing!

## STEAM Foundations

We are continuing our exploration of circuits. We just finished paper circuits, where we use copper tape, LED lights, and watch batteries to create the circuit. The first part was a simple circuit, where the students created a picture, and added a light to one part of the picture. We took it a step further and created parallel circuits that lit up two eyes on a Thanksgiving picture. We currently are using Makey Makey circuit boards connected to our Chromebooks, and having different materials, such as Play Doh (conductive clay) act as the keyboard! Our next project with Makey Makey will be creating a DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) floor pads with cardboard and aluminium foil.



## **Annual Fund**

Please consider making a donation to TCS as the tax year winds down. Your gift, of any size, enables us to continue doing the things that sets us apart from other schools. All gifts to The Concept school are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. You can click the link below to make a donation. Thank you!

<https://www.theconceptschooll.org/giving/where-to-give/>

## **TCS Food Drive to Benefit West Chester Food Cupboard**

The TCS community is collecting food for the West Chester Area Food Cupboard. This activity continues our comittment to giving back to the larger community through service projects. We will be collecting food through December 20<sup>th</sup>, the night of our Shakespeare play. I hope you can donate an item that is listed on the flyer at the end

## **Help Support the Concept School!!**

**(At no cost to YOU!!!)**

Our PTO has undertaken to continue to support our school by managing many areas that, with your support, provide monetary benefits to The Concept School. Please sign up for these opportunities!!!

Happy clipping!



Please continue to clip Box Tops! You can find Box Tops on many of the products you will be using for dinners and parties. For a list of participating products, go to **BTFE.com**.

Thanks for your support. **Thank you to Mrs. Friel (Connor's mom) for coordinating this activity.**

**Amazon's Smile.amazon program:** This program allows you to shop on Amazon and when you do, a portion of your purchase comes back to The Concept School. All you do is log on to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and fill in "The Concept School" as your organization of choice. A link to explain this program is attached.

<https://smile.amazon.com/about>

## **Giant A+ School Rewards**

1. Register for an online account or sign into an existing one.
2. Access your account settings.
3. Select The Concept School to reward #40184

# WE'RE HAVING A FOOD DRIVE!

To benefit the



## West Chester Food Cupboard

**Needed: Store Gift Cards (Giant, ShopRite, Acme)**

**Unexpired, Non-Perishable Food Items Needed:**

Canned Tuna  
Pasta w/Meat  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Hearty Soups  
Rice  
Pork and Beans  
Shampoo, Soaps  
Baby Food

Canned Chicken  
Chili  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Side Dishes  
Canned Fruits  
Canned Beans  
Hot Cereals  
Toothpaste  
Diapers

Sardines  
Spam  
Pasta/Noodles  
Mac N Cheese  
Vegetables  
Dried Beans  
Cold Cereals  
Toilet Paper  
Feminine Products

*Visit [wcfood.org](http://wcfood.org) to learn more.*

The Concept School

Ends December 20, 2018

Please bring donations to school and place in labeled boxes.

Questions? Ask Mrs. Wright or Mrs. Phillips

### Shakespeare Permission Slip

It's the most wonderful time of the year ---the annual Shakespeare Festival! Not only is this event an annual TCS tradition, but it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to build confidence, gain fluency, and learn about Shakespeare's incredible influence on our language and culture. The excitement is already building!

To ensure a successful show, we need everyone's full cooperation! Please thoroughly read the following important details, and then complete and return the bottom portion of this page to school by **Monday, December 3rd.**

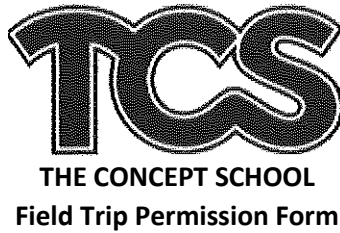
1. If anyone will have a planned absence due to a family trip please inform us so we may plan accordingly. If a child is unable to participate for this reason, an alternate assignment will be given in lieu of participation in the performance.
  2. **This year's show will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 7pm.**
  3. Our students are already immersed in preparing the program and completing Shakespeare-related activities in addition to the performance of the play. Their active participation is expected and will be assessed as a part of this marking period's Language Arts grade.
  4. Your child will need a pair of *black pants (shirt apparel provided by the school)* by no later than December 19.
  5. Your child will remain at school after dismissal on the day of the performance on December 20. Students will then eat dinner and get ready for the evening's show. If you would like to donate food or help serve and/or clean up dinner, please visit this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f44aaaa2fa20-shakespeare>
6. **You will need to cancel your child's regular transportation from school on Thursday, December 20.**
7. **Your child will need transportation after the evening's performance.**

Thank you for your cooperation! We look forward to sharing this fun and educational annual tradition with you! **Please complete and return by Monday, December 3rd.**

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- My child **will be available** to participate in this year's Shakespeare performance.
- I understand that the annual Shakespeare performance will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 7pm.
  - My child has my permission to remain after school on Thursday, December 20 until the show's conclusion.
  - My child **will NOT be available** to participate because \_\_\_\_\_.
- I understand that my child's participation in the show (or an alternate assignment) will be considered part of my child's Language Arts grade for the second marking period.
- I understand that my child will need a pair of long black pants no later than Wednesday, December 19.
- **My child's T-SHIRT SIZE is:** \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand that my child's dinner will be provided.
- I will provide an alternate meal if there are dietary restrictions.
- I **will cancel** my child's regular transportation home from school on *Thursday, December 20.*
- I **will ensure that my child has transportation home** after the performance.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





Dear Families of Concept School Students,

Some students will be taking a field trip to: **WCU Observatory on December 6, 2018**

We will be leaving school at approximately **9:20 a.m. and returning by 12:00 p.m.**

Means of Transportation: School Bus

Relaxed dress that is comfortable is the dress for the day Cost of trip: **\$10.00 per student**  
**Please sign the form below and return it to school** as soon as possible.

I give my permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

to take the field trip to **WCU Observatory on Dec. 6, 2018**. In the case of an emergency, I give my permission for my child to be admitted and treated at the nearest hospital. I can be reached during the field trip at this number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Field Trip Permission Form

Dear Families of Selected Concept School Students,

All students will be taking a field trip to: **The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**. 3260 South St, Philadelphia, PA 19104. The date of the trip is **Friday, December 14, 2018**

We will be leaving school at: **8:45 am and return by 2 pm**

Means of Transportation:

**Relaxed dress** that is comfortable is the dress for the day. Shoes that are sturdy for walking and can get dirty.

**\*\*\*Bring a bagged lunch**

Cost of trip: **\$30** for transportation, 1-hour guided tour, and 1-hour workshop at the museum

**Please sign the form below and return it to school** as soon as possible.

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I give my permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

to take the field trip to The Penn Museum . In the case of an emergency, I give my permission for my child to be admitted and treated at the nearest hospital. I can be reached during the field trip at this number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(phone number)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian Signature) (Date)