



April 2019

Dear TCS Families,

With spring comes warmer temperatures, flowers, leaves, and planning for next school year! The TCS Board met recently and set the tuition rate for next year. We mailed registration letters for next year on March 27th. Please be sure to complete the return the form by April 11th so we can secure your daughter's or son's spot at TCS for 2019-2020. We welcome you referring any families you may know who are looking for a school like The Concept School. Ask them to call me to schedule to talk about their child or to schedule a tour.

Thank you for attending the National History Day presentations! I was impressed by our students' work and how they interacted with our visitors and explained their knowledge. It was an impressive event.

I have recently emailed you a link to sign-up for conferences with your son's or daughter's teachers on April 11, 2019. We dismiss students at 12:00 that day and conferences run from 1:00-7:30 p.m. Here is the link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084CA5AE2AA3FA7-parent2>

Our students have done a good job in virtually eliminating phone use during instructional times! It has not been easy for everyone, but the plan to have phones "off and away" from 8:45 a.m. until lunch and then after lunch until 3:15 p.m. has increased focus on learning. Please remind your students to follow our expectations so that they may be able continue using phones during lunch periods.

Finally, teacher Shelia Fredericks has been out for several weeks for medical reasons. I am happy to report that she is on the mend and we hope to have her back very soon! Ms. Abel and Mr. Loux have been covering her classes.

Sincerely,
Bill

Important dates to mark on your family calendar:

Be looking for more information on upcoming spring social events for students and families!

April 3rd – DCCC visits TCS about dual enrollment

April 5th – report cards issued

April 11th – 12:00 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:00-7:30 p.m.

April 12-19 – School Closed for Spring Break

April 24th – Open House for prospective families, 9:15 a.m.

April 25th – Spring Arts Festival, 7:00 p.m.

May 1st – Parent presentation on Cyber Security by Mike Fogel, 7:00 p.m.

May 3rd – field trip to Winterthur

May 4th – PTO Family event – details to follow

May 8th – Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.

May 14th – School Closed for primary election

May 21st – School Closed for Golf Fundraiser

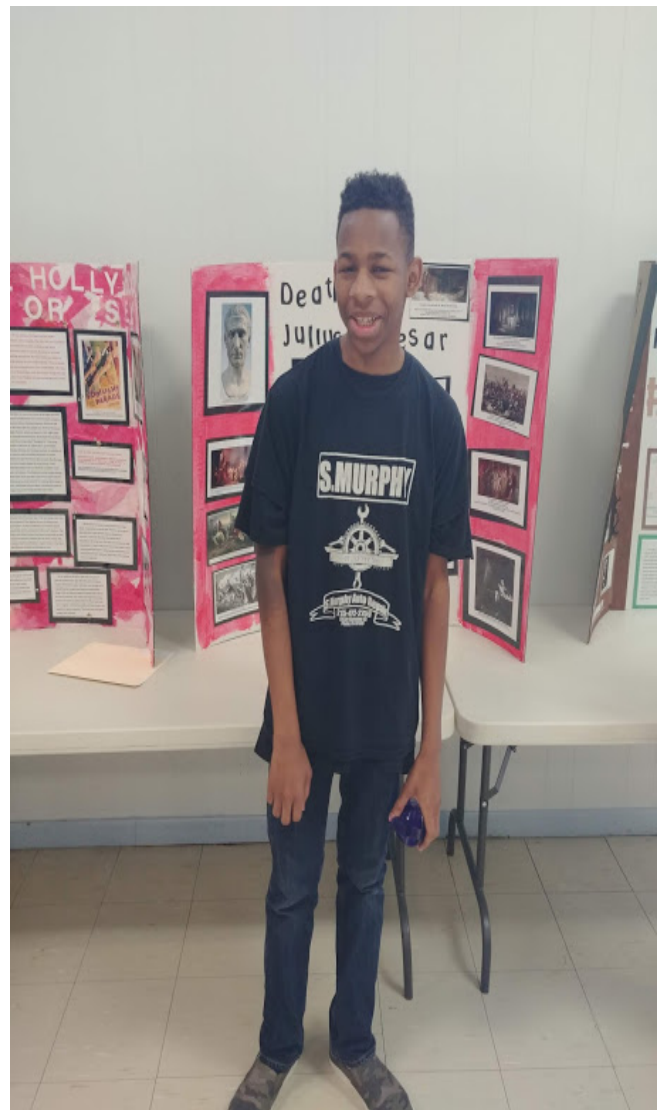
May 22nd – Open House for prospective students

May 27th – School Closed for Memorial Day holiday

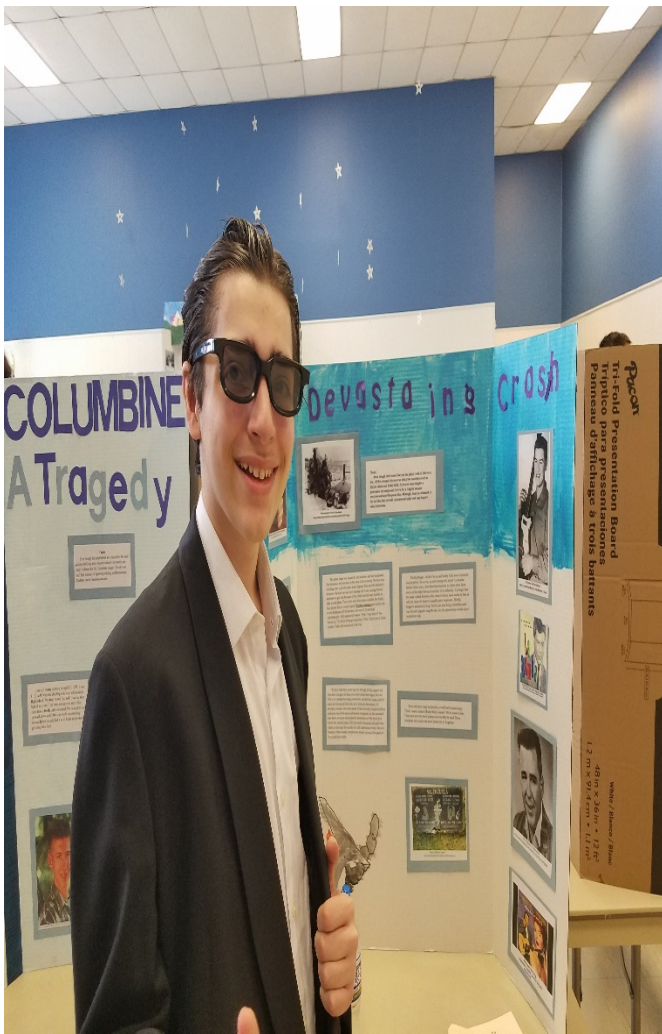
NHD a Huge Success!

Congratulations to every TCS student for completing amazing National History Day projects! A special thank you goes out to all of the families that showed up to support and learn a thing or two. The students who earned a spot in the junior regional competition on Saturday, March 30th are EJ Schoolik, Romeo Gonzalez, and John Krajicek. Maliki Pettiford earned the honorable mention and will serve as an alternate. The students who earned a spot in the senior regional competition on Friday, March 29th are Nate Lichtenstein, Alex Miller, and Ben Slomowitz. Amber Stevens, Sophia O'Rourke, and Sophie Haubold earned honorable mentions and will serve as alternates in the order listed. Great job and thank you for contributing to a positive and powerful experience for all!

-Mr. Loux



Vivian and Omar on National History Day



Romeo and Amber on National History Day

May 1st Parent Gathering featuring Mike Fogle

Join us to learn about this important topic. The presentation will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m.:

Social Media Savvy and Safety: Tips for teen success and parent supervision and coaching

This engaging workshop discusses electronic communication and social media use in the context of social skill development. Adolescents with social skills challenges have more risk factors than their neuro-typical peers. They may unwittingly place themselves at risk of being victimized, legal trouble, and loss of relationships. Social challenges multiply when the "friend" is invisible on the other end of a smartphone and there are no obvious social cues to guide your child. How can you help your child safely and successfully engage with today's powerful communication tools? We will discuss critical social awareness and skills your child needs as well as supervision and coaching strategies for you. Together we can create a plan for your child's social media success and safety.

Transitions at The Concept School

OVR for Students

Angelica Webster, from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Early Reach Program, continues to work with our students in transition each month. This month our topic was making a budget by determining what are our wants vs. our needs. Our students continue to learn and have great discussions about their future.

OVR Parent Presentation

Angelica also came to school to give a parent presentation on how the OVR could help students in the future to prepare and help them find gainful employment. The process of who could receive services and how to apply for services was discussed. Parents had many questions that Angelica was able to answer and we had a very informative discussion. If you would like a copy of the powerpoint presentation, please email Marti Phillips - mphillips@theconceptschooll.org.

PRESENTATION

April 3, 2019 6:00-8:30 PM

A Snapshot of Transition: Picture Your Future!

Presented by the OVR and CCIU

@ the Chester County Intermediate Unit

455 Boot Road

Downingtown, PA 19335

Featuring:

- Transition Resource Fair
- Interactive Sessions
- Panel Discussion

Goal- Provide information, discussion and personal interaction with community resources to students between the ages of 14 and 21.

Hope to see you there!

Last month, I was able to attend the Career and College Ready Forum hosted by the Chester County IU. There was a wealth of information about the new state mandate to help all students become ready for a career or college. I'm looking forward to implementing many of the ideas from the conference, especially student-built portfolios.

This month I am attending a full day workshop to become certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This program teaches how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorder and the skill to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents, as well as resources to get them the appropriate care. I'm looking forward hearing what these presenters have to say.

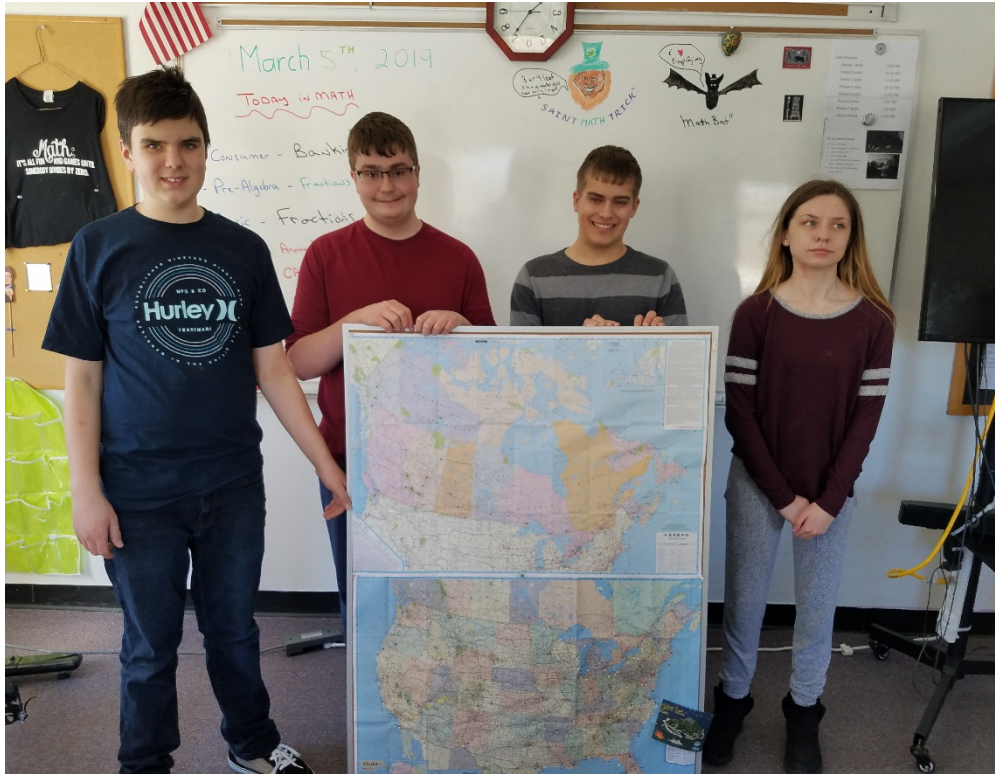
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mphillips@theconceptschooll.org.

School Spirit Clothing Drive

Our spirit clothing drive was a great success. Transition students will be sorting and handing clothing out when it arrives. We are hoping to receive all of our orders by April 8th. It will be great to see the students showing their school pride!

America's Closest Neighbors

Students have begun to learn about America's Closest Neighbors by diving into the geography of Canada (a country with a lot of geography). Students are completing projects on major regions of Canada. They also are learning the names and locations of all of Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories. Most students in the class can name all 13 jurisdictions with well over 90% accuracy! Jeopardy!, beware TCS is coming!



John, Alex, Ben, and Angie

News from Mr. Kline, School Counselor

The counseling department has been continuing our PBIS reward system. Last month we have focused on being respectful. The reward for February was a staff vs. student activity time. In the time allotted the staff and students had three different activities in which the students could play against the staff. There was a board game/card game room, a handball activity and 4-square. The activities were a great success and everyone had a great time. For the month of March we focused on students' self-control. Students have been earning "Way to Go Gecko!" certificates each time they exhibit any of the positive behaviors we are focusing on. The reward for the month of March is a sundae party on Thursday the 28th!

Health & Physical Education

The third marking period has flown by! In health class, we are finishing up our safety unit. Within this unit we talked about safety in the house, outdoors and preventing injury. On March 22nd, we were fortunate enough to have Fame Fire Company of West Chester come in to talk with us about fire safety, fire prevention and

necessary actions in case of emergency. Students and faculty had the option on 'touring' the fire engine they drove to TCS, and saw the firefighters fire gear, water rescue gear and ice rescue gear. Moving forward we will be studying First Aid, Hygiene, and Personal Health & Wellness.

Physical Education classes have been going well, as we have practiced our badminton skills inside and are looking forward to the warm weather to set up our nets outside to continue the progress with our net game. After badminton we will be progressing with some team games and ending the year with team building.



Physical Education teacher Marie Pepper arranged for West Chester's Fame Fire Department to visit our school and talk about fire safety. Students were then invited to learn about the truck from the volunteer members of the department.



Mrs. Pepper and student Alex M. talk about the assembly on Friday, March 22, 2019.



Picklepuff has been at TCS for one year!

Introduction to Business

In Introduction to Business, students have started to learn about companies and where to find important information. Each student has selected a public company to research. The first report was on MAC Cosmetics, a division of Estee Lauder. Reports also are being prepared on Apple, Bank of America, GM and Merck.





Mrs. Culler's and Ms. Tilmon's science classes recently began fostering a pregnant guinea pig. The new borns will remain with us for a few weeks so the students can watch them grow.



Justin and Kade take a break during the recent trip to Adventure Aquarium.

Annual Fund

Please consider making a donation to TCS. 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.theconceptschool.org/giving/where-to-give/>

TCS Food Drive to Benefit West Chester Food Cupboard

Thanks to all of the families that donated food and supplies for the West Chester Food Cupboard during our food drive. The students delivered 200 pounds of food and supplies to the pantry at the beginning of the month. We will continue to collect food donations here at Concept until the end of the school year.



Maliki has some quiet time with Picklepuff!

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 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