



**October 1, 2019**

Dear TCS Families,

The 2019-2020 school year opened in a smooth fashion and our students are settling in. In addition, new staff members Mr. Schullery and Ms. Riggio have proven to be excellent additions to our amazing staff.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Back to School Night on September 25<sup>th</sup>. I hope you learned about our teachers' expectations and what your child does in class. We have Parent Conferences coming later this month (October 17<sup>th</sup>). I will send out a link to a sign-up for conferences in the coming days.

Families, several students are arriving at school in the morning with energy drinks. These drinks usually contain high levels of sugar and or caffeine and tend to make it challenging for students to focus. I would suggest our students would be better served to drink water when they are thirsty!

Please consider attending the PTO Halloween Party on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Last year's event was a big hit and everyone had fun.

Sincerely,  
Bill

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

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors meeting, 6:00 p.m.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 p.m. Dismissal, 1:00-7:30 p.m. Parent Conferences

October 18<sup>th</sup> – School CLOSED – Teacher Inservice

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Open House for prospective students

October 25<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Burtch's and Ms. Kohlbrenner's classes to Philadelphia

October 26<sup>th</sup> – PTO Halloween Party, 6:00 p.m.

November 1<sup>st</sup> – End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period

November 8<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards mailed

### **Staffing Update**

Although many of you have met her, our new art teacher is Liz Riggio. Liz comes to us from a charter school in Philadelphia and is a graduate of Temple. In addition to teaching art, Liz is in charge of our yearbook, is working 1-1 with students, and is seeking grants for community-wide art projects. One such project includes a grant to secure a bee hive on our property.



Mrs. Fredericks, Corley, and Sarah having fun while using the green screen.

### **From Our Counselor** by Evan Schullery

What a Welcome!

When I interviewed with Mr. Bennett and saw TCS for the first time, I knew it was a special place. Over this past month, my first impression has been more than confirmed. I have felt so welcomed by staff, students, and parents, that I know I made the right choice to join the TCS community. On my first day, one of the students asked me if I wanted to take a walk with her so we could get to know each other. I was amazed at her willingness to extend a hand to the new guy to make him feel comfortable! Of course, I accepted and we had a pleasant conversation around the track on a beautiful day.

There have been numerous situations like this that have convinced me that TCS provides a unique opportunity to effect change in the lives of our students. There is a sense of “we’re all in this together” that lets everyone know that they are not alone in whatever struggle they might

be facing. Our staff are understanding of these individual challenges, while also ensuring that each student reaches their full potential. I am proud to be a part of this process!

Each of our students is unique, so I have been tailoring my interventions accordingly. I have been working with students on various strategies, such as self-regulation, positive thinking, and communication skills. I am quite impressed by the level of awareness our students have of what they each need to work on. Not to mention, every single student has complied with seeing me when I've asked. This cooperation has been a pleasant surprise that leaves me optimistic about each students' personal goals being achieved this year.

I have also been impressed by the level of parental involvement at TCS. Whether it's attending an after-hours activity or sending an email update to staff, the collaboration between home and school has been an invaluable support. I look forward to continuing to build these relationships as the year progresses and I am optimistic about where we can go together. Thank you all for welcoming me to TCS!

### **Classic Cinema Class** by Steven Burtch

Classic Cinema students have begun a series on the films of Alfred Hitchcock. The series began with the silent classic, *The Lodger* (1927). Students enjoyed the movie, giving it an average rating of 8.5 out of 10. Student now are watching *The 39 Steps* (1935), a classic suspense film from Hitchcock's British Period.

### **Furry Friends at TCS**

Our school is happy to welcome Gidget, AKA Brownie's wife. The two guinea pigs love to sit with students who need a boost or just enjoy hanging out with them as they do their classwork. Picklepuff the chinchilla continues to support students as well.



Amber and Gidget taking a break.

Romeo and Picklepuff pose for a picture.

### **Earth Science**

Mrs. Culler's Earth Science class is studying natural disasters. They have completed multiple hurricane and tornado experiments to recreate the vortex effect found in both weather events.



Angie and Sam hope there is no explosion!

### **Summer Reading was "Marvelous"**

TCS students did an amazing job reading The Mer Series over the summer. Everyone participated in a schoolwide event of art, music, and drama to share their summer reading projects. The event included a chance to interview the author. All students did a fabulous job acting as interviewers and showing their unique talents!



Mrs. Griffith decorated the stage for our Mer reading celebration. The book was written by TCS teacher Mary Culler!



John, Sam C., and Justin pose at movie night

**Intro to Coding** is currently focused on learning HTML coding for websites. We've learned the basics: that all documents must start with a document type declaration; that the HTML document itself begins with <html> and ends with </html>; the main body is between <body> and </body>. We explored the six types of headings; ordered and unordered lists and adding pictures. They are currently working on creating their own website.

**Circuits & Robotics** is currently concentrating on circuits. We learned about simple circuits, series circuits, and parallel circuits with "paper circuits," using LEDs, copper tape, and a battery on paper creations. We're having fun and getting our hands dirty with "squishy circuits!" We created our own conductive dough and insulation dough in the kitchen. We created a sculpture in the dough, then we used the dough along with a 9-volt battery pack and a LED. Next, we'll use Makey Makey, a circuit board attached to a computer. More about that next month!



**Podcasting** is working in two groups. One group is creating a “Movie Genre” podcast, and the other is creating a “Sports” podcast. We started the year with three teacher interviews to learn how to use the app and the microphones.

**Chroma Key** (aka Green Screening) has two projects going. One group is recreating the “I’m Flying” scene from Titanic, and the other group is doing a parody on a music video. Both groups are working furiously, and I can’t wait to see the finished videos!

**Game Design** is using two programs: Construct 3 and Piskel. Construct 3 is a fantastic programming and game design program, and Piskel is an online animation creator. There is a fairly steep learning curve to each, but the students are doing a great job!

### **Student Phones/Devices**

Students may not use phones and other devices during instructional times. Phone are to be off and not visible after 8:45 a.m. until lunch time. They must be off and not visible after lunch until 3:15 p.m. Students will be warned for the first two weeks of school. After that period of time, the phone or device will be confiscated by Mr. Bennett and held for a parent/guardian to pick up.

### **Snacks**

We encourage students to bring in a healthy, protein-rich snack. These items may include cheese crackers, yogurt, and granola bars. Students should also bring a re-usable water bottle. We have a water cooler for them to use in refilling their bottles.

### **School Directory**

We have compiled a school directory that was handed out at Back to School Night. Please make sure you do not share the information in the directory with any other organization.

### **PTO FOR 2019-2020 YEAR**

Come to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Party on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. See the flier at the end of this newsletter and don’t forget to RSVP!

## **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.

**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>



If you shop at Giant, sign up for this program and help earn money for TCS. To support a school (up to two schools can be supported):

You need your 11-digit BONUSCARD® number found on the back of the card  
Beginning AUGUST 3, 2018 Visit [www.giantfoodstores.com](http://www.giantfoodstores.com) click on SIGN IN, MANAGE MY ACCOUNT, SAVINGS & REWARDS (top right) to log on to your online account or click REGISTER to create your on-line account. Once you are logged in to your account, you can select a school for A+ Rewards – the ID for TCS is **40184**. Or you can call the BONUSCARD® Hotline at 1-888-814-4268 and select Option #1 for assistance.

If you have a BONUSCARD® but do not know your 11-digit BONUSCARD® number, call the BONUSCARD® HOTLINE at 1-888-814-4268 and select Option #1.



# HALLOWEEN PARTY!

**OCTOBER 26 @ 6 P.M.  
THE CONCEPT SCHOOL**

**Please join us for  
games, contests, and  
lots of fun!**

**Hot dogs, treats & drinks  
will be provided.**

**Mummy Wrapping Contest • Family Feud  
Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag  
Donut on a String and much more!**

**RSVP: [wbennett@theconceptschoo.org](mailto:wbennett@theconceptschoo.org)  
or [gkrajicek@comcast.net](mailto:gkrajicek@comcast.net)**