



November 1, 2019

Dear TCS Families,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend conferences with your child's teachers. Families and teachers seemed very pleased with the progress the students are making. Please be sure to reach out to any of us at TCS if you have any questions about school. We do not have to wait for conferences!

We have several upcoming field trips that families are expected to pay for and I wanted to let you know that we do everything possible to keep the costs at a reasonable level. I realize that what is reasonable for one family may not be to another. If you ever need assistance in paying for a field trip for your daughter or son, please call me or counselor Evan Schullery and let us know. We want every student to benefit from all aspects of the TCS education.

Finally, we will begin selling healthy snacks next week for 50 cents. Students should come to the office if they wish to purchase one.

Sincerely,
Bill

Important dates to mark on your family calendar:

November 8th – Report Cards mailed

Cruisin' Smart assembly, 9:00 a.m.

November 15th – Potential trip to Insectarium, 9:00-2:00

November 20th – Open House for prospective students

November 27th-29th – SCHOOL CLOSED – Thanksgiving

December 5th – Shakespeare assembly from DeSales University, 8:50 a.m.

December 18th – Board of Directors meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 19th – Shakespeare Play, 7:00 p.m.

December 20th – SCHOOL CLOSED – Teacher Inservice

December 23rd- January 1st – SCHOOL CLOSED – Winter Break

January 2nd – School Reopens



Reminder about the Canada Trip

TCS is planning a trip to Ontario, Canada for Spring Break. The trip will introduce students to a variety of sites in a region known as "The "Golden Horseshoe". This region is home to two of Canada's largest cities (i.e., Toronto, Hamilton) as well as Niagara Falls. The trip will take about six days, including two days to drive to/from Ontario.

Several students have confirmed their interest by completing an expression of interest form and providing a \$200 deposit (checks are being held for the trip). There is room for 1-2 more students. If you and your student are interested, please complete the expression of interest and provide your deposit. We want to confirm the number of participants before December 15, 2019 so that plans can be firmed up for transportation, accommodation and activities. In addition, students will need passports to cross the international border. Passports can be obtained through the U.S. Post Office. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Burtch (sburtch@theconceptschoo.org).

Intro to Coding class has progressed to CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). CSS is a way of giving "style" to a website. Additionally, we are examining websites for content, and determining if they are a reliable site for references. Along with this, we're determining how to best do an efficient Internet Search.

Circuits & Robotics class is learning Scratch, an introductory programming language. We are creating a game so that we can use our Makey Makey controllers to operate the games. I can't wait to see what they accomplish!



In **Podcasting**, the students are just completing their newest podcasts. We have a variety of podcasts this time: "Pokemon," "Firefighting," "The New York Yankees," and a "Debate on Gas vs Electric cars." Students did all the research and writing before attempting to do the podcast so they were knowledgeable about the subject.

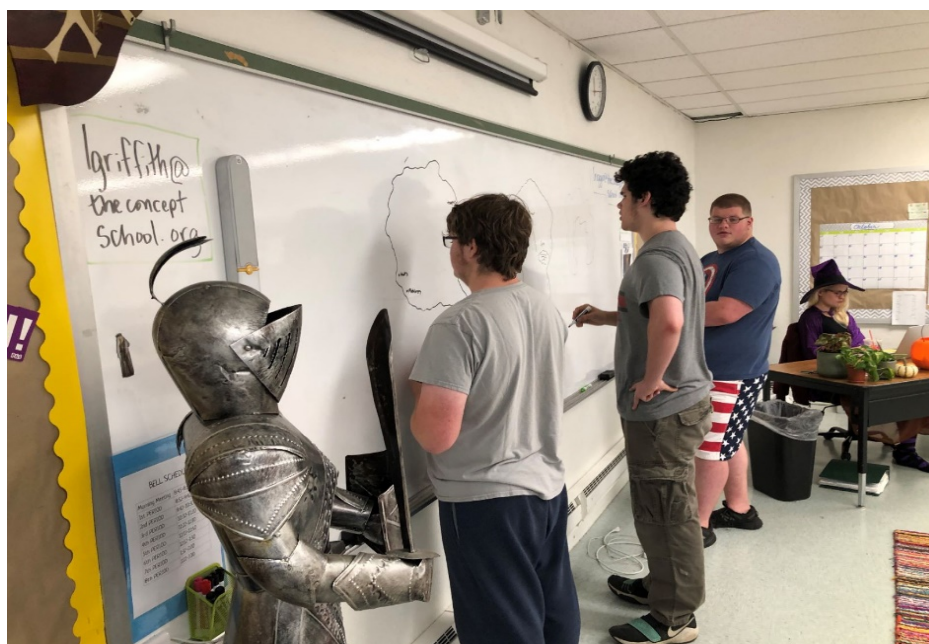
Game Design just learned how to create different layouts for their games, and how to create players and monsters/enemies. Next, we'll learn how to have the "enemies" move continuously on their own so that the "player" will have to try to avoid them.

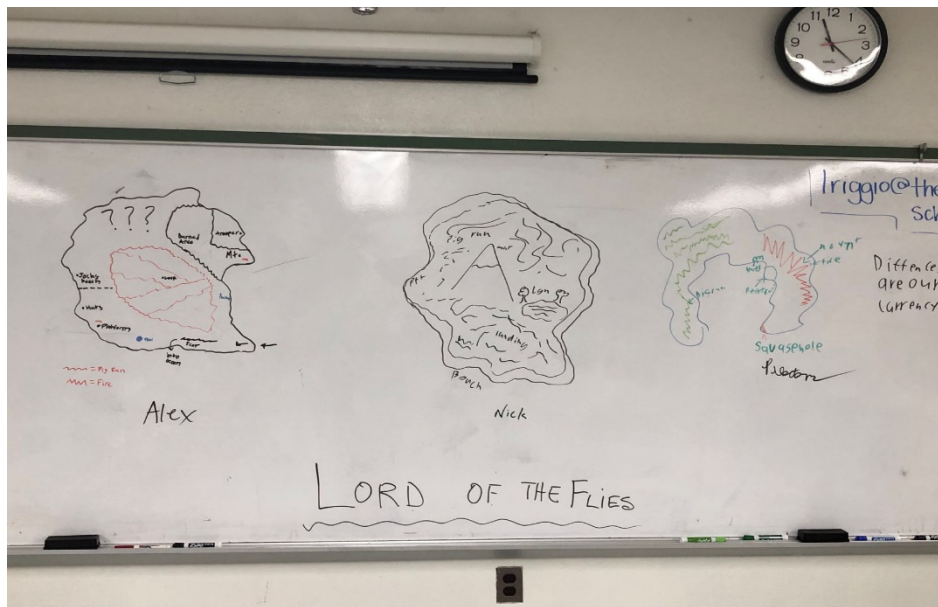
Chroma Key (Green Screening) class finished their current projects: "I'm Flying" scene from Titanic, and "Music Video." Our next project has a Halloween theme (even though it will be past Halloween). This project will allow the students to be creative and have fun with it, as well.



English Language Arts News

Mrs. Griffith's British Literature class is reading *Lord of the Flies*. Here, Alex, Nick, and Preston are creating maps of the island.





In a discussion this week in **British Literature**, Preston made a beautiful text-to-life connection. In *Lord of the Flies*, when one of the antagonists is no longer in proximity to a bullied character, the bullied character feels at ease, full of peace, and able to be himself. The other boys on the island look up to him now.

Preston said, "When Jack (the antagonist) is around, that is how we all felt at our old schools--bullied...like we didn't matter. At TCS, we feel like Piggy (the bullied character) when Jack isn't around. Not only can we be ourselves, but we can shine. At TCS, our differences are our currency." I thought this was a profound statement.

Students in Mrs. Griffith's **American Literature** class have finished reading *Of Mice and Men*, wrote a poem, and are currently learning how to write an analytical essay.

Students in Mrs. Griffith's **World Literature** classes have completed a unit on satire and are now reading Ayn Rand's novel *Anthem* and discussing the dangers of true equality. As Preston said in my other class, "Our differences ARE our currency!"

From Our Counselor by Evan Schullery A Note from Bear

My dad has been bringing me to TCS for about a month now and I love it! When we enter TCS in the early morning, I can't wait to be taken off my leash so I can run circles around the APR until I'm dizzy! I've gotten to meet all of the students and I have a lot of great friends, like Sam VD, Tor, Romeo, Thomas, and Angie to name a few. They pet me and even walk me outside! They also say 'hi' to me before they say 'hi' to my dad. Sorry, dad! They really are a great group of students and I'm so happy that I get to spend one day a week with them.

If I wasn't at TCS on Thursdays, I would be at my grandparents' house where it's a lot more boring and where I have less friends. My older golden retriever sister, Ellie, even bullies me whenever I get more attention than she does. No one bullies me at TCS and I get all the attention I want!

I enjoy cozying up in my dad's office and helping students when they take a break. They pet me and seem to calm down. I always try to remind them, when things seem like they're moving little too fast, just remember that you can always hit paws.

See you Thursdays!
- Bear Schullery



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