



**December 3, 2019**

Dear TCS Families,

We are in full-Shakespeare mode here at school! Students are excited about the upcoming play. You can read more about the upcoming events later in the newsletter. Please note that students remain at school on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, and continue preparing for the play. We will provide a dinner – with your help! You can sign-up to contribute by clicking the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ca5ae2aa3fa7-shakespeare1>

Thank you all for your delicious contributions to our Thanksgiving Feast on November 26! The students watched a Ted Talk on being thankful and then chowed down! Thanks for the parents who were able to help us get ready, serve and clean up that day.

Finally, the last page of this newsletter has a flier about our end of the year, Senior Farewell Dance/Party. Please expect to be hearing more about this from the PTO and how you can help!

Sincerely,  
Bill

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

December 5<sup>th</sup> – Shakespeare assembly from DeSales University, 9:00 a.m.

December 13<sup>th</sup> – School Pictures, 9:00 a.m. – ordering information sent home with students

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 19<sup>th</sup> – Shakespeare Play, 7:00 p.m.

December 20<sup>th</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED – Teacher Inservice

December 23<sup>rd</sup>- January 1<sup>st</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED – Winter Break

January 2<sup>nd</sup> – School Reopens

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Trip to see Philadelphia murals, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

January 20<sup>th</sup> – School CLOSED – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period, end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester

**Transition News**

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is working with The Concept School again this year. We are having monthly workshops with Angelica Webster as part of the OVR Pre-Employment Transition Services. These workshops highlight the soft skills and employment skills that students need to get jobs now and in the future. If you have any questions please contact Marti Phillips at [mphillips@theconceptschooll.org](mailto:mphillips@theconceptschooll.org).

## Trip to Philadelphia

On Friday October 25, a group of Consumer/Business Math and Business students visited the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the U.S. Mint and WHYY in Philadelphia. The trip was packed with learning about monetary policy, the manufacturing of coins and the operation of a radio and television broadcaster. The students enjoyed themselves.



## Officer Andrew Clauhs

TCS alum, Andrew Clauhs, '04, came back to TCS to talk to our students about his journey to become a police officer. What a wonderful transition message he had to share. He highlighted the amount of perseverance it took for him to meet his goals, including reaching out to find mentors along the way. He spoke about having the important character trait of empathy and that treating people with kindness is always the right thing to do. He answered all of the students many questions about life, the military and police work. Andrew left



business cards for the students so that they will be able to reach out to him if they need guidance along the way. We are so grateful for his message and his time. Thanks so much, Officer Clauhs!



Faith was one of many students who held a hissing cockroach at the Insectarium during our trip there on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a wonderful experience for all.

### **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. 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@theconceptschool.org](mailto:sburtch@theconceptschool.org)).

**Classic Cinema** students are continuing their study of the films of Alfred Hitchcock. After watching and discussing *The Lodger* (1927), *The 39 Steps* (1935), *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943) (Hitchcock's personal favorite), they now are viewing *Strangers on a Train* (1951).





Romeo and Sam react to a suspenseful scene in cinema class

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

#### A Lesson in Gratitude

The day before Thanksgiving break, I had the privilege of doing a presentation on gratitude for the entire school community. I screened a youth Ted Talk performed by a young man who, after narrowly avoiding a horrible car accident, had begun a journey to say “thank you” to one person a day for an entire year. He describes different people in his life that he thanked over the course of that year, some of whom were close family members, while others were friends or merely acquaintances of some kind. The one commonality between all of these people was that they all had impacted the young man positively in some way, however big or small.

The speaker mentioned that he used to wake up in the morning and find something to complain about, even prior to leaving his bed. Now, during this gratitude exercise, he woke up and asked himself, “Who am I going to thank today?” He revealed that this change in mindset positively impacted his attitude for the rest of the day. We discussed the implication of this as a group and agreed that the lesson is that what we choose to think about and where we choose to put our energy can dictate how our day goes. There will always be things to complain about, but there are also always things to be grateful for. Making the conscious choice to acknowledge what you are grateful for can go a long way in minimizing any anguish over what you think might be missing in your life.

I asked the group to think about one person they were grateful for and passed out rubber bands to wear as a symbol of that person. A few brave students shared and spoke about the people in their lives they were thankful for, which was wonderful. I encouraged everyone to make an effort to tell that person, if possible, that they were grateful for them. I hope they did. If not, it’s not too late.

Showing gratitude should not just be a one-time-a-year event. The speaker in the video encouraged the audience to show gratitude daily, even for the smallest of polite gestures. I think we are all grateful to be a part of the TCS community. I know I am. Let’s continue to show it and continue to tell those in our lives who support us, “Thank you.”

### **English News**

Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Griffith have combined their English classes in preparation for our upcoming Shakespeare Night. We will be performing the TCS version of Taming of the Shrew! We have watched and discussed two wonderful adaptations of Taming of the Shrew: an old episode of the television show "Moonlighting" and a 2010 film "Ten Things I Hate About You". Additionally, De Sales

University is bringing their theater troupe to TCS on Thursday, December 5. They will perform scenes from Taming of the Shrew and will workshop the play a bit with us. This exposure to live theater, coupled with the versions we have watched, will give students a better understanding and appreciation of The Bard!

We look forward to working with our script this week and beginning to utilize the stage as early as next week. Keep Thursday, December 19 marked on your calendar, for that is our performance night.

Finally, please return all permission slips as soon as possible.

See you at the show!

**Intro to Coding** has finished HTML and CSS website programming. We've progressed to JavaScript, where we we've studied and practice coding with sprites, variables, randomizing, parameters, animation, counters, and loops.

**Circuits & Robotics** class is continuing with 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!

**Game Design** just completed a complex space game! We had a player with enemies that attacked randomly, we gained points when we destroyed an enemy, and lost points when the enemy collided with us. We created a scoreboard that displayed both score and health.

**Chroma Key** (Green Screening) class is working on their current project that has a Halloween (or scary) theme. This time the students wrote their story in a Google doc, then completed a storyboard that showed each scene of the story. Next, we'll record the footage; upload into WeVideo, edit in WeVideo, and add music to the background.

## **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](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>



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.

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## Shakespeare Permission Slip 2019

Hello TCS Parents!

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 19 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 18.
5. Your child will remain at school after dismissal on the day of the performance on December 19. 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/409084ca5ae2aa3fa7-shakespeare1>
6. You will need to cancel your child's regular transportation from school on Thursday, December 19.
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.**

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 19 at 7pm.
- ☐ My child has my permission to remain after school on Thursday, December 19 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 19.
- ☐ I will ensure that my child has transportation home after the performance.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



THE BIGGEST. THE LAST. THE BEST EVER.  
A UNIQUE PARTY YOU WON'T FORGET.



## ***Sr Farewell Dance/Party***

May 30, 2019  
7-11pm  
TCS

**All Students can attend  
the Dance/Party**

Please let us know if you are  
planning to attend.