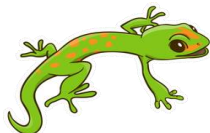




Newsletter Date: November 11, 2021

The Gecko



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Happy November! We just finished our 1st marking period of the year and report cards were mailed on Friday, Nov 12, 2021. Please let us know if you do not receive it within a reasonable amount of time and we can send you one via email. I was very pleased with the overall performance of our students!

We are entering a busy time of year for all of us and for those of us at TCS, our Shakespeare play adds a whole new dimension. We did not do Shakespeare last year due to the pandemic and are excited to get back with the tradition this year. You will be receiving separate information from Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Griffith about the play on Tuesday, December 21st, at 7:00 p.m. While family and friends are invited to attend and witness the magic in person, please note that we are requiring all audience members provide proof of vaccination in order to be allowed into the theatre. You can email the proof to Mrs. Piccone (cpiccone@theconceptschooll.org) or bring your card that evening. Masks will be required, as well.

Finally, we will soon be mailing out information seeking donations for The Concept School Annual Fund. I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue to grow and improve the educational programs we offer.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. I give thanks each day to be able to work at TCS with your daughters and sons and the most amazing staff in the world!

Bill



November 24-26 – Thanksgiving Break

December 21 – Shakespeare Play

December 23-31 – Winter Break



The Concept School Community is happy to welcome Mrs. Miranda Stouch as our new Physical Education/Health teacher. Please read her message below to everyone:

Dear Concept Families,

My name is Miranda Stouch and I am excited to be your child's new Health and Physical Education Teacher at The Concept School! I will be in the building on Wednesdays each week and teach three physical education classes and two health classes. Students will rotate into health class each marking period.

I have a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from West Chester University and a master's degree in Special Education from Holy Family University. I look forward to teaching students the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle. This year we will explore the benefits of cooperative sports and circuit training in Physical Education and the human body's systems as they relate to Health.

Along with the rest of the skilled teaching team at The Concept School, I look forward to a safe, productive, and FUN school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Miranda Stouch

mstouch@theconceptschoool.org



TCS will kick off its 2021-2022 National Honor Society (NHS) program at the end of November. Interested students in grades 10-12 should formally express their interest to Mr. Burtch or another member of the TCS NHS Steering Team (i.e., Ms. Kohlbrenner, Mr. Schullery, Ms. Tilmon). Applicants will be assigned a mentor or two from the TCS staff who will help candidates strengthen their applications. Applicants will be required to submit a personal essay and complete an interview in the spring of 2022.

As mentioned in the September newsletter, the NHS is a national organization for high school students in the U.S. Chapters can be found in high schools across the country. Selection is based on four criteria: Scholarship (academic achievement), Leadership, Service, and Character. TCS is home to the Mark Tucker Chapter of the National Honor Society.

If you have questions, please ask a member of the TCS NHS Steering Team.

Classroom News

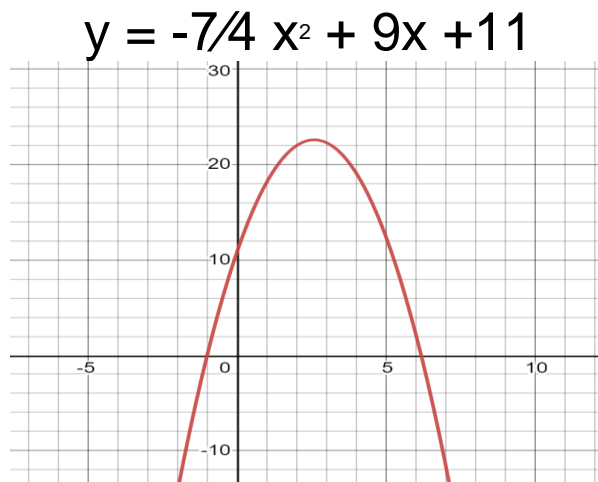
In Mr. Burtch's Math class:

Nate Aguilar, Nick Moscufo and Elena Witman completed a major project in Financial Math. The Expense Project challenged students to analyze a large set of real expense data using Google Sheets. They documented their work in a formally written "consulting report". What was the reward for their efforts (other than the inherent fun of doing math)? They received a prize of delicious Mexican soda - muy bueno.



Nate, Nick, and Elena with [alcohol free] Sangria Seniorial and Mango Jarritos, grande size. Yum!

John Krajicek passed an important algebraic rite of passage by solving for the roots (or zeros) of the quadratic equation using the method of Completing the Square:



The roots are $x = -1.019$ and $x = 6.162$. Well done, John!

In Mrs. Phillips' Transitions Class:

OVR Workshop

Angelica Webster, from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, is continuing her monthly workshops for Transition classes. This month we explored resumes and started to brainstorm ideas for writing our own. Students discussed their unique strengths and we looked at many student resume samples. We will be working on this in class next marking period.

Transition Speaker - Drugs and Alcohol

Liv Houser, MA, who works as a primary therapist at Ethos Treatment, came to TCS to discuss drugs and alcohol. She started by sharing her own story as a student, the paths she took in her life, and her journey into recovery. She then discussed different types of drugs including tobacco/vaping and alcohol along with the negative effects they have on a young body. The students gave lots of positive feedback and many stayed after the assembly to talk to Liv. Here is her professional bio: <https://www.ethostreatment.com/lhouser>



In Mrs. Wright's English Classes:



News from the Baker Street Readers

Sleuths and sidekicks! Oh my! The Baker Street Readers have delved into the life and legacy of Sherlock Holmes. Did you know that Sherlock Holmes is so beloved that he has become a *palimpsest*, and that the deerstalker hat and pipe were not a part of Arthur Conan Doyle's original character? Students are enjoying reading the Sherlock Holmes mystery *A Scandal in Bohemia*. So far we've documented an anonymous letter, a disguised visitor, a "scandalous" photograph, and have transcribed many Victorian words and phrases. They're eager to read the rest!



An absolutely timely read!

Students in Mrs. Wright's 7th period ELA class are enjoying the book, *Absolutely Truly: A Pumpkin Falls Mystery* by Heather Vogel Fredericks. Another mystery, a self-proclaimed detective, and a call for desperate measures are what make this read SO fantastic. Students have worked on "Six-Word-Character Memoirs", discovering the beautiful fall landscapes of New Hampshire, and have worked with symbolism through "emojis!"

✧ ✧ Theatre News ✧ ✧

Mrs. Wright's Theatre class is gearing up for our annual Shakespeare Festival! "Don't Say M*cBeth!" (Seriously, don't! It is a bad omen!) Her class is studying scenes, dialogue, characters, and working through understanding Elizabethan English all-the-while having a blast! Within the coming week (first week of November), Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Wright will be announcing student roles! Students and teachers are looking forward to putting together a fantastic production this year! TCS' Annual Shakespeare Festival is set for Tuesday, December 21, 2021!

Maliki is intently reading over selected scenes for this year's Shakespeare Production in Mrs. Wright's Theatre class.



A kind Experiment!

"Oscar" is a lime tree gifted to Mrs. Wright from our student Sean. Students who are in Mrs. Wright's classes and those who stop by to visit are encouraged to greet Oscar, compliment Oscar, tell Oscar a joke, or practice their foreign language vocab! The point is to see how well Oscar grows through the kindness of others!



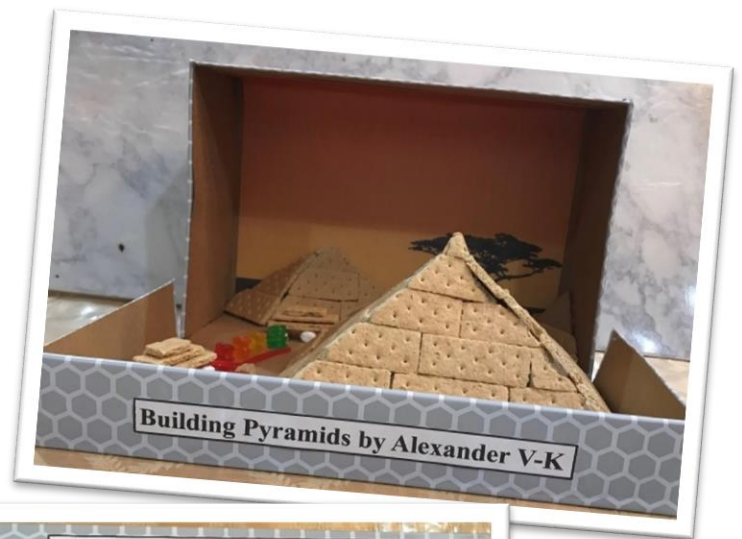
Students enjoy a German strategy game, “Bonanza” with Mrs. Culler, Mr. Burtch, and Jasper!



Nick, Nathan, Jack, Henry, and Justin gathered to play a strategy (and social opportunity) board game called Dixit. This is a "fan favorite!"



In Mrs. Culler's classes:
Diorama by Alex Var-Khuon

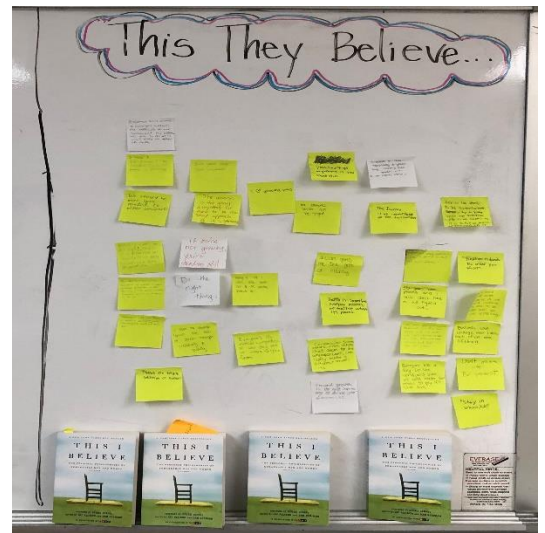


The event depicted is the building of the Egyptian pyramids. Slaves and laborers moved materials. Craftsmen oversaw the construction and scribes recorded the event. The pharaoh observed the work.

- Graham crackers: Pyramids & building materials
- Marshmallows: Transport rollers/Wheels
- Twizzlers: Ropes
- Animal cookies: Camels
- Gummy bears: Builders/Workers/Pharaoh

In Mrs. Griffith's English Classes:

Elena doing hard things in Mrs. Griffith's English class.
Growth! Go Elena!



Students in Mrs. Griffith's 7th period Theater class are striking a pose after walking the track in a variety of roles. We walked like we were toddlers just learning to find their steps, models on the catwalk, soldiers heading into battle, actors in a haunted house, and more!



Student Essays

Maliki Pettiford
Mrs. Griffith
ELA
November 3, 2021

My Most Hated Candy

I hate circus peanuts with a passion. My first reason for why I hate circus peanuts is they are made with marshmallows that have pork in them. So, they make me extremely sick, and it feels like I'm gonna die. My second reason is they are just disgusting. The taste of them is nasty. It's like drinking salt water, eating a bag of marshmallows, and eating school lunch mashed potatoes. My third reason is they numb the top of my mouth. They also don't even taste like peanuts. It's hard to get that numbing sensation out of your mouth. Then you start talking funny because your mouth feels weird. Just everything about circus peanuts is horrible.



LeSabien Brown
Mrs Griffith
ELA
November 3, 2021

Hey, I am LeSabien and I hate Peeps

I hate Peeps. First, I hate Peeps because of the texture of the candy. And I HATE the marshmallow inside the peeps. It is terrible. The outside looks good. It has sugar on the outside and feels like a toy I had when I was a kid. It makes my fingers jump because the Peeps are squishy. The sugar is sticky. I don't like that feeling on my fingers or my tongue. Next, the taste is terrible. When you first bite into the Peep, it tastes sugary, which I like. But then you get to the marshmallow taste. It tastes like made up marshmallows. As soon as the marshmallow hits my taste buds, I feel like I am going to throw up. It reminds me of how I feel when I eat collard greens. Finally, I don't like what Peeps look like. The shape is weird. I wonder, at first, if they really killed a duck because it is shaped like a duck. The pink ones remind me of flamingos. I don't hate flamingos, but I don't want to eat anything that looks like an animal. I won't eat things that look like animals because it makes me sad. I think about killing animals, and I don't like that. Once, I had a nightmare about Peeps. I was thinking of myself sitting at a long desk in a chair. All of a sudden, a Peep popped in front of me. A whole bunch of Peeps gathered around me, and a random dude came and said you have to eat all these Peeps and greens with no water. I started to cry. One Peep remained. The Peep popped up and jumped in my mouth. Then I woke up scared. Therefore, Peeps, stay away from me!



The Concept School Halloween Bash!

Thank you to our PTO President, Georgie Krajicek, for organizing our annual Halloween Party. Here are some photo highlights...



**Board
Game Club**

Tabletop Game Club



Tabletop Game Club Continues in November!

Our NEXT meeting is:

Wednesday, November 17th from 3:30-5PM

Students remain after school and must be picked up by a parent or carpool promptly at 5:00 PM. (Please note: Parents must contact their district transportation to inform them of changes to your student's bussing schedule.) Permission slips will be distributed at school.

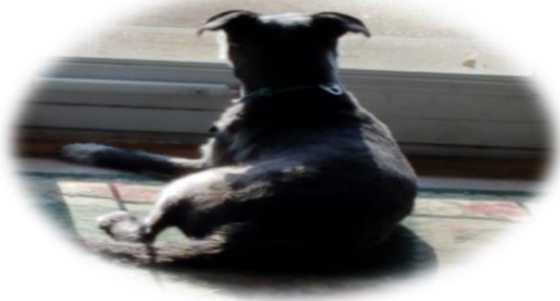
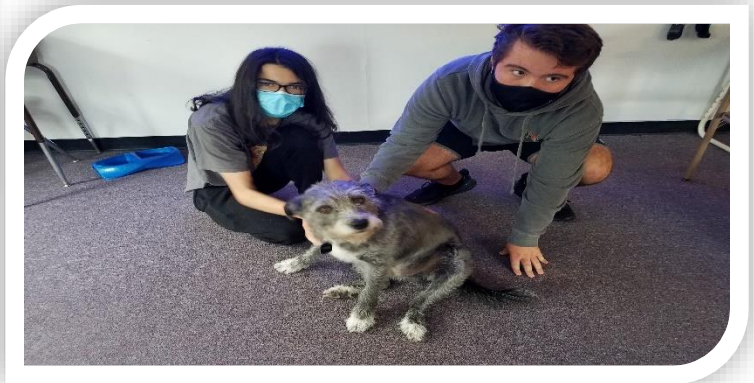


The many sides of Jasper...

Professor Jasper is holding another master class with James on stress management.



Jasper with his "pup"-erazzi



Jasper, the Math and Security Dog

TCS Picture Gallery

TCS HALLOWEEN



FIELD TRIP

Chester County Historical Society

Walking tour – Underground RR

