



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Dear Concept Families:

Here we are, heading into spring, as the outside world begins to turn green. Although we didn't have much of a winter, I am ready for warmer weather and being outside in the sun.

Our National History Day presentations were impressive. I hope you enjoyed learning about each student's topic if you were able to be here on March 17th. While all of our students did a great job, I am especially proud of LeSabien Brown who won first place in his category of Individual Performance in the Senior Division and will move on to the state competition in Scranton. DJ Tedrow was a 3rd place winner in the Paper Category in the Junior Division and is moving on to the state competition, as well.

I appreciate your support of having phones off and away during instructional times at school. While we are on the topic of cell phones, I want to tell you that I am seriously considering not allowing students to use phones at any time during the school day, including lunch, for the 2023-2024 school year. They have proven to be a major distraction during classes, and students use them at lunch on social media, which causes issues for many students. More detailed information will be forthcoming, but I wanted you to know early. We will be sharing this information with students, as well.

Happy Spring,

Bill



March 31 – End of 3rd Marking Period April 27 – Spring Arts Festival May 11 – Spring Production May 16 – Primary Election – school closed May 29 – Memorial Day – school closed June 12 – Awards Day – 12:00 dismissal June 13 – Graduation Day – 12:00 dismissal June 14 – Last day of school – 12:00 dismissal





Parents, Teachers, Staff, & Students!

We are pleased to announce the launching of The Concept School instagram page! Keep up with what we are doing as a school collectively and as a community.

 See your scholars and all the wonderful work they are producing.

• Stay Up to date with school activities and important events!

We look forward to highlighting our school staff, our student body and their accomplishments.

The Concept School Instagram page will share and spread POSITIVITY!

FOLLOW US @TheConceptSchool1972

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY®

National History Day at TCS 2023 was a day in which students presented their hard work in front of parents, teachers, and classmates. Their projects this year related to the theme of Frontiers: People, Places, and Ideas. The morning was filled with healthy historical dialogue, and everyone learned about each other's interests and discussed well researched historical information.

The following students placed as a regional qualifier:

Junior Division

Oliver Allen Ryan Stulak DJ Tedrow

Senior Division

LeSabien Brown Spencer Rosin Robert Adelson Sam Mandell Keira Myertetus Romeo Gonzalez

Honorable Mention

Faith McAfee Mark Mack Sean O'Hara Joey Dodsworth

Regional Winners:

LeSabien Brown, 1st place Performance Research Paper: DJ Tedrow, Third place Exhibit: Sam Mandell, Honorable Mention

Pictured below: Spencer, Sam, Keira, LeSabien, & Robert Not pictured - Romeo





Anxiety and the Brain

Anxiety and stress were elevated for many of us prior to the National History Day presentations, so I felt it was appropriate to address how these uncomfortable internal conditions can develop. During last week's P.E. class, we had a discussion about the brain: the primary source of stress and anxiety. We watched a video that described 3 main parts of our brains: Smart Brain, Emotional Brain, and Survival Brain.



When faced with a real dangerous situation, our Smart Brain turns off and our Emotional Brain signals our Survival Brain to activate. Once activated, our Survival Brain gives us 3 choices: Fight, Run, or Freeze. This stress response can be useful if we encounter a bear in the woods, but it's much less helpful when we have to speak in front of others. Even though situations like public speaking, taking a test, or introducing yourself to someone are not life-or-death situations, our brain can get confused and tell us that it is!

Understanding when our brains are sending us the wrong message about an event is an important step in managing intense stress and anxiety. We can stop and tell ourselves, "Wait, this is just a false alarm. I'm not in any real danger. There is no bear." This may take some practice, but in time we can condition ourselves to respond more appropriately. Of course, there may still be some situations where fighting, running, or freezing are the best options to protect ourselves. However, for those other times that aren't threatening our survival, we want to be able to respond proportionally and not react with more anxiety than what is useful. Otherwise, intense anxiety can keep us from having new and valuable experiences like NHD.

The TCS students proved that they can push through their anxiety around public speaking as they presented their NHD projects to a room full of new people. I commend them for stepping out of their comfort zones and getting the job done. I hope we all remember that sometimes that big scary bear we think is standing right behind us is actually just slumbering in the cave between our ears.

-- Mr. Schullery

Staff Shoutout

TCS Teacher Has Book Signing



The Concept School's own Mrs. Culler had a book signing Saturday, March 25 at the Barnes and Noble in Exton! Mrs. Culler's latest book, "A New Year's Cat-aclysm: Holiday Pet Sleuth Mysteries" is a "cozy mystery with a twist of holiday romance."

Shout Out!

Several TCS staff members came out to support the signing, along with student Sam Mandel and his parents. It was a great showing of solidarity for a dedicated TCS teacher. Mrs. Culler has written 10 books so far and has 6 more released this year. She also oversees a voluntary Writer's Club during school lunches where she helps several TCS students write awesome stories of their own.

Mrs. Culler has another book signing at the Exton Barnes and Noble on April 29th, so feel free to come support! Mrs. Culler, thank you for setting an example of what is possible when one has a creative idea and works hard to turn it into a reality.

TCS is proud of you!





This year's yearbook cover contest winner is Harley Syracuse with her original design pictured below. Congratulations Harley!





Mrs. Griffith's English classes:

Mrs. Griffith's Writing classes spent time working on NHD and will resume studying the components of good descriptive writing. We will write our own pieces using figurative language to "show not tell". We continue their daily Writer's Notebook practice; some have written

over 30 pages since September!

Mrs. Griffith's Third Period Literature class

completed a film study of the movie *The Truman Show* delving deeper into the discussion of power, reality, ethics, and free will. Students created a gallery of images capturing their feelings about the final image of the film and wrote an essay about the most profound scenes. They also read several Bradbury short stories which were precursors to our novel study.





Mrs. Griffith's fourth period literature class will finish reading Jason Reynolds's *Ghost* this week. They will take their knowledge from the *Lion King* study and apply it to the ever-changing plot mountain on our wall! After reading chapter 2, the students loved it so much, they requested *Patina*, the next book in the series, as our next novel. They can't wait to see what happens and are very much enjoying Reynolds's writing style. Below, is a photo of Jack Ryan making a bold and record-breaking move on the Scrabble board! **Mrs. Griffith's fifth period** finished up their *Lord of the Flies* five paragraph essay designed to prepare them for the organization of their NHD writing. This group worked diligently and with no complaints on this challenging essay assignment in which they had to use in-text citation. We have been scaffolding all year. I am extremely proud of them for their grit, openness to learning, and willingness to take suggestions. We celebrated their growth with a donut and soft pretzel party outside!



Our Theater class has been studying the mystery

genre and reading Sherlock Holmes's *Scandal in Bohemia* in preparation for the table reading of Mrs. Culler's adaptation which we will perform in May!

Our theater trip to enjoy *Macbeth* at Hedgerow Theater is coming up on April 13th. If you haven't submitted your permission slip and money, please do so by Friday, March 31!

Mr. Burtch's Math class:

Financial math students have been working on a major module on Inflation, Interest, Foreign Exchange, and

Central Banks. They finished Inflation and are on to Interest, which is interesting.

Sean O'Hara exhibits some good old-fashioned kindness and appreciation.

In Mr. Burtch's math class, students can win a delicious, fresh, fruity, all natural Jarritos soda by scoring an A or A+ on a math assessment. Sean O'Hara has won a few, but Sean has indicated that he does not like Jarritos (maybe because they are too tasty). Today Sean won another and asked Mr. Burtch, "May I give my Jarritos away?" Mr. Burtch said, "Sure. It's your Jarritos. To whom do you want to give it?" Sean said, "Mrs. Zoccoli because she always stays late after school to help me with languages".



Congratulations Sean! You are a winner in more than one sense of the word. And so are you, Mrs. Zoccoli.



Perse completed a challenging quiz on parenthetical terms and exponents with 98.6% (A+). Their preferred prize: Goslings. Proof that

math pays (and good math pays better).

Justin winning a giant Jarritos after solving the

greatest number of "Nerdle" math puzzles in the past month.

Mrs. Fredericks' Classes:

Mrs. Fredericks' **3D Printing Class** just finished learning how to make cookie cutters and tealight holders. They learned how to create a basic star cookie cutter and we did some other designs of their choosing. After they were printed, we made cookies in the kitchen, and used their cookie cutters. We were able to give each staff member a cookie!

The class also created their own tealight holders. Again, we did a basic design and then they designed their own.



Mrs. Fredericks' **Game Design Classes** are learning how to use the program Construct 3 to create more difficult and complex games. This is a paid program that school purchases a subscription for us. This first game in Construct 3 has 2 sprites: a player and a collectible. To keep this game uncomplicated for a beginner, they used colored squares as the sprites. This game has keyboard controls setup so that the user can use either wasd or arrow keys to play. They create a function that says to spawn a new collectible every second. They added a variable to score a point every time a collectible is collected. Once they learned the basics, we changed the sprites to sprite characters of their choosing.

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Mrs. Fredericks' **Coding class** just created their own app using Code.org's App Lab. They learned why it is important to plan the app first and show what happens when you click a button, and where clicking that button should take you. They learned the importance of naming each string and variable. Finally, they had a small workable app.



ELA Literature Period 3



Per a student request, we delved into all things "Matilda"! In this reading unit, we not only did a close read of the novel, but also found various mentor texts to explore. One of the highlighted mentor texts was a song written by Harry Styles titled, "Matilda". The class analyzed and annotated the lyrics of the song for connections to the story; there were many! After that, we read an article where Harry Styles was interviewed about the meaning behind his song, "Matilda". The class learned that he used the story of Matilda to express a friend confiding in him about their childhood. We then watched a live performance of the song; everyone enjoyed it! Once the book concluded we watched the 2022 musical and enjoyed working through an assignment tailored to express student opinion of their preferred version (the novel or the book) and citing similarities and differences. We are now onto our next literary journey!

ELA Literature Period 5

We kicked off our current literary unit by highlighting author Jason Reynolds! Our class learned a lot about the life and writing style of Jason Reynolds before jumping into reading his acclaimed short story, "The Ingredients". The class loved this story because of its descriptive writing and imagery, and because they got to share their idea of a "perfect sandwich"; which made us all hungry! Our reading of "As Brave As You" has commenced after a few preliminary tasks to get ourselves ready to tackle this 400+ page novel. It is a story about two brothers spending a month with their grandparents during the summer and learning that their grandfather has a secret. This secret has the main character, Genie, wondering just how is his grandfather able to navigate life? As we make our way through this novel, I imagine we will be wondering about some of the same things!



ELA Literature Period 7



Seventh period students are wonderful "old sports" embracing this classic American Novel! At the rise of women's rights, prohibition, industrialism, and a change in social culture in America, students are immersed in the story of Jay Gatsby and his 'American Dream'. Throughout our literary journey students will be working with these literary devices; motif, theme, characterization, point of view, flashback, allusion, irony, internal conflict, external conflict, and epiphany. As this text is a tough read, we are also viewing the 2013 version of the movie. Students are enjoying being able to envision the intricate interconnectedness of the characters when the portion of the movie is shown after reading each chapter. As we read, we are keyed into the symbolism of the color green; envy, hope, rebirth, money (both new and old), and nature.

Writer's Highlights from the Students of Mrs. Wright:

"I Am Poem" Written by Mark Mack	
I am Sentimental and Kind.	I worry that people will bother me.
I wonder about the history of mythology.	I cry at nothing.
I hear an infinite playlist in remembrance of family.	I am Sentimental and Kind.
I see myself in many characters.	I understand that music is a powerful thing.
I want to be a writer.	I say the past is important.
I am Sentimental and Kind.	I dream that my computer will work.
I pretend when I'm on stage.	I try learning new skills.
I feel too many things at once.	I hope to build a successful future.
I touch the buttons on my PS5 console.	I am Sentimental and Kind.

"I Am Poem" Written by William Medico
I am energetic and caring.
I wonder what will happen next.
I hear the sound of a volcano erupting.
I see Sand Monsters everywhere I go.
I want candy.
I am energetic and caring.
I pretend to fall down.
I understand how I feel about myself.
I dream about my Sand Monster.
I try to be with my family every day.
I hope that I never move.
I am energetic and caring.

My Life in Ten Years By Robert Adelson

Ten years ago, people would call me a raccoon going through "trash", today people call me the new Indiana Jones. All my life I have always been going into trash cans, dumpsters, and abandoned buildings to find cool stuff. Over the years I have found an old cuckoo clock, a newspaper vending machine and a Mobile One Pegasus sign. I am now on my way to an old estate that has been abandoned for years. I have been told there may be an old safe lost somewhere within the barn.

When I finally made it to the property after two days of being on the train, I saw an old, dilapidated barn. My crew and I decided to go right into the barn. We could see there was a ton of old stuff in it. I was the first to go in, like always, and started to dig through heaping piles of junk left abandoned. Feeling disappointed as it was mostly trash, I moved some old crates filled with bottles and an older Schwinn bicycle to the side. I yelled to my crew in excitement as my eyes laid upon a big metal box. It took two other guys and me to pull it out of the rest of the junk. Once we had it out, we could see it was safe. I have had some experience in the past with old safes, so I knew how to open it without the code.

I sent one of my crew to the truck to get my tools. As I worked on opening the safe, the rest of the guys kept searching through the barn. It took me a good twenty minutes using my drill and lock pick, but it eventually opened. We were all really excited when I opened the door. One of us even said, "I can't believe my eyes!" There were five items inside it. I pulled out the first item which was an old wooden box. Inside the box was a bunch of black and white family pictures. Although it is always neat to get a look into the past with these kinds of photographs, for me, they usually are not worth much. The second item that I took out of the safe was a silky-soft velvet box filled with gold and diamonds. This was a truly incredible find and made this trip worth it for my crew and I! The third thing was a bag full of WWII medals and a picture of the war hero they belonged to. When finding items like this, it is quite sobering. My crew usually puts these aside in a special box labeled, "Find the Owner" and starts up a search for finding a contact. The fourth thing was an old handgun that was kept safe in a wooden box. It still had a few shots left in the chamber. We knew we would be selling this item to an antique gun shop after dislodging the bullets. And the fifth and last item was a map that showed there was a house on the property as well. "Looks like we have a new adventure ahead boys", I exclaimed!

As you can see, I go on some very exciting adventures. Does it now make sense why I'm known as the new Indiana Jones? There is never a dull day in the life of Robert.

Theater News:



As the date approaches for our Spring Production, our class has read and discussed the short story version of 'A Scandal in Bohemia', watched the Jeremy Brett episode of the story, and we are now working through table reads. Students are excited for the performance and to aid in the brainstorming of staging our story. Along with ourselves, our students invite you to join us on Thursday, May 11th at 1:30pm for a 'scandalous' good time!

A special shout out to Mark Mack for helping to create this amazing graphic!

TCS Picture Gallery

Cheering on our Eagles (when there was hope!)



Furry Friends Corner...

Jasper helps Spencer with his photography assignment. Jasper is always eager to help.



Pickle Puff, as cute as always



Bear and social distancing as its finest!



National History Day Spotlight...

Senior Division



Junior Division



Student - Oliver Allen