

Newsletter Date: Summer 2023



#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:**

Dear Concept Families and Supporters,

We ended the 2022-2023 school year with a grand graduation ceremony for our seven seniors. They gave amazing speeches that underscored their hard work and support they received from family members, friends, and school staff. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and hope they will stay in touch with us at TCS!

The Board of Directors approved the hiring of an architectural firm to review our building and develop proposals for ways to modernize and improve the effectiveness of how the space is utilized. This is an exciting time as we look to the future in a way that we have never done before. I hope to have pictures and plans to share in the fall.

Interest in The Concept School continues to be strong. More and more students are feeling overwhelmed in larger settings and TCS offers them the right environment for learning. Speaking of a good environment for learning, TCS will become a "phone-free" school during the 2023-2024 school year. The distraction that phones provide are causing students more depression and anxiety and we believe a daily, seven hour break from phones will be a good thing for our students. More details will be provided to you later this summer.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to a great 2023-2024 school year!

Sincerely, Bill







August 30 - Family Picnic - 5:00 September 5 - First Day of School September 12 - No School - Golf Outing September 27 - Back to School Night - 7:00

## 6 Mental Health Tips for Summer Break

#### 1. Get Outside

The sun has proven to benefit our mood by providing us with Vitamin D. Get regular sunshine,



Counselor's Corner

but be safe by using sunscreen (high SPF!). Make sure to hydrate with lots of water if you're out in the heat! A walk through the woods has also shown to reduce feelings of depression.

#### 2. Limit Screen Time

Your phone will still be there in the Fall. Use your summer break to enjoy activities you don't normally get to do- go swimming, biking, skateboarding, etc..

#### 3. Spend quality time with friends and loved ones

Stop texting and try to see people in person. Make a point to spend real time with them – siblings, parents, grandparents, friends you haven't seen in a while. There is no substitute for communicating in-person, if you are able.

#### 4. Continue Learning

Read a book, learn a craft, watch a How-To video on YouTube. This will keep you focused and moving forward. Just because school's out, doesn't mean you should stop learning.

### 5. Keep to a schedule and routine

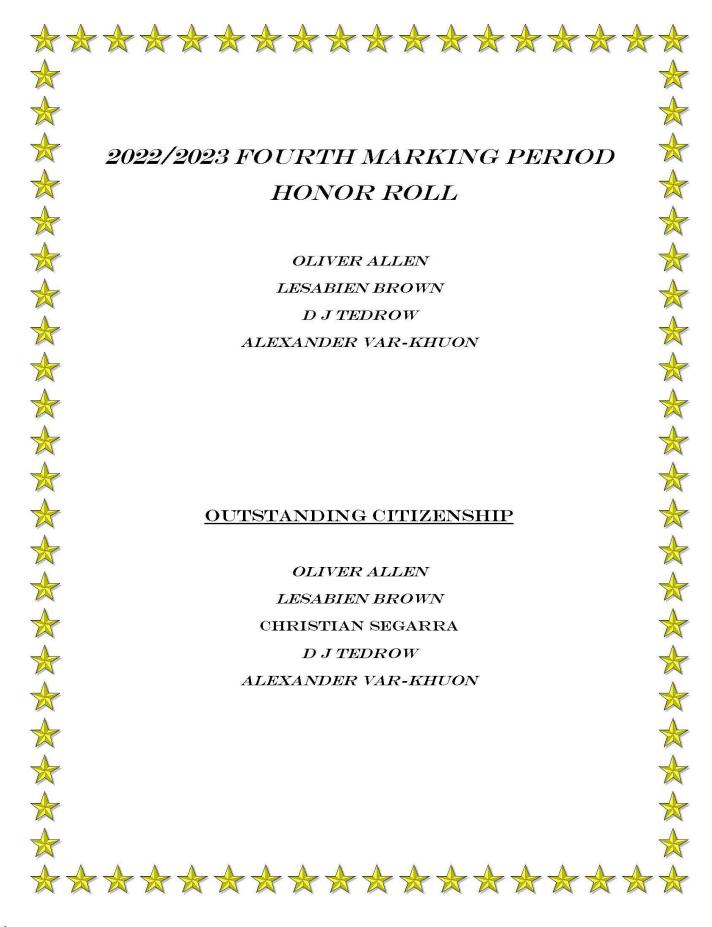
Sure, you may sleep in a little later because you don't have school, but don't fall off track completely. Schedule activities for yourself that you have to get up for – exercise, chores, art, reading, etc. This doesn't mean you have to do the same thing every day, but sometimes when we don't schedule things we suffer from "analysis paralysis" and end up doing nothing. Find a healthy routine that works for you and stick to it.

### 6. Move your bodies

Exercise is one of the best ways to support your mental health. You can take walks, do pushups, jumping jacks, dance, or join a gym. Do it safely. I challenge anyone who's feeling "low" this summer to force yourself to exercise. Just 10 minutes a day can do wonders. You will feel better, I promise.

Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful summer,

-Mr. Schullery





#### Mrs. Fredericks' Classes:

Mrs. Fredericks' **Coding class** just finished learning about "Variables, Conditionals, and Functions." They've learned that you need to state what the variables are in the program, what conditionals are (such as if, then, else), and how to declare and call functions.

Mrs. Fredericks' **3D Printing** students each created an inspirational puzzle piece with a magnet on the back, a phone holder, a wall hook, and a bubble wand. We even went outside to test the bubble wands with bubbles. We learned about assistive technology, and created an assistive can opener for opening soda cans, and an assistive bottle opener that will grip the top of the bottle cap to open it. Our final project was to create a "creature" of their choosing using the skills they learned.

Mrs. Fredericks' **Game Design Class** finished a project in BreakoutEdu which has a series of digital puzzles that they each created. We learned what makes a good puzzle and how to create them. Our final game design project was creating a space game.

Mrs. Fredericks' **Multimedia class** spent most of this quarter learning about the exposure triangle and how the three work together. The last part of the triangle is shutter speed, and how to stop motion or how to create a pleasing effect with blur. We had fun taking pictures of dropping a ball into water, pouring water, Mr. Scullery playing basketball, and bouncing a ball.

#### Mr. Burtch's Classes:

Dennys scored 100% on a recent math quiz and won a delicious, fruit-flavor, all-natural sugar Jarritos! Well done Dennys.





Justin makes several significant breakthroughs. He is mastering some basic aspect of exponent operations. Well done Justin for preserving and accepting help. Well done, Robert for walking with Justin on his journey of exponential discovery. Well done, Ms. Burtch (you are a Justin whisperer).

As the late Jackie Gleason said, "How sweet it is [to do well in Math]." This certainly is true for Sophie who earned a perfect score on a quiz, and a delicious, strawberry Jarritos soda. Thank you, Ms. Burtch, for scoring an assist.





Let it be known that Isaac has scored 100% on a quiz about unknown coefficients. His reward is a delicious mandarin Jarritos! Yum. Well done Isaac.

#### **Mrs. Griffith's Classes:**

Mrs. Griffith's English classes have journeyed to many places through reading and writing this year and honed their critical thinking skills. As we come to the end of our time together, it is important to reflect on where we've been!

My hope is that students will read, notice beauty in stillness, write, and unplug this summer!

**2nd and 7th Period Writers** learned to compose a proper email, keep a journal of over 40 pages of thoughts, write six word memoirs, organize their ideas, craft a name pastiche, analyze song lyrics, write poetry about where they are from, write with authority about things they like, scrutinize descriptive writing pieces/write organized analyses of them/tune into figurative language, compose a descriptive place essay, understand the writing process, and finally, study *This I Believe* essays, question their own beliefs, and make their own *TIB* essay! I am proud of each

of these scribes, and my hope is that they learned that their voice matters, mindfulness is an accessible gift, writing is a means of expression, and they are, indeed, writers!

3rd Period Literature students examined Hemingway's succinct writing style and wrote many six-word memoirs and summaries throughout the year, scaffolded their understanding through theme through Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*, Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, various Ray Bradbury short stories, Andrew Niccol's *The Truman Show*, and Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and more! Each piece of literature asked students to recognize and affirm their own agency and know that they are the hero of their own life's journey. We had a blast learning in "reader's theater" style and having meaningful discourse about big ideas in language art!

4th Period Literature students set goals for themselves, read many short stories, learned vocabulary via pictures first, understood the plot mountain of *The Lion King* through a critical lens and applied their knowledge to their chosen novel unit, created an oversized interactive plot mountain on our wall, challenged "black and white" thinking via Jason Reynolds's *Ghost* and his follow up in the Track Series, *Patina*. Along the way, we learned to TTQA (Turn the Question Around) waltz, pass a track baton, empathize with characters, create slide show presentations, and truly engage in literature! They want to continue the series we started! I love their enthusiasm!

5th Period Literature students blew me away with their willingness to engage with reading and writing and show perseverance when learning new ways of writing about literature. Their Lord of the Flies essay process was a highlight of my career. These kids read Ayn Rand's Anthem, checked out some major allusions, created slideshows, read and studied the novel Lord of the Flies and the film Cast Away, made connections between both, studied symbolism, and read Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time. My hope was that they understand that we only grow when we do hard things. They definitely grew!



James Hansen hard at work in Mrs. Griffith's Writing class.



Third Period Literature playing Scrabble in Mrs. Griffith's class! The person to beat is Spencer Rosin, Scrabble King!



## Mrs. Phillips' Transition Class:

#### **Transition Event**

Mark Shouldis from the Automotive Training Center spoke to the students about having a career in the automotive repair industry.





## Theater News:

## A Scandal in Bohemia Cast Photo

Thank you for your support and flexibility with our Spring Production!

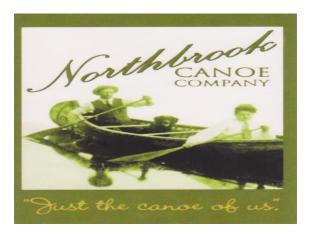
Theater brings out so much in our students, but the most important thing I have noticed is their growth and the realization of what they are really capable of. What an amazing gift!





# Field Trips

On Friday, June 9, students canoed down the Brandywine River. They learned to scout, steer, trouble shoot, communicate with their partner, and work together. They also learned to persevere and see a challenging task to completion. TCS students had so much fun! We hope to canoe again in the fall!





# HEDGEROW

THEATRE COMPANY











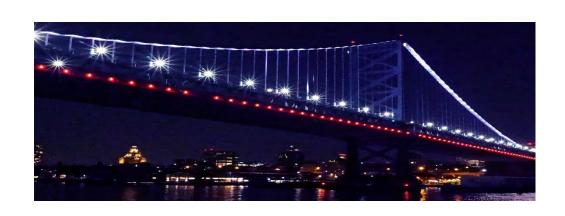
## Senior Fairwell Dance

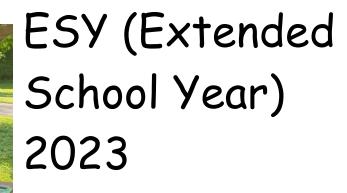














Students and Mr. Burtch hold Mr Burtch's personal "art"-ifacts from Indonesia. Ms. Burtch led students in the creation of Indonesian rod puppets.





## TCS Picture Gallery

...just for fun!

