



November 1, 2017

Dear TCS Families,

Our Strategic Planning and Visioning process is in high gear and needs your input to be successful. Please read about the multiple opportunities you have to provide input to the future of TCS, beginning this month. The upcoming Parent Forums will allow you to provide insight to the future as part of a structured, facilitated process. There is no need to prepare or worry about what you will say. The facilitator will involve everyone in a safe, supportive environment. I hope you will take part!

Thank you for your support of our field trip to the Chadds Ford Historical Society's Escape Room. The students did an amazing job working together and were supportive throughout. Check out the pictures later in the newsletter.

We are currently putting together new elective choices for the second semester. You and your daughter or son will have the opportunity to select top choices and we will endeavor to honor those selections as best we can. I will let you know when that process begins.

Sincerely,
Bill



Here are some of the cupcakes our students decorated during our Halloween activities!

Important dates to mark on your family calendar:

November 3: End of 1st marking period

November 7: SCHOOL CLOSED, Election Day

November 9: 12:00 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:00-7:30 p.m.

November 10: SCHOOL CLOSED, Teacher in-service

November 15: Open House, 9:15 a.m.

November 16: Parent Forum, 9:15 a.m.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

November 20: Former Student Forum, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

November 22-24: SCHOOL CLOSED, Thanksgiving holiday

November 30: Parent Forum, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

December 21: Shakespeare Festival, 7:00 p.m.

Social Studies

The students in Mrs. Culler's History class completed a month-long unit called "Horrifying History". Topics included Ancient Egyptian burial practices and mummification, the history of Halloween, the Black Plague, and the Salem Witch Trials. Students chose one area of history to use as the topic for their diorama. Dioramas were created using a recent contribution to Halloween history- Halloween candy!

Student diorama displays will be part of this year's Halloween festivities at TCS.



A note from Mr. Loux

Dear Students and Families,

Our history classes are engaging in Practice National History Day! Students are creating thesis statements for their various topics. The theme for NHD this year is Conflict and Compromise. For Practice National History Day (PNHD) students are choosing a topic that relates to the class that they have with me. It is useful to practice choosing a topic, so that when the real NHD rolls around, students can reflect on PNHD and think deeply about what worked well and what was challenging when picking their type of topic. PNHD is due on Tuesday, November 21st and it is simply a 500-word essay (no poster required).

Celebrate TCS' First 45 Years!

Mark your calendars now for our 45th Anniversary Celebration, set for Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. More information will be shared in the coming months.

Build a Bridge Newsletter Item by Mrs. Fredericks

In STEAM class, we engineered bridges this month. Our objectives were to learn the basics of simple engineering, to learn and understand Newton's 3 laws of physics, and to learn about different types of bridges.

First we learned about Newton's first 3 laws of physics:

1. an object at rest will remain at rest unless acted on by an unbalanced force. An object in motion continues in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force. Acceleration is produced when a force acts on a mass.
2. The greater the mass (of the object being accelerated) the greater the amount of force needed (to accelerate the object).
3. For every action, there is an equal and opposite re-action.

We performed experiments to prove these laws. We learned about different types of bridges and the purpose of each. We designed our bridges on paper, then we constructed our bridges with popsicle sticks and tape and tested them along the way. When areas of the bridge failed, we needed to examine why, reevaluate, redesign, and fix.

During final reflection, students what they thought they learned, and this was how they responded: we learned how to work by ourselves; about the strength of bridges; discovering what works, what doesn't, and how to fix it; when "stuff" went wrong we had to repair it; we learned how to make it fun; how to make a bridge sturdy; how to make its pieces fit right; what materials to use to make a bridge; making predictions; about types of bridges, and decided what type to build; and we learned about length and width and how that contributed to the stability of the bridge.

Tea-time with Tilly (Ms. Tilmon)

Ms. Tilmon has begun hosting “tea parties” for interested students during recess each Tuesday. It provides an opportunity for social interaction among students in a relaxed setting. Special thanks to Mrs. Culler for baking tea biscuits. Who knows, it may even teach proper manners!



Escape Room Trip October 25-26





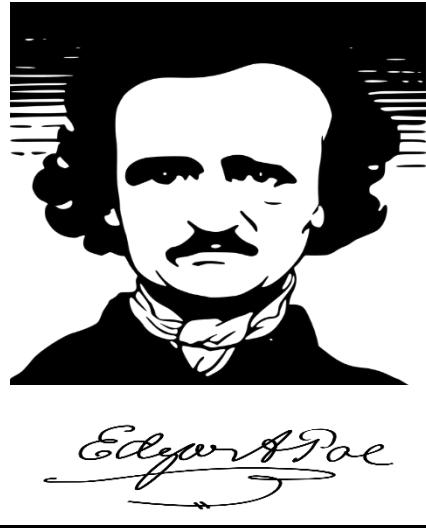


Mrs. Wright's Writers
Writing Seminar Class(es) News:
Students are in their final stages of writing their narratives! They have put in a lot of imagination and hard work crafting their stories for their Multi-genre Writing Project. We have taken an in-depth look at the writing process and have broken down the dreaded 5-paragraph essay into parts. I have had a lot of fun as a teacher seeing your students grow as writers just in the first two months of school!

Literature Classes

Warning! Spooky literature ahead!

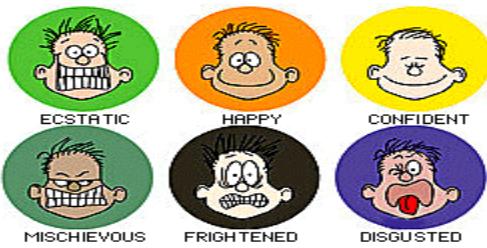
Whichever Literature class your student may be in, we have begun an author study/text study of Edgar Allan Poe! Perfectly timed for the Halloween season! Students have been introduced to Poe as the "godfather of the psychological thriller." We continue our thrilling unit reading varying texts by Poe and taking an in-depth look at his inspiration behind his enthralling literature.



IMPROV

Students are having a blast in Improv class! We have been enjoying watching video clips of famous comedians skilled in improvisation, working on our own improvisation skills, and laughing A LOT! Students have been playing around with activities such as; "One Liners," "What Am I Doing?", "What's My Face?" and using props!

IMPROV = FREEDOM TO BE



Strategic Planning



TCS has embarked upon a major initiative to develop a strategic plan to help guide our future. The Board has engaged a professional facilitator who has worked with schools from across the United States – Mr. Andrew Mozenter. Andy's firm, Concentrics, will be soliciting feedback and input from multiple stakeholders in our community. His firm has conducted interviews with alumni, former parents, former staff members, and identified individuals who have relevant information on educating unique learners.

We are holding facilitated meetings for parents of current students on the following dates (select the one that is most convenient for you):

Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Thursday, November 30, 2017 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All current parents/guardians are invited to share their thoughts about TCS and the future. Andy will lead us in structured activities, so come and have fun. We will also be scheduling a date in November where Andy will meet with our current students, as well as with former students.

Transitions

The seniors at TCS are all in the process of completing their studies and looking forward to their future. This transition time can be very challenging and confusing for students and their families. We are working to ease this process. With student, parent and teacher in-put, we have developed transition plans that are fluid, flexible documents to help guide each student to reach their unique potential. We are also using community resources to help forge partnerships in this process. The Director of the Downingtown/Brandywine Campuses of the Delaware County Community College, Ruth Bennett, will be touring TCS and learning about our school and students. Seniors will then have the opportunity to tour the Delaware County Community College and learn about their many programs. Students are also encouraged to attend a College Fair at the Exton Mall on November 13. There will be over 230 colleges and institutions represented including technical schools, trade schools and the armed forces.

We will be meeting with parents during conferences to review transitions plans and are now in the process of beginning transition plans for our juniors.

For questions or more information please email Marti Phillips
- mphillips@theconceptsschool.org

Dress Code

Please make sure your daughter or son is dressed properly for school. While we purposely do not have a strict dress policy, the school reserves the right to disallow any clothing that may be distracting or inappropriate.

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. **Thank you to Mrs. Friel (Connor's mom) for coordinating this activity.**

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 and fill in "The Concept School" as your organization of choice. A link to explain this program is attached. <https://smile.amazon.com/about>

Giant A+ School Rewards

1. Register for an online account or sign into an existing one.
2. Access your account settings.
3. Select The Concept School to reward #40184