

CUTLER ARTS & HUMANITIES MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER March 2020

CUTLER ARTS & HUMANITIES MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

At Cutler Arts & Humanities Magnet Middle School, we use the ARTS and HUMANITIES to engage students in inquiry based learning. Our students are active and responsible citizens who create, perform, respond, and connect in our global society.

From the Principal's Desk

Here we are in March already! Time is moving quickly and with the moving of the clocks this upcoming weekend, it is feeling more and more like spring each day. We continue to strive daily to keep students engaged as active, inquiring learners. We have many extra-curricular activities happening and we encourage all students to find a way to be involved beyond the classroom. At the end of the month, the CAHMMS Drama Club will be performing the play *Puffs*. We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Peter Bass

2020 CENSUS AND GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every ten years the federal government conducts a census or counting of the people that reside in the country. This has been going on since 1790 when Thomas Jefferson conducted the first census of the newly created country. This year residents will receive an invitation to respond to the census in mid-March. The Town and City of Groton as well as our partners at the Submarine Base have been working together to get the message out that we need you to respond to the census request.

How does the census impact education? Did you know that the federal grant money goes towards Special Education funding, Title I grants, the National School Lunch Program, Head Start and Foster Care to name a few? It is so important for everyone to respond to the census. Groton's children are depending on your response to make sure these and other federal programs are fully funded.

The power of the complete count of Groton's population is in YOUR HANDS. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail to respond to the census in mid-March. It is easy to respond. You can do it either online, by phone or in writing. Your information is safe as the Census Bureau is not permitted by law to share any of your information with anyone including law enforcement and other government agencies.

The Groton Public Library, the Mystic-Noank Library and the Bill Memorial Library will be hosting a Census Kick-off Celebration on April 1. If you do not have computer access, here is a perfect opportunity for you. The public access television channels are holding different shows intended to give information to the residents of Groton. Check out the Facebook page for the Town of Groton's Complete Count Committee which is now up and running. Posters are on display around town. Flyers and handouts will be coming home as well. If you would like more information, go to www.2020census.gov.

The Census is SAFE, EASY AND IMPORTANT! Groton Public Schools are depending on YOU!

Thank you,

Liz Porter

Complete Count Committee Chair

Town of Groton

Board of Education member

March Early Dismissals /No School

Friday, March 13, 2020 - **No School** – Professional Development

TLI EARLY RELEASE DAYS

There is one remaining early dismissal day this year for the Teaching and Learning Initiative (TLI) for staff.

The TLI early dismissal day is:

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

All students will be dismissed at 12:32 p.m. Lunch will be served on this early dismissal day.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

April 2 is a full day of school. Conferences held the evening of April 2 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. This is an optional, 10 minute conference for any parent interested. If you wish to set up a conference with a teacher, please call the school at (860) 572-5830.

Friday, April 3, 2020 will be an early dismissal day. All students will be dismissed at 12:32 p.m. Lunch will be served on this early dismissal day.

COSTA RICA 2020

Soon, thirteen Groton Middle School 8th graders will set foot on Costa Rican soil. At the February 21st meeting students learned some interesting facts about Manuel Antonio National Park: its ecosystems-tropical rainforest, coral reef and coastal areas; its biodiversity-home to 350 species of birds and 109 species of mammal. One animal we are hoping to see is the Brown Throated Three-Toed Sloth!!! We also learned how to pack efficiently enough to only have a carry on with plenty of room for souvenirs! Everyone is very upbeat about exploring Costa Rica and using some travel Spanish!

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)

One of the main aspects of the Middle Years Programme is the *Learner Profile*. The *Learner Profile* is a list of 10 traits that the International Baccalaureate works to foster in its students. Both Cutler and West Side have designed their advisory program around the ten traits and each month, the activities are directed at developing them in our students. You may have seen a page in the agenda book at Cutler or the posters around the halls at West Side. As IB learners we strive to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open- Minded, Caring, Risk- Takers, Balanced and Reflective. Our students aspire to develop these traits fully to become global citizens.

For those of you still learning about IB, here is their mission statement.

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect”.

“The Middle Years Programme is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world, the MYP is inclusive by design; students of all interests and academic abilities can benefit from their participation”.

If Cutler and West Side are authorized, Groton will be only the second school in the state to offer both the Middle Years Programme and the Diploma Programme.

To learn more, visit ibo.org.

Kathy Wilson, MYP Coordinator – kwilson@groton.k12.ct.us

Parents of all Students

As a reminder to ALL parents: Any student suspended on or after March 1, 2020 may jeopardize their participation in the end of the year field trip.

Parents of 8th Grade Students

A decision regarding the date and time of 8th grade promotion will be made the first week of May.

Extracurricular Activity Eligibility

In accordance with the middle school philosophy, extracurricular activities are offered and encouraged. Various sports and activities are available. We recognize the importance of both academic success and participation in extracurricular activities. Students must maintain passing grades in all subjects to be eligible to participate in these extracurricular activities. Therefore, if a student is failing one or more classes at the end of a grade reporting period the student and parent would be notified and would have two weeks from the date of notification to show substantial growth in the subject(s) in which the student failed or be removed from all extra-curricular activities.

Safety in our Schools

When you visit our school, you will notice the identification badges all staff members are wearing. This is part of Groton Public Schools' safety plan to protect our students. To access the building during school hours please press the silver button located on the security camera located on the LEFT column and face the camera. Someone from the main office will 'unlock' the LEFT door. All visitors to our school must report to the Main Office, sign in, and receive a visitor badge before entering the building. As always you should have your photo ID ready and available. This procedure allows parent and community involvement while ensuring the safety of our students.

Delayed Opening, Early Dismissal and No School Information

Selected radio and television stations will carry the announcement for no school or delayed openings. When an early dismissal is called information regarding dismissal times can also be found by going to the Groton Public Schools website (www.groton.k12.ct.us) and click on the URGENT INFO button. Delayed openings will be 2 hours or 3 hours (lunch will be served on these days). Notice of such closing is broadcast on local radio stations, through the School Messenger auto dialing system, and on our website at www.grotonschools.org. Please listen to the radio or television and check your messages. Please do not call the school, central office, police, or radio stations. PLEASE NOTE: It is important that your contact number be kept up-to-date with your child/children's school so that you receive all messages.

Student Council

Student Council created and donated over 75 care packages to Malta, an organization that serves people in need in Groton, New London, and Norwich. These care packages included items such as shaving cream, razors, deodorant, rain ponchos and tissues which were identified as high-need items by the organization. Students also wrote small positive messages to be included with each package.

Student council will meet on Wednesday March 11th and 25th to plan and organize our second school-wide volleyball tournament. Details and a permission slip to follow.

As always, Student Council continues to welcome new members. We generally meet every other Wednesday after school until late bus in Room 20. Please don't hesitate to contact Sara Brown, sbrown@groton.k12.ct.us or Brooke Fiore bfiore@groton.k12.ct.us if you have any questions or suggestions!

Eye To Eye Mentoring Program

Hello! Please mark your calendars: our Eye to Eye, Conn. College student mentors will be going on Spring break this month. They will *not* be here to mentor from *March 9th – March 21st*. We will meet on March 4th. We will miss them, but they will be back on Wednesday March 25th. Our club has been discussing and making art around what helps us to do our best and get through challenges. We realize that *“Grit is living life like a marathon; not a sprint.” – Angela Lee Duckworth.*

Please Email Mrs. A with any questions: Lambroise@groton.k12.ct.us

School Lunch Program

Remember: You only need to fill out one form for your entire family, and you can fill out an application at any time during the school year if your income changes. If you need assistance filling out this form please contact Food Services directly at (860)-449-7208. If your child received free/reduced lunch last year, you **must** reapply this year. Those families with a TANF form from the Department of Social Services should send that form to the school office immediately (you are not required to complete the GPS form).

Breakfast and Lunch Prices for the School Year 2019-2020

Breakfast Full Pay Middle School: \$1.50	Lunch Full Pay Middle: \$2.80
Breakfast Reduced: Breakfast \$0.30	Lunch Reduced: \$0.40
Milk - per carton	\$0.50

Horizon Point of Sale Computers

The Food Service Department uses the Horizon computerized system in all cafeterias. Each student has their own account and pin number, and deposits in any amount may be made to the student's personal account. Any time you have questions about your child's account you may contact your child(ren)'s cafeteria manager for a "History Transaction Report", which shows all transactions made in a student's account. If you wish to prepay online, please go to **mypaymentsplus.com**. You will need your child's school ID number to set this up.

Charge Policy

PLEASE NOTE: It is the policy of Groton Public Schools to allow a full pay student to charge up to \$11.75 at the Elementary schools and \$12.15 for Middle and High School, and reduced meals up to \$2.10. (All charge limits are equal to 3 days of Breakfast and Lunch charges). If no payment is received to cover the charges, then the student will be offered an "Oops" meal in place of the menu meal, however there will be a limit on the number of "Oops" meals allowed during the year. You will be contacted if there is a recurring problem. An "Oops" meal consists of PB&J sandwich, fruit and milk.

Parent Teacher Organization

We would like to thank all of the Cutler families that contributed to our Staff Appreciation breakfast in February! Your contributions helped make it a fantastic event! The teachers enjoyed a yogurt bar complete with fresh fruit and homemade granola, a coffee and tea bar, in addition to hot breakfast wraps and donuts from The Bridge Market! Some staff were lucky winners of raffle prizes such as coffee gift cards, fresh flowers and a sign from Board and Brush. We would also like to thank the Cutler community for supporting our annual Trivia Night fundraiser! Another year in the books with a big shout out to Mystic Indoor Sports, Trivia Academy and The Bridge Market – these events are not possible without the help of local businesses, parent involvement and Cutler staff support! Thank you!

Next PTO meeting: March 10th at 6:00 in the media center

Next 8th Grade Committee meeting: April 21st at 7:00 in the media center.

CHECK IT OUT: Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest happenings with the CAHMMS PTO. Also stay informed by clicking on the PTO link on the CAHMMS PTO webpage. Check out the ways in which you can help:

- Corporate or Company Sponsorship / Matching Funds
- Amazon Smile

Parent involvement is critical for a successful school, so please consider volunteering and/or helping with one or more of our many fundraisers and events throughout the school year. Dedicated TEACHERS, STAFF, and PARENTS make Cutler Arts and Humanities Magnet Middle School great! Thank you for supporting your PTO! Your involvement makes a difference!

School-Based Health Center News

Common Cold Care Tips

It has been another bad year for colds. Colds are caused by viruses and there is no magic cure; it just takes time to get better. There are hundreds of different viruses that can cause a cold. That's why a person usually gets 3 – 5 different colds a year. People do not develop long lasting immunity to cold viruses so the same viruses can infect you every year.

The common cold symptoms include low grade temperature, sneezing and runny nose, watery eyes, scratchy or sore throat and dry to wet cough. A cold usually lasts for 7 – 10 days with the first 4 days being the worst. The cough may persist for 2 – 3 weeks but should get better day by day.

You probably have heard in the news that influenza is at epidemic levels. The “Flu” symptoms are similar to those of the common cold but more severe, especially a fever, bad cough and body aches. Respiratory symptoms can be especially severe. If you or your child has not had a flu shot it is not too late, we still have vaccine available for our students. If your child has milder symptoms and doing OK, supportive care is all that is needed. For more severe symptoms especially high fever and bad cough, your child may be a candidate for Tamiflu which can shorten the duration and severity of the illness. This should be given within 2-3 days of the start of the Flu and can be prescribed by your primary provider or the SBHC. If your child starts to do better then has a sudden worsening, take them to the ER immediately. Call us if we can answer any questions about the Flu or flu shot.

Taking the time to care for a cold can prevent complications such as ear infections, bronchitis or pneumonia. The following are some tips to help you care for yourself and your sick child.

- The most important step is to prevent the spread of the virus. Remind your child to cough or sneeze into their elbow, throw tissues away after use, and wash their hands frequently. Keep a small bottle of alcohol based gel sanitizer in your purse, pocket or backpack to use when out of the house.
- Encourage your child to rest. Keep them indoors as much as possible but if they have to go outside make sure they are dressed warmly and wear hats and gloves. If their symptoms are not too bad, and no fever, they may come to school.
- If your child has a temperature of 100° or greater while at school, the health policy states that they will be sent home and must remain at home until their temperature is normal for 24 hours. Please have a thermometer at home so you can monitor their temperature. Digital oral thermometers cost less than \$10 and are long lasting.
- Push fluids especially juices, water and soup. There's something magical about chicken soup that makes you feel much better. Fluids help keep mucus thin and easier to blow and cough out.

- If possible purchase a cool mist humidifier to have handy. Humidifiers put moisture into the air and help you breath easier by keeping the breathing passages moist. An inexpensive humidifier costs less than \$30 – \$40 and lasts for many years with proper care.
- Salt water nose spray or rinses can be used frequently during the day to clear out mucus and keep the nasal passages moist. Breathing into a very warm wet face cloth can also help moisten the nose and mouth and is well tolerated by children. Gargling with warm salt water can soothe a sore, scratchy throat.
- Cough drops or hard candies can help calm a cough during the day. A teaspoon of honey with 4 oz of warm water at bedtime, for children over the age of 2, has been shown to help the night time cough.
- If your child is up during the night coughing, sleeping poorly, or the cough is hard to calm during the daytime, call your child’s health care provider or the SBHC. If they are having a lot of trouble breathing, go to the ER.

Most studies have shown that cough and cold medicines don’t really help children. In some cases they can be dangerous, especially if given to a child who takes certain daily medications. Check with your child’s health care provider or the SBHC before starting any cold medication to make sure they are safe for your child.

Some medications do seem to be helpful.

Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed) is a nasal decongestant that can help dry a very runny, stuffed up nose. The effective form of Sudafed must be purchased from behind the cash register at a store.

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is an antihistamine that can help relieve itchy eyes and nose caused by the virus. Its’ major side effect is sleepiness which can be helpful at night.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) take down a fever, relieve headaches and body aches.

Guaifenesin (Mucinex) pulls water into the mucus to help loosen it and cough it out.

We hope you and your child remain healthy this winter and spring. If there is any way we can help when your child is ill, please call the SBHC at 860-572-4448.

Anne Ravenscroft APRN

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Arts and Humanities Updates

A special thank you to Mary Addison (Mystic Museum of Art), Andy Helbig, and Mr. Bill Harris (CAHMMS Custodian) for their help moving the chemistry themed-tiled picnic tables created by Ms. Fiore's and Mr. Browne's grade 7 science students from the MMoA to Cutler where they will stay until they can be assembled in warmer weather and brought to the new Groton Middle School site. The tables look fantastic.



Upcoming events:

March 5: AFLCT Soro Bindi drumming & dancing with Ms. Lakowsky's & Ms. Salvatore's students

March 12th: Theater and Mandarin Culture Magnet Classes: Chinese New Year Performance
(Parents Welcome) 9:05-9:55 in Media Ctr

March 17th: Kids Love Opera In-school performance, Grade 6

March 19th: Black History Performance-Dr. Karima Robinson, grade 7

March 27th & 28th: Drama Club Performance of "Puffs" by Matt Cox. CAHMMS Director, Sara Kelly.

Time: 7:00 p.m. (In-school dress rehearsal on 3/27 TBD.)

TEAM UPDATES

Grade 6 Team A

Language Arts – Ms. Kelly

Ms. Kelly's Language Arts classes are plugging along! We are continuing with argumentative writing, which will culminate in a paper due in late March. It's been fun to see how claims and evidence are concepts that can be used in many different disciplines, not just Language Arts. We are also moving into our first round of nonfiction book clubs, which is new and very exciting! We will be well versed in nonfiction reading by the time March comes to a close. It's going to be quite a month!

Math – Mr. Rege

Hello Friends and Families,

We have started our third unit, *Let's Be Rational*. This unit is all about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. We will learn many strategies on how to multiply and divide fractions while also learning why they make sense. We will also continue to prepare for the SBAC test with daily warm-ups to become more familiar with the test. Please use *Dreambox* at home for an online and differentiated extension.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Science – Ms. Popp

We have wrapped up our unit on Thermal Energy which included testing our devices to keep ice cubes from melting under a heat lamp. There were mixed results, but lots of excitement and learning taking place. Our new unit focuses on Cells and Body Systems. It is the goal of this 6th grade unit to look at the human body with a systems approach, by first zooming in on individual cells, then tissues, and then finally on all the body systems working together as one functioning unit. By the end of this unit, students will gather information and use this information to support explanations of the structure and function relationship of cells. They will have a basic understanding of the role of cells in body systems and how those systems work to support the life functions of the organism.

Social Studies – Mr. Byassee

In Social Studies during the month of March students will make the transition to studying the Earth's Human Geography. Students will investigate the concepts of population growth, human migration, styles of government and basic economics. Toward the end of the month we will also begin an inquiry project titled Stranded. This project will encourage students to use all that they have learned this year so far to work as a group and "survive" a plane crash.

Grade 6 Team B

Language Arts – Mrs. J. Panucci

Happy March! In Mrs. Panucci's English Language Arts classes we are continuing to sharpen our nonfiction skills! With our reading unit, *Tapping the Power of Nonfiction*, students are learning about central idea, annotation, and how to take a jot and make it into a full paragraph. I am SO impressed with my students love for reading and writing! We will also continue our mini unit, *Research Based Writing*. Students will learn how to build a strong claim, support with textual evidence, and use outside sources to inform their reader. We will use inquiry-based strategies to create fabulous essays and share with classmates. To my AMAZING students, keep up the great work!!

Math – Ms. Morelli

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We have started our third unit, *Let's Be Rational*. This unit is all about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. We will learn many strategies on how to multiply and divide fractions while also learning why they make sense. We will also continue to prepare for the SBAC test with daily warm-ups to become more familiar with the test. Please use *Dreambox* at home for an online and differentiated extension. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Science – Mr. Luong

We have wrapped up our unit on Thermal Energy which included testing our devices to keep ice cubes from melting under a heat lamp. There were mixed results, but lots of excitement and learning taking place. Our new unit focuses on Cells and Body Systems. It is the goal of this 6th grade unit to look at the human body with a systems approach, by first zooming in on individual cells, then tissues, and then finally on all the body systems working together as one functioning unit. By the end of this unit, students will gather information and use this information to support explanations of the structure and function relationship of cells. They will have a basic understanding of the role of cells in body systems and how those systems work to support the life functions of the organism.

Social Studies – Ms. Winter

Spring, anyone? In Social Studies, we will investigate Human Geography- population growth; human migration; styles of government (how humans govern themselves), basic economics (how humans get items they need to survive). This will segue into *Stranded*, an inquiry based project that encourages students to apply prior skills and knowledge, in order to “survive” in a collaborative group. Finally, we will still build upon our skills when critically responding to text using annotation, inference, and RACE. SBAC is coming down the pike...March on!

Grade 7 Team C

Language Arts - Mrs. Reinhold

Instead of studying argument writing this month, Ms. Delaporta and I decided that the students needed a little break from research, so we are working on a unit called "Writing About Reading." Students are reading self-selected books and writing notebook entries that show their thinking about the text. These entries could be diagrams, timelines, charts, webs, long-writes...anything that documents their best thinking about what is important in their reading. The notebook writing will culminate in students creating a companion book to the book they are reading. In the book, "chapters" may examine important theories about characters, universal themes or messages, big questions about human nature, or perhaps symbolism.

As always, please be sure your student is reading nightly! This short twenty minutes of nightly reading has been proven to pay dividends in terms of vocabulary acquisition, comprehension and higher standardized test scores. Here is an article with a graphic to explain.

<https://www.wcpo.com/brand-spotlight/how-reading-20-minutes-a-day-impacts-your-child-amazon-kindle>

Math - Mr. Panucci (see team D, Mr. Masterjoseph)

Science – Ms. Fiore

I need a very thick jacket because of how cold and windy it is. There is rocky terrain in every direction I turn. I can see an organism in the distance that looks white and fluffy with horns. Most of the plants I see aren't very big, there's a few trees, but mostly grasses covered in snow. Can you guess where I am? Chances are, if you ask your young scientist they will be able to tell you that I'm in the tundra! Team C scientists are continuing their exploration of ecology and the ways that organisms interact with their environment. After learning about biodiversity and its importance, students completed a lab using dried beans and peas to represent different species found in coral reef communities around the world. They successfully calculated the biodiversity index for each community and the relative abundance of different species and practiced using data to support their claims. Currently, students are wrapping up a research project about different plants and animals found in the Rocky Mountains so that we can create a food web to visualize the variety of interactions in an ecosystem. Please don't forget to visit our team webpage for nightly homework postings.

Social Studies – Ms. S. Panucci

Happy March and Happy Spring! Ms. Panucci's grade 7 Individuals and Societies students have proven to be talented sculptors/artists. The 3 dimensional, relief sculptures of European/Russian landmarks were created with the assistance of Mystic Museum of Arts...they are gorgeous! If you have an opportunity to visit our school, they are displayed in the front showcase. During the month of March, students will research the personal, global, and cultural perspectives of his/her family's culture while focusing on the following five social institutions: government, religion, economy, education, and family. Students will write an essay and share their researched information.

Grade 7 Team D

Language Arts – Ms. Delaporta

During the month of March in 7th grade ELA on team D, students will be working their way through the unit “Writing about Reading”. In this unit students will ultimately be doing a lot of writing about the book they are currently reading. At the end of the unit, they will be challenged to create a companion book. This involves either creating a prequel or a sequel to what they’ve read. I can’t wait to read their additions to already published stories! Along with working through this unit, we will also be celebrating Read Across America. Team C and Team D will be participating in a friendly reading competition with a celebration at the end. Stay tuned to read about the turnout of this event!

Mr. Masterjoseph’s & Mr. Panucci’s 7th Grade Math Happenings Newsletter

NOTE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADE 7

Parents & Guardians,

We would like to thank all parents for their ongoing communication and support. We truly appreciate your help as we work as a team to make sure your scholar continues to have a successful year in mathematics. Please continue to urge your scholar to follow up with their teacher when they miss class due to illness or extracurricular responsibilities.

Mr. Masterjoseph has all assignments posted on *Google Classroom* (Code: mbte8n)

Math Blast started on March 21. All Scholars from both 7th grade teams have the opportunity to participate in this after school program that will be directed at specific math skills assessed on the SBAC (Smarter Balanced State Assessment). It will be a relaxed setting in which Scholars can have a snack and ask questions on any topic they wish. It is also an opportunity for them to earn extra credit. Mr. Panucci continues to offer extra help before school along with other scheduled times. We encourage Scholars from both teams to seek help from either of us since we work together on most lessons and projects.

7 Advanced & Math 7 Scholars:

Scholars have just started their next unit which is . Its focus is volume (filling) and surface area (wrapping) of objects

such as prisms, cylinders, cones, and spheres. In addition, students will understand, find, and

use area and circumference of circles. They will also extend their understanding of similarity and scale factors to three-dimensional figures.

Unit Goals include Scholars developing strategies for measuring surface area and volume. Their strategies are discussed and used to formulate rules for finding the surface areas and volumes of prisms and cylinders. Scholars also investigate other solids—including cones and spheres—to develop volume relationships.

In this Unit, scholars will revisit and extend ideas from previous Units. For example, scholars will build on what they learned in Stretching and Shrinking to study the connection of how changing the scale of a box affects its surface area and volume.

Tips for parents:

You can help with homework and encourage sound mathematical habits as your scholar studies this unit by asking questions such as:

- What quantities are involved in the problem?
- Which measure of an object is involved—volume or surface area?
- What method should I use to determine this measure?
- What strategies or formulas might help?

You can help your scholar with his or her work for this Unit in several ways:

- Talk with your scholar about the size and shape of boxes in your home, and ask why they may be shaped as they are.
- Ask your scholar about the different strategies the class has explored for finding the surface areas and volumes of various shapes.
- Look at your scholar's mathematics notebook. You may want to review the section where your child is recording definitions for new words that he or she is encountering in the Unit.
- Have your scholar pick a question that was interesting to him or her and explain it to you.

If you have any questions or concerns about this Unit or your Scholar's progress in the class, please feel free to contact Mr. Panucci or Mr. Masterjoseph. All of us here are interested in your Scholar and want to ensure that this year's mathematics experiences are enjoyable and promote a firm understanding of mathematics.

LATEST NEWS

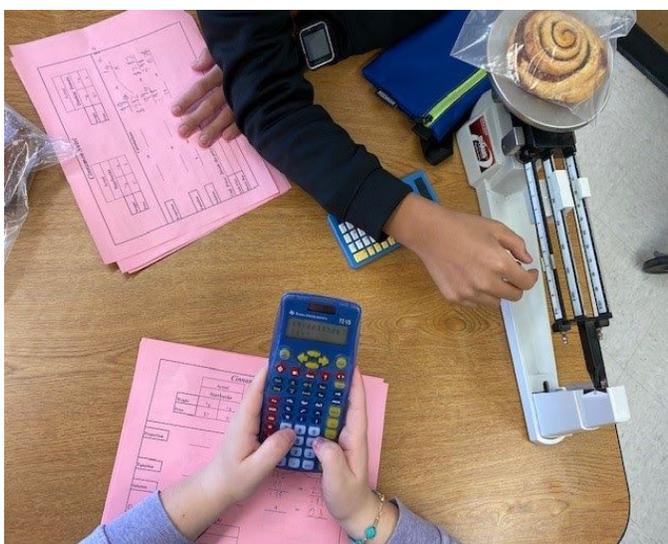
I'm very happy to announce that we have had a popular and successful few months with the Chess Club. With the SBAC State Testing approaching quickly we will be dedicating time for review and preparation before, after, and during school. The Girls' Basketball Team had an incredibly successful

season with a record of 13-3! Congratulations to the girls and Mr. Panucci for all their hard work and dedication.

On the CMP Parent Website, you can learn more about the mathematical goals of each unit. See the glossary, and examine worked-out examples of ACE problems.

<http://www.math.msu.edu/cmp/parents/home>

P.S. We are always available for communication with parents. Feel free to contact us at school or via email at mmasterjoseph@groton.k12.ct.us or rpanucci@groton.k12.ct.us



Science – Mr. Browne

The students continued to impress me in February! Students created terrific ecosystem trading cards and species slideshows. If you happen to be at our school, you are more than welcome to stop and admire the work these students have completed. Our next exciting activity will focus on symbiosis. Students will participate in a friendship frenzy, where their creativity and persuasion skills will be put to the test.

In March, our second unit should be coming to an end. To wrap up the unit the students will be looking at numerous environments and creating websites or blogs. Students have been learning about organisms, their environments, and their interactions; students will now be putting in all together in this end of the unit project.

Social Studies – Ms. Waddicor

Mrs. Waddicor's classes will be very busy this month. We will be working on the summative activity for the Landmarks of Europe and Russia Unit. During this time, we will create an Inquiry Based Research project describing the student's family culture. The students will be required to research and gather notes about six topics relating to the culture of their country, create a 3dimensional project and present their work to their combined classes in a Gallery walkthrough. At the end of March, we will be leaving Europe and Russia and will begin a new Unit, Africa. We will start by examining the physical geography of Africa and how human lives and environments are affected by physical systems. I invite any parent who has anything to share with the class about Africa to please call the school and ask for Mrs. Waddicor.

Grade 8 Team E

Language Arts – Ms. Patrick

Team E Language Arts is currently at the beginning stages of Position Papers! We just completed our Dystopian Book Club unit and I think students enjoyed comparing the dystopian world of their books to the real world around them. Students are now hard at work researching violent role-playing games and video games. In this unit, students will draft a paper and deliver a speech to their peers which will defend their position on said games. Students will have a few choices for their final paper which they will begin working on during the first week of March. As we move towards April, we will do some work preparing for the SBAC and then we will begin the Essential Research Skills unit, which culminates with the multi-genre project.

Math – Ms. Lucy

Math 8 students on team E have spent the end of trimester 2 working on the Pythagorean Theorem. We looked at maps of cities and explored the distances between landmarks for cars (following “streets” on the coordinate plane) and for helicopters (using right triangles to find diagonal distances). We also used puzzle pieces of right triangles and squares to develop the Pythagorean Theorem formula, which we used to find missing side lengths of right triangles. Soon we will explore the use of the Pythagorean Theorem in real-world application problems before preparing for the unit test.

Algebra students on team E have been working on their trimester 2 project, where they are creating instructions for a classmate to make a Sol LeWitt-inspired piece of art. These instructions will demonstrate their understanding of linear relationships. We are nearing the end of the fourth unit and will be testing soon. Following the unit test, we will move on to our study of systems of linear equations, which will expand on their skills developed in the previous units.

Social Studies - Individuals & Societies – Ms. McCabe

The students have finally finished their American Revolution projects! They did a fabulous job of researching their topic, presenting their information and creating a visual. As a group, we had a fun time working on the projects and many of the students' projects are now on display in the building. Moving forward, students will be learning about the United States Constitution in the month of March. I have planned many inquiry-based lessons and activities that will have students examine the ways in which this important document impacts their daily lives. I am looking forward to another fun month with some very creative and hard-working kids!

Science – Ms. Conway-Fenn

This month in science we are headed away from space and back to Earth. Exploring Earth's natural history, fossils, and geologic timescales. Be sure to look for handmade fossils that students will be bringing home soon!

Grade 8 Team F

Language Arts - Ms. Cady

Starting in March, students will be researching and learning about social Injustices. They will be reading a book of choice dealing with a social injustice in which they are interested, write a position paper, and culminate with a multi-genre project. This will consist of a variety of ways to present their opinions

On this subject ranging from written work, song, video, poetry and other ways to communicate their thoughts and information.

Social Studies - Individuals & Societies – Mr. Murallo

This month we will continue our study of the United States Constitution.

Our focus will be on articles I, II, and III. The Executive Branch, The Legislative Branch, and The Judicial Branch will be studied in detail and group projects will be assigned. Again, we will utilize our IBL approach. Projects and essays will be our method of assessment

Science – Mr. Beriau

This month in science we are headed away from space and back to Earth. Exploring Earth's natural history, fossils, and geologic timescales. Be sure to look for handmade fossils that students will be bringing home soon!

Math – Mr. Jacobson

This month Math 8 students have been delving into the world of right triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students have been combining hands-on proofs of concepts and practice of skills to really understand the beauty of the Theorem. In march we will wrap up our Pythagorean Unit and move towards laws of exponents as well as volumes of objects!

This month Algebra students have been focusing on Linear Equations. They have developed their skills of graphing equations, writing equations in the three different forms, and applying their knowledge to real world applications. We are wrapping up this unit at the end of February and will be focusing on our "Shark Tank" project. We will then move into solving systems of equations!

Jazz Band

The Cutler Jazz Band performed at the Manchester Jazz Festival, an excellent event comprised of high school and middle school jazz bands, on February 12th. Congratulations to jazz band trumpeter, Shea C., on being awarded outstanding musician!

The Cutler Jazz Band will be performing at “Celebrate the Arts” held at Northeast Academy on March 11th at 1PM.

Eastern Regionals

Select Cutler Band students will perform at the Connecticut Eastern Region Music Festival on March 6-7 held at Enfield High School in Enfield, CT. Students auditioned to be accepted into this prestigious honor from over 40 schools all over eastern CT.

Mr. Mazzarella may be reached via email kmazzarella@groton.k12.ct.us

Lisa Gray

Orchestra Director at Cutler and West Side Middle Schools

The Cutler Orchestra will participate at the Celebrate the Arts Festival on March 11 at Northeast Academy. We have been working hard to put together a lot of new songs since our last concert. Our biggest achievement has been mastering the song *Night Shift*, which involves a new technique – shifting. Students have learned how to move their hands up and down the fingerboard quickly in a few short weeks. We’ve also been working on *This Is Me* from The Greatest Showman and are memorizing portions of a Cajun Blues fiddle tune called Red Pepper.

Congratulations go out to the following orchestra students who will be performing in the Eastern Region Festival on March 6-7 in Enfield: Maria H., Mallory M., Cat M., Learra R., Annabelle W. Aidan C. also was invited to participate but will instead be challenged at Mathcounts the same weekend.

Drama Club

It's play month! The Cutler Drama Club is looking forward to putting on our production of *Puffs* at the end of the month. As always, be on the lookout for anything you can send your kids in with by way of props and costumes - I'm looking for everything to be set and ready by March 16th. If your student signed up for stage crew, that starts on March 16th as well, so stay tuned. Look out for emails about programs and last minute details, and we look forward to seeing you all in the audience!

Stamp Club

March is Women's History Month and members of the club are searching through some of the hundreds and hundreds of stamps in our famous blue bins, selecting material for the exhibits that will be displayed in the school. One girl is working on an album of British stamps designed by Arnold Machin that feature a bust of Queen Elizabeth II and have been produced since 1967 in a large variety of denominations and a rainbow of colors. The series also includes regional varieties and different perforations.

RIPEX 2020, the annual show of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society, will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 10 A.M to 3 P.M. at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI. This show features several dealers (one of whom had homemade cookies last year!) and a youth area with freebies. A word of caution from the voice of experience, there are two churches almost side by side on Warwick Avenue. The Lutheran church is the second one.

MATHCOUNTS – Ms. Wurm

On Saturday, February 1, Cutler's MATHCOUNTS team participated in the regional competition at the Coast Guard Academy. They joined 23 other Eastern Connecticut schools, solving challenging math problems in various timed rounds. MATHCOUNTS is a national program that provides students in grades 6-8 the opportunity to compete in live, in-person contests against and alongside their peers.

From October through February, about a dozen Cutler students participated in MATHCOUNTS meetings where they worked on problem solving and practiced simulated competition sessions. The seven students who attended the February event took a math test in January to qualify. These seven Mathletes are Aiden C., Julianna D., Katie L., Coriana L., Mallory M., Annalise O., and Anthony S. Congratulations to all of them for their dedication and hard work! Special congratulations go to eighth grader Aiden C., who did so well at the regional competition that he will go on to compete at the state level in March. Good luck Aiden!

Girls Basketball

The girls played outstanding basketball in the league championship game coming up a little short against Ledyard Middle School 44 to 40. Dre' Ana S. and Mariette E. scored 15 points each to lead the team in scoring. Ada E. and Bethany L. also added 6 and 4 points respectively. The team ended their season with a respectable 13 and 3 record.

Mr. Panucci would like to thank the girls for an outstanding season. He would also like to thank the parents and all of those who supported them throughout their season.

Long Range Planning

<i>Monday, March 2</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, March 5</i>	<i>Fitch High School Counselor Visit - 8th Grade</i> <i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, March 6</i>	<i>Fitch High School Counselor Visit - 8th Grade</i> <i>Girls Basketball Party, Gym - 2:45 p.m.</i>
<i>Monday, March 9</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 10</i>	<i>Arts for Learning CT Grant Field Trip, Mystic Museum of Art - 9:45 a.m.</i> <i>- 1:00 p.m.</i> <i>PTO Meeting, Conference Room - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 11</i>	<i>Celebrate the Arts @ NEA, Chorus & Orchestra - 8:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</i> <i>Celebrate the Arts @ NEA, Jazz Band - 12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, March 12</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, March 13</i>	No School – <i>Professional Development for Teachers</i>
<i>Monday, March 16</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 17</i>	<i>Salt Marsh Opera, Grade 6, Period 3</i>
<i>Thursday, March 19</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, March 20</i>	<i>True Colors Conference, UCONN Storrs - 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Student Council Volleyball Tournament - 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Monday, March 23</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, March 26</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</i> <i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i> <i>Costa Rica Field Trip Meeting, Media Center - 6:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, March 27</i>	<i>Drama Club - 2:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i> <i>Drama Performance of Puffs - 7:00 p.m.</i>

<i>Saturday, March 28</i>	<i>Drama Performance of Puffs - 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Monday, April 6</i>	<i>Grade 6 to Garde Arts Center, La Cenerentola by Salt Marsh Opera</i> <i>- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, April 9 -</i>	
<i>Thursday, April 16</i>	<i>Costa Rica Field Trip</i>
<i>Friday, April 10</i>	No School – <i>Good Friday</i>
<i>Monday, April 13 –</i>	
<i>Friday, April 17</i>	No School – <i>Spring Recess</i>
<i>Friday, April 24</i>	<i>Arts for Learning CT Grant Field Trip, Mystic Museum of Art - 11 a.m.</i> <i>- 2:00 p.m.</i> <i>Student Council Spring Dance - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, April 30</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, May 7</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, May 12</i>	<i>Early Dismissal for TLI – 12:32 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, May 14</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, May 21</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, May 22</i>	<i>Arts for Learning CT Grant Field Trip, Groton Public Library - 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>- 1:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Monday, May 25</i>	No School – <i>Memorial Day</i>
<i>Thursday, May 28</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, June 4</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, June 5</i>	<i>8th Grade Dance - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, June 11</i>	<i>Grade 8 ABA Field Trip to Fitch High – 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 16</i>	<i>Early Dismissal - Tentative Last Day of School – 12:32 p.m.</i>



Groton Public Schools Will *Light It Up Blue!*

Our school buildings will be illuminated for in blue on April 2nd to support this worldwide event and to help raise awareness.

Ways you can show your support:

Wear blue on April 2nd

Walk in or become a sponsor of your local Autism walk

Replace your porch light with a blue light bulb

Make a donation of time or resources to a local group who support Autism

Teach and practice acceptance and kindness

World Autism Awareness Day

In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), with the goal of bringing the world's attention to autism, a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions.

World Autism Awareness Day shines a bright light on autism as a growing global health concern. WAAD activities help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism crisis and impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention.

Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of people with autism, and features community events around the world where individuals with autism and their families are warmly welcomed and embraced.

Autism

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 59 children in the United States today. (When we first started participating in this event in 2014, the statistic was 1 in 110 children.)

MYSTIC SOUTH LATE RUN

Leaves CAHMMS at 4:00

Right out of the school
Left onto Route 1
Left onto Groton Long Point Road
Stops along **Groton Long Point Road as needed**
Left onto Burrows Street
Left on North Street
Stops at **North Street and East Shore Ave.**
Left onto East Shore Avenue
Right onto Groton Long Point Road
Stops along **Groton Long Point Road as needed**
Right onto Elm Street/Route 215
Stops along **Route 215 as needed**
Continue onto Noank Road
Stops along **Noank Road as needed**
Left onto West Mystic Avenue
Stops along **West Mystic Avenue as needed**
Continue onto Allyn Street
Stops along **Allyn Street as needed**
Left onto Ann Avenue
Left onto Avon Place
Right onto Nantucket Drive
Stops at **Nantucket Drive and Lamphere Rd**
Left onto Lamphere Road
Right onto Cow Hill Road
Bear left onto Cow Hill Road Ext
Stops along **Cow Hill Road Ext as needed**
Continue onto High Street
Stops along **High Street as needed**
Right onto New London Road
Stops along **New London Road as needed**
Right onto Flanders Road
Stops along **Flanders Road as needed**

MYSTIC NORTH LATE RUN

Leaves CAHMMS at 4:00

Right out of the school
Continue onto Noank Ledyard Road
Stops along **Noank Ledyard Road as needed**
Right onto Sandy Hollow Road
Stops along **Sandy Hollow Road as needed**
Continue across to Sandy Hollow Road
Left onto High Street
Right onto Bindloss Road
Left onto River Road
Stops along **River Road as needed**
Left onto Shewville Road
Continue across on Shewville Road
Stops along **Shewville Road as needed**
Right onto Hyde Pond Road
Turn around
Left onto Shewville Road
Right onto Route 184
Stops along **Route 184 as needed**
Right onto Pumpkin Hill Road
Stops along **Pumpkin Hill Road as needed**
Turn around
Left onto Pumpkin Hill Road
Right onto Route 184
Stops at **Route 184 and Chesebrough Farm Road**
Stops along **Route 184 as needed**
Left onto Flanders Road
Right onto Rogers Road
Stops along **Rogers Road as needed**
Left onto Route 184
Stops along **Route 184 as needed**
Right onto Candlewood Road
Stops along **Candlewood Road as needed**
Right onto Route 117
Stops along **Route 117 as needed**
Left into Lorenzo Park to turn around
Right onto Route 117
Right onto Gales Ferry Road
Stops along **Gales Ferry Road as needed**
Turn around
Left onto Gales Ferry Road
Stops at **Gales Ferry Road and Mountain Laurel Road**
Right onto Route 117
Continue onto Route 117
Left onto Hazelnut Hill Road
Stops along **Hazelnut Hill Rd as needed**

NAVY LATE RUN

CITY LATE RUN

Leave CAHMMS at 4:00

Right out of school
Left onto Route 1
Right onto Buddington Road
Left onto Drozdyk Drive
Right onto Route 1
Stops along **Route 1 as needed**
Right onto Kings Highway
Right onto Route 184
Stops at **Route 184 and Kings Highway**
Stops at **Winding Hollow Road**
Stops along **Gold Star Highway as needed**
Left onto Tollgate Road
Stops along **Tollgate Road as needed**
Right onto Route 12
Stops at **Route 12 and Charter Oak Drive**
Stops at **Route 12 and Hickory Drive**
Left onto Pleasant Valley Road South
Stops at **Highland Avenue**
Stops at **Lestertown Road**
Right onto Walker Hill Road
Stops at **Bushnell Street**
Right onto Grove Avenue
Stops at **Grove Avenue**
Right onto Military Highway
Stops along **Military Highway as needed**
Right onto Crystal Lake Road
Left onto Route 12
Right onto Ohio Avenue
Stops at **Ohio Avenue and Pleasant Valley Road North**
Right onto Pleasant Valley Road North
Stops along **Pleasant Valley Rd No as needed**
Left onto Gungywamp Road
Stops along **Gungywamp Rd as needed**
Right onto 1st Pelican Drive
Right onto Poplar Road
Left onto Burningtree Drive
Stops at **Burningtree Dr and Magnolia Dr**
Stops at **Burningtree Dr and Cormorant Rd**
Right onto Gungywamp Road
Stops along **Gungywamp Road as needed**
Right onto Route 184
Left onto Buddington Rd
Stops along **Buddington Rd as needed**

Leave CAHMMS at 4:00

Right out of school
Left onto Route 1
Left onto Poquonnock Road
Stops along **Poquonnock Road as needed**
Left onto Johl Drive
Stops at **High Rock Road and Johl Drive**
Stops at **Hyrock Terrance and Cranston Dr**
Right onto High Rock Road
Left onto Poquonnock Road
Right onto Old Farm Road
Stops along **Blueberry Hill Road as needed**
Cross Poquonnock Road to Rainville Avenue
Left onto Litton Avenue
Stops along **Litton Avenue as needed**
Left onto Brandegee Avenue
Stops along **Brandegee Ave as needed**
Left onto Shennecossett Road
Stops along **Shennecossett Rd as needed**
Right onto Tyler Avenue
Stops along **Tyler Avenue as needed**
Right onto Eastern Point Road
Stops along **Eastern Point Rd as needed**
Continue onto Benham Road
Stops along **Benham Road as needed**
Continue onto Mitchell Street
Stops along **Mitchell Street as needed**
Left onto Broad Street
Stops at **Broad St for Thames Street area**
Right onto Thames Street
Right onto North Street
Left onto Meridian Street
Stops along **Meridian Street as needed**

MARCH 2020

CAHMMS Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45 Project Joy 2:45 - 3:45		Girls Intramural Basketball 7am Eye to Eye 2:45 Volleyball Intramurals 2:45 Homework Club 2:45	Fitch Counselor Visit 8th gr Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45	Fitch Counselor Visit 8th gr Girls Basketball Party 2:45	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45 Project Joy 2:45 - 3:45	Mystic Museum of Art, 9:30-1:30, 30 gr. 6-8 students PTO Meeting 6 pm Conf Room	Girls Intramural Basketball 7am Celebrate the Arts @ NEA, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz Band Eye to Eye 2:45 Volleyball Intramurals 2:45 Homework Club 2:45	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45	No School	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45 Project Joy 2:45 - 3:45	Salt Marsh Opera, Gr. 6 9:55 - 10:47 Cafe	Girls Intramural Basketball 7am Eye to Eye 2:45 Volleyball Intramurals 2:45 Homework Club 2:45	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45	True Colors Conference, 7 am - 6 pm Student Council Volleyball Tournament 3 - 5:30 pm	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45 Project Joy 2:45 - 3:45		Girls Intramural Basketball 7am Eye to Eye 2:45 Volleyball Intramurals 2:45 Homework Club 2:45	Drama Rehearsal 2:45 - 5 Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45	Drama Performance 7pm	Drama Performance 7pm
29	30	31				
	Volleyball 2:45 - 3:45 Project Joy 2:45 - 3:45					