

# A Changing World



2021 Winter Learning on Display



HERSHORN SCHIFF  
COMMUNITY  
DAY SCHOOL

# Learning on Display at CDS

Welcome back! This is not only our first in-person Learning on Display since the Winter of 2019; it's also the first on our new campus. We are thrilled to have you join us.

Learning on Display is an opportunity for each student to share the results of months of classroom learning and experience. Throughout the trimesters, every Community Day School student's interests and curiosity are nurtured by teachers with encouragement and educational engagement.

Twice each year our students and teachers share their learning journey with us, serving as the docents for an exhibition of their study, experimentation, and attainment. This is their chance to shine; igniting sparks of interest for others in the school, the community, and the world with their discoveries and accomplishments.

This program serves as a guide to some of the larger units of study, as well as the questions and challenges that inspired them.

Each classroom will provide a more comprehensive look at their projects and research topics. Thank you for joining us on this journey into A Changing World: Reacting, Responding, and Renewing.



Dan Ceaser  
Head of School



Robin Sweeting  
K-8 Director



Vickie Inglese  
Preschool Director

# **A Few Notes About CDS**

## **Learning on Display:**

- All Students and visiting children are in the care of their families during Learning on Display. Please be attentive and keep your children with you.
- Please stay masked while indoors at all times and kindly limit your classroom visits to no more than 15 minutes per our COVID-19 protocols.
- We invite you to question our students about their learning. The true measure of understanding is best displayed by a learner's ability to communicate a concept. Please put that practice in action!
- This book is a guide to understand some of the driving questions and challenges that are shared with you tonight. It is impossible, however, to capture all of the lessons covered. This guide will cover some of the larger units of study.

# Transitionals

## Miss Daryl and Miss Whitney

A Changing World: Reacting and Responding to New Learning Opportunities

The Transitional Toddlers' Learning on Display is a collaboration of creative experiences we have explored and dabbled in since the start of our school year together. These activities have reinforced creative, social, language, fine motor, sense of self and math development. Throughout these projects, we encourage the children to complete them on their own with their teachers overseeing them through the process. This allows us to make sure the children are becoming comfortable with first, doing something by themselves and becoming aware of their independence. Also while doing this, it prompts social relations as they build connections with their friends.

## Miss Krisztina and Miss Timea

A Changing World: Reacting and Responding to a New Learning Environment - "Our Winter Land"

The children used artistic mediums like paint and crayons to create a winter wonderland in the classroom. They explored how paint felt between their fingers as they created handprints and finger-painted "snow" on blue paper. After doing this, they used other implements to craft red hats for their "winter gnomes."

Opportunities for daily fine arts activities provide space for additional development as children learn social-emotional skills like taking turns or performing a task independently, and even pre-math skills like pattern-making or counting.



# Juniors

## Miss Carmen and Miss MJ

A Changing World: Reacting to Our Favorite Things and Renewing our Classroom Through Recycled Crafts

Our class loves to play in all centers, but one favorite toy is the train set. Since the children displayed so much interest in all things to do with trains, we decided to teach a unit on this topic. One of the books we used was a nonfiction book called "Riding the Trails" by Michael Swift. This book helped us learned a few important facts such as:

- Trains are an important kind of transportation
- A train can transport people, animals and other things
- To travel by train, it is necessary to buy a train ticket
- The conductor is a train helper and the driver is a train engineer
- The train moves on train tracks

The latest unit we are are working on is called "Winter Wonderland" After reading the story "The Mitten" by Jen Brett, using their great imagination, our Juniors went in the sand box and started making "snow sand balls". The children also rolled on the grass pretending to be big snowballs themselves and climbed our outside pyramid pretending it was an igloo made out of snow! Later on we used white magic dough and those little small muscles got a lot of exercise making snowmen out of the dough. Currently we are working on creating some beautiful snow globes out of recycled materials.

# **Juniors**

Miss Patty and Miss Linda

A Changing World: Reacting and Renewing our School Garden with a Special Creation

In our classroom, we spend a good deal of time learning about sharing, kindness, independence, taking turns, listening, and communicating how we feel about ourselves and our environment here at school and at home. We talk about what good things our hands can do. We learn about each other's homes and we learn about how we can contribute to our school environment. Our themes and projects have evolved from these subjects and conversations, including our latest project - creating a BIG scarecrow for our BIG school garden!

# **Tweens**

Miss Jessica and Miss Olivia

A Changing World: Reacting to Changing Seasons

Our class focused our learning on display on our "Fall Harvest" unit. Throughout these few weeks we discussed with the children the changing colors of leaves, and asked questions like "what happens when we plant pumpkin seeds?" The children even got messy with cooking projects. The theme of fall harvest offered many opportunities for our children to engage in hands-on group projects, as well as independent work. Some of the projects that we've done include cooking, science experiments, arts and crafts, and even dramatic play.

# Tweens

## Miss Claudia and Miss Teresa

A Changing World: Reacting and Responding to Different Holidays Around the Globe

Our class discovered the ways that many holiday celebrations in nearly every culture focus on teaching traditions, history, and the reasons a group of people care for one another. Through the lessons about the holidays of other cultures, the children learned that no matter what differences we have (physical, religious, or cultural) we also have many things in common such as family (times when extended family gather for special foods, traditions and one another), and love. Preschoolers can learn that all people have a great love for their children and enjoy doing fun activities together, even if they have different looks, beliefs and traditions.

## Miss Cindi and Miss Erika

A Changing World: Responding to What our Growing Bodies Need

Our class learned the different food groups and how different colored food help certain parts of their body. We did experiments like "dancing popcorn," how celery absorbs colored water, and making an egg turn to rubber. The children then created projects by painting celery flowers and gluing colored pasta and beans to paper to make a collage. The class used the letters of the week as a jumping-off point to name fruits and vegetables (i.e. "A" would lead to "apple," "avocado," or "arugula"). We traced a child's body and added different parts to show how specific food colors help certain parts of our bodies grow.

# Seniors

## Miss Kate, Miss Ashley, and Miss Julia

A Changing World: Reacting to, Responding to, and Renewing the World Around Us

Our students observed the ducks in the retention pond outside our classroom window. This led the children to wonder about the "Chicken Coop" out by the back playground of the school. We began comparing and contrasting ducks and chickens and thus, THE CHICKEN EXPERIENCE was born.

The children are creating their own handmade Alphabet Book Portfolios. Each book has small pieces of art to represent all 26 letters in the English Language. This is an ongoing yearlong project that encompasses Language and Literacy Skills, Alphabet Awareness, Phonological Awareness, Speaking and Listening Skills and Fine Motor Skills.

Finally, the children enjoyed a wonderful Outdoor Day with all Community Day School students. There were a variety of activities to participate in that included fine motor, large motor, and social skills. The children enjoyed playing with sand, bubbles, balls, parachute games, biking, playdough, dancing to music, painting with shaving cream, exploring the outdoors and much more. Everyone had a blast!

## Miss Natasha and Miss Teresa

A Changing World: Reacting and Responding to Different Cultures

Our Class has been learning about three different countries and their traditions. First, the nation of Israel, where they celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of lights. Next, we focused on the United States and the various winter holidays celebrated here. Finally, we "traveled" to Mexico, where we took a closer look at the Las Posadas celebration and the many Fiestas celebrated throughout the year.

# Kindergarten

Mrs. Levin and Mrs. Siff-Saiger

## Round and Round We Go: Exploring Cycles on our Planet

Kindergarteners journeyed through the life cycles of plants and animals, the water cycle, and even explored the world of recycling. They observed the transformation of a tadpole to a frog and carefully watched as seeds they planted germinated before their eyes



# First Grade

Ms. Behrenfeld and Ms. Tucker

## "Home Sweet Home"

Our first graders have been learning about our world by studying habitats and living things. They worked in groups to create habitat dioramas to showcase their learning. Our first graders also learned from each other as they wrote, illustrated, and published their own nonfiction class book called First Grade Fact Fanatics.



# Second Grade

Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Grimes

## "ThinkBot"

Our Class focused on social-emotional wellbeing through positive affirmations. Together, the class designed and created a "ThinkBot" prototype that will share positive affirmations with our community to help all students, teachers, and families connect together in a positive way.



# Third Grade

Ms. Fuller

## Your Voice Matters: Childhood Cancer Research

Through many ongoing discussions about kindness, compassion and empathy, our class created a plan to help others in a big way. From small gestures (creating uplifting notes on post-its and handing them to others), a big idea of raising awareness about pediatric cancer turned into a service learning project educating people about childhood cancer research.



# Fourth Grade

Mrs. Waganheim and Ms. Atchison

## "Zero Gr4vity"

Get pulled into 4th grade for a night under the stars that is out of this world. How are astronomical bodies interrelated? How does gravity influence us and celestial bodies?



# Fifth Grade

Mrs. Bloch and Mrs. Farris

## "Westward Expansion"

There are many lessons to be learned from this unit, and one significant one is putting others before yourself, which many pioneers did as they traveled along the grueling plains, crossing rivers, and rough mountainous terrain to reach their destinations. The students plan to leave behind a binder of games from the 1800's that can be enjoyed by other classes during recess that will be housed and shared in the school gym.



# Middle School



**A Changing World:**  
*reacting to history,  
responding to new ideas,  
and renewing the world  
around us.*





# Language Arts

Mr. Goldberg

## **6th: An Ode to Marine Life**

Poetry is a great way to share ideas and express feelings about a topic. In a cross-curricular collaboration between science and language arts, students experimented with two forms of poetry: limerick and Shakespearean sonnet. They then focused on some of the actual marine life they obtained (and named!) on a learning expedition to Mote, which they continue to observe and learn about in science class.

## **6th: Now Showing! Visual Narratives**

Sixth grade students considered the question of what makes an experience story-worthy. After writing narrative essays about a significant experience, students then created movie-style posters, imagining their adventures making it onto the big screen...a few even imagined the actors who would play them! In addition to oral communication skills, students also learned how to work with audio/video editing software.

## **7th: Where do Our Beliefs Come From?**

Do you have any steadfast beliefs? From where did they originate? Seventh grade students considered these very questions. After reflecting, brainstorming, and identifying a personal belief (not as easy as it sounds!), each student then wrote a short essay in the mold of the popular NPR series, *This I Believe*. From there, students added artistic elements to their work. After taking a look at this student work, we welcome you to share your own beliefs!

## **8th: 6-Word Memoirs**

Shakespeare wrote, "Brevity is the soul of wit." Orwell said, "If it's possible to cut a word out, always cut it out." Eighth grade students wrote short personal memoirs, which they were then challenged to reduce down to six words each! Lastly, they chose one memoir to approach from a creative, artistic angle. What experience can you sum up in six words?

# Language Arts/History

Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Meissner

## **7/8: Crash Course: *The Rise and Fall of Early American Civilizations***

American history is controversial, complex, and vast! Nobody has the time to learn *everything* about our great nation...thankfully, the 7th and 8th graders have provided a solution! In a cross-curricular collaboration between social studies and language arts, students produced short informational videos with the goal of teaching us about some of the most significant people, events, and cultures in our country's history.

## **World History**

Mr. Meissner

### **6th:**

In World History, sixth graders created a Virtual Museum focused on how prehistoric people survived and their main achievements. How did our ancestors survive during the last Ice Age? Besides survival, what did they achieve in terms of art and crafts? What were Neolithic villages like?

### **7/8:**

In World History, seventh and eighth graders created informative videos about life in early North America: from pre-Columbian to the English colonies. How did each civilization adapt to its environment? How did some civilizations fail to adapt? What does it take to establish and keep a civilization alive?

# Science

Ms. Johnson

## **6th:**

In science, sixth graders explored the delicate balance and hard work it takes to keep our oceans clean and stable for the organisms that live there by creating our own mini ecosystem aquarium in the classroom. They also investigated their interests in different facets of biology and crafted an experiment to test their hypotheses. They also crafted, wrote, and sent persuasive letters to important legislators regarding environmental topics that matter to them, spanning science, language arts, and social studies skills.

## **7/8:**

In science, seventh and eighth graders explored physics concepts that most interest them and tested their hypotheses with an experiment. They also crafted, wrote, and sent persuasive letters to important legislators regarding environmental topics that matter to them, spanning science, language arts, and social studies skills.

# Religion

## Rabbi Moskowitz, Morah Snait, & Morah Orna

**Morah Snait** - Hebrew - Celebrating Hanukkah. What are the origins of the holiday, and the Jewish values that it carries? How do we celebrate the holiday? What is the story behind it? What are the symbols and traditions of the holiday?

**Rabbi Moskowitz** - World Religion is focused on an awareness of cultural and religious differences in our world and how they compare to how we practice our own religion. We explore the ethical and moral choices defined by religion, culture, family and personal life decisions. Holy books and holy leaders, holy communities and holy choices help us define what is Holy and how we can find and create that Holiness in our own lives.

Judaism is taught from the Torah, Mishnah and Talmud, thematically. Lately we have been studying the human reality and challenge of loneliness as we examine the broken lives of our biblical heroes and commentaries about how to respond to loneliness.

**Morah Orna** - Judaic Studies students learn through literature, music, video clips, as well as hands-on art activities. In addition, there is an exposure to learning about the Torah portions - stories from the Bible. The focus of the class are the moral lessons of these stories and how we can implement these lessons to everyday life. Middle school students learn about the Holocaust and its history with a specific focus on learning the meaning of being an Upstander vs. Bystander. The students met Holocaust Survivors that came to the school to share their personal testimonies about their survival. They also learned about those known as the Righteous Among The Nations and their role in saving the Jewish people during World War II.

# Specials

**Music & Movement** – We envision a future in which all people have ongoing and sustained access to quality arts experiences that empower them to discover and nurture talents, believe in their abilities, and share their unique voices with the world. We are pleased to have three teaching artists in dance and music join our team of specialists.

**Astronomy by Rabbi Moskowitz** – The world of space travel and exploration is now part of our everyday lives; from satellites, gps and the possibility of the public having seats on a space-ship, we are studying parts of it all. Project based learning is the core of teaching style for this class.

**Bits, Bytes & Bots with Mr. Hirschfeld** offers a variety of classes including robotics, stop-motion animated movie making and game creation. Our curriculum is always on the cutting edge of the technology.

**Agriculture** – We started off with learning what exactly agriculture is and then we started to plan for our new garden! Our classes have learned all about the different parts of plants and seeds, plant parts we eat, chicken information and care and so much more. Our main focus has been creating our new garden. The students, Ms. Addie and Ms. Katie are very excited to show you what we have grown so far! We are hoping to have a good harvest so our families can try some of are crops too!

**Physical Education** – Throughout the year, students have learned the basics of different sports, as well as other methods of keeping bodies healthy and strong. Grades K-3 recently learned a cardio drumming routine (shown on a video on Blackbaud), as well how to take a pulse. Connecting with their outer space unit, grade 4 enjoyed a moon walk activity. Grades 5-8 most recently discovered how to determine your cardiovascular health with your heart rate and exercise.

A special "Thank You" to all of our Learning Partners:

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David Hirschfeld, and Mark McDermott

Dr. Aaron Romm, Sarasota Orchestra

All Faiths Food Bank

Harvest House

Jim Grimes, Master Carpenter for 2nd Grade

Thank You for joining us!

