

THE C.E.S.



connection

NEWSLETTER



PODCAST





We are switching messaging systems!

On **DECEMBER 9 AT 5:00 PM**, all staff members and families will be receiving a test message from our Executive Director. This message is part of our school-wide alert system, designed to inform you promptly about any important updates, including school closings.

What to Do:

- If you receive the test message, no action is needed.
- **If you do not receive the test message, please contact your program secretary as soon as possible to ensure you are added to the notification system.**

Thank you for helping us maintain a reliable communication network for everyone's safety and convenience.

P D P a i o o z a!



Merit Academy Thanksgiving Festivities!

Pie Contest!

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Merit Academy Thanksgiving Festivities!

Pie Contest!



And the winners are...
Best overall: Ms. Hicks' Class sweet Potato Pie



Best taste: Mr. Casalini's Class Oreo Cookie Pie



Best presentation: Mrs. Mastracchio's Class Strawberry Pretzel Pie

Merit Academy Thanksgiving Festivities!

Thanksgiving Feast!



Oakview Transition Program's Annual Pancake Brunch!



Congratulations to the cast of *Chicago*!



The RCEL kids are loving their new playground!



COMING SOON

REGIONAL
CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

Jazz Concerts
December 9 and 10
at 7:00pm



A Christmas Carol
December 18
at 7:00 pm

The Regional Center for the Arts Presents:

A Christmas Carol

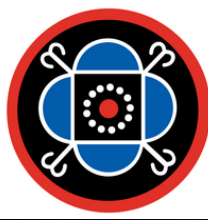


The Miracle Worker
December 6 and 7
at 7:30pm



12 Angry Jurors
December 13 and 14
at 7:30pm





Some students and staff participated in
a traditional prayer dance



Six to Six Mohegan Tribe Presentation



Question and Answer section

[Click here to
watch full
presentation!](#)

[For more
information
please click
here!](#)

C.E.S hosted our first paraeducator conference on November 5th at WorkspaceCT; designed to provide valuable learning to our nearly 100 paraeducators in attendance. Topics ranging from understanding autism, data collection, assistive technology and AAC devices, the importance of self-care, and attending to the mental health and social emotional needs of students were provided throughout the day. Laughter, collaboration and a great lunch & raffle prizes were also part of the experience!








Suzanne Clement, the Early Childhood Coordinator in PDS, contributed to "Evaluation of the Connecticut Early Childhood Education Workforce Pipeline Pilot" Congratulations on great work!

PEER releases final report from Early Childhood Education Workforce Pipeline Pilot program evaluation



ILLUMINATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, CULTURES AND PERSPECTIVES PD PLAYLIST

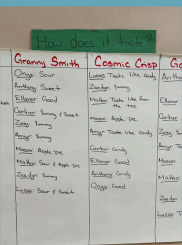
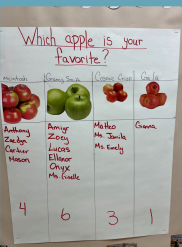
Directions: Explore resources, read one article, watch one video, and listen to a recording of your choice from the list below. Feel free to go big and read them all to support planning, learning, and teaching.

	<div> READ </div> <div> Read one or more articles </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Museum of the American Indian: Smithsonian Museum - Online Exhibitions National Museum of the American Indian (si.edu) Native Knowledge 360: Smithsonian Museum - Home Native Knowledge 360° - Interactive Teaching Resources (si.edu) Pre-Colonial History of the Wampanoag: Dr. Lucianne Lavin - Pre-colonial_History_of_the_Wampanoag- (iaismuseum.org) Mohawk Iroquois Long House - Mohawk Iroquois Longhouse The New York State Museum (nysed.gov) Native American Museum in Uncasville, CT The Mohegan Tribe Native American - Connecticut History a CTHumanities Project Native American Activism: 1960s to Present - Zinn Education Project (zinnedproject.org)
	<div> WATCH </div> <div> Watch one or more videos </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (46:56) The True Ancient Origins of Native Americans: Timeline - The True Ancient Origins Of The Native Americans 1491: Before Columbus Timeline - YouTube (10:11) The Hidden History of "Hand Talk": Vox - The hidden history of "Hand Talk" - YouTube (18:56) Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center
	<div> LISTEN </div> <div> Listen to one or more recordings/podcasts </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Various) The Nutmeg Podcast: Native American History - Listen to our Podcasts About Native American Stories - Connecticut Explored (ctexplored.org) (Various) Unreserved - CBC Radio (Various) All My Relations Podcast, www.allmyrelationspodcast.com (Various) The Henceforward Podcast, The Henceforward Telling Our Twisted Histories Podcast, Telling Our Twisted Histories CBC Podcasts CBC Listen Warrior Kids Podcast – Warrior Kids Podcast is an interactive podcast that is a celebration of everything Indigenous! (For kids 6 years up and older)
	<div> EXPLORE </div> <div> Explore additional resources used in the field </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rumble - TeachRock (MS, HS) Indigenous Peoples' Day Resources - Zinn Education Project Native-Land.ca Our home on native land American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) The Mohegan Tribe- Educators Project The Water Walker: Indigenous Wisdom and Water Contamination - TeachRock (MS, HS)
	<div> REFLECT </div> <div> Reflect on the following questions </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What promising practice can you share with colleagues? How might you innovate on the work you are already doing? What new awareness, questions, or ideas do you have after reviewing the resources?

THE RCEL TINY TALES & TIDBITS



Harvesting Knowledge: How Fall Studies of Apples and Pumpkins Spark Young Minds



As we get closer to wrapping up the season of Fall, some of our classrooms continue to conduct a study of apples and pumpkins. This season has offered the children tremendous opportunities to engage hands on across multiple areas of development.

Early Scientific Inquiry: Children are exploring the life cycles of fruits, engaged in sensory play, and even cooking with them. Teachers encourage open-ended questions to make predictions, building on critical thinking and observing results.

Early Mathematical Discovery: Children can support the creation of charts using sorting and classification, along with measuring ingredients and counting seeds. This helps foster basic arithmetic.

Early Language and Literacy: Children are introduced to new vocabulary such as "flesh", "slices", "core", "seeds", "stems", to enhance their language and literacy skills.

These interactive, real-world experiences not only make learning fun but also help young learners connect classroom lessons to the world around them, all while fostering curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

ANNOUNCING OUR HOLIDAY CARD ART WINNERS!

We're thrilled to unveil the winners of this year's holiday card artwork submissions:



Kayla S | Grade 11
Regional Center for the Arts

✨ Top Left: Kayla S.
(Grade 11, RCA)

✨ Bottom Left: Avery B.
(Grade 4, Six to Six Magnet
School)


Their inspiring creations will grace this year's holiday card, celebrating the incredible talent within our CES community.

👏 Congratulations to both artists on their outstanding work!



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE WITH TUITION REIMBURSEMENT!

CES supports your professional growth! Our Tuition Reimbursement Program helps you pursue further education while easing the financial burden.

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[Tuition Reimbursement
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must-have accessories,
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Don't miss out—grab your
gear today and rep CES in
style!



JOIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY ADVISORY TEAM!

Be a part of meaningful change at CES! Our team has already:

- ✓ Developed the CES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy
- ✓ Recommended improvements to exit interviews and bereavement policies
- ✓ Tackled updates to the sick leave policy

Now, we need you! Help shape the future and ensure every voice is heard.

📋 Ready to make an impact?

[Sign Up Here](#)

Your voice matters—join us today!



**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**





MAXIMIZE YOUR HSA THIS WINTER!

Your HSA covers more than just the basics! From wellness items like fitness trackers and massage tools to seasonal essentials like air purifiers and allergy relief products, there's so much more you can purchase.

✓ Check what's eligible:
[View Eligible Expenses](#)

🛒 Shop with ease:
[Shop HSA-Approved Items](#)

You can shop anywhere—just reimburse yourself with a check from your HSA. Take advantage of all it offers!

UNLOCK YOUR EMPLOYEE PERKS TODAY!

Ready to save big on holiday fun and everyday deals? From theme parks to Broadway, hotels to rental cars—your perks program has it all!

 **Thrill-seekers: Six Flags, Universal Studios, Disneyland & more**

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It's free and easy to join!

 **Visit:** WorkingAdvantage.com

 **Code: CESPERKS**

Start saving now and make the most of your perks! 





UPCOMING EVENTS AT WORKSPACECT!

Dance with a Rockette

✨ Saturday, December 21
Bethel

A once-in-a-lifetime workshop for kids and teens of all ages, led by the incredible Tiffany Billings—a real Radio City Rockette!

✨ RSVP: [Dance with a Rockette](#)

WORKSPACE^{CT}
CES/EdAdvance Collaborative



Decorate a Mini Gingerbread House

🌸 Saturday, December 21
Bethel

Get festive and creative with this fun, family-friendly activity!

🏠 RSVP: [Decorate a Mini
Gingerbread House](#)



@cooperativeeducationservices

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@pdsatces

@regionalcenterforthearts

@SixtoSixMagnetSchool

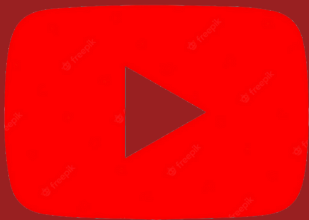
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THE C.E.S.



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New podcasts every month!