



The Castle Design Challenge

OMEGA Calendar

	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Su
				1	2 OMEGA DANCE	3	4
OCT	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14 MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL	15	16	17	18
	19 NO SCHOOL	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26 OPEN HOUSE	27	28	29	30	31	

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

*check **Rainbow Reminders*** We need folks to put up **hooks for the Haunted House*** Every Friday, we have a basket of **used towel that need to be washed*** All **upcoming events need volunteers.** Coordinators have been chosen, but *it takes teamwork to make the dream work!**

FAMILY BUSINESS ALERT!

Steve White and **Wendy Sause**, parents of **Bronwyn** and **Elijah**, are **opening a movie theatre!** Even though it's not yet open, Steve says they "couldn't pass up booking the **40th Anniversary of Monty Python and the Holy Grail.**" They're "partnering with ACT to show the film **Weds. Oct. 14 at 7:30PM.**" A flyer is included at the end of this newsletter!

AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH

This exhibit, which was shared in an assembly with grades 5-8 and was featured in the latest Heart of The Matter, is at the YMI Cultural Center at 39 S. Market St. until November 7th. Tuesday - Saturday 11am-4pm and Sundays 1-4 pm.

(americanswhotellthetruth.org)

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

The first Parents' Night Out , a fundraiser for the Omega end of year trip, was Oct. 3rd from 5-8 p.m. The next two will be **Nov 14**, 1-4 p.m. and **Dec 5**, 1-4 pm.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Middle School Open House, for ALL parents, **Monday, Oct. 26, 9:00-11:00am.** and **6:30 - 8 pm** We will have some alumni there to answer questions about their HS experience.

Integrated Lessons

shared by students



Sydney

In the week of September 8, in Social Studies, we first just had an introduction to this particular social studies class, and what kind of things we will be learning about. Also, we learned about **superstitions**. We started out with looking into what superstitions you have, and what superstitions the rest of your family have. Some people had regular superstitions like knocking on wood or don't walk under ladders, and some had superstitions that were a bit more rare. We got groups and answered some questions about superstitions, and then picked one from a list to make a skit out of and act out in front of the class. We are also going to be making a sort of **poster** as homework. We have to **draw/write about a certain superstition, the science behind it, and the origin of the superstition**. An example could be knocking on wood. I am not sure of the science behind it, but the origin comes from the belief that spirits, magical creatures and the like lived in trees. People would knock on wood as a sort of way to ask these creatures to protect them.

Jack



The week of **September 8th** was the first week of **S.E.E.D**, a class taught solely by Niki Gilbert, and Susan Waddell.

The first class started with a sheet. On this sheet, there was a silhouette of a sideways-facing being, in which Susan encouraged the students of Omega to draw a **self portrait**. She came around with a woven basket. Nestled inside were 13 slips of paper for every class. Each had a student's name neatly printed on the front, and each was folded. **Each student picked a name and watched how that fellow student innovated.** Another basket was passed around. This basket had odds and ends of all shapes and sizes. A paper was given alongside this object, numbered one to ten. The students were told to brainstorm (and later demonstrate) ten alternative uses for this object. There were singing-bowl hats, and swim-goggles, Easter eggs, and electrical outlet combs. The students then **COMBINED** their objects, making **baby-wipe bowties**, and **c-d sunglasses**. Inside the silhouette, the students drew how they innovated, and in turn, Susan said, the student would draw (or write) how the classmate that they observed innovated outside of the silhouette.

That was when Niki took over the class. She explained to the students Omega's S.E.E.D, and how it was **Rainbow's spin on S.T.E.M**. Returning to the topic of **innovation**, she gave the students a list of the **"top fifty innovations of all time,"** compiled by a board of scientists and engineers. The students would then pick what

Nakaya



The week of September 28th, we began and concluded our **standardized testing**, not having enough time for too much Main Lesson. But, we still got our chances to practice design and begin our large **Innovation Study**. In Niki's science class we practiced design by **making crafty castles according to Princess Kyja's needs**, using cardboard, paper, plastic, and even more to express the needs that were expected by the princess. A week ago we turned in our **Innovation Brainstorm Worksheets**. We have received those sheets and begin our pre research this week. Having our testing over has relieved a little stress. Overall **Omega has exceeded expectations**.

Edezra



The week of September 28th, during our class meeting, we discussed **blessings** and came to the decision of **ringing the bell at the end of snack**, this will be the blessing of the day. This is not final. We have **folders to check returned work** next to the computer cart; this is the student's responsibility. **Announcements:** Please pay attention to if there is anyone in the **restrooms** because there have been multiple incidences where people have turned off the lights when someone was in there. Please be mindful of turning off the lights when people are NOT in the restroom. Please do not tell the other group about activities that they are about to go to that may be a surprise. Next week on Tuesday we are **going to Dobra tea to philosophize**. Yesterday, there was a school shooting and we will discuss **lockdown** and more about the subject. Please be mindful about behavior during lockdown. On the **haunted house**, next week there will be assigned to a group and more will be discussed.

MATHEMATICS

Math I

We've explored:

cause and effect, change over time, and tools for studying patterns of change

Students were introduced to:

four different types of graphs and real-life problems that model such patterns.

Students can now connect:

profit to a parabola, interest and population change to exponential functions, and constant change to linear equations.

Transitions

We have explored:

- positive & negative numbers
- the language of mathematics
- the order of operations
- coordinate graphs
- representing numbers

We've been busy:

- describing patterns
- translating words into algebraic expressions using variables
- evaluating the expressions.
- using formulas such as the *Pythagorean Theorem*

Polymath

Math is FUN!

We have been exploring the **foundations of geometry - Circles!** Geometry literally means "Earth Measurement" so we began by looking at where circles (and spheres) appear in **Nature** - the Earth, the Sun, the Moon, (aligning this weekend for a full lunar eclipse!), bubbles, flowers, cells, etc. We have learned how to calculate **circumference and area of circles** using one of Nature's most beautiful and mysterious numbers - **Pi!** Students have used **compass and straightedge** to draw circles, as well as **origami paper**, to fold area relationships.

Math II

SEE NEXT PAGE

MATHEMATICS

Math II

What's Math 2 been up to?

Well, in math-speak, we've been exploring:

***direct and inverse variation* power functions ***

multivariable functions

...expanding our understanding of ways in which variables can be related and connecting mathematical functions with real-world phenomena.

Just how we do this is a little harder to convey.

We are an **amazing team of five** (Abby, Bronwyn, Clay, Elijah, and Niki), which allows us to learn in ways that are **deeply collaborative, personalized**, and sometimes even **a little improbable**.

Sometimes we're **hunkered around the table in the old cry room**, but other times you could find us **in the woodshop constructing a ramp** or **feeling our way through the dark in the baptism room**.

All of our investigations so far have asked us to consider the nature of things: *How is the roll time down a ramp related to ramp height, and length? How does the intensity of light change with distance from the source? How is electrical current related to voltage and resistance?*

Whenever possible, **we collect our own data**, which also leads to some **interesting discussions about scientific methodologies**.

We are **delightfully serious and playful** when it comes to the pursuit of higher math.

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We may or may not celebrate aha moments with spontaneous dance.

# Specials & Electives

## Music



We are focusing on elements of music.

### Element # 1: METER

*Meter is the pulse of the music.*

We began by recognizing the down beat and counting the number of beats between each down beat. We focused on **duple meter**, **triple meter** or **quadruple meter**.

**Meter project** - students worked to collaborate creating pieces which combined words: names and interests. First, students chose a meter. Then they demonstrated with clapping and/or body percussion. Next, they created a speech pattern to go with the meter.

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*I am impressed by this group of Omegas. They are respectful, creative and willing to take risks!*

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**New:** on Wednesdays, the Omegas are split into two groups: 7th graders and 8th graders.

## Choral Explorations



This group is small but mighty!  
We have been working on:

correct singing posture  
warmups and technique  
Building a repertoire  
of a wide variety of music  
Writing our own song!

*Again, I am so impressed with this group!  
I think everyone is having a lot of fun.*

# Spanish



## ♥ Omega Sol / Spanish I ♥

We are FUN & BUSY in Spanish class ...playing games and reviewing...

This week we are reviewing FRUIT vocabulary & the PRESENT TENSE of ~ar & ~er verbs...

Soon...~ir verbs!!!

**Regular Rhythms:** We will be learning our *Pregunta de la Semana* on Mondays AND...

every Thursday, we inspire each other to speak only Spanish in class!!!♥LISA

## ♥ Omega Luna / Spanish II ♥

We are FUN & BUSY in Spanish class...playing games and reviewing...

This week we are reviewing the present, present progressive, and future tenses!!!

We are also studying FRUIT and translating a funny Spanish song.

**Regular Rhythms:** We will be learning our *Pregunta de la Semana* on Mondays AND...

every Thursday, we inspire each other to speak only Spanish in class!!!♥LISA

# PE and Athletics

**Invasion Game Strategy** - Dodging, Weaving, Fleeing

**Volleyball**, **Flag Football**, and **Ultimate** have all started and are going well!



# 2D Art



We have:

\***sketched still life arrangements** to learn the basics of composition, proportion, and value. \***practiced figure drawing** in the form of blind countour and gesture drawing. \*learned to use the **grid method**, a way of drawing by using grids to accurately copy an existing illustration. \*

Presently, students are working on a **finished pencil drawing** that demonstrates composition, proportion and tonal value.

They are a strong group of young artists!





# Facilities





From day one, the facilities students were **very hands on** - driving the tractor, shoveling and raking to make the **new pathway from the playground to the new campus**. They naturally **share the work and take turns** - offering those with the least experience the first chances to try something. They also **compliment each others' techniques and learn from each other** - *a highly impressive group of 8th graders*. They are already asking when they can take the class again. And no wonder - Max is a patient and generous teacher.

Project two was giving some **pickets of the new playground fence** their unique shape. Next came some landscaping, clearing out the **playground fountain, removing Chestnut hulls** from the preschool

playground, **installing a shelf** in Niki's classroom, a rainy day lesson in **electricity, checking on a leak** that resulted from the rain, **hanging the new mural** on the sixth grade building and installing the first **disc golf goal** on Rainbow's campus!

#### Tools/materials used:

\* tractor \* shovel \* coarse gravel \* rakes \* landscape fabric \* soil \* shrubs \* stakes \* hammer \* nails \* post hole digger \* jigsaw \* router \* drill w/ masonry bit \* leaf blower \* shop vac \* hose \* spade \* play sand\*



# Home Economics







# Theatre of the Oppressed

Our intimate theater class of eight students has blossomed into a dynamic and connected ensemble over the past month.

We've fallen into the **rhythm of the core energy** of the group, learning to move as **one organism**. We have heightened our **five senses** with **somatic exercises** and **strengthened our intuitive powers** with **trust activities**.

**Two weeks ago** our class moved into discussing **systems of oppression** and *how agents within those systems are made to feel **empowered** while targets within those systems are made to feel **disempowered***. Our students quickly narrowed in on the collective systematically disempowering relationship they engage with everyday... their relationship with adults.

**For the past two weeks** we have been focused on **Image Theater**, *bringing the inherent power dynamics that exist between children and adults into life through images, statues, and improvised script*.

After having prepared ourselves as actors, studied our environment as critical thinkers, and creatively delved into the theatrical production of images, **we are finally ready to begin working on our short plays!**

## BONUS



Sheila dug up a time capsule created by the 2nd grade Foxes!



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14  
7:30PM  
AT  
ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE  
WWW.ASHEVILLETHEATRE.ORG/BOX-OFFICE



# Monty Python AND THE HOLY GRAIL



"Inspired lunacy"



Total Film

"As funny as  
a movie can get"

Time Magazine

PYTHON (MONTY) PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH MICHAEL WHITE PRESENTS "MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL"  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY GRAHAM CHAPMAN, JOHN CLEESE, TERRY GILLIAM, ERIC IDLE, TERRY JONES, MICHAEL PALIN  
WITH CAROL CLEVELAND, CONNIE BOOTH, JOHN YOUNG SONGS BY NEIL INNES  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOHN GOLDSTONE PRODUCED BY MARK FORSTATER DIRECTED BY TERRY GILLIAM AND TERRY JONES

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[www.MontyPython.com](http://www.MontyPython.com)



#holygrail40