

06 December 2018

Dear Upper School family and friends,

This week we have been incredibly busy with getting things ready for the end of the year 2018 and planning ways to improve things in 2019. Today our last anonymous buddy letters went to the prek/k classroom. We have the materials and will begin working on our gifts to them tomorrow or Monday.

Right now as I am drafting this newsletter all the students are working on zentangles for our display at the Barnes and Noble book fair on Saturday. They are all so focused and concentrating individually on their designs that I can see why they are called **zentangles**. Our display will be smaller this year, but that's because the store really has very few places to put additional materials with all their holiday merchandise. That should be great for the school though since there will be more sales and hopefully the shoppers will ask to use our code.

I hope you can all join us at Barnes and Noble. All of the teachers will be reading stories in the children's section of the store and a couple of the books are going to be surprises. It's also great to hang out and just enjoy spending time with other members of our CNS family.

Reminder from last week's newsletter: The students voted that they wanted to do a Secret Santa exchange this year. They also voted that the maximum that could be spent on a gift would be \$15. . . We will have a fun day on December 18 and will exchange gifts that day. Students have drawn names and everyone has talked about things they like to help those who did not know the person whose name they drew very well.

The class is still working on their play. One of the stars (They are all stars in this play!) was absent today so we didn't work as much on it. We have a couple of props and a piece of scenery to work on and then it will be practice, practice, practice.

We have started a new procedure and time for math. We have two or more adults working with the kids every day and have made it more structured. Math time is now from

1020-1055 for the students in grades 4, 5, and 6 while the students in grades 7 and 8 read silently. From 1100 until 1135 we switch with math for grades 7 & 8 and SSR for the others. At 1135 students have independent work time to work on any assignments they need to finish or need help or if their work is completed, they can read silently. It seems to be working well so far as it gives each student more individual attention and also forces the other students to read silently and not be a distraction to themselves and others. We have a couple of students who work better alone; we have made accommodations for them by allowing them to work in the office with Ms. Courtney there to answer questions and keep the students motivated.

Thank you so much to all of our great parents for driving and chaperoning our field trip to Cedarhurst. We could not have done it without you. I enjoyed my time with the eighth graders that day. I am not sure how much they enjoyed the standardized test they had to take though.

Reminder from last week: ~~Students will begin working on rehearsals for their student-led conferences soon. So far only three families~~ all but three families ~~have signed up for conferences. Please remember that although the school calendar says no school on December 19 and 20, that is because we are having conferences. If you do not wish your students to be counted absent, you must have a student-led conference. Please contact me via phone, text, or email to schedule a time. If you need to schedule a different day and time, please contact me as soon as possible. If it is before the 19th, I will need to make sure your child is one of the first rehearsing to accommodate an earlier date.~~

Have a great weekend. I hope to see you all at Barnes and Noble.

Best wishes,

Carla

Dates to Remember

December 8: Barnes & Noble book fair

December 12: Ugly Sweater Day

December 13: Winter Program (6:30 at Quigley Auditorium)

December 14: Movie and Fun Curricular activities

December 18: Secret Santa and Party

December 19-20: Student-led Conferences

January 4: School Resumes

***Wish List:** Swiffer Duster refills*

College-ruled Notebook Filler Paper