



"I went from
running one mile
to three miles in
two weeks."
- Spencer



PARENT NEWSLETTER

3RD QUARTER
ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015



March Madness

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our boys here at the Connecticut Junior Republic have engaged and participated in many different activities and team sports during this third quarter. The students that take P.E. here at the CAVEC have engaged in activities including: football, basketball, kickball, soccer and tag games to name a few. They all have truly gained an understanding of all of the rules and skills necessary to be successful in each of these activities and exercises.

Teamwork and good sportsmanship is the basis and foundation of class. The boys have done an exceptional job in being leaders and working with their peers to not only grow individually, but as a group as well.

Library and Literacy

The new CJR Library continues to grow, in both great books to read, and more students checking them out. Staff members are also finding their way into the library and becoming frequent patrons. Popular genres are mysteries, dystopian novels, life experiences of soldiers, and



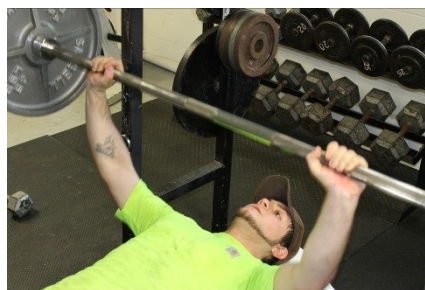
certain nonfiction. The most checked out books continue to be graphic novels. Our collection is ever expanding and many titles have been read over and over. Graphic novels are much more sophisticated these

days and are not always easy reads. In fact, the vocabulary can be very challenging, but coupled with detailed illustrations and fascinating story lines, graphic novels are enjoyable and satisfying reads.

Sometimes, nonfiction gets a bad rap for being boring. Not according to Christian D. who when returning the book, *How They Croaked*, by Georgia Bragg, stated, "That was the best book I ever read in my life!" No better recommendation than that.

One last thought, if books are not your thing (I'm determined to change that), come into the library for a little rest and relaxation by working on a puzzle. One is always in progress and everyone who finds their way into the library cannot help but try to fit a piece. It's good therapy! Stay tuned for more changes to come.

-Mrs. Whiteside, Librarian



The weight room is offered to certain students and the boys who take this class are very motivated and determined to improve their muscular

strength, endurance and overall health. What a difference a few months of hard work makes! Keep working hard and good things will happen.

All of us, including myself, are looking forward to the fourth quarter. We will be using our beautiful fields and grounds on campus to continue learning and playing new sports, as well as enjoying the fresh air outdoors. Activities like golf, baseball, capture the flag and fishing are a few of the sports and activities we will be focusing on for the remainder of the year.

I am very proud of all of our future graduates who will be receiving their diplomas in June and August. Your hard work is paying off and you should be very proud

of yourselves. To the underclassmen: keep focused and good things will continue to happen.

- Mr. Mulhall,
Physical Education



Exploratory & Plant Science

CJR kitchens to enhance wonderful tasty treats for students and staff to enjoy. Our peppers are doing well. The seedlings were started around St. Patrick's Day, for they take a while to get going. It's important to start them early. In the school, many of our flowering tropicals are blooming away and greeting students, faculty and guests every day.

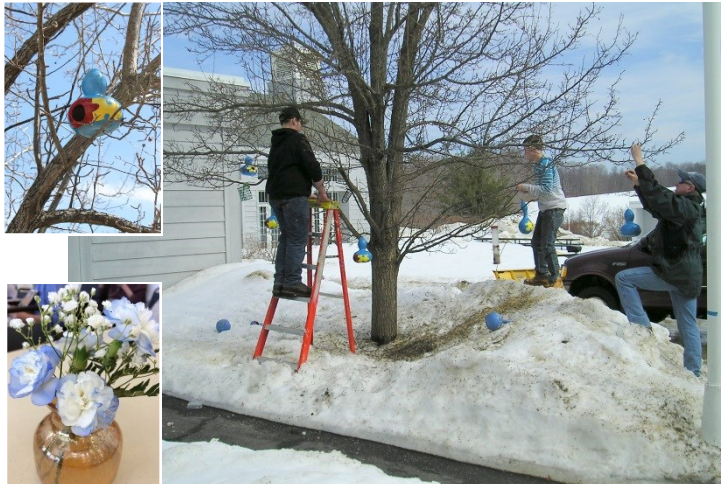
In observance of April being Autism Awareness month, students are creating bud vases of flowers in blue themes for the



breakfast tables and we have painted birdhouse gourds in colorful puzzle piece colors that are now hanging around our bird feeders. Our tilapia farm is in its second month of operation. The live fish were purchased from a fish farm out west and arrived measuring one inch or smaller. The young tilapia are now over four inches in length. We've counted approximately one hundred total of White Nile strain and Blue tilapia. Students care for them daily by feeding and cleaning and changing the water to maintain quality fish health. The fish waste water is used to feed the greenhouse plants. We also have a hydroponic table that grows and feeds plants from the fish water as well.

With the arrival of spring, our bluebird boxes are being cleaned and made ready for set up outside. Bluebirds pick out territories very early in the spring. Another insect-eating bird is the tree swallow, which gets along with bluebirds. If a bluebird does not use one of the boxes for nesting, tree swallows will inhabit it. From all the students in Budny's classes, Happy Spring!

- Mr. Budny, Exploratory & Plant Science



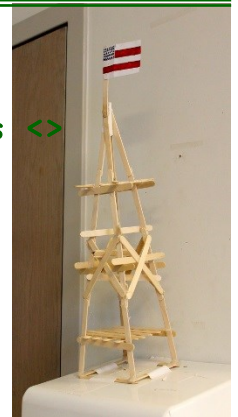
S. T. E. M.

Science <> Technology <>
Engineering <> Mathematics <>

Students In S.T.E.M. classes applied their engineering skills to math and science

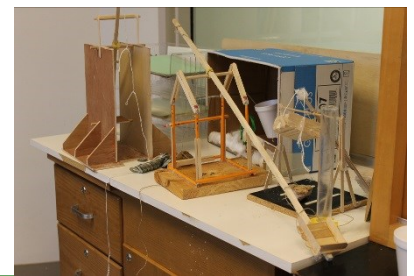


concepts to develop some great projects. We explored shake-proof towers and basics of seismology, vertical trajectory and trebuchet catapults, as



well as density/buoyancy and hot air balloons. Students showed great ingenuity, creativity, and pride in their projects. Students also demonstrated their ability to work carefully and cooperatively, particularly on the hot air balloons project. For the fourth quarter, many of our projects will take us outside, assuming that the weather warms up. Students will explore topics such as forensics, types of heat transfer, and air foils. I am confident we will see some exceptional designs right to the end of the year.

- Mr. LaBranche, STEM



James K. Obst, *Director of Education and Student Services*

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding your son's education, always feel free to contact me at 860-567-9423 ext. 211 or at jobst@cjrjyouth.org or CJR's Director of School Operations, Chris Cook, at 860-567-9423 ext.269 or at ccook@cjrjyouth.org or CJR's Director of Special Education, Jan Calabro, at 860-567-9423 ext.289 or at jcalabro@cjrjyouth.org

Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC)

at the Connecticut Junior Republic provides academic, vocational and related educational services.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

As the year flies by rapidly, the third quarter presented many challenges and ultimately terrific accomplishments for the students of Agricultural Science.

The record-breaking winter of 2014-2015 created a diverse set of issues which needed to be addressed by each class. Lessons in animal care, facility management, as well as equipment operation were at the forefront of our curriculum. Nearly every aspect of the farm's operation took on a different dimension with the cold temperatures, high volume of snow and the consistency with which both occurred. In all cases, the students performed admirably and worked very hard to accomplish their goals.

Six beautiful calves were born during the marking period including a set of twin bull calves, named Beau and Luke, all coming into the world without problems and are doing very well. Two kid goats and five lambs bring some cuteness to the farm and, as always, are generating many visits. The students enjoy the birthing season and learn many reproduction skills regarding the pre and post-natal care of all the mothers and babies.

Firewood production continued to be a favorite activity of the students. This work goes hand in hand with our forestry stewardship, which maintains the health of our maple trees for sap collection. To date, the boys have processed about seven cords of firewood.

Maple production started a bit late this year, but has come on strong with great conditions for large runs of sap.

With the onset of spring, the fourth quarter will be extremely busy. The main focus of the curriculum will be practical veterinary applications and maintaining proper health requirements for all the animals. Cattle breeding, selection and training will also be addressed.



After a long winter, we look forward to warm weather and all the experiences the next few months have in store for us. Thank you: No Farms, No Food,

-Mr. Elwell, Agricultural Science Instructor & Farm Manager



Therapeutic Respite Assessment Center

We have made it through the long, cold, and snowy winter and are all looking forward to spring activities to begin. The boys enjoyed ice fishing, sledding, movies, bowling, go-carting, the trampoline park, and phazer ball this winter.

We are studying endangered species in Science class and found the extinction of the dinosaurs most interesting. In

American Studies, we are learning about the courts and Federal and State laws. In Math, we are working on proportions and ratios with an emphasis on solving word



problems. Of course, as usual, we continue to improve our writing, comprehension, and research skills by completing fun and creative assignments. Researching the application process

for Connecticut Driver's Licenses and Learner's Permits is a subject of high focus with our boys.

We cannot wait for warm spring days so we can spend more time outdoors!

-Mrs. Gagne, TRAC Academics



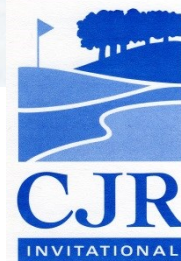
GRAPHIC ARTS

Every year CJR holds a golf tournament to raise money for the organization. This year, our

Graphic Arts classes had the honor of printing the invitations and other pieces needed for the event. The students experienced plate making and developing, how to create negatives, opaquing negatives, ink mixing, and folding. They also learned some

of the challenges of printing envelopes on our Hamada Star 600. Some helped with the scoring of the invitations, so that the heavier stock would fold smoother. All together we printed close to 5,000 envelopes, 2,000 letterhead, 800 two-sided invitations, 800 invitation inserts, and 200 golf cart signs. Job well done!

-Mr. Clark, Graphic Arts





CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE & DRAFTING

Our project house has most of the rough mechanicals complete, and drywall will go up as soon as everything is buttoned up. We also need to make a few framing changes from the original plan. Not unlike the real world, this will be harder now that we have run pipes and wires throughout the house.

Drafting students are designing everything from complete self-sustaining towns, to video game characters and mazes. I even have some students working on house design with enough accuracy and detail to be a possible set of real blueprints.

Keep up the good work! The end of the year is coming soon, and we need to finish the project house.

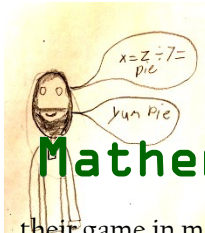
- Mr. Ouellette, Construction Maintenance & Drafting



Power Mechanics

The winter in Auto Shop flew by. While some students learned everyday repairs including parts and labor for brakes, suspension, steering and exhaust systems, others perfected their auto body skills such as using filler, sanding, priming & air-brushing. Students in our fabrication department have welded projects using ARC welding, MIG welding and oxygen and acetylene cutting and welding. As always, auto shop music is provided through car stereo sound systems that students wire daily.

- Mr. Drost,
Power Mechanics



Mathematics

Throughout the third term, many students stepped up their game in math. They showed great growth in their respective areas of study, whether it was properties of polynomials in Algebra 2, algebraic inequalities in Algebra 1, conditional probabilities in Statistics, properties of quadrilaterals in Geometry, or applied math in vocational areas. Most students also showed increased focus and improved independence in their work. In addition to working towards their individual goals in math, students also took time for various math activities, particularly for a very significant Pi Day on 3.14.15. Lastly, students applied their understanding of geometric transformations to create their own tessellation patterns. For the fourth quarter, we will see many students transition to the next level in their coursework as well as apply their math skills to a financial math project of mock investments.

- Mr. LaBranche, Mathematics



Gas metal arc welding (GMAW), sometimes referred to by its subtypes metal inert gas (MIG) welding or metal active gas (MAG) welding, is a welding process in which an electric arc forms between a consumable wire electrode and the workpiece metal(s), which heats the workpiece metal(s), causing them to melt, and join.

Creative & Applied Arts

What an exciting quarter it has been in art class! Students have been tapping into their creativity and enhancing their skills through ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, and 2D design. The highlight of this quarter was a multi-media collage project where students were asked to create a collage using several diverse materials to represent them in a unique manner. The outcome of this project was successful in that the collages represented the students, their

background, and their interests. They were visually appealing! Coming up this spring is Autism Awareness month and the art students will be creating awareness around the school with "blue" decorations. We are all looking forward to the warm weather so we can draw outside!

-Mrs. Rinaldi, Creative Arts



CULINARY ARTS

The Culinary Arts class here at CJR has just wrapped up another successful quarter while also looking ahead to the final stretch run. Some themes we covered were vegetarian and healthy cooking, creating original recipes from our own research, and preparing for a school-wide Bake Sale among other units.

Along with our career Culinary classes, we also have a Culinary Life Skills class where some of our younger students are able to practice and prepare

meals for themselves. The skills and natural talent among these students continues to grow daily. This quarter they will begin planning and budgeting for shopping lists in order to further their Culinary independence.

The final quarter of the school year is always a very busy one, and we look forward to the coming year end events with a great deal of excitement. From those of us here at the CJR Culinary Arts classes, we hope you have a great Spring.

- Mr. Malahan, Culinary Arts



Upper Middle School

This quarter, we welcomed two new students, Joseph and Jeremiah. They have fit in well with the group. Language Arts work has included lots of group work and it have been very successful. In Math, we have been working on long division and everyone has almost got it! In April, we will be doing a fun shopping activity but the details are under wraps. In Social Studies, we have been

working diligently on trying to finish our Black History Month projects. As a class, we are looking forward to the beautiful weather so we can go outside and burn some energy!

- Ms. Olinger, Academics



Resource Room

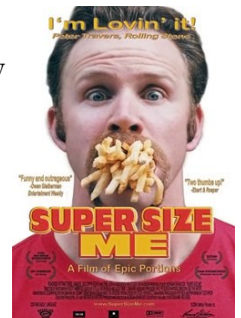
We are doing great things in Room 105!

In H.S. English, we are reading *Lord of the Flies* and enjoying every minute of it. It is a very engaging book. We are also expanding our vocabulary to include words such as "ornate" and "blasé."

In Integrated Math, we have been working on operations with negative numbers. In April, we will be doing a fun money activity – but the details are under wraps!

In Life Skills, we are working on Nutrition. We are talking about the revamped food pyramid. The class also just finished watching the movie, *Super Size Me*, which was a real reality check!

Happy Spring! - Ms. Olinger, Academics



American Studies ☆☆☆☆

This quarter, students in American Studies have been focusing on current events and topics that affect their lives directly. The latest news headlines, from whether or not the government should mandate vaccinations to the struggles in war-torn Middle East regions, present issues that have been of interest in our classes. Students have been producing political persuasive essays, group presentations, and engaging in passionate classroom debates. It is always great to see students express their political beliefs with passion and conviction, and make a step towards becoming active members of our political system. As more politicians decide to announce possibilities of running for president, we have been looking at key American political issues that divide Republicans from Democrats and Conservatives from Liberals to see where students find themselves on the political spectrum.

Congratulations to the students who graduated in January, and good luck to those due to graduate in June!

- Mr. Hall, American Studies



English

During the third quarter, students enrolled in English classes examined a

variety of topics while working on reading and writing strategies. Students analyzed the purpose of schooling, the potential impact of cloning, and character traits of successful men. Additionally, students ended the quarter by examining issues in popular culture. An interdisciplinary unit, students examined and created lyrics and artwork while others dabbled in dancing. Students will continue to work on this multi-genre unit as we transition into the fourth quarter. On a special note, our epic Scrabble battles will continue during the fourth quarter, but they will now take place on a personalized Scrabble table created by a student (Kyle S.) as part of a cross-curriculum project with wood working.

- Mr. Dickau, English



Wood Technology

After the holidays ...in spite of the cold unpredictable weather which continued to hamper schedules ...the young men in wood shop came out of the break with greater focus and some pent up energy used to move their projects along in a productive manner. We have seen numerous chairs, tables, and some creative individual endeavors. It is good to see that the skills learned in the first half of the year are being built upon. As Spring approaches and we all get fidgety for outdoor activities, I expect our students' enthusiasm to mount as they close in on some finishing touches.

We continue to collaborate with the art, construction, graphics, farm and auto departments to use all resources available to complete projects and promote group effort. In addition to chairs, cabinet units and other

school projects in progress, the shelving unit for the farm (which is greatly anticipated) is nearing completion.

Let's hope for some warm, dry weather!

- Mr. Sawoska, Wood Technology



Boys Intermediate Residential Program

Welcome Spring!

As the third marking period comes to a close, the young men of Roberts Cottage (B.I.R.P. – Boys' Intermediate Residential Program) continue to pursue their academic and vocational goals in all areas of the curriculum.

Currently, the Language Arts assignments consist of reading comprehension, daily journal entries, reading and writing activities involving the mini-biographies of Extraordinary American Women, Extraordinary Asian Americans and special vocabulary words of the day.

Our math assignments are totally individualized to reflect the current needs of our students. They range from basic math skills including whole numbers and decimals to negative and positive integers and everything in between!



In science, we have explored the earth systems, rocks and soil, maps, pebbles to mountains, minerals and topography. We have also spent time researching some of the natural disasters that have occurred not only here in the states, but also all over the world.

Social Studies assignments have concentrated on the United States Presidents, including presidential accomplishments from Washington to Obama. These research activities reinforce historical knowledge and encourage independent learning.

Upon successful completion of their assignments, several of our students will be eligible for high school diplomas in June and August. We wish them continued success! -Ms. Silano, Academics



SCIENCE

Winter was the perfect time for us to study Viruses and Monerans. We studied the traits of viruses and bacteria, how they cause disease, and how they can be controlled. We learned that bacteria can be helpful and used in research as well. The word "virus" comes from the Latin word for poison. All enjoyed describing their

most recent viral attacks and building our own virus models. An important health tip we learned: *An influenza virus can survive five minutes on the human skin and 15 days on a kitchen counter top.*



We are currently studying common traits of plants and characteristics used to group them. *Nonvascular* plants include mosses and liverworts and *vascular* plants include ferns, conifers and flowering plants. We discussed the economic importance of these plants and reviewed our understanding of *photosynthesis*. Our new science vocabulary includes the meaning of xylem and phloem- two tubelike cells that carry food and water throughout plants.

Our labs on plants included:

Traits of Ferns We observed spores and spore cases on *Ferns* and the *Fern Life Cycle*. We were able to observe veins that indicate xylem and phloem cells in our fern leaf. Upon lab completion students were able to identify structures of fern plant and explain how ferns reproduce. Thank you to Mr. Budny for supplying us with real ferns to observe.

Identifying Conifers. Biologists use a set of directions to

identify the many kinds of living things. This set of directions is called a key. By following the directions and making correct choices with a key, you can identify living things. This lab included examining the leaves of several conifers and using a key to identify the conifer from which the leaves came. Students examined the numbered twigs of the conifers and recorded the features using a table. After researching the conifers and using identified features and images, students were able to correctly determine the kind of conifer they were observing.

HEALTH

We have been focusing on our **Social Health**. Our emphasis has been on *preventing violence*. We defined violence and how it affects all people. We learned to recognize the risk factors associated with violence. Classroom discussion included violence on television. For one week we logged the violence that we watched on T.V. Students were amazed to find violence in everything from cartoons to action movies, video games, sports and music lyrics.

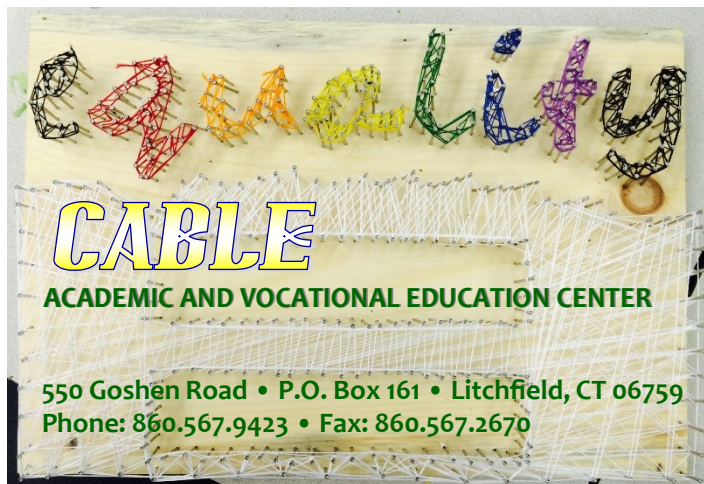
Currently we have been learning about the **Endocrine System**. We identified the major endocrine glands found throughout the body. Each of these glands plays a specific, important role in your body. Our endocrine system controls our body's daily activities and its overall development.

Experiment Day continues to be popular. Our hands on activities have included:

The Egg Challenge (competing with classmates to determine how much compression force an egg can take), and The Balancing Hex Nut Challenge (developing our own magnetic field).



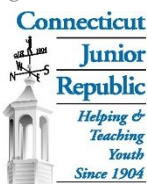
- Ms. Stevens & Ms. Pepen, Science



Accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

Mission Statement

To provide all students with a supportive educational environment which nurtures their ability to maximize their individual potential and strengthen their social and academic experiences, now and throughout their lifetimes.



Teacher of the Year Recipients

Please join me in congratulating Genna Rinaldi, CAVEC Art Teacher and Erik LaBranche, CAVEC Math/STEM



Teacher on being identified "Teacher of the Year" at the 2015 CAPSEF Conference!

As the math teacher and STEM coordinator, Erik LaBranche does an excellent job helping students help themselves. He is an extremely popular teacher and someone who makes significant contributions to the students at CJR everyday!

As the art teacher, Genna Rinaldi's creativity is only matched by her dedication, willingness, and ability to help



every student identify and "tap into" his creative side. Like Erik, Genna is a very popular teacher!

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, both Erik and Genna serve on several school improvement

committees at the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center. Their contributions are sincerely appreciated!

Jim Obst

Director of Education & Student Services

Welcome New Students!

Jalen B., New Haven . Gerard C., Hartford . Michael D., West Haven
Joseph D., Ansonia . Ryley F., Torrington . Nathaniel G., Torrington
Elijah G., Southington . Jake L., Region 12
Brian M., Torrington . Gabriel M., Newtown . Nick P., Norwich
Cody P., Granby . Trevon S., Waterbury . Andre U., Cheshire

Welcome New Staff!

Mr. Paul Hilli, Instructional Assistant
Ms. Brittany Mazar, Instructional Assistant

ENRICHMENT & EXTRACURRICULAR

Music Class

Earlier this year, students were offered the ability to add music classes to their school day schedules and there has been heightened and growing interest. Events coming up and varied student talents have Mr. Arrufatt hopping!

Español Anyone?

SE
HABLA



Thursday lessons to learn and practice the Spanish language are under way. It is fun to hear Ms. Pepen, staff and students echoing phrases in the hallways and around campus.

Technology Club is held after school in Mr. LaBranche's room and it has a dedicated group studying, discussing and testing the latest trends....

Magic Club is held every other Friday.

Kudos and appreciation to Mr. Fellows for establishing this new activity.

News from the Guidance Office

SAT Registrations/College Prep/Work Study

CAVEC's Guidance office helps students who are nearing graduation "apply" their way both online and manually toward landing postgrad endeavors. This includes employment exploration and aptitude testing, making networking contacts, filling out college and technical school applications and researching scholarship opportunities.

