

Cable Connections

CABLE ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

PARENT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER'S END & 1ST ACADEMIC QUARTER 2016-2017



**Congrats
Grads**

**High School
Diplomas**

Hing B., Region 10

Devonn C., Torrington

Morgan D., Waterbury

Justin J-B., Winchester

Joshua P., Watertown

Adam R., Newtown



Summer Graduation & Achievement Day

Summer classes, although conducted in shortened school days, were jam-packed structure-wise!! Our boys show up for school, show initiative, are resilient, and as their focus is directed, quality efforts and skills emerge. By August 12, 2016, six young men earned their high school diplomas.

"Everything Counts."

~Mr. Obst

Noah H., Alex J. and Jermaine C. were surprised recipients of the newly created

Lead By Example Award!

The esteemed Ag-Science Awards that are presented annually go to:

Chris B.- **Sue B. Hart**

Jon G.- **Sue B. Hart**

Ryan A.- **Blue Seal**

**Congratulations to
our latest graduates
and achievers!**



Boys Intermediate Residential Program

The Roberts Cottage residential program, Boys' Intermediate Residential Program (B.I.R.P.), continues to thrive during the first marking period of the 2016-2017 school year.

As a classroom, we continue to explore in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. In science, we are learning about general biology and how it coincides with the life cycles of all living things. Currently, the boys are studying the United States Constitution and its impact on our daily lives, especially during this upcoming presidential election. Much of our focus remains in the area of reading comprehension, vocabulary development, writing skills and the mastery of computational skills in pre-algebra and geometry. All of our young men participate in the Renaissance Place Star Reading and Mathematics Assessments, including Diagnostic and Instructional Reports when they enter our program. They also complete a Career Inventory and the Multiple Intelligences Assessments. Mr. Mayer, our guidance counselor, has been instrumental in implementing the ability to use these tools. Our students also participate in the vocational program classes, including Wood Shop, Automotive, Culinary, Construction, Graphics, Physical Education and Vocational Agriculture. Music lessons and many other after school activities help them earn additional credits towards high school graduation.

We look forward to the second marking period's challenges and are confident that we will meet them successfully. We also are looking forward to the upcoming Holidays and would like to wish everyone the best Holiday Season ever!
~ Ms. Silano, BIRP Academics



Therapeutic Respite Assessment Center

The TRAC program class adjusted nicely to our fall school schedule. They have been keeping active with plenty of fishing and hiking trips, as well as laser tag, arcades, movies, and a great trip to Six Flags. This marking period, several students attended college tours including UCONN and several community colleges. They also enjoyed working at the CJR Car Show. Some boys worked in the dining hall, some parked cars, while others enjoyed giving tours of the campus. They also worked in Culinary class baking pumpkin bread, cookies, and pies to sell at the farm store. We have welcomed new residents, Austin, Camron, Isaac and Nick, and said goodbye to several others who completed the program successfully.

~ Mrs. Gagne, TRAC Academics



Connecticut Junior Republic Residential Program

Can you believe it!? After four months, the first student in my classroom is about to leave the program successfully. I have been very proud of the way the students in CJRRP classroom have progressed both academically and behaviorally. In particular, John O. wrote an amazing research paper on conspiracies surrounding the events of September 11th,

Diondre has exceeded my expectations in math now being able to solve multi step equations with no assistance, and Robert can now tell you all the parts of an atom.

I look forward to working with and getting to know the newer students in the class, and

know that there will be continued success for all of the students in CJRRP.

~ Mr. Carbone, CJRRP Academics



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



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

with a plethora of exciting experiences ahead of them.

After a very busy summer program, not only is this a time to reflect on our past accomplishments, but also a time to complete tasks that began in June and initiate new work that will take us into the holidays.

Over 4,000 bales of hay were harvested for the livestock, countless bushels of garden produce were shared with our dining hall as part of a traditional farm-to-table experience, and many cattle were prepared for showing and for production sales.

September saw the birth of three bull calves and one heifer calf. All were welcomed to CJR unassisted and healthy. A litter of eight piglets were born to a first-time mama, Elsa. It is always a pleasure to have babies at the farm as it generates so many valuable lessons and opportunities.

Jon, one of our Ag-Science students, prepared and exhibited three Polled Hereford cattle at the Goshen Fair on Labor Day weekend. Jon and his peers put in countless hours training, washing, grooming and clipping these animals to make them look their best. Jon and the animals were rewarded with many blue ribbons and division championships over the three days of competition at the fair. Jon earned an especially significant award by being named bronze medalist in the intermediate showmanship class. He competed against seasoned showmen who compete all over the northeast and was more than equal to the task.

In September, several members of the Ag-Science class attended the Eastern States Exhibition. This was a great experience for our students as The Big E showcases the New England region and does a particularly good job highlighting the agricultural industry and its many opportunities. It was a fantastic trip for the students and staff as they enjoyed being together and sharing a common interest. Of course, we all ate some awesome food as well.

The Agricultural classes were also very busy with two significant projects. Two cow/calf pairs were prepared for the Cow Power sale in Millbrook, NY. This represents our largest annual marketing event each year. The cattle compete for the top bids from prospective buyers from all over the United States and vie for these bids with some of the largest Angus farms and best Angus cattle the Northeast has to offer. CJR has had the top selling animals the past two years and our entries this year made it three consecutive. Quite an accomplishment for a farm with four Angus cows! Great work by the students contributed mightily to this success.

Our second significant event was the preparation and opening of the CJR Farm Market. The opening coincides with the "Cars for Kids" fundraiser, and the market is to remain open for three weekends in October. Multifaceted plans were actually implemented in early spring and carried out through the summer to get the market looking its best.

Numerous varieties of fall decorating and edible items were produced on-site, harvested, displayed and sold for the enjoyment of many customers. Sizeable portions of our crops will be donated locally, as well as to our CJR community programs. This is an important lesson as students learn and feel the pleasures of giving back.

As November and holidays approach, lessons in firewood production, animal reproduction, maple production and facility management will be at the forefront of our curriculum. Hopefully, Mother Nature won't be too hard on us and students, staff and animals will experience a mild winter. Always remember: No Farms, No Food. ~ Mr. Elwell, Agricultural Science & Farm Manager

**No Farms
No Food**

Exploratory & Plant Science

daily. This is a great opportunity to show students how much hard work goes into growing quality vegetables.

The Donor Luncheon was one of the many events that happen this time of year. Students arranged fall displays around campus incorporating an array of fall pumpkins, gourds and mums that were grown here. Students created beautiful pumpkin-vase centerpieces for the tables, each containing a unique floral arrangement. These centerpieces are also a favorite at The Wisdom House located in Litchfield. Twenty arrangements were requested for their annual appreciation dinner.

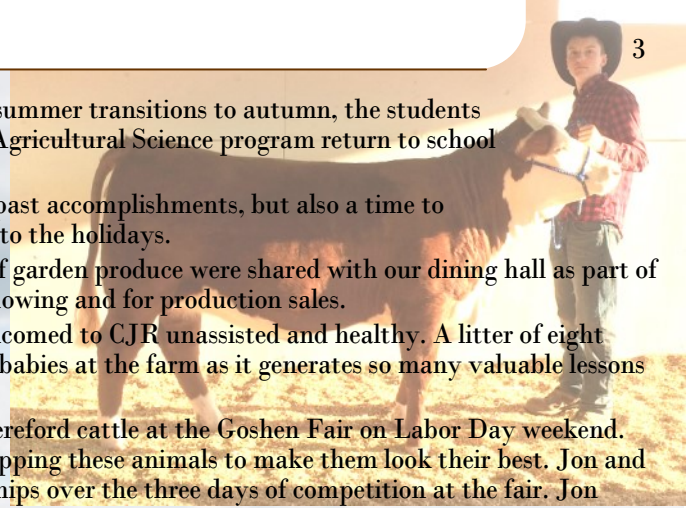
Opening the CJR Farm Market was a big hit once again! Students picked our fall crops that were sold along with our potted mums and many other CJR born items. From baked goods to Adirondack chairs, items made across trades were on display for sale. It is nice to see such collaboration with other classes in our school.

As we are closing our gardens, we are planting winter rye to keep soil protected from erosion and provide nutrients for the following season. We are still in garlic production, choosing and planting the largest bulbs from the previous season's stock for next year's crop. This ensures a consistent product yearly.

The tilapia program is doing very well, with our own fish producing fry for future stock. The students are finding out how much goes into raising fish through all stages.

In our greenhouse, we have a beautiful crop of poinsettias. Planted back in September for the upcoming holiday season, the plants will be used to decorate our campus and offered for sale. We will also be creating our famous holiday wreaths at the farm!

Many projects in this class have much support from Mr. Elwell and his students, who we would like to thank. *Until next time, Mr. Budny, Exploratory & Plant Science*

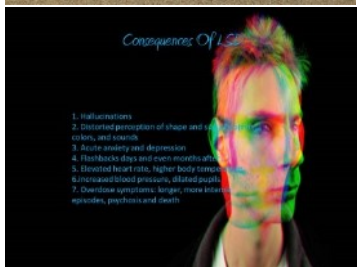


American Studies ☆☆☆

Students in American Studies are working in conjunction with English class and STEM class for a integrated curriculum that allows students to expand their thinking and make connections inside and outside of school. The curriculum has a tie to humanities with goals and objectives geared towards American Studies. The units that have been completed have covered the dangers of substance abuse, explored the importance of culture, and have made connections between conflict and resolution. All students engage in project-based

learning that utilizes the multiple intelligence theory. The year has also looked into the ever-developing presidential elections, where students have watched the debates and fact-checked the candidates. This year has started off strong and all students have shown a strong work ethic!

~ Mr. Hall,
American Studies



The F61 Aircraft Carrier

English

During the first quarter, students enrolled in English classes investigated a variety of hot-topic issues. Students examined drug

abuse in America and created anti-drug campaigns targeted at a teenage audience. Additionally, students analyzed the impact of war on children around the world. Students incorporated information from the award-winning documentary God Grew Tired of Us about the Lost Boys of Sudan into a paper alongside their independent research on the effect of war on children. Finally, the students participated in and wrote about a variety of activities aimed at recreating the experience of living in a foreign culture. Students ate Ghanaian peanut soup with their hands, read about a fictional tribe called the Nacirema, and wrote a cultural analysis of American culture. All the while, students continue to work on the foundational skills of reading, writing, and speaking effectively in a variety of settings.

~ Mr. Dickau, English



Music

Note This!
We are gearing up for a concert!

~ Ms. Sive,
Music Teacher



CULINARY ARTS



School is

back in session, which means that once again, wonderful aromas from

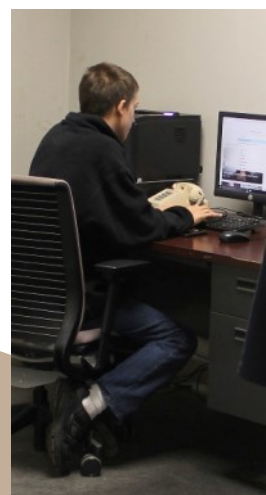
the Culinary Arts classroom are filling the hallways at CJR! This fall, we have begun to explore the flavors and staples of Regional American Cuisine. We started our journey in New England, have worked down the Atlantic Coast, and will ultimately arrive in California. Along the way, students are learning different techniques and traditions that define each region of our great nation. To showcase their knowledge, students will prepare a sampling for the entire school in

November, to demonstrate the variations by which each region of the country enjoys Thanksgiving dinner. Upon completion of our American Regional unit, we will expand our horizons, and begin an international project that will bring us into June!

~ Sincerely, Mr. Hadoulis, Culinary Arts

ART CLUB

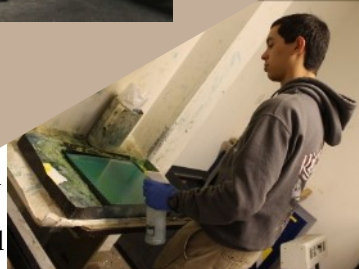
Thanks to Alex, Art Teacher in the Making, some students were able to enjoy Art Club period 8. Multiple projects and concepts were introduced and applied in a positive peer culture.



GRAPHIC ARTS

During our summer session and the first quarter of this new school year, we've been extremely busy prepping and now producing our 2017 school calendar. This is the first year the Graphic Arts class has had Photoshop software, and it has paid huge dividends. It has saved much time in the adjusting of artwork and incorporating color into each piece, which would have to be done by hand in the past. Students have learned to use multiple tools in Photoshop while having a little fun. All of the students in shop have been introduced to and are experiencing many prepress operations including: negative making, negative stripping, plate making, laminating, and ink mixing. The more experienced students are working around the printing press while running calendar signatures. They are learning how important color consistency and proper register are while printing multi-color work. If all goes well, we will have 2017 calendars to hand out by Christmas.

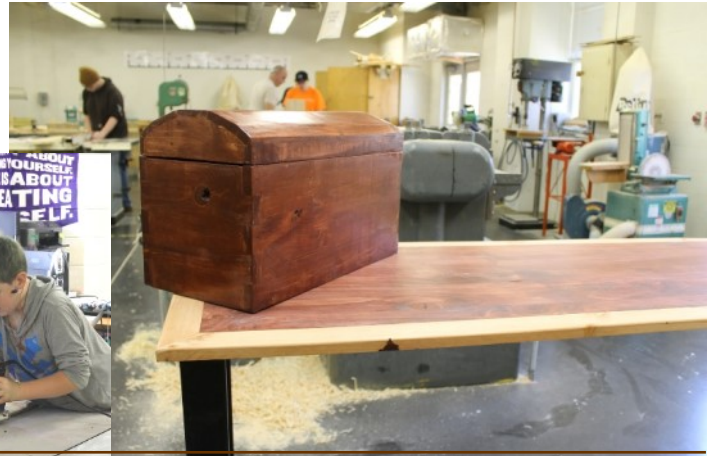
~ Mr. Clark, Graphic Arts



Wood Technology

The beginning of the new school year has brought the Wood Technology class many new students as well as our returning students. The shop has been extremely busy from the first week. As always, many students have chosen to create CJR's famous Adirondack chair and many have chosen to create their own variation of the design. I am always pleased to see students create projects for their families and encourage them to elicit requests from family members. Students are in the process of creating projects such as kitchen tables, toy chests, shoe racks, shelving units and television stands among other various projects. The personalities and the creativeness of the students never cease to amaze me. As the holiday season approaches, many students have begun to create projects to pass along as gifts to family members and friends. So...be sure to place your order now, as time is quickly passing.

~ Mr. Sawoska, a.k.a. "S", Wood Technology



Physical Education

Summer school and the first quarter here at the CAVEC has gone very well. In Physical Education class, we have engaged in numerous activities both inside and outside of the gymnasium. The students here are very energetic and willing to learn new concepts and work hard. This makes for great classes.



Most of the activities and sports we perform in class are team based. They focus on teamwork and working together to accomplish a certain goal (making a basket, scoring a goal or touchdown, or just demonstrating effective passing and team play). Some of the team sports touched upon thus far have been basketball, football, ultimate Frisbee and kickball. The rules, positions, and specific skills for each sport are gone over before

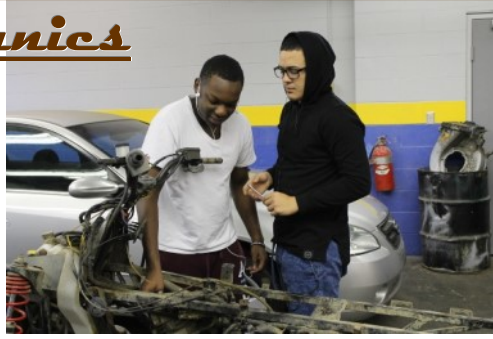
getting into an actual game, where they are applied and stressed upon.

I am very happy with the progress our boys are making. The majority enjoy activity and want to keep getting better and improve. Hard work and dedication pays off and they are aware of this concept. Keep working hard and good things will happen.

Proud of you guys, Mr. Mulhall, Physical Education

Power Mechanics

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.



The auto shop has been working on basic automotive repairs, such as oil changes, brakes and exhaust systems. Some of the students have been making custom bicycles and practicing their welding skills (both mig welding and arc welding). Other students have been working on small engine projects such as chain saws, weed whackers, lawn mowers and mini bikes. In addition, a couple of students have made their welding sculptures into lamps (see Ms. Sisson, she has one in her office).

~ Mr. King, Power Mechanics



Resource Classroom

We have been learning many new things in the Middle School Resource classroom. In English, we are reading Return of the Homework Machine which is the sequel to the book we read last year. Fractions to percents are interesting as well as multiplying fractions. We have been working hard on both of those and everyone is doing great! In Social Studies, we finished a unit on Cherokee Native Americans. We have begun a unit on rockets in Science



and just finished the heart. We had some fantastic model hearts.

~Ms. Olinger,
Resource &
Academics



Library News

The library has seen some major changes since the last newsletter. We retired the old woodshop made tables and acquired two handsome conference tables, along with brand new, blue office armchairs. In addition, two large bookcases appeared and now house our new arrivals section, and a 72" portable SMART Board



rests in our library for any class to use. Please stop in anytime to peruse our stacks and find just the right book for yourself.

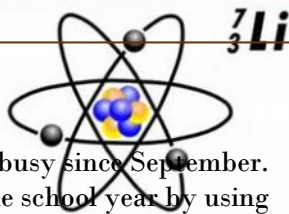
Also in the works is the changeover of the computer lab in the library into a makerspace room. Here students will be able to invent and create, draw and compute any multitude of crafts or projects. We have a sizeable amount of cardboard and are expecting new supplies, to make things such as craft stick lamps, cardboard models, Lego sculptures, etc. You are only limited by your imagination to the things you could create! There will be a dry erase table for sketching ideas, or working out problems, or cutting out

patterns, or gluing together model pieces. If you have any other ideas, please let me know. The space is for anything you may want to invent or make.

~ Mrs. Whiteside,
Librarian



SCIENCE



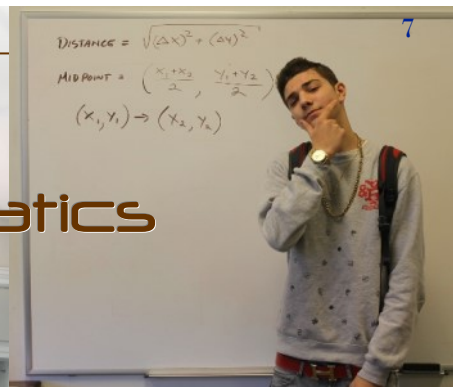
Science classes have been very busy since September. Students in all classes began the school year by using the metric system to measure length, area and volume. In the United States, people usually use English units of measurement, so the metric system is not as familiar to us. In science, you will use mostly metrics.

Periods 1, 4 & 5 are currently studying about Atoms and Elements. We are learning the historical development of the atomic theory and identifying the scientists who have made important contributions to the development of it. Students are now able to determine how many neutrons, protons, and electrons an element has based on the atom number, and determine the number of electrons residing on each orbiting shell. Students have gained confidence in their

ability to show the difference between atomic mass and atomic number and calculate atomic mass and number. Next, we will be introduced to the Periodic Table of Elements and learn about its development. Students will organize elements of the table according to their atomic mass and number of electron shells and be able to find specific elements on the periodic table. Students will gain understanding of how elements got their symbols and their names. ~ Ms. Stevens, Science & Academics



Mathematics



Calculators, differentiated content folders, plenty of space to work and a SMART Board had 18 upper classmen engaged in an eighth period math class with Mr. Obst. The approach of using a group format seemed to work well for both students and staff.



We welcomed Mr. Robert Stowell to CAVEC as our new Math and STEM teacher mid-quarter, and the classroom looks great! Students are graphing their way and are invariably fitting back into schedule.

CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE & DRAFTING

As the 2016-2017 school year starts, we are starting to frame a new project house. The house was designed by students and a set of blueprints was printed for the framers to follow. This design is the first one to incorporate a small roof, so students can experience cutting rafters and laying down shingles. The framing was started over the summer, but when the school year started, there was still some framing left to complete.

Students finished framing ceilings, the roof, and other small but important items like nailers. They did a great job installing the roof - it should last for 35 years (or 1 year until it is taken down so we can start a new design).

Now that the framing is complete, students are learning about water supply and drain lines, and electrical circuits. They will all get a chance to solder copper pipe, crimp PEX fittings, and solvent weld PVC pipes. Congratulations and thank you to all of my students who work hard and have helped bring our project house to its current stage and to its completion.

~ Mr. Ouellette, Construction Maintenance & Drafting



After School Programs, Volunteering & Transition Services

Alex J. applied successfully and is accepted to Three Rivers Community College in Norwich!

Andrew T. is signed up to start nursing program classes at



NVCC in Waterbury this winter!

Through CAVEC collaboration, Rob Z. is combining college & high school classes!

He is taking English at Northwestern CCC, Winsted, and Manufacturing at Oliver Wolcott Tech, Torrington. ~Mr. Mayer, Guidance Counselor

Diane Sisson, LCSW, works with students in school and also outside of school.

Over the summer, students from CAVEC took advantage of the good weather to get out and take a hike!



Reconnection Workshops

Reconnection Workshops, “for all military families to assist them with managing the challenges of reintegration.” These “Reconnection Workshops” focus on both individuals and small groups through facilitated sessions that increase the probability of positive reconnects among family members and the positive reintegration of service members into civilian life. After a deployment, many service members realize that their family return can be just as challenging as their tour of duty. Actively licensed and specially trained Red Cross mental health professionals facilitate the sessions, which focus on topics appropriate to a successful transition. Topics include: Communicating Clearly; Identifying Depression; Exploring Stress and Trauma; Relating to Children & Working Through Anger.

The American Red Cross, with support from Walmart, has established

Accordingly, this CAVEC appreciation poster was presented to the military children & young adults at Camp Corral, in King, North Carolina by **Patricia Martin, Ph.D.**, our School Psychologist. Likewise, the campers signed their greetings back to our CAVEC students.



Boys at the CJR farm

prepare Ivy for a show at the Goshen Fairgrounds.

CJR student gets political!



ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

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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.



Welcome New Students!

Anthony C., Bridgeport • Garrett D., Bethel
Jaden D., Hartford • Jonathon D., Ansonia
Zachary F., Bristol • Joel G., Stamford
Luis G., Meriden • Zachary K., Region 7
Issac L., Bethel • Robert L., Waterbury
Connor M., Bethel • Anthony M., Torrington
Isaiah P-L., Winchester • David P., Danbury
John R., New London • Roger S., Region 7
Nathan T., Norwich • Nicholas V., Stratford
Austin W., Region 1 • Camron W., Hartford