

# Cable Connections

## CABLE ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

3RD ACADEMIC QUARTER 2015-2016

### Autism Awareness Shows Up Blue and Piece By Piece Around Campus

Participation is easy to come by this April in **light** of Autism Awareness Month. Popular projects students are engaging in have them finding three giant puzzle pieces per day hidden in common areas, painting their shoes & large windows, growing enticing plants, developing logos, mixing colors & music, inventing, and writing. A dedicated group is presenting and practicing for a variety show.

#### Puzzle Piece Challenge & Raffle



Always  
Unique  
Totally  
Interesting  
Sometimes  
Mysterious



## Therapeutic Respite Assessment Center

The TRAC Program has been studying Citizenship and the responsibilities of all citizens of the US. Among these duties are serving on a jury for a trial and voting in all elections. With the Presidential candidates making

*The pond was frozen only for a very short time, right around Leap Day!*



speeches and going through the process of trying to be nominated, it has been most entertaining to try to figure out what values each one represents. We have also been interested in political parties and how they differ from one another, as well as different regions of the country. Hopefully, it will get more exciting to follow as we get closer to the election. All of the boys are ready for April vacation, the Spring semester and the warm weather to come. They have been enjoying fishing in the pond and are waiting for it to be restocked with fresh fish.

~ Mrs. Gagne, TRAC Academics



## Boys Intermediate Residential Program

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 daily journal entries, reading and writing activities involving the mini- biographies of Extraordinary American Women, Extraordinary Asian Americans, etc. and special vocabulary words of the day.

All of our students are enrolled in the STEM program (science, technology, engineering and math). They have been working on potential and kinetic energy through marble roller coasters, electrical circuits and switches in game design, making batteries from household objects, constructing earthquake resistant towers and modeling methods for the spread of disease, to name just a few of their projects. They truly enjoy their time in this class as they enjoy hands-on activities.

American 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.

In Humanities class with Mr. Hall, the boys have been working on the Presidency and Congress. This class reinforces and parallels our study of the U.S. Presidents and terms of office.

Upon successful completion of all of their assignments, several of our students will be eligible for high school diplomas in June. We wish them continued success!

~ Ms. Silano, B.I.R.P. 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@cjryouth.org](mailto:jobst@cjryouth.org) or CJR's Director of School Operations, Chris Cook, at 860-567-9423 ext.269 or at [ccook@cjryouth.org](mailto:ccook@cjryouth.org) or CJR's Director of Special Education, Jan Calabro, at 860-567-9423 ext.289 or at [jcalabro@cjryouth.org](mailto:jcalabro@cjryouth.org)

## CULINARY ARTS

Spring is in full swing, and so is the Culinary Arts Class at CJR! The third marking period saw a variety of freshly prepared dishes being constructed by all students in Culinary Arts. This was a pilot marking period, beginning with kitchen safety,

sanitary practices, and basic knife skills. Students began by preparing and cooking several breakfast foods, sandwiches, and soups. As we continue to learn and improve our skills, we will begin constructing sauces, use multiple methods to cook various meats, and finish with a unit focusing on principles of baking. We look forward to an exciting fourth quarter!

*Sincerely, Mr. Hadoulis, Culinary Arts*





# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE


The third quarter of Agricultural Science brings a touch of both “sweet and cute” to our day-to-day curriculum and routine.

Maple trees, by the hundreds, will be tapped during this quarter. Students will learn the fundamentals of sugar making with a practical approach. In partnership with Brookview Sugarhouse, the students will tend the vacuum system throughout the season. Twenty buckets will be installed to experience alternative options for sap collection. The season will likely be complete by the end of the quarter. Hope runs high that Mother Nature will give us a good year, which could yield as much as the



Firewood production has been in full swing. The guys really enjoy this work. The lessons learned fit seamlessly with the sugar making, as proper forest management is essential to the success of the maple production.

Arguably, the most important skills learned by the Ag students will revolve around the birthing season for our cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. A very diverse set of skills will be experienced during

 the pre-natal care, delivery and post-natal care of all the newborns. Problem solving skills, as well as animal management, will come into clear focus during this time. Necessity will create opportunity, which will inevitably lead to meaningful experiences.

At this writing, we currently have had the good fortune to deliver five healthy female calves. The names voted on by the students are Crystal, Zara, Emma, Lily and Brady. All are doing well thanks to the work of the farm team. Lambs, piglets and kids should be arriving very soon, providing more “cute” for everyone to enjoy.

With the fourth marking period upon us, skills in management, parturition, equipment maintenance and practical vet applications will highlight the curriculum. The young men who are students in the Agricultural Science trade have done an exceptional job learning new skills, participating in unique experiences and applying their knowledge to the needs of a working farm. Well done!

**No Farms, No Food.** ~ *Mr. Elwell, Agricultural Science & Farm Manager*



## Exploratory & Plant Science

The Plant Science Exploratory students have been busy with many important projects to get ready for the upcoming growing season on the

CJR farm. With the early warm weather, our garlic crop is growing fast! Students fertilized with organic plant food and mulched the wonderful crop to optimize its full potential. This year, we planted a variety called “Calabra.” The bulbs are very nice and feature a great clove that chefs love to cook with.

In our greenhouse, students have been growing micro-greens and herbs for the CJR dining hall salad bar! The herbs are also used in the school's vocational culinary program. No chemicals are used in the greenhouse on any edible plant. Fresh and clean produce is what our students strive for. The vegetable crops are doing well for the summer season and include many heirloom varieties of tomatoes. The different varieties come in many beautiful colors and mouthwatering tastes! All of our summer crops are planted by our students from seed. The sprouting vegetable plants are tended to daily throughout the several phases of growth from seedlings to transplantings.

The aquaculture program is thriving! Our tilapia weigh over 1 ½ pounds and are doing quite well. Students immensely enjoy learning what goes in to fish farming and its role in an ever growing market.

With fishing season upon us, our students are learning how to tie several different fishing knots. While fishing for the beautiful trout in the CJR pond, students are learning about the environment. We release all of the fish that we catch back into the pond. Our students realize the importance of keeping the fish stocked for recreational fishing.

The blue bird box program is in full swing! The CJR campus is full of blue bird boxes and the warm weather has brought many birds to our school. The tree swallows have arrived. Our students tend to the boxes weekly making sure they are clean and free of mice nests.

~ Mr. Budny, Exploratory & Plant Science

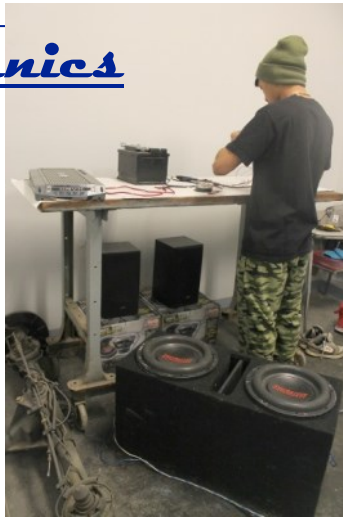




## Power Mechanics

Welding & rebuilding CJR's farm tractor bucket kept some auto classes engaged for days. We are happy to say the project was successful and the mechanical farm hand is now back in action. Students wire and rewire stereo and lighting circuitry connections for inside or outside of a vehicle. Most days you can hear what progress has been made with a little light on the subject!

~ Mr. Drost, Power Mechanics



## American Studies ☆☆☆

Happy Spring! This has been a productive year for American Studies students at The Connecticut Junior Republic. We have been watching the Presidential Debates and researching the candidates. Students have been following their favorite candidates and watching their progression towards the Oval Office. These Presidential Debates have allowed students to learn more about the dividing differences between Democrat and Republican and focus their views on domestic and foreign policy. These candidates have left us with plenty to ponder about the future of The United States of America.

~ Mr. Hall, American Studies



*Ben S.'s pivoting crane incorporates a Lego gear*



*Bayar's Cold War Project The metal Bomb Shelter incorporates welding, a screw-bolted plexiglass front & 9-volt wiring for lighting.*

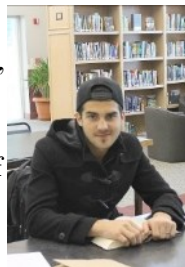
## English

During the third quarter, English

students at the Cable Academic and Vocational Center studied the spread of diseases and misinformation. During a unit focused on epidemics, students evaluated the fictitious portrayal of the manner in which the medical community and society as a whole respond to a rapidly spreading disease. In our unit focused on technology, students analyzed whether schools should limit online speech. Students researched background information, analyzed seminal arguments, and evaluated contemporary opinions

before substantiating their own claims. Students currently are examining trends in American recreation and leisure.

~ Mr. Dickau, English



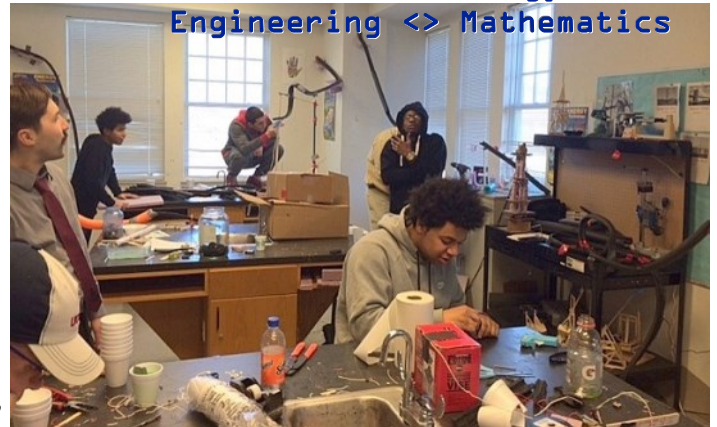
## S. T. E. M. Science <> Technology Engineering <> Mathematics

The third quarter of this school year has been an adventurous one for students in STEM.

Students have explored a wide range of topics such as disease, computer coding, circuitry, as well

as potential and kinetic energy. Students have met each of the experiments and projects for each of these sections with great enthusiasm and ambition. We have seen great creativity, patience, and diligence in the engineering of marble roller coasters to demonstrate potential and kinetic energy as well as in the design of a wired pin ball-esque game. Students expanded their understanding of where math can be applied by looking at ways to simulate and model the spread of contagions and how to write code for simple computer animations and games. Many of the challenges posed to students this term have been novel and a bit daunting but the students in STEM class overall met these tasks head on. For the fourth quarter, many of our activities will bring us outside, which should be exciting for everyone.

~ Mr. LaBranche, STEM





## Wood Technology



The third quarter proved to be as productive as the first and second quarters of this year. The shop's young men have lived up to expectations by producing imaginative and quality projects.

Some of the more interesting works include the cutting board that used different species of wood to create an optical illusion, a xylophone and students using their imagination to create accessories for the world famous CJR Adirondack chairs. This year's theme continues to be variations of storage chests, whether they be for shoes, toys, pillows or other items, and I am sure the unique chests are highly coveted by the lucky recipients. So, as April begins the fourth quarter, our Seniors are looking at wrapping up their projects before they move on to their next chapter in life, while our undergraduate students focus on possible gifts for Mother's Day and family members. We are all looking forward to warmer weather. Happy Spring! ~ Mr. Sawoska, a.k.a. "S", Wood Technology

## GRAPHIC ARTS

A majority of our third quarter was spent printing a twenty-page Student



Admissions and Enrollment Application booklet for our school. Students participated in many prepress and bindery tasks during this project. All students practiced their darkroom skills, consisting of exposing film on the Kodak camera and hand developing negatives using a three bath system. More advanced students took part in masking and opaquing negatives on our light table, while others burned and developed printing plates. During the printing phase, students unknowingly learned a very important process called **pagination**, which allows for our 8.5x11 book pages to be in the correct sequence when printing both sides of the 11x17 sheets. After completion of the printing, students folded, collated, saddle stitched, and face trimmed all two hundred booklets. I am very proud of all of my Graphic Arts classes for a job well done.

~ Mr. Clark, Graphic Arts

## CREATIVE & APPLIED ARTS

As spring time approaches, students have been getting creative with building sculptures out of recycled materials, such as cardboard and newspaper. In addition, students are pulling out their fashionable side by customizing Jordan sneakers using Angelus shoe paint as well as drawing well known television characters dressed in designer clothing. It sure is a sight to see.

With April being Autism Awareness month, the students in the art classes are ironing logos onto t-shirts to distribute to the entire school for their annual t-shirt day on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Along with the t-shirts, there are many other school wide creative activities going on throughout the month of April, such as a variety show and a giant puzzle piece hunt. Stay tuned...

~ Mrs. Rinaldi, Creative & Applied Arts



*"The object isn't to make art, it's to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable."*  
—Robert Henri



## Physical Education

The third quarter has flown by and we are all ready for the nice weather upon us. The boys taking P.E. at the CAVEC are especially ready. Physical Education classes have included activities and games consisting of: basketball, football, bowling, kickball, wallball, and weightlifting. Our boys have done a great job participating, improving, giving effort and being good team players. Sportsmanship is always stressed in class and I am very proud of how our students demonstrate this to one another.

The weight room has been a big success this school year for a few of our students. A lot of the concepts and exercises being taught and performed are to help and develop muscular strength and endurance. Upper body, lower body, and core exercises are emphasized on a daily and weekly basis. Exercises like pushups, pullups, and dips are recommended to be performed at home to reinforce a healthy lifestyle for our boys. Keep working hard boys!

With the last quarter upon us, my classes are looking forward to getting outside and introducing some new activities and team sports. Some may include: golf, soccer, tennis, Ultimate Frisbee and fishing to name a few. I want all of our students to be motivated to finish the year strong and be proud of their accomplishments. Proud of you guys!

~ Mr. Mulhall, Physical Education





# Resource Classroom

The middle school English class is currently reading The Homework Machine. It's a cool read about a kid who builds a machine that does his homework for him. Math is all about fractions! We are learning about the Underground Railroad. We are building our



own houses that have secret rooms where the slaves could hide. In Period 2 English, we are starting a new book called Racing in The Rain, by Garth Stein. *"A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope--a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it."* We are excited to start it!

American Studies students are focusing on the who, what, where, when and why of biological weapons. We are making a timeline to hang up in the classroom. High school English students are in the process of choosing their own book to read and assess. They are also continually working on editing their own work and the work of other classmates. Students in English and American Studies integrate their work across class periods. At the end of April, hopefully, most of the English students will be writing pieces to enter into the Humanities event. We are looking forward to the spring when we will be able to work outside and read under the trees. Happy Spring!

~Ms. Olinger, Resource & Academics



Field Trip to  
Connecticut Science Center

## Independent Life Skills

The Daily Living Skills classes continue to focus upon topics based on real life situations to help students gain confidence towards becoming successful members in their communities. Having the holiday season behind us but still coping with winter, our students warmed their appetites by making macaroni and cheese. We not only practiced measurement and following directions, but learned to cook in the microwave. Although a few of the students were doubtful of the results, our meal was delicious in spite of cooking in the microwave.

Hearty discussions in class regarding current events occurred which inevitably raised comments about the upcoming political elections. Focus, however, was not so much on candidates nor their beliefs, but rather on the voting process since many of our students are at least eighteen years old.

Class work concentrated on how an individual may register to vote. We appreciated Ms. Edith King, Registrar of Litchfield Voters, for coming and explaining the voting procedures and process. She and her associate, Ms. Nancy Knowlton, guided us through the step by step process and even brought a ballot tallying machine for demonstrations. No one actually registered that day as a voter, yet we enjoyed the hands-on experience. This unit of study was most helpful as we realized voting is not only a right but a responsibility.

Another important unit studied was to have each student write and revise his resume. Each student

completed a career interest survey and investigated three career choices. Identifying their skills and strengths acquired through their experiences at CJR proved to be helpful. By participating in this activity, each student was able to reflect and realize their own employment potential rather than worry about having little or no work experience since they are still in school.

During this quarter, we also went online to comparison-shop for goods. The consensus was shopping online can definitely save time and money, even if you actually travel to the store having the best deal.

Lastly, we routinely review stress techniques and try to improve our ways of handling challenges. This last quarter we hope to focus on outdoor recreational activities that will enable us to hike, picnic, and enjoy one another's company. Hope to see you in the community!

~Ms. Denver and Ms. Pepen, Life Skills



## Library News

I am always looking for ways where the library can collaborate with teachers, as it makes for a more enriching experience for students and staff. Literature has no boundaries and should be integrated in all subjects. Mr. Elwell, Mr. Budny, and I wanted to join together the library and the subjects they teach, so that it was accessible for all students and staff. Thus, we now have a separate shelf for all the farm books and a shelf for exploratory and plant science. Thank you Mr. Budny and Mr. Elwell!

~ Mrs. Whiteside, Librarian



**Book series** are very popular with readers, as just one is never enough of a good story. Several new series have arrived in the library:

- ♦ Escape From Furnace series by Alexander Gordon Smith
- ♦ The Sylo Chronicles series by D.J. MacHale
- ♦ Hatter Madigan graphic novel series by Frank Beddor
- ♦ Legend series by Marie Lu
- ♦ Young Elites series by Marie Lu



# UPPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## What Is Pi?



Pi is the circumference of a circle (the distance around the circle) divided by its diameter (the distance across). From ancient China to Babylonia, mathematicians have been puzzling over pi for thousands of years. Since pi goes on forever, even the most powerful supercomputers will never know all of pi's digits. Every year on March 14, math lovers around the country celebrate pi. Pi Day provides the perfect excuse for incorporating math and geometry into all aspects of the school day.



**Science** class has been focusing on Animal Reproduction and Animal Development. Students have been studying methods of sexual and asexual reproduction. Our major emphasis was on the human reproduction system. We learned how to apply the practical aspects of what we learned about the process of mitosis and meiosis to the animal kingdom and especially within humans. Students observed and compared stages of complete and incomplete metamorphosis. Upon completion of their observations students were able to: identify stages of complete metamorphosis, identify stages of incomplete metamorphosis and compare the stages of incomplete and complete insect metamorphosis.

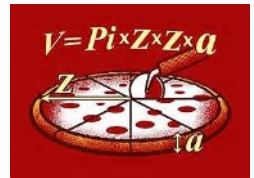
**American Studies** finds us in the Industrial Revolution this time. We tried to imagine a life without electricity, refrigeration, cars, TVs, and computers. All of this changed, however, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, which changed every aspect of everyday life, from how we wash our clothes to how we work, how we communicate, and how we travel. We explored the full scope of these changes, starting with inventions like the cotton gin, which revolutionized agriculture in the South, to the spinning jenny, which led to an explosion of textile mills in the North. The impacts of other inventions – such as the steam engine and the telegraph – were also fully explored with the changes still playing out today in the development of life-changing devices like computers and the Internet.

Our morning **English** group is focusing on spelling, vocab and word definition. Our words lists have expanded from fifteen to eighteen words. We have added a new component to our spelling called **A Word a Day**. This is designed to help build our vocabulary and promote: reading comprehension, critical-thinking skills and concept acquisition. We recently began Reading Comprehension Assessments. We are reading short stories that help us to think critically. We began a group reading of the book, Discovering Wes Moore, by Wes Moore. This book is about “Exploring factors that

*contribute to success--and failure-- [the author] compares and contrasts his life story with that of a man, who shares his name and is almost the same age. A friendship results as letters turned into visits and the two men got to know one another. This is a compelling story about the challenges of growing up and accepting responsibility for our choices.”*

Our new **Math** unit has students working on the learning of pi and circumference. We have used a variety of hands-on learning activities, games and worksheets to not just learn, but also to understand pi and circumference.

The third marking period has left us feeling accomplished with our new learning and inspired to begin our final semester for the school year. ~ Ms. Stevens, Academics



## CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE & DRAFTING

The house was completed in February and all classes had a pizza party. After that, most students enjoyed their favorite part of class: deconstruction. Drywall was flying and walls were crashing down, yet we managed to save two cabinets with sinks and all of the windows.

Currently, the house is completely gone and blueprints are almost finalized for the next project house. After a materials list is generated, construction will begin on the new plan. The new design will incorporate a front porch and a little section of roofing, in addition to the regular framing, mechanicals, drywall, painting, flooring and trim.

The school year is coming to an end quickly. I hope there is time to finish framing before the end of the year! “Changes” always seem to come after a wall has been built or a window has been put in.



## Mathematics

For the third quarter, students in math class took time to focus on their individual future goals and how their math studies can help them get there. These goals have ranged from wanting to become financially responsible, to work in an auto shop, and to go to a four year college. Overall this term, each student has put in great effort to meet the challenges set before him. They should each be proud of the gains they've made in their respective areas of study whether it has been algebra, algebra 2, geometry, statistics, or applied mathematics. This quarter we've seen an overall sense of individual responsibility and dignity about the work the students are accomplishing.

~ Mr. LaBranche, Mathematics



~ Mr. Ouellette, Construction Maintenance & Drafting



## After School Programs, Volunteering & Transition Services

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

Students continue to enjoy after school activities at CAVEC. Experimenting with culinary recipes makes for hearty after school snacks!



Omar continues his hard volunteer work at HORSE, a rescue organization for horses in Washington, CT.



Mr. Kevin Kennedy offers college admission information from Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

~Mr. Mayer, Guidance Counselor



Students like Josh P., Stephen L., Noah S. and Nate G. are filling out job applications and going out on interviews.



CJR student serves pasta to Mayor Carbone of Torrington at a benefit dinner for The Gathering Place in Torrington, a facility that serves local residents who are experiencing homelessness.



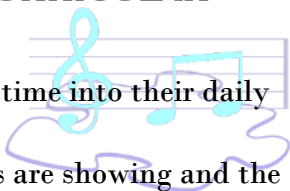
Justin D. has taken advantage of part-time job opportunities and has been applying himself working outside of school.

## ENRICHMENT & EXTRACURRICULAR.....

### Music Class

Students are incorporating music time into their daily schedules and it's a hit!

The musical interests the students are showing and the avenues they take to learn are as varied as the scales.



It is great to hear the beats and keys and notes and sounds filter through the hallways.

### Magic Club

Fridays...Period 5...Library...a group magically appears! Play your cards and share your strategies!

# CABLE

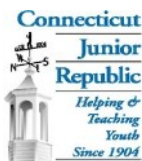
### ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

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Phone: 860.567.9423 • Fax: 860.567.2670 • [www.ctjuniorrepublic.org](http://www.ctjuniorrepublic.org)

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!

Dikembe B., Waterbury • Jacob B., Torrington  
Yhameek J., New Milford • Brandon L., Bristol  
Anthony M., Naugatuck • Daniel M., New Britain  
Brian P., Bristol • Willy P., Danbury  
Zachery R., Newington • Joe R., Danbury  
Kevin V., Ledyard

### Welcome New Staff

Mr. James Lucarelle, *Instructional Assistant*  
Ms. Katerina Sive, *Music*  
Mr. Bryan Waugh, *Instructional Assistant*  
Mr. Bryan Zeiner, *Instructional Assistant*