

Charlotte Harbor School NEWSLETTER

December 2025 Issue №2 | Holiday edition



CHC artist spotlight!



Upcoming events

Candy Cane Characters Nov 7th - Dec 20th

* 5 Below (North Port) Dec 9th - Dec 24th

* Pizza with Santa Dec 20th 5:30-8:30pm

* Santa is coming to CHC Dec 21th 8:30am

A word from Admin

Charlotte Harbor Center School is frequently an active and busy place, buzzing with activities and innovative ideas, for instance during a recent Science class secondary students were outside and were being asked to make their projections or hypotheses regarding, "what will happen if this acid (vinegar) is put in with this base?" There was a flurry of responses which were insightful to listen to and some from a unique perspective.

In the area of F Building and our activities, we have had several students who have been actively seeking out to counseling staff to address things that they have questions about and seeking to proactively problem solve things before they could become issues. There has been honest communication from staff to families and to other support staff related to potential emerging issues or concerns expressed by students, which has provided the opportunity for us to address things prior to them expanding into larger issues.

As far as disciplinary data, we are currently trending downwards, though our overall number is up from this time last year. It has been extremely helpful as more staff are consistently doing the same activities and maintaining the same expectations, as students can better be consistent with knowing with their individual and collective expectations. Having the chance to have regular and recurring conversations with the staff has been helpful in helping us better understand the challenges we each face and developing creative solutions to address things.

The overall support from and for each other and the students has been noted and is genuinely appreciated. As a result, we have shifted resources in F Building and transitioned some students from CHC to their comprehensive schools, and we will continue to seek to improve and adjust to provide support to our students and staff.

As the semester begins to wind down, we are entering an assessment window and progress monitoring, so please build time to address these critical areas. Have a plan, be flexible and nimble to make the adjustments on the fly, as we have all experienced "shift happens."

Thank you for all that you do!

A Word From West campus

Jennifer Mills - Ms. Mills' class is working on our December unit of our Unique Learning System curriculum. The unit is titled, The Gift of Giving. In this unit, we are learning about ways to help people in the community. We are reading a chapter book titled Holiday Service Project. This chapter book introduces and explains steps to take to plan a service project. We are also anxiously waiting for December 21 when Santa visits Charlotte Harbor Center. We hope everyone has a safe, restful, and happy holiday break.

Jennifer Dines - There's been a lot of fun things happening in Ms. Dines classroom. In our Unique Curriculum we've been learning about "The Gift of Giving". We continue practicing our CVC words and sight words daily. The students have been having a great time learning through the use of Kahoot. We practice multiple skills on a daily basis playing Kahoot games. We recently finished making a lot of cool Turkey projects and are looking forward to getting into the Christmas holiday spirit. The staff and students in Ms. Dines class want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Adrienne Cambareri - Guess what we have been studying in Ms. Cambareri's class? Plant biology, structure and reproduction! What are plants? Plants are living organisms that cover much of the land of planet Earth. You see them everywhere. They include grass, trees, flowers, bushes, ferns, mosses, and more. Plants make their own food. They are photosynthetic and contain a green pigment called chlorophyll, which enables plants to convert energy from the sun into food. Plants store their food as starch. These are just a few of the things we learned. There is so much more!

Brad Stradley - In this unit, students learn about ways to help people in their community. The Leveled Book illustrates several ways that people can give and how giving helps the other person. There are many ways to help. Throughout the unit, help students find different ways they can help people at school, at home or in their neighborhood. The life skills applications focus on the steps to complete a service project. In Lesson 4, students use a calendar to identify when activities take place. Lesson 6 has students identify a need in their community and how they can help. Lesson 8 has students plan and prepare a service project. Lesson 10 has students practice budgeting when buying items for a service project. Lesson 12 has students make cards to give to other people. Lesson 14 helps students think and reflect on their service project.

• A Word From West campus

Yvette Stoddart - In Language Arts, the students in Mrs. Stoddart's class are exploring short a sound and using Elkonin box with assistance, to build CVC words. Some students are trying to sound out each letter and attempt to blend and name the words. Lastly, learning is always on a continuum in varied ways in the classroom.

Ken Richards - As we prepare for a joyous holiday season in room 01-012, we hope everyone is ready to celebrate the happiest time of the year. Putting effort into our school work and behavior, earns privileges and rewards. During a recent lesson, our students were fascinated with studying planet earth; learning that it takes the earth 24 hours to complete one rotation on its axis, and 365 days to revolve around the sun. Especially at this time of year, good behavior places you on the list to receive gifts from Santa. Room 01-012 wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

Glenn Alvaranga - Mr. Glenn's class has been exploring, learning, improving familiarity and cognitive development involving fruits and vegetables and information about the over 50 holiday observances as well as the meaning of giving and receiving.

Kelly Bradley - Our class is well underway memorizing our multiplication facts in third grade. Our third graders are also learning about the solar system and where we are in the universe. In fourth grade, we are learning perimeter, area, and volume. Fourth graders are also learning how to write a paragraph of five sentences on a given topic. In fifth grade, we are also learning about the solar system but going into more depth than the third graders. It is great to pair up with our peers and learn. Our sixth and seventh graders are writing comparing and contrasting essays.

A Word From West campus

Jessica Cox - In Room 16, our students are learning and growing each week! In November we read *Barn Dance* and *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie!* We learned about animals, dancing, movement, verbs, Thanksgiving and different foods. We learned about the Pilgrims and Indians. We enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast in which students participated in the preparations from table decorations to meal preparations. They helped make and bake their own individual apple pies for dessert! We learned the color brown and red, the shapes square and circle, the letters Q, G, D, and B, the numbers 8-10 and the Quarter. In December we have some exciting activities planned-We visited the Nutcracker at CPAC on December 1st and will return again for Rainbow Fish. Our book for December is *Bear Snores On*. We are learning about habitats, snow and cold weather foods. We are learning the color white, the shape oval, the letters P and R and are reviewing numbers 1-10 and the coins. It is hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! The kids are working hard and we ALL are having lots of fun!

Kimberly Christie - Ms. Christie's class has finished our unit on History and we have begun our unit on community service. We are learning how we can all serve our neighbors and fellow community members. As a part of this unit, we will be making holiday cards for our military to support those that protect us every day as a part of their job. We are still studying measurement in Math class and we are refreshing our skills in the scientific method in Science class. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

Tiffany Furlow - A lot of exciting things are happening in Room 31 this quarter. Our third and fifth graders went on their first field trip of the year to CPAC to see The Nutcracker then our whole class took a field trip to CPAC to see the Rainbow Fish performance. We have been working on so many fun and exciting topics; such as, Robin Hood, gardening, counting and quantities, using money, states of matter, and number and letter recognition. Our class is very excited for our visit with Santa in a couple of weeks.

Hugh Quigley - The Super Seniors have been actively volunteering at the Homeless Coalition and various events throughout the second quarter. We extend our gratitude to all patrons who participated in the fall bake sale, as we raised sufficient funds to give back to both the school and the community. Our Life Skills program is also underway, with students learning essential skills such as cleaning, banking, cooking, and managing everyday life. Additionally, we will continue to make lunches for staff and sell candy and soda to staff. Despite being a busy quarter for the Super Seniors, we believe that there's nothing that we can't overcome if we put our minds to it.

• A Word From Specials

Our family wishes you

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maris nunc. Aenean blandit massa lacus
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Heidi Strand - Get ready for a new wave of excitement as our PE classes embrace the exhilarating sport of pickleball! This fun and engaging game is not only a great way to get exercise and improve coordination, but it also fosters teamwork, sportsmanship, and a genuine sense of camaraderie among our students. Pickleball's adaptability to various skill levels makes it an ideal activity for students of all ages and abilities. The game's easy-to-learn rules and slower pace provide a welcoming environment for beginners, while its competitive nature and strategic elements keep experienced players engaged and challenged. As our students delve into the world of pickleball, they'll develop agility, hand-eye coordination, and strategic thinking skills. They'll also cultivate teamwork and communication skills as they work together to navigate the court and score points. Let the games begin!

Sheyna Bunlavanit - We have been very busy in the art room this month. We just finished up our fall collages to celebrate the fall season. We also learned how to paint with string, which made an amazing abstract, design, which the children, then colored in. Lastly, we did Thanksgiving turkeys where we got to use different mediums, including feathers, paint, and glue. Next up, our students will be creating their own Christmas ornaments. We will also be making some extra ornaments that will be for sale at the pizza with Santa event.

• A Word From Sands

Aileen Brandt-Biggs - In P4 right now we are currently working on social emotional techniques, de-escalation techniques, and also working on transitioning and making it fun. This next week we will be working on some fun Christmas arts and crafts to go home. We are also making some moon sand that looks like snow.

Jamie Selkirk - 4th and 5th graders in P2 have been doing some fun Science experiments this quarter - making series and parallel circuits and using an orange to produce electricity. 6th graders are learning about Minerals and Rocks in the Geosphere in Science. In ELA, 4th and 5th graders are hard at work in Benchmark's Unit 4, 6th graders just finished reading "The Tale of the Hummingbird". In Math, every student has been working on timed multiplication drills to boost their multiplication skills. 4th graders are working on identifying factor pairs and prime/composite numbers. 5th grade is finishing up adding and subtracting decimals. 6th graders are working with integers and the coordinate grid. In Social Studies - 4th graders are finishing up exploring the Seminole Wars, 5th grade is finishing up learning about the colonies and 6th graders are learning about life after the American Revolution.

Jessie Bailey - P1 has been up to some pretty fun and exciting things! We were able to take a trip over to CPAC and watched the "Nutcracker", and all the students enjoyed it very much. We are also reading "Where the Red Fern Grows" and have some really cool activities once we finish the book. Also, our next adventure outside of school is the Ringling Museum where we will be able to see what the circus looked like when it 1st started on May 19, 1884. We will also get to see really cool artwork from all eras.

Kayla Hall - In P3, 1st and 2nd graders have been learning about the Earth's surface and the correlating different types of soil that create the Earth's surface, as well as the distinguishing qualities of each variant. Students have constructed and maintained an earthworm habitat/compost bin to understand how Loam soil develops its nutritional properties. This ongoing project has also taught students the important role that earthworms play within our ecosystem.

A Word From Sands

Daniel Melvin - Mr. Melvin's high school English class is reading "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson and went on a field trip to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performed at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. His middle school English students are reading "The Adventures of Pinocchio" by Carlo Collodi. His Social Studies classes are learning about the differences between Capitalism and Communism, as well as about the Revolutionary War and the history of the Early Republic.

Andrea Trina - History students are studying the causes of the American Revolution and important documents. Civics is learning all about the Bill of Rights and the importance of the Constitution. Students have been successfully working on Driver's Ed and many have been issued their Learner's Permit (scary)! In Learning Strategies, they have been exploring different jobs and they created a Career Research Project. The students presented their project in class and shared their future endeavors.

Carl Roselli - Currently 6th graders are learning about proportional relationships and how they relate to real world examples in purchasing bulk amounts of products comparing them to their single unit rate. The 7th grade students are practicing the distributive property, adding and subtracting like terms and simplifying expressions. 8th graders are working on laws of exponents. Algebra 1 A students are using slope intercept formula ($y=mx+b$) to graph linear equations. Algebra 1 B students are factoring quadratics. Geometry students just finished proving parallel lines exist using properties of congruence and understanding transversals. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Travis Colford - As we get off to a wonderful start and heading into winter break at a fever-pitched start. My students have been to Cedar Point twice this year once for an environmental walk and then for an estuary walk in the seagrass in Lemon Bay. My students are starting the study of Biomes and starting to explore and understand the effects of a biome on its inhabitants. We continue to push to the end in mind and develop and promote scientific learning and exploration.

Janine Schmidt - We've been working on an essay comparing and contrasting Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank. We compared the differences between the movies and the cultures. We also have watched a "What are you thankful for" movie and wrote an essay about 5 things that we are thankful for. We are also going to write an essay about our favorite things that we like to do for Christmas.

Our family wishes you

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mauris nunc. Aenean blandit massa lacus
sollicitudin faucibus et, aliquet eget. Integer eget
peritior purus! Duis rhoncus est viverra, blandit
riat ac, elementum orci. Nulla vehicula, tellus eu
convallis maximus, tustid ligula condimentum sem,
lil amet condimentum ipsum massa sed tellus.

*From our CHC family to
yours have a happy and safe
holiday and we hope to see
all your smiling faces in the
new year!*