

SPECIALISTS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

VISUAL

ART



LIBRARY



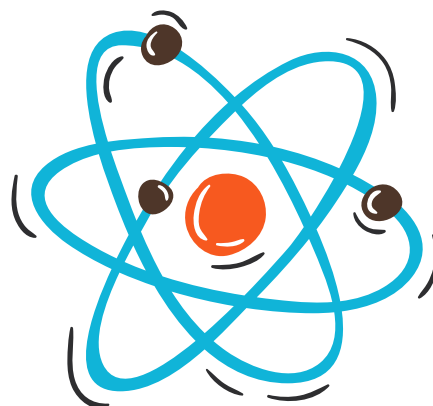
MUSIC



**CREATIVE
MOVEMENT**



PE



STEM

VISUAL ARTS WITH SETH

AROUND THE STUDIO...



- The **Apple Trees** have been busy with their first identity study at CCS. We've been mixing paint to match their skin tones and deciding on names for the shades. They've also started their self-portraits which we will work on until the end of the year.
- **Dragon Blood Trees** made geometric 3D robot heads by using math concepts and perimeter and have also been creating geometric shapes from 2D shapes (making a circle into a cylinder). In print shop, they designed and created bookmarks for use in the library and we are now working on printing a collaborative book based on Korean Sijo poetry.
- All of the **Weeping Willows** have been having fun with shaping and blending air dry clay to make faces. This class loves animals, so they made paintings of the animal they connect most closely with and they are now hanging in the classroom. Sakura students are also embarking on a map study so we have been working on creating their own country/island and using longitude, latitude, and graphic symbols to represent resources.

- Our **Palm Tree** friends are working on a large collaborative painting that shows how humans, plants, and animals use water. This project involves color mixing and painting, which they mastered after revisiting these foundations in the beginning of the year. We are also doing a collage of water cycle charts to tie into their STEM work.
- The **Rainbow Eucalyptus** class is passionate about their Tongva study, so the students are all creating dioramas of that time period. Landscape painting, creating clay structures, and sourcing natural materials from campus grounds have all gone into constructing these settings.
- Three giant map paintings for a made up island called Eman Tenalp are the focus of the **Sakura** students. They also created topographic maps of their imagined world on wood by using paint and plaster and created stamps that depict natural resources. Their work is a natural combination of STEM and art which we love to see.



Many students have been learning from [Saylor Petzoldt](#) in afterschool ceramics class, as well.

SETH'S HOPE FOR 2023

"I'd like to be able to find some time to go to the beach and to visit my brother in Trinidad, CA."

CREATIVE MOVEMENT WITH DALIDA

IN THE STUDIO...

- The **Sakura** are learning how to create dance sentences through choreography. They are working on memorizing sequences of movement and also building up their physical endurance. We play a lot of movement games and focus on expanding their dance memory. Each week we add a new section of dance that builds on what we had mastered the week before.
- The **Weeping Willows** find a lot of connections with animals so we are creating a movement piece for the sing inspired by the animal they most deeply connect with. They are also learning how to choreograph a movement piece by focusing on the elements of dance: body, action, space, time, and energy
- As a continuation of their work in the winter that focused on music of the 50s and 60s, the **Dragon Blood Trees** are now diving into the music of 70s and 80s, and learning the dances that defined those decades like hip hop, punk, rock n roll, and disco.



- The **Palm Trees** class has been studying water so we have been working a lot with fluid movement. They have also connected with a dance game that focuses on different forms of water- how would you move if you were frozen and then what would happen if you evaporate?
- Working on cooperation in dance is a key part of the **Rainbow Eucalyptus** class' work right now. They are fine-tuning a movement piece for the Spring Sing based on incorporating a myth from Tongva culture about seven sisters and seven brothers into a dance.
- The **Apple Trees** are writing letters with movement in class. They create the alphabet by making shapes on the ground with their bodies and write them in the air with scarves. They've also been focusing on spatial awareness and the differences between personal space and general space.

DALIDA'S HOPE FOR 2023

"I want to find time to study psychology because I am so inspired by the human brain. The way feelings are made and felt fascinates me and I hope I am able to find time to learn more about this area of study."

"It's been so wonderful being back in the classroom with these incredible students again! We dove into a lot of challenging work and it's been so much fun. I'm extremely impressed by their musicality and passion for this work!"

MUSIC WITH AARON

IN THE STUDIO...



- The **Weeping Willows** are talking about musical notation, and drawing whole, half, quarter and eight notes. We are focusing on playing as a musical ensemble together with a focus on slowing down and listening to each other. They are studying shapes in class and we've connected that to observing the shape of music in scales.
- **Sakura** students are studying the twelve bar blues. They've been learning about the range of instruments that are used in traditional swing and jazz for songs like "Shades of Blue." As an extension of their map study, we've been listening to different tonalities that relate to the music of different countries and cultures.
- All 4th graders, both **Sakura** and **Rainbow Eucalyptus**, are learning to read notes on a staff for a recorder. As a class, the RE have been really busy! We sing a lot (especially community songs); played with a Tongva welcome song which we sang and played on xylophones; and talked about the Blues and its relationship to American music.

- Working on beat competency and playing together has been the primary focus for the **Apple Trees**. We've done everything from learning how to hold mallets correctly to learning techniques for different instruments. They've also become pros at rotating between instruments which helps them become comfortable with a variety of techniques and functioning as part of an ensemble.
- The **Palm Trees** have been focusing on the xylophone and mallet progression. We've learned some music games which increases their confidence, and are making connections with life studies by using water as inspiration for musical creations.
- It's a busy time for the **Dragon Blood Trees**! We are utilizing all types of instruments- strings, piano, xylophone, drums, and voice- to make music and just started creating original compositions which will be showcased in their national parks culmination.



AARON'S HOPE FOR 2023

"I want to find a space for a studio where I can set up all my instruments- almost 40 of them!"

LIBRARY WITH KATIE

AMONG THE SHELVES...



- The **Apple Tress and Palm Trees** are practicing finding "just right" books for themselves which are usually things they are interested in and good for practice. They're practicing using a reading finger to decode each sound, blend together, and recognize patterns and repeating words.
- The **Weeping Willows** are expanding finding "fun fit" books into seeking out longer chapter books and new genres.
- The **Rainbow Eucalyptus** Literature circle has been reading Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate and are using the FLOWERS guide for discussing books: thinking about their feelings, links, observations, wonderings, entering the text, review, and what they learned.
- The **Sakuras and Dragon's Blood Trees** have been working with databases, articles, archives, and understanding primary vs. secondary resources.

Here are some of our newest favorite books- hyperlinked!



LIBRARY NOTES

To celebrate MLK we discussed what "legacy" means to us, and what we can do to create a positive legacy. We read the true story of The Youngest Marcher to see how students can choose to create their own legacy of activism.

During rainy days we read how about Jonas Hanway's Scurrilous, Scandalous, Shockingly Sensational Umbrella, changed our weather habits, and learned funny new synonyms for mizzly days.

To celebrate Lunar New Year we did readers' theatre of the story of the Chinese zodiac and explored our folktale collection.

We kicked off Black History Month with Me and Muhammed Ali and discussed how Ali was not only an athlete, but also a poet and an activist. We talked about how everyone is multi-faceted and should be appreciated for the whole of who they are.

KATIE'S HOPE FOR 2023

"I want to visit more national parks, go on more road trips (maybe to national parks?), see more live performances, and spend more time with family in Michigan. That's not too much to ask for, right?"

PHYSICAL ED WITH JUAN

ON THE YARDS...

- The **Dragon Blood Trees** have been continuing their work in child-led PE, cardiovascular exercise, and fundamentals of sports with a focus on basketball. We play an endurance game called Caterpillar Jog- a continuous seven minute synchronized light run with one sprint for each student. Moving forward, we will dive deeper into body systems, nutrition, and living a healthy lifestyle.
- The **Palm Trees** have been focusing on throwing/catching while moving, activities that reinforce knowledge of muscle groups, and Medic-ball which highlights collaboration, throwing, agility, spatial awareness, good sportsmanship, and honesty. Moving forward, these students will explore kicking and dribbling with feet.
- It's all about coordination, balance, and body vocabulary for the **Apple Trees!** We like to stretch and play Simon Says which has helped them learn new body movements and strengthens their listening and processing. Some of the current balance activities include balance blocks, hopscotch, balance boards, skipping, and kicking!

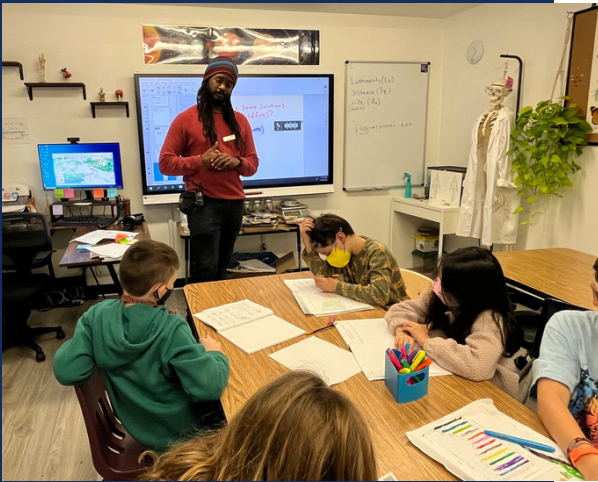


- **Weeping Willows** are currently active in physical activities that promote collaboration, hand/eye coordination, and good sportsmanship. Many of these fun activities are done in groups and present a challenge the group must overcome together which focuses them on positivity. They also love playing Prisoner which reinforces communication, catching/throwing, and trust.
- The **Sakura** are all about soccer. Each student has a leadership role as either a stretching/warm up specialist, physical trainer, tactical coach, or skills coach, and they've also learned positions on the soccer field. I encourage them to act as models for their peers, opening them up to being more creative with their teaching methods.
- **Rainbow Eucalyptus** have taken a break from invasion games and have decided their sport of choice is Pickleball. They rotate through skills stations like striking, balancing, catching, and skills explored before like agility and eye tracking. The RE also love the Caterpillar Jog!

JUAN'S HOPE FOR 2023

"As much as I enjoy my current routine, I'm yearning to carve out more time for my hobbies like editing videos and cycling!"

STEM (THE "E" IS FOR ENVIRONMENT) WITH CHRIS

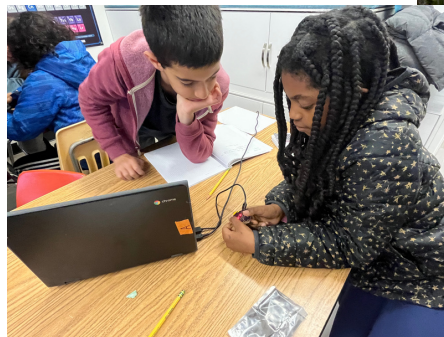


IN THE LAB...

- The **Sakura** are studying waves, patterns, and codes (Morse and Caesar). They learned about number substitution cyphers and are now deep into working with binary code, using it to program Microbits to speak and send messages.
- The **Apple Trees** have been talking about what animals need to survive. We've also studied various plants on campus and made observations about how they change from being a seed into an adult plant. We engage in scientific reasoning with this work such as, "Are we getting more bees based on how many flowers we have?"
- The **Palm Trees** are studying biomimicry. I charged them with finding a creative to solution to an imaginary problem of students falling off the North Yard structure by looking at how animals solve the problem of falling. They developed and designed items like gloves and protective suits as a response. We are also studying the sun and how we use it to tell time



- The **Rainbow Eucalyptus** are examining how the climate of LA has changed over time from Miocene to Pleistocene to today. How have these changes affected the plants and animals that live here? Next, we will be looking at micro ecosystems.
- The **Dragon Blood Trees** are studying Earth systems and how all the different spheres are connected. They made terrarium jars as mini Earth systems so we can observe how Earth functions on a smaller scale. We are testing soil and looking at it under microscopes, doing miniature water cycles in a jar, and studying how the greenhouse effect changes the planet.
- Our **Weeping Willows** students are learning about all aspects of the water cycle- how plants use water, how evaporation and condensation work, and what various levels of rain mean for our campus plants. They are also growing plants at home, observing and journaling about the CCS garden, and harvesting plants we've grown.



CHRIS' HOPE FOR 2023

"I want to be able to finish a book I've been writing on-and-off for almost a decade that is set in a fantasy world"

SPRING 2023

WOODWORKING WITH CARLOS

IN THE WOODSHOP...

I've been working closely with the **Sakura** class to build the the Little Free Library that they designed and it's just about finished. They used their math skills to measure and create the little house and it will be installed in the neighborhood soon. In the spring, I'll be working with the **Palm Trees** to refurbish the lemonade stand in the North Yard. We are going to strengthen the structure and add some designs. I'm also making treasure boxes, cars, and trucks with the **Apple Trees** so they can have some new items to play with. We are building them at school and then they will be able to take them home so they can enjoy them over the summer.

CARLOS' HOPE FOR 2023

"I go camping every year and I'm looking forward to a few camping trips in Santa Ynez and San Diego. I'm also going to see my family in Salvador in July and I can't wait to see them"



These specialists provide myriad access points to a classroom's curriculum, making hard to grasp subjects within reach. They are an integral part of a CCS education and seamlessly embody our mission:

Children's Community School is a progressive school dedicated to teaching children to think for themselves, collaborate successfully with others, and take responsibility for their own education in a safe and loving environment.

CCS embraces the principles of diversity, self-determination and participation in democracy. We foster critical thinking, compassion, and respect for each student, their community and their world.