

CECEXPLORER

The latest news and updates from Chain Exploration Center



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ALWAYS STAY UP TO DATE:

www.chainexplorationcenter.org

Reflections on Applefest: Two Days Prior and Two Days Post

by CEC Student **Noah Kulinski**

Two Days Prior

For Applefest.... gone are the days in which we held fistfuls of notecards in our hands. As we transition into the final stage of Applefest, and even afterwards, presentations are get-it-done or crash-and-burn. (Crash-and-burn is what fire drills are for.)

With the time for last-minute preparations compounded into two days, everyone's presentations are ripe, fresh, and juicy. But we are starting to slowly work into post-Applefest status. Considering the fact that more independent projects are on the rise, many students will, and I am one of them, start considering their next projects.

Two Days Post

The night of Applefest was considered a success. The presentations flowed smoothly, the food was great (shoutout to the food group!), and the crowds were wild. These presentations worked like clockwork, changing every 15 minutes. It was phenomenal.

By now all of us have received our grades, and the next project rationales and preparations are underway. I've heard about fencing, airplanes, architecture, horses, feral cats, endangered cats, all the sort. We're moving along, and Applefest is moving behind us.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

4th Thursday of the month at the CEC, except on holidays.

November 29, 2018 (5:30pm)

December 20, 2018 (5:30pm)

Parent Involvement

Looking towards the future!!!

There will be many parent volunteer opportunities in the near future in areas like fundraising, grant writing, and community outreach. Please keep an eye out for future communication regarding volunteer opportunities. Visit www.chainexplorationcenter.org to stay up to date and informed! The website calendar is updated regularly.

Construction Corner:

The CEC is getting a school store!

Fourth grade students from Mrs. Ristow's math class have been working on designing a brand new school store. The store will be located in its own room off the the first floor corridor, across from the main office. The new counters and merchandise displays are in the process of being ordered. The room will also feature a green wall that can act as a 'green screen' for future video productions.



CEC students work on the corridor mural.

Students are also working hard on making the CEC rooms their own. A mural has been going up in the corridor outside the big study room, and other walls of the school serve as pin up space for project ideas and as a way to display completed work. Stop by and take a look at all the changes!

Project Based Learning Did you know?

Myth: PBL is the same as "making something," "hands-on learning" or "doing an activity."

Fact Check: PBL is often focused on creating physical artifacts, but the artifacts are not as important as the intellectually challenging tasks that led to them. For example, it's not truly PBL if students are simply making a collage about a story, constructing a model of the Egyptian pyramids, or analyzing water samples from a lake. These artifacts and activities could be part of a rigorous project if they help students meet a complex challenge and address a *Driving Question*. And not all "projects" involve creating a physical product. A broad definition of PBL includes projects in which students solve a complex problem and defend their solution in an oral presentation or in writing.

from www.edutopia.org

November Project Night 2018

Student Recollections

by CEC Students Lily and Danny Cichy

The students recently had our project presentation night. All the students researched for six weeks, then shared models, trifold, or slideshows. Everyone had a great presentation!

During the project, we learned how to contact live sources, become more independent, and creatively present our learning. This time we picked our own topics. We were excited to research something that was our interest.

Every afternoon was busy with students reading, writing, and learning. We are proud of our work and are excited for our next project!

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL CEC SUPPORTERS!

We'd like to thank **Fleet Farm** of Waupaca, **Silvermist Landscaping** and the **Ristow** family for their generous donations of time, talent and treasure that helped make Applefest such a success!



Daily Student Schedule

8:00-8:40	Gathering and Advisory
8:40-9:40	Math
9:40-9:50	Brain Break
9:50-11:30	Literacy
11:30-12:15	Specials (Art, Music, PE)
12:15-12:45	Lunch and Recess
12:45-1:00	Reflection Community
1:00-2:35	Project Time and RTI
2:35-2:50	Advisory Check Out Community Jobs



Literacy Curriculum Lucy Calkins Units of Study

Readers and Writers Workshop

by CEC Administrator **Rhonda Hare**

Literacy instruction at CEC takes place in a multi-aged setting. The Advisors use materials from Lucy Calkins Units of Study for grades 3,4,and 5; and select units that fit in with the project theme when possible. Other times they choose units that address needs that they are seeing with the majority of students.

In a Workshop model, Advisors present "mini-lessons" each day, focusing on a learning objective for reading and for writing. They use mentor texts, professional pieces that provide examples of the learning. Students then practice the skill in books of their own choosing and at their own reading level. Students work on writing individual pieces within a given genre, including Narrative, Opinion, and Informational writing. Advisors confer with individuals to monitor their progress and keep track of skills learned. Because each advisory group has students of multiple grade levels and abilities, literacy learning is individualized within the structured 3-5th grade standards. The majority of time in the hour and a half literacy block is spent on active reading and writing.