

CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

A publication of The Cornerstone School

Volume 7 | Issue 1

GROWTH POTENTIAL

Kindergartners celebrated Grinch Day with themed lessons and special activities.



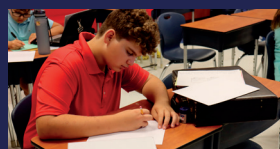
THE FLOOR IS LAVA

Second Graders participated in a Project Lead the Way STEM activity meant to test their problem solving abilities.



Masters of Science

Students presented over 90 projects at the Middle School Science Fair.



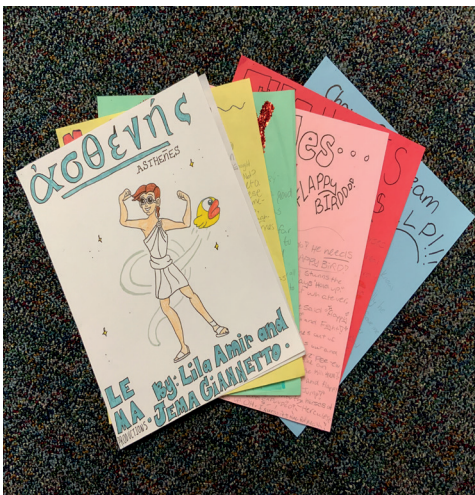
Choose Your Adventure

Seventh Graders created one-of-a-kind stories based on a Greek myth.



CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

Seventh Grade students put their creative skills to work, writing and illustrating original "choose your own adventure" books based on a Greek myth.



The Seventh Grade class' original "choose your own adventure" books inspired by the twelve labors of Heracles.

To pique their interest, before beginning their unit on Greek mythology, Seventh Grade students were challenged to write and illustrate a "choose your own adventure" book based on the twelve labors of Heracles. (*Mythology refresh: driven mad by the goddess Hera, Heracles committed murder and was then given 12 near impossible tasks or "labors" as penance for his crimes.*)

Students were tasked to write an opening paragraph to their stories and then split their narrative by writing about two labors of their choice. Students then created more options for their readers as each of these paragraphs led to different outcomes. In the end, each story had four possible endings.

"I was impressed by their creativity

and teamwork," said Middle School Language Arts Teacher John Wise. "We also learned about the Greek pantheon and the Titanomachy (the battle between the Titans and the Olympians), and students showed a lot of interest in this unit."

Seventh Graders study the major deities of the Greek pantheon and famous myths, such as the Heracles' Twelve Labors, Theseus and the Minotaur, and The Flight of Icarus. Their language unit for the semester focuses on Greek and Latin root words and affixes. "Ultimately, our study of Greek mythology will culminate with an interdisciplinary unit in which all core classes and specials will work with Seventh Graders on a Greek-inspired presentation," said Wise.

THE FLOOR IS LAVA



Long before technology fit in the palm of your hand, kids entertained themselves by playing "the floor is lava" in their living rooms. Trying to get everyone off the floor, across the furniture, and out of the room was the key to a memorable afternoon. Flash forward to present day and "The Floor is Lava" is not only a popular Netflix show but also a fun, collaborative STEM project.

Students in Second Grade were given plastic cups, popsicle sticks, and several plastic animals and challenged to work together to create a sturdy structure to "save" as many animals as possible (the desk is lava!). After each group saved as many animals as they could, they were given an additional index card to see what alterations they would make to their original design. "The students had so much fun trying to figure out what worked the best," said Teacher Kassie Urban-Timpner. "They learned to work as a team, and used their critical thinking, creative problem solving skills," Urban-Timpner said.

DAY OF GIVING 2023

The Cornerstone School's 6th Annual Day of Giving, held on Giving Tuesday in November, raised over \$65,000 for the Cornerstone Annual Fund, helping to support technology, campus security, and programs such as Art, STEM, Music and PE.

Along with the Day of Giving was the return of the Tribes Philanthropy Challenge, which encourages students to get involved in giving back to Cornerstone. This year's winning Tribe was Incendia, which raised 38% of the total amount donated. The next Day of Giving will be held on December 3, 2024.



The Incendia Tribe won the 2023 Tribes Philanthropy Challenge, raising almost 38% of the days' total donations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The season of giving brought new community projects to the students of The Cornerstone School.

During an October Tribes activity students and staff created beautiful poppy flower wreaths in honor of Veterans Day. The wreaths, made of construction paper, beads, and ribbon, were delivered to the residents at Ocala Health and Rehab.



Joshua shows off a poppy flower he made for the Veterans Day wreath.

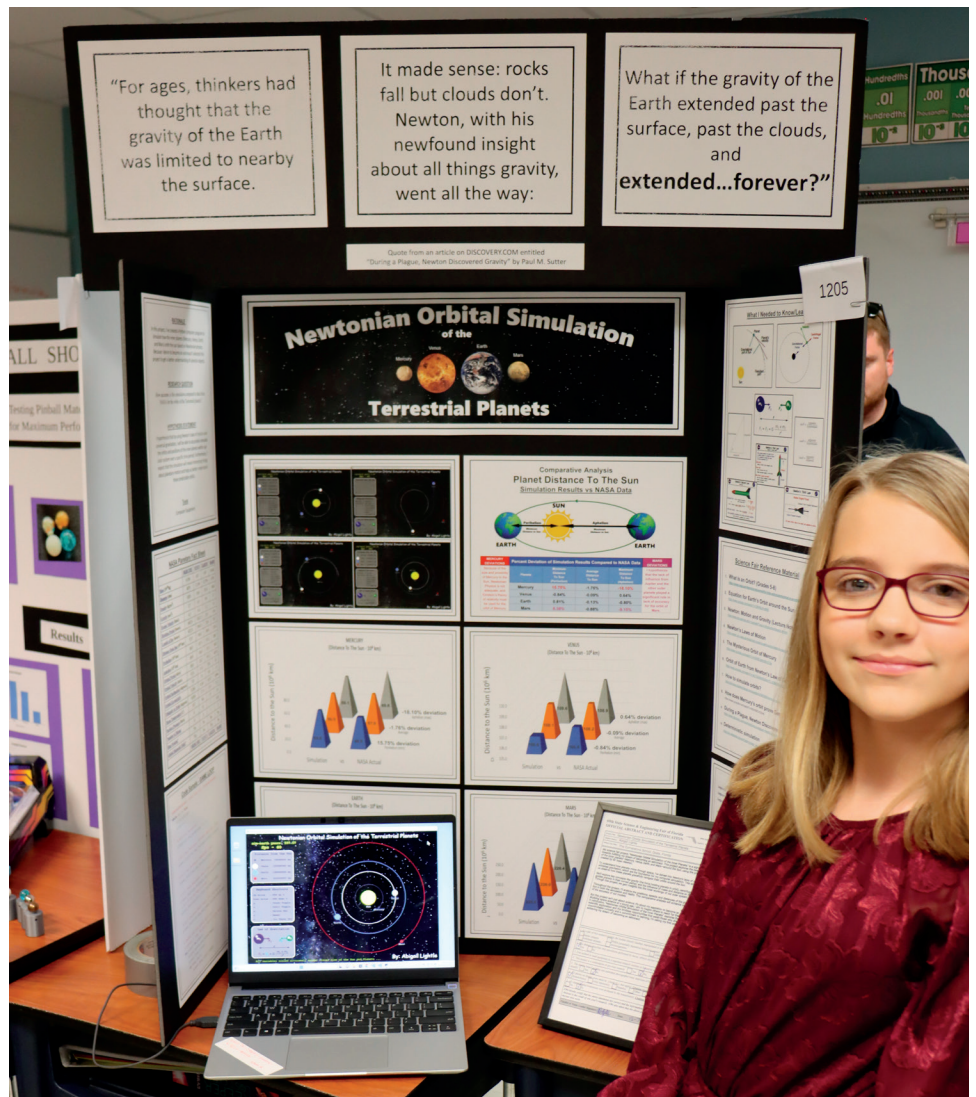
Third Grade students learned about random acts of kindness during a lesson in Global Perspectives, and were challenged to do something kind without expecting anything in return. Great acts of kindness were carried out by all students including Maddox who, with the help of his family, made sandwiches and passed them out to the homeless.



Maddox hands out water, chips, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

DOT TO DOT

In celebration of National Dot Day, Second Grade students created unique works of art using a combination of colors and multiple dot designs.



MASTERS OF SCIENCE

Does Preoperative Blood Pressure Affect Operative Blood Loss? Is Water Lying to Us? What is the best day of the week for the highest student test scores? These and other questions were posed and tested for the annual Middle School Science Fair held in December 2023.

Students in Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades spent several months researching and testing their hypotheses. Over 90 projects competed in 12 categories such as animal sciences, chemistry, engineering, and physics and astronomy.

"Science Fair is the number one way for a kid to go through the process

of doing Science," said Science Fair Coordinator Dan Peterson. "It's not just learning about science, it's getting your hands dirty and doing the work. It's not always successful but that is part of the process."

Seventeen professionals from local science and technology companies spent several hours listening to the students' presentations and judging the projects. Top scoring projects included a project about mushrooms being an eco-friendly support material for flooring and Newtonian Orbital Simulation. Twelve students will be moving on to the regional Big Springs STEM/Science Fair in February.



GROWTH POTENTIAL

National Grinch Day brought several STEM activities to Cornerstone's Kindergarten students this past December.

Kindergarten students began their holiday season with a celebration of National Grinch Day. The day was filled with special activities and lessons, all themed around everyone's favorite anti-hero, the Grinch. Dressed in their best Grinch and green attire, students read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss, discussed the Grinch's character traits, and the importance of being kind.

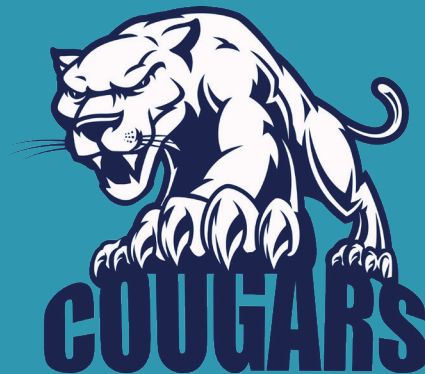
Ms. B's class decorated Grinch hats and integrated the character into their math lesson, also known as Grinch Math. The students were given word problems with a Grinchy-twist to solve. In Ms. Katie's class, students participated in a science experiment to "Grow His (the Grinch) Heart." With help from a water bottle, green balloon, vinegar, and baking soda, the students observed a chemical reaction and watched the Grinch's "heart" grow three sizes.

"Grinch Day fosters a love for reading, develops critical thinking skills, and provides opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and scientific exploration," said Teacher Katie Thompson.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Grinch character in *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* was based on Dr. Seuss. (Source: biography.com)



The co-ed soccer team finished their season 4-5. Our cross-country team participated in 7 meets, with our Elementary Boys and Girls winning first place at the Wildwood meet. Varsity Flag Football finished the season 0-7 and Junior Varsity Flag Football finished 2-7, falling short in the first round of the playoffs.



Middle School students Eli, Colton, and Jayden get ready for the next play.



Eighth Grader Liam protects the Cornerstone goal.



Fifth Grader Willow runs in the Alligator Lake Invitational race in Lake City.



INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE. INVEST IN *Cornerstone.*

Cultivate Knowledge ► Inspire Leadership ► Build a Community

The Cornerstone Annual Fund ensures that The Cornerstone School maintains its reputation of offering an unprecedented educational experience to all its students by providing financial assistance to classroom technology, school security, and school programs including Project Lead the Way, Physical Education, Art, Music and STEM.

Every gift of every size makes a difference. Join us in our mission to prepare the next generation of students for success by making a donation to The Cornerstone School Annual Fund by visiting our website at thecornerstoneschool.org or by scanning the QR code today!



Annual Fund

