

W

hat are we **doing** in class?

Algebra 1: We are currently using the ALEKS program to supplement instruction and prepare for the Core 40 test. We are committed to achieving a 100% pass rate on the test this year! Each class of Algebra I students has a 30% content mastery goal on ALEKS to be met by 10/18/11. Parents should be sure to ask students, "What have you done to achieve 100% on your Core 40 TODAY?"

Facilitator: Jenna Kukreja

Geometry: students are investigating properties of polygons, such as similarity and congruence. They are working with Geometer's Sketchpad to define these properties, and they are communicating with their peers to share ideas.

Facilitator: Stephanie Sharick

Algebra 2:

Facilitator: Josh Giebel

Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: students are finishing up a unit on relations and functions. They have explored the graphs of functions to determine what makes functions even or odd and to figure out how to find inverses of functions.

Facilitator: Stephanie Sharick

Calculus:

Facilitator: Josh Giebel

Math Seminar: Core 40 retest date is December 8th. Our first ALEKS benchmark is 30% content mastery by 10/6/11. Shout out to Edith Herrera for her persistence and continued hard work!

Facilitator: Jenna Kukreja

Chemistry: working on a project for Dr. Jill Robinson from the NanoScience Department at IU. We are learning about atoms in preparation for a visit from her and her department's new mobile Atomic Force Microscope. This technology that will give us a view of particles at the molecular level, that's 1 millionth the size of a grain of salt! Great, engaging lessons have been shared by several groups already this week, and more are expected next.

Facilitator: Elizabeth Porter

Biology: students have been collecting insects & arachnids for identification in the lab. The characteristics and structures & functions of their collected specimens will be used to create a new beneficial insect/arachnid for potential development for pest control.

Facilitator: Cinde Wirth

BioLit: AWESOME field trip to Deam Wilderness Area in BioLit!!!! Kudos to the students for persevering,



thinking flexibly, supporting one another in so many ways, and taking a responsible risk.

Facilitators: Andrew Larson & Rachelle Antcliff

Physics & Integrated Chemistry and

Physics (ICP): Students participated in the Cardboard Boat Races on Thursday at Northside Middle School. They received compliments from community partners for their AWESOME behavior and CSA has been invited back to Northside to launch boats again next year. The boat races also made the front page of the Republic!

Facilitator: Gail Nowels

Geometry/Introduction to Engineering

and Design (Geo/IED): students are in the final stages of their puzzle cube projects. They are working on packaging their puzzle cubes, and they will be presenting to the class on Friday. We're excited to see the different ways our students will use the puzzle cubes to teach geometry to children!

Facilitators: Nicole Otte & Stephanie Sharick

Principles of Engineering (POE): Students are "Keeping it Simple.." They are building Simple machines out of VEX Robotics Components, in order to increase interest in Robotics for young children. Then they are creating digital files that could potentially be used by KidsCommons in their Simple Machine section of their website.

Facilitator: Nicole Otte

Global Science Perspectives (GSP): Students are redesigning and adding to the garden! If families have leftover seeds they would like to donate to the garden, please send them in with your child. Deliver the seeds to Mr. Larson or Mrs. Antcliff. Information will be coming soon about how you can benefit from the garden!

Facilitators: Andrew Larson & Rachelle Antcliff

Social Justice: Project launch "Buddy Walk." Some students will be participating in the Buddy Walk; others are working to generate excitement and participation in the Buddy Walk; Two groups are creating a documentary of our work that may be shown at the National Buddy Walk Convention in December!

Facilitators: José Martinez & Katie Ferguson

American Heritage: Students are learning about corruptions that have occurred in our country (The Watergate Scandal, the Red Scare, prohibition etc.)

Facilitators: Heather Hester & Charlene Glassley

Government: We just finished the Xlandia Government project. We are about to launch "The Campaign Trail"- a simulation of the political process.

Facilitator: José Martinez

Rachelle Antcliff,
Facilitator, and students
enjoying their trip to the
Deam Wilderness Area
in BioLit

World Language Lab: We are starting a project about promoting our school to citizens of the world. We will start Monday, the 24th and finish it by October 14.
Facilitator: Raquel Contreras

Spanish 1: We are working on a project for kindergartners to learn Spanish. We will be taking a field trip to CSA Lincoln to present on September 30

Spanish 2: We finished the annual Spanish "Libros para Niños" project and are eagerly awaiting news on which book won! The winning book members will take a mini field trip to Fodrea to present their books and have a book signing.

Spanish 3 & 4: Both groups are developing a pilot for a TV show. Spanish 3 will be creating a show about advice while Spanish 4 is creating a show of their choice.

Facilitator: Michelle Orr

How are students **thinking** a communicating with clarity and precision?

"I was so pleased to see a group in Spanish I come together after some conflict. They handled themselves professionally and exhibited the habits of: thinking flexibly and remaining open to continuous learning. The group members are: Cheyenne Cody, Seth Hundley, and Sam Whittington! I am proud of you!" –Michelle Orr, Spanish

"Alaysia Coulter thought with clarity and precision as the sophomore advisory began their Not So Random Act of Kindness project. She communicated the message that it is our jobs to keep CSA clean and neat with great oomph!" -Josh Giebel, Advisory

"Allena Simmons, Cortezia Bandy, and Michelle Keller have all done an outstanding job communicating with clarity and precision as they shared solutions with the class!" –Stephanie Sharick, Geometry

"The student feedback for the Xlandia Government Project was great! They said they were challenged in the critical thinking aspect of the project." –José Martinez, Facilitator

Shout **outs**

"Shout out to Kodi Moore and Chris Gibson on their cardboard boat that was surely river-worthy, and many thanks to Mrs. Nowels' leadership on that really fun project." –Elizabeth Porter, ICP

" Kaitlyn Thomas and Brandon Godsey" –Betsy Warble, English 12

" Shout out to David Reed for not only collecting his specimens, but preserving and displaying them in an entomologically correct format!" –Cinde Wirth, Biology

"Shout out to Logan Gilbert who has already met his first 30% benchmark and to Katie Martin and Connor Bridges for achieving a 100% on an ALEKS homework quiz!" –Jenna Kukreja, Algebra 1

"Shout out to Edith Herrera for her persistence and continued hard work!" –Jenna Kukreja, Math Seminar

"Special Shout Out to my calculus class! Thanks for persisting, even though you've probably reached your LIMIT ;-)" –Josh Giebel, Calculus

"Shout out to Dylan Carter and Zach Baker for learning how to count to 100 in Spanish during AC Lab!" –José Martinez, Facilitator

"U.S Government Seniors for great presentations!" –José Martinez, U.S. Government.



Remember the **dates**

October 8, 2011: Buddy Walk starting at 12:00

October 7-9, 2011: Ethnic Expo in Downtown

Check it **out!**

Robotics Team is up and running!! They have a T-shirt designed (dancing robots) and will be available to order very soon. They will also be registering for a contest on November 5 in Bloomington, as well as preparing to host a contest at CSA on Dec. 2-3 (lock-in style - more information to come later). We are currently looking for parent volunteers to help with concessions/chaperoning throughout the night.

Andrew Larson has a blog about Problem Based Learning (PBL) at CSA, check it out! www.andrewmicheallarson.tumblr.com

