



Charter School of Educational Excellence 2017-2018

JANUARY NEWS

We would like to welcome everyone back from winter break, and hope that everyone was able to enjoy the time to relax and participate in some memorable activities with family and friends. I know that the holidays can be fun

and exciting, but also stressful. Remember, this time is about being with family, friends, and the people you are close to. I want to thank my amazing teaching team, staff, parents, students, and Board and community members. Without all of you, CSEE would not be possible.

As we move into the second half of the 2017-2018 school year, we want to welcome any families who are new to CSEE, and trust that you will find yourselves to be part of an outstanding and supportive learning community.

Our students have transitioned back into their academic routines. Parents, it's important that your child arrives to school on time. Every minute of the day counts towards providing the best educational experience for your child. Morning routines provide students with a smooth transition to a day of learning. During this time, the students review the day's schedule, submit homework assignments, listen to school announcements, and distribute notes and materials from home to their teachers. To provide your children with a positive start to the day, please plan your morning so your child arrives at school before 8:00 AM. After 8:05 AM, they are considered tardy. Let's work together to make sure your child is here and on time.

In addition to morning routines, we also ask our families to continue to be mindful of early dismissal habits as well. Although there are times when an occasional early dismissal is necessary for an appointment or urgent family need, early dismissals should be kept to a minimum, as this loss of instructional time can certainly affect a student's performance. As always, we appreciate your support as our teachers and students strive to maximize their instructional time shared each day.



In closing, we want to thank all of our families for all that you do in supporting our students and teachers as we look forward to an outstanding second semester here at CSEE!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than just a day off from work or school! This year, make the day really special by celebrating it with your child, and teaching them why this day is so important!

Here are some lessons to share with your child:

- Treat every single person the way that you want to be treated—with compassion and fairness.
- Think of all the ways we are all so different—and think of how, on the inside, we are all really the same. We all have feelings and emotions, and we all just want to be happy.
- Never give up on your dreams or goals! Believe in yourself, and always look for solutions when something gets hard.
- If someone is being mean to you, think of ways that you can stand up for yourself without being mean in return.
- Give back to your community by doing things to help other people without expecting to get anything back.



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS – THANK YOU

January is the perfect time of year to show appreciation for our School Board members. Our School Board members work hard, spending many hours dedicated to improving our school. Very few people fully understand the responsibilities associated with being a member of the team that runs CSEE.

Our School Board members not only attend many meetings and serve on several committees, but they also spend many hours reading and studying reports, proposals,



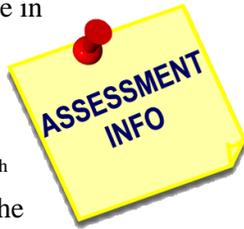
and various other documents. They listen to suggestions, good news, and concerns of our community, parents, students, and staff. They work with administrators to make difficult decisions and develop policies.

Do you ever wonder why they are so willing to give up their time? Our School Board members step forward to lead our school because they care deeply about the future of our students and our community. CSEE is fortunate to have such a cohesive, fully involved leadership team.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking our CSEE School Board members for all they do. We couldn't do it without them!

NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENTS

Students in Grades 3-8 will participate in the New York State English Language Arts Exam in April. Students in Grades 3-7 will participate in the New York State Math Assessment in early May. 8th Grade students will be taking the Algebra and Science Regents in June. Please add these dates to your calendar. Although the State Education Department allows a few days after each assessment to "make-up" missed portions of the exam, good attendance on these dates is critical.



Test Dates:

New York State ELA tests will be given:

- Wednesday, April 11 – Thursday, April 12

New York State Math tests will be given:

- Tuesday, May 1 – Wednesday, May 2

New York State Science tests (4th Grade Students Only) will be given:

- Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, June 1 (performance test)
- Monday, June 4 (written test)

8th Grade Algebra Regents will be given:

- Tuesday, June 12 (No make-up dates)

8th Grade Science Living Environment Regents will be given:

- Wednesday, June 13 (No make-up dates)

What Can Parents Do to Help?

The best way for parents to help ensure success on state assessments is to introduce activities and study habits at home that will strengthen your child's abilities.

ELA (Reading and Writing):

- Have your child explain information from a newspaper or magazine article
- Encourage children to write
- When watching a television commercial, and ask your child to separate fact from fiction
- Play word games during car trips

- Read aloud with your child, alternating paragraphs. This helps motivate your child to complete assignments, and helps you monitor progress in reading
- Help your child get started on a writing assignment by asking relevant questions. This helps a child internalize the questions writers ask themselves when composing a piece
- Re-read familiar books with your child; reading together helps foster communication

Mathematics:

- Demonstrate the everyday uses of math
- Let your child tally your spending while shopping, calculate the savings on a sale item, or help estimate how many gallons of paint you'll need to cover the living room walls

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The start of a new calendar year brings with it a sense of excitement, a fresh start, a new quarter, and a time to make changes and set goals. At CSEE, it also brings a sense of urgency as teachers strive to cover important material and successfully complete the school year for all students. The possibility of inclement weather can wreak havoc on the school schedule, so each day is important. With this in mind, it is important for your student to maintain good attendance. Research shows that attendance is one of the most important factors in student achievement. A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn.

What can you do?

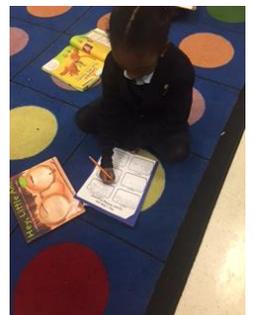
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up, like missing the bus, or car trouble
- When possible, avoid medical and dental appointments and extended trips when school is in session

Together, the faculty, staff, and students can accomplish great things, but only if we are all here. Make attendance a priority!

1st GRADE – PERSUASIVE WRITING

The 1st Grade has been very hard at work learning all about persuasive writing. We read the book, *Hey Little Ant* and wrote a persuasive letter persuading the child in the story to not squish us (the ant).

We are so excited to now begin our independent persuasive project. First, we will choose an



animal we really want. Next, we will come up with excellent reasons and examples why we deserve this animal. Finally, we will put it all together with transition words and great adjectives to create a fantastic persuasive letter to our parents. We cannot wait for our final pieces to be hung up in the hall for all of CSEE to see and read!

CANDY GRAMS

The 8th Grade will start selling Valentine Candy Grams on Monday, January 29 and will sell them until February 13. Candy grams will be sold during all lunch periods from 10:45-2:05 PM. The cost of each candy gram is \$1.00 to \$2.00. Buy them for your friends and teachers. Proceeds will go to the 8th Grade. Money raised will be used to offset the cost of Holiday Hill Field Trip at the end of year for 8th Grade. There will be staff members to assist our younger students with filling them out. If you would like to send in a list and the money into the teacher, your grams will be taken care of.

CSEE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

The CSEE Science and Engineering Fair is coming soon! This is an excellent opportunity for your child to use their creativity and critical thinking skills to explore



a topic of interest. Of course, students will need help from you at home and their teachers at school, but this project should be one that they are excited about, and able to conduct mostly on their own.

Please encourage your child to start their project early, and remind them to keep notes in a log book, which will be helpful as they design their display board. This booklet will serve as a log book and guide to help your child through the process. Most of all, have fun working with your child and supporting their creativity.

THE LEADER IN ME – HABIT 4

THINK WIN-WIN

The Leader in Me initiative is based upon Dr. Steven Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. These habits focus on essential life skills and characteristics students will need in order to thrive in the future. Teachers and students



are spending time on a daily basis, and during their The Leader in Me period, on the Seven Habits.

it 4 is Think Win-Win – Everyone can win. It's not me or you – it is both of us. Think win-win says there is plenty of good to go around. It is an abundant way of thinking. We are excited for the success of others. We have the courage to ask for what we want and compassion towards others. We use creative thinking to come up with a new solution that can make both of us happy.

Ways to Apply at Home:

- Applaud others: Model being happy for others. "The Jones family got a new car. How great for them!" "Suzy got a new bike? I bet you were very happy for your friend." Have Family Celebration times. Around the dinner table or in a Family Meeting, allow time for children and parents to share something they did well. Cheer for them as a family. Be careful not to compare your children. Praise each for their own accomplishments.
- Practice creative problem solving. Role-playing is so powerful. Have your children act out conflicts. Someone else wants the ball. They don't like what is being served for dinner. Help them recognize what a "win" might be. Sometimes what we want is not the thing, but to be understood. Can they share their feelings in a way the other person feels respected? Help them think about what they hope to accomplish and what the other person might want. Is there a third option? Maybe we put the ball up and all play tag. Maybe the child volunteers to make dinner one night a week. We think of a solution we can all feel good about!
- Clarify Expectations. It's really hard to win if you are playing by different rules. Make sure you are clear with your children, and in all your relationships, what the expectations are. When you use terms like reasonable, enough, on-time, clean, you may think you are being clear, but the other person may have a different idea of what that means. Can you be more precise?

3rd GRADE – IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL

Come on by and take a look at our new persuasive writing pieces in Room 3-203! We worked really hard to come up with reasons on why we should have a new school library, new musical instruments



in Mr. Taylor's room, and also get an outdoor playground! We made sure to research websites, articles, and textbooks

to come up with the best evidence possible to persuade Mrs. Lopez, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. DeSimone. We think everyone will enjoy them, and maybe start spreading the word.

WINTER WEATHER, DELAYED OPENINGS, & EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSINGS

During the winter months, the possibility exists for storms that would require CSEE to order a delayed opening or emergency early closing.

- If school is delayed by 2 hours, school will start at 10:00 AM
- If we have an emergency early closing, we will send a text alert to parents; please make sure you are signed up to receive our text alert messages

Be aware of delayed openings and early closings or cancellations by listening to the radio or TV, and make arrangements for childcare. For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please visit our school website.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Hana Subhash (K), Janise Lans (K), Daisy Valdovinos (1st), Amari Sylvester (1st), Melea Isabella Sison (1st), Manuel Santana (1st), Henry Sanchez (1st), Kevin Saldana (1st), Gabriella Rodriguez (1st), Oluwademilade Oroja (1st), Matthew Niola (1st), Brielle Hall (1st), Sheila Gyamerah (1st), Danexie George (1st), Christian Fermin (1st), Alicia Dzah (1st), Blessing Berko-Nti (1st), Zachery Ashman (1st), Michael Nkansah Asare (1st), Archer Elanah (1st), Mohammad Aayan (1st), Veera Solanki (2nd), Elan Romo-Reategui (2nd), Gabriela Rodriguez (2nd), Kaylee Reyes (2nd), Juwairah Quality (2nd), Rilley Predestin (2nd), Melanie Padilla (2nd), Samuel Orozco (2nd), Axel Mintah (2nd), Jamaurie Mills (2nd), Rayhan Majeed (2nd), Elijah Miguel Ligutan (2nd), Anthony Jusino (2nd), Ramzia Isumaila-Nuhu (2nd), Michael Guevara (2nd), Ziara George (2nd), Vinoria Frempong (2nd), Jordan Edouard (2nd), Abdul Diallo (2nd), Mikalah D Williams (4th), Aryan Solanki (4th), Evangel Sarpong (4th), Catalina Paniagua (4th), Ezidilim Onuorah (4th), Carol Minaya (4th), Gregory Martin Jr. (4th), Mariana Gonzalez (4th), Danelly Espinal (4th), Lexie Adofu (4th), Aisah Adeoti (5th), Jasmine Flores (5th), Flora B. Okwan (5th), Kelvin Osei (5th), Kayla M. Rodriguez (5th), Rhianna Roman (5th), Edmund A. Sarpong (5th), Leah J. Thomas (5th), Jean Paul Weekes (5th), Joseph M. Williams Jr. (5th), Krystell Marmolejos (5th), Maximiliano Martinez (5th), Joyce I.C Okoli (5th), Anastasia F. Reid (5th), Oluwatimilehin A. Daramola (6th), Emamoke Rogers Jr.



(6th), Katie S. Molina-Salazar (6th), Sefane Ashinyo (7th), Soriah J. Gonzalez (7th), Kelvin Tieku Agyemang (8th), Hannah A. Henris (8th), Charvay Lyons (8th), Maira P. Molina (8th), Jeremiah K. Adu-Gyamfi (8th), Lebene Ashinyo (8th), Aniya Rose Brown (8th), Nia Gbla (8th), Jada Kuffour (8th), Crystal Mintah (8th), Olivia Mofus (8th), Jaysee M. Molina (8th), Jayden M. Stewart (8th), Jasmine O. Tetteh (8th), Ke Vaughn K. Williams (8th)
 Congratulations, and keep up the great work!

KENTE CLOTH COLLAGES

Ms. DeMarco's 4th Grade students are learning about the significance of 17th century Kente Cloth, and the enduring symbolic statement in textiles this design stands for today.



The class is using inspiration from Kente Cloth design aspects to create abstract collages in honor of Black History Month.

STAR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER

- K-101**
Janise Lans
- K-102**
Mark Kaminsky
- K-117**
Rebecca Cardoso
- 1-113**
Esteban Suazo
- 1-114**
Kevin Balbuena
- 1-115**
Brielle Hall
- 2-103**
Gabriela Rodriguez
- 2-105**
Abdul Diallo
- 2-106**
Jeremiah Coleman
- 3-110**
Ambar Diaz
- 3-111**
Joshua Okore
- 3-203**
Nathan Velez
- 4-124**
Natori Dixon
- 4-125**
Jimena Marroquin
- 4-130**
Tyler Kellogg
- 5-204**

Flora Okwan
5-207
Silvana Minaya
5-211
Christopher Martinez

COMING UP



January 2, 2018

All staff and students return back to school from Holiday Recess

January 5, 2018

Girls Scouts Meeting – 4:00-5:15 PM

January 9, 2018

Half-Day for Students; Professional Development for Teachers

January 11, 2018

PTO Meeting – 5:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting – 6:30 PM

January 12, 2018

Girls Scouts Meeting – 4:00-5:15 PM

January 15, 2018

No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16, 2018

Boy Scouts Meeting – 4:00-5:15 PM

January 17, 2018

ELA After School Program begins – 4:00-5:30 PM

January 19, 2018

Dress Down – Mismatch Day; \$2.00 for all participants

January 24, 2018

The Power of One Assembly – Bullying Performance

January 25, 2018

Math After School Program begins – 4:00-5:30 PM

January 26, 2018

8th Grade End of Year Activities – 1st payment due

January 29, 2018 – February 13, 2018

Valentine's Candy Gram – selling during all lunch periods

January 30, 2018

Holiday Re-Take Pictures

Boy Scouts Program – 4:00-5:15 PM

Please check our school website for our school calendar, menus, current information, news, and more at <http://www.charterschoolofeducationexcellence.org>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Owls Cheerleading:

The Owls Winter Cheer Squad has been in full swing at many of the Owls boys' and girls' basketball games. This season the cheer team is made up of 22 students within Grades 6-8. The team has already showed major progress since beginning practice in late December. The Owls big competition will take place on March 3rd in Elizabeth, New Jersey.



Boys Basketball:



The Owls boys' basketball team is currently 17-6 as they come near to the end of the regular season. The Owls competed in the annual MLK

tournament in Chappaqua, and placed second. Elias Ochoteco and Mykel Kelley were named to the all-tournament team. As the Owls look forward to the playoffs in both the CSAA and Tri-County leagues, they will look to 8th Grade leadership from Mkyel Kelley, Elias Ochoteco, and Reynaldo Encarnacion. Follow the Owls Athletics Instagram page for up to date information about our basketball team. The Owls will be competing in the annual Yonkers Mayors Cup tournament at the Yonkers PAL over the mid-winter break. The team won the tournament two years ago.

Girls Basketball:

The Owls girls' basketball team picked up their first victory last Thursday against Atmosphere Charter School. Gisely Velez and Jada Kuffour have carried the Lady Owls all season, with their late game heroics. The team has been improving every game and will look to make a late season surge to the playoffs.



Follow CSEE Owls Athletics on Instagram:

CSEE_Owls_Athletics