

Coming your way in Fall 2017—*Sharing Our Progress* will have a new look! We hope to have an updated layout as well as special sections for SOP staff. But we still want to hear from you! Keep sending in those articles!

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Digital Learning Day at PWJDC



February 23, 2017

On February 23, 2017, students at the Prince William JDC celebrated Digital Learning Day. Students participated in a school wide event where they learned how to program robots, design models for 3D printing, and code in the Java Script programming language. Even physical



education got in on the digital fun! In the gym, students competed with rowing machines as part of a virtual crew team. Digital Learning Day was well-received by our students, who were excited to experience relevant and authentic learning experiences. If you'd like to learn more about Digital Learning Day, visit <http://www.digitallearningday.org/>.

-Tim Cruz, PWJDC

Nominate an Outstanding SOP Educator

The 2018 SOP State Conference is right around the corner. The theme of the conference is *Showcasing our Profession*. At this conference, we will be presenting the inaugural **Merilee A. Fox Distinguished Service Award** to one SOP employee from each of the four regions. During Merilee's 38 years of SOP service, she constantly worked to im-

prove outcomes for students in State Operated Programs. If you know of an SOP employee who has demonstrated the characteristics so important to Merilee (dedication to students, instructional leadership, strong personal social-emotional skills) please nominate him or her for an award. Nominations should be a short letter (no

more than one page) explaining why the person should be recognized. Be sure to include specifics on how the person has positively impacted students and student outcomes in SOP's. Nomination letters should be sent to Laurie Cooper at laurie.cooper@doe.virginia.gov.



Invasion of the Chordata

Mill Mountain Zoo returned to Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center with a White's tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) from Australia, who proudly displayed his sucker feet; a biting and noisy military macaw (*Ara militaris*) from South America; a curious box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*);

and an adorable gray chinchilla (*Chinchilla chinchilla*). The students touched, heard, smelled, and saw these animals. They learned about the various animal habitats and the changes in the classification on the extinct to threatened status. Some animals, like the box turtle have recently

moved from threatened to vulnerable. The presenter, Bambi Godkin, the Mill Mountain Zoo outreach teacher, was excellent in her delivery of both information and the handling of the animals for the students.

-Karl Elsea, RVJDC



Our new English teacher at Piedmont Juvenile Detention is shining brightly in the classroom and also at Longwood University. Recently, Deirdre Bates was invited to share her research poster at the 2017 Longwood University Graduate Research Symposium. Her poster was entitled *African American Adolescent Male Aliteracy*. In re-

A Star is Born!

searching for her project, Deirdre has found that African American learners are scoring lower than English Language Learners in both reading and writing according to the NAEP. She plans to address these problem areas in the classroom through the use of raw, unedited writing in Writer's Workshop

settings to develop literate citizens in reluctant readers and writers.

Deirdre is completing her Master's Degree while working at Piedmont Regional JDC. We're excited to welcome her and congratulate her on this honor!

-Nancy Walker, PRJDC

The Spirit of Giving

The spirit of giving is alive and well at CCCA. Within the past calendar year the education team at CCCA has engaged in several activities as a team to give back to the community, involving the students when possible.

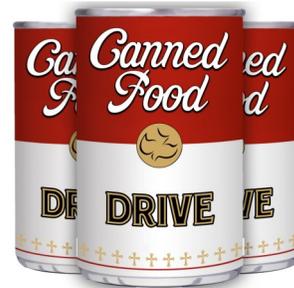
Last spring, the educational and hospital staff collaborated to create a team to participate in the Relay for Life event. Together, the education and hospital staff worked to raise funds and awareness in support of the event.

In the fall and winter the education team collaborated on a series of community based projects. Teachers and students made blankets for veterans at VA hospitals through Virginia. Through the holidays, the education team prepared and served Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 100 people including the students, staff, and other hospital employees to show gratitude for those engaging in the effort to support our students. In December, the CCCA education staff adopted local families in need. In December, the team members also coordinated a hospital-wide silent auction to raise funds used to directly benefit the students at CCCA.

In February, the school participated in a Penny Wars to raise money for local families in need. In a hospital wide effort, the students and staff assigned to individual residential units of the hospital engaged in a “war” to keep positive points through the donation of pennies while battling against the negative points of silver change. The students of the winning residential unit chose three education team members to decorate as our school mascot (a groundhog) using a variety of food materials.

Each year in the spring, the education team organizes a hospital wide food drive to benefit the area food bank. Students are able to participate by getting pledges for their units. The more laps that the students walk throughout the week, the more food items are pledged for donation by different adults in the hospital. The students then engage in activities to understand why and how the food banks of Virginia work to help those in need in communities throughout the state.

-Jennifer Whorral, CCCA



W. W. Moore JDC Teacher of the Year

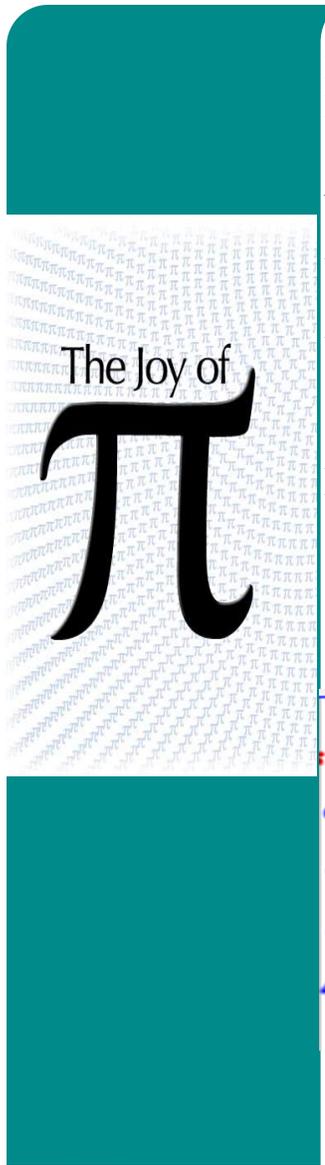
Mr. J. Kevin Barbour was recognized as Teacher of the year for W. W. Moore on May 8, 2017, at the Danville/Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. He is a valued member of the faculty who willingly shares his expertise with his

colleagues. Mr. Barbour has been the math teacher at W. W. Moore for sixteen years. He also sponsors an after school chess club. During Summer Enrichment, Mr. Barbour holds a chess tournament. The winning student receives a beautiful

chess set to take home. He also provides tutoring and remediation for students who experience difficulty with math. He is an inspiration to us all.



Numerical Piety



March 14 (3-14) or “Pi Day” made for a very special mathematics class at *Highlands Juvenile Detention Center* in Bristol this year. This day of course celebrates the number *pi*, which is the circumference of a circle divided by its diameter, i.e., 3.14... . After a routine warm-up which included such facts as this day is Albert Einstein’s Birthday and it is formally celebrated at the Exploratorium in San

Francisco (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/pi/>), we had one student who was determined to break a record that was set by a prior student who managed to memorize *pi* to 100 places. A week prior, all participants were given a list of the correct value to 1000 decimal places for study in their off-time. We allowed them to write it out on the *Smartboard* in complete silence, with several teachers, staff, and class-

mates looking on. After several minutes of deep concentration, and several short pauses, this student (now dubbed the *Pi Prince*) managed to jot down the first 261 places of this best-known transcendental number without a mistake. The pod erupted in applause! By the way, did you know that 3.14% of sailors are pi-rates?

- G. L. Honaker,
Highlands JDC

3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510
5820974944 5923078164 0628620899 8628034825 3421170679
8214808651 3282306647 0938446095 5058223172 5359408128
4811174502 8410270193 8521105559 6446229489 5493038196
4428810975 6659334461 2841564823 3786783165 2712019891
4564856692

It Takes a Village....



Parents and teachers came together on a blustery March evening to discuss the successes and the challenges faced by the students at our facility in Chesapeake. The educational team present included the four core subject teachers, the elective teach-

ers, special education and the literacy coach. The turnout was large and the parents had the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress in each area. From this, the teachers are able to continue to use differentiation to devise each child’s individual learning plan. Parents shared stories that assisted the teachers in con-

tinuing to build positive relationships that will foster their education in the future. As we continue to move forward, this collaboration between parents, teachers and the staff at CJS will help to develop the students into positive and productive citizens of our community.

-John Kren, CJDC

3D Printing is a Big Hit!

K-12 Technology students at CCCA are learning to design, develop and print their own 3D models and product prototypes. The types of 3D models created by students vary; from those just for fun like an action figure to others that serve a particular purpose, such as creating a wall mount for the Amazon Echo Dot.

While the students are exposed to several Computer Aided Design (CAD) software programs, the class primarily uses Trimble SketchUp Make to develop and modify their models. In small groups,

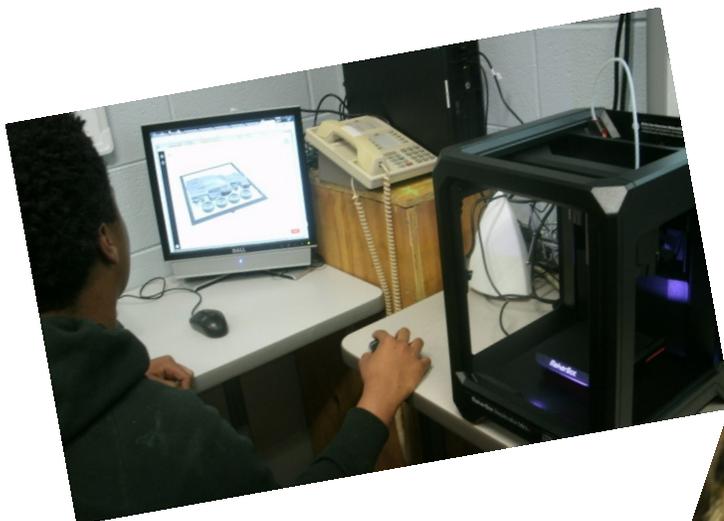
students share their design ideas with their peers and use this feedback to improve the product design. When the final design is completed and approved by the teacher, the file is saved in a stereo lithography (.stl) format and printed to the 3D printer.

The 3D printer used in the classroom is a MakerBot Replicator Mini+, which can print small solid objects with dimensions up to 4"x4"x5". Using a SketchUp Make extension, the design software outputs a file format that is compatible with the 3D

printing software so the design-to-print process is streamlined.

The teacher, Daniel Shaffer, is excited to introduce emerging technology to his students and states, "When students utilize emerging technology at such a young age, these technologies become part of their nature...they become commonplace. Ultimately, these students will be better prepared to enter the marketplace of the 21st century."

- Daniel Shaffer, CCCA



Fine Arts Week Starts with a Bang

Students and staff at CCCA kicked off this year's Fine Arts Week with a bang! On Monday, March 13, we began our week-long celebration of the arts with a school-wide drum circle facilitated by Greg Burns, a local sound practitioner. The drum circle began with using one's own heart to find a rhythmic pattern. Participants then explored a variety of drums and rhythm instruments during this community-building event. Drumming is an ancient practice that uses rhythm as an approach to healing and self-expression. It can also be used as a method to help reduce stress and anxiety.



At CCCA, the drum circle was a way to promote community and connection in a fun and rhythmic way. Participants eagerly chose instruments to create and mimic each other's rhythms. Looking around the circle, it was easy to see the pure joy on faces of children who may not always participate in group events.

At the conclusion of the drum circle, students broke into small groups to explore a variety of visual arts modalities in hands-on activities led by guest presenters. Each of the presenters were local artists. Students were able to see "behind the scenes" of a photo studio, work with clay as they learned about pottery, and explored work with oil

pastels. The week was filled with artistic opportunities as content teachers found ways to integrate the arts into their classrooms. The week culminated in another school-wide opportunity to explore and create through drawing, creative writing, theater, and dance.

- Lauren Orndorff, CCCA

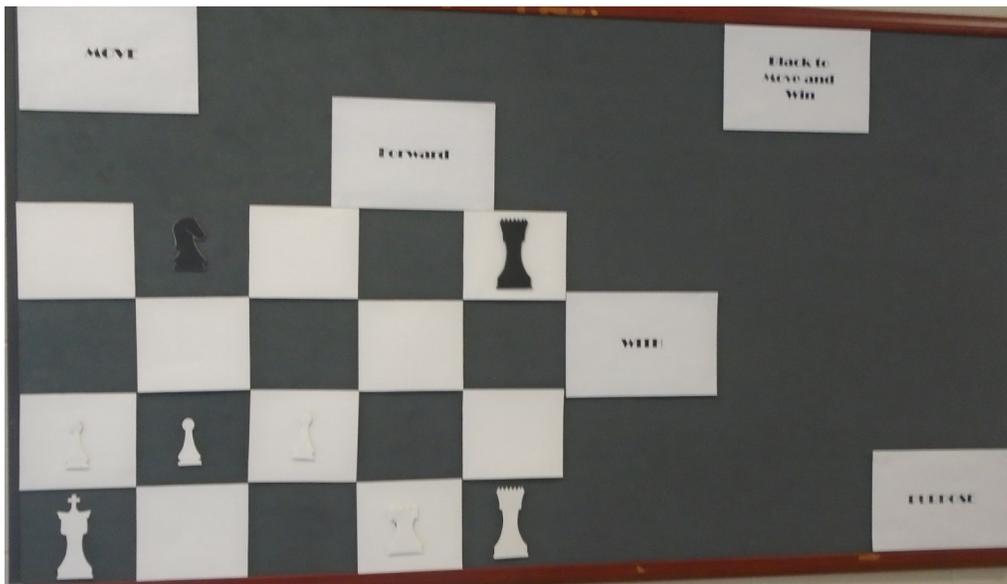


Chess Opens a New World at W.W. Moore

At W.W. Moore we seek to help our students grow in many different ways. We teach and model good character and character traits such as responsibility and perseverance. We attend to academic needs through SOL driven courses and our GED program. However, we are also very interested in expanding our student’s critical thinking skills. Obviously, we address critical thinking in our academic curricula as well as through our library but we also have worked to develop a competitive interest in the game of chess. There is a fair amount of research (Margulies, 1991 &1996) suggesting strong ties between students learning and improving at chess and their improved performance on standardized tests as well as in more open critical thinking and analysis exercise. (Fischer, 2006) Chess, it turns out, improves higher order thinking skills. (Nash) Students who learn chess show improvements in decision making, math and read comprehension. Whenever possible we hold an after school chess program, available to students who sign up that day, that is focused on instilling both a basic understanding of how to play the game as well as more advanced concepts in weaknesses, strategy, tactics, and formulating a plan that aim to use chess as a tool or creating better thinkers and decision makers. Our library includes various chess books and the students check these out for study on their own time. Students play chess on their pods in the evenings and are encouraged by staff in the pursuit. Moreover, after the regular school term ends and we begin our summer session each year the students may participate in a building wide chess tournament with a weighed tournament chess set as the prize for the building champion.

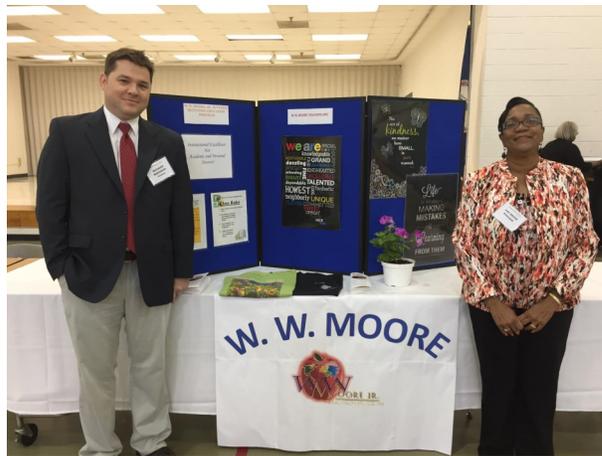
The bulletin board for the month of April features a mating puzzle position called a smothered mate. If you are interested in solving the puzzle on your own look no further as the solution is given next. Students learn algebraic notation and how it relates to graphing in Algebra and Geometry. Using that notation the answer is as follows: ...Nxc2+, Kb1...Na3+, Ka1...Qb1+, Rxb1...Nc2#. The message, “Move forward with purpose,” is intended to inspire the children to think first and act on a plan as opposed to at random, to have a purpose behind the moves they make in chess, in school and in life.

- J. Kevin Barbour, WWMJDC



Teacher Career Fair

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, Danville Public Schools sponsored a Teacher Career Fair at Westwood Middle School. The event was held from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Each school in the district had a table to highlight information about the school. The schools had brochures and Tee shirts. Principals conducted interviews with prospective candidates throughout the day. The candidates were from nearby counties, cities and school divisions. We were able to mingle with everyone during the lunch break. It was a very informative, fun and successful event for all. Dr. Richard Wieringo, Post D teacher and Patricia Davis, Principal represented W. W. Moore. -Pat Davis, WWMJDC



Summer!

It seems like this year just flew by! As we wind up another school year and Enrichment time, the SOP “central office” staff thanks each of you for your hard work and continued dedication to the students we are privileged to serve.

We hope you have planned exciting and en-

gaging Enrichment activities. Be sure to take pictures and send in articles to share with your colleagues!

It’s our hope you take time this summer to rest, recharge, and reflect. We look forward to seeing everyone at the regional August professional developments where we will

learn about resiliency, integrating technology into lessons, and updated character education ideas.

Stay safe and see you in August!

Bob Barker Shoes Get a New Look

The students at Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention got a chance to upgrade their shoes. Students in art class researched shoe and apparel design and then got the chance to create their own shoe design. Using permanent makers and paint the students' visions came to life

in amazing ways. Some students designed shoes to match particular outfits, some paid tribute to modern icons, while others personalized their shoes with names of loved ones. Although all the shoes were quite different, they each represented the unique personality

of the student who designed them. This project taught the students about product design, allowed the students to creatively express themselves, and also gave them something to look forward to once they return to their communities.





State Operated Programs

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for the Sharing Our Progress newsletter this year!

Articles must be submitted the **15th day of the month before the publication.** Newsletters will be published on the **1st of October, December, March, and June.**

Submit articles in MSWord

format to:

sharingourprogress@gmail.com

A few guidelines for articles:

1. Provide articles that are **75-200** words in length. If you have more information to offer the field, include your email so that you may be contacted.
2. Provide author's name at the end of the article.
3. Submit graphics as JPGs or GIFs.
4. Submitted articles written by you or your staff.

**Thanks for all your support and contributions to our newsletter!!
We look forward to hearing from you all again this fall!**

