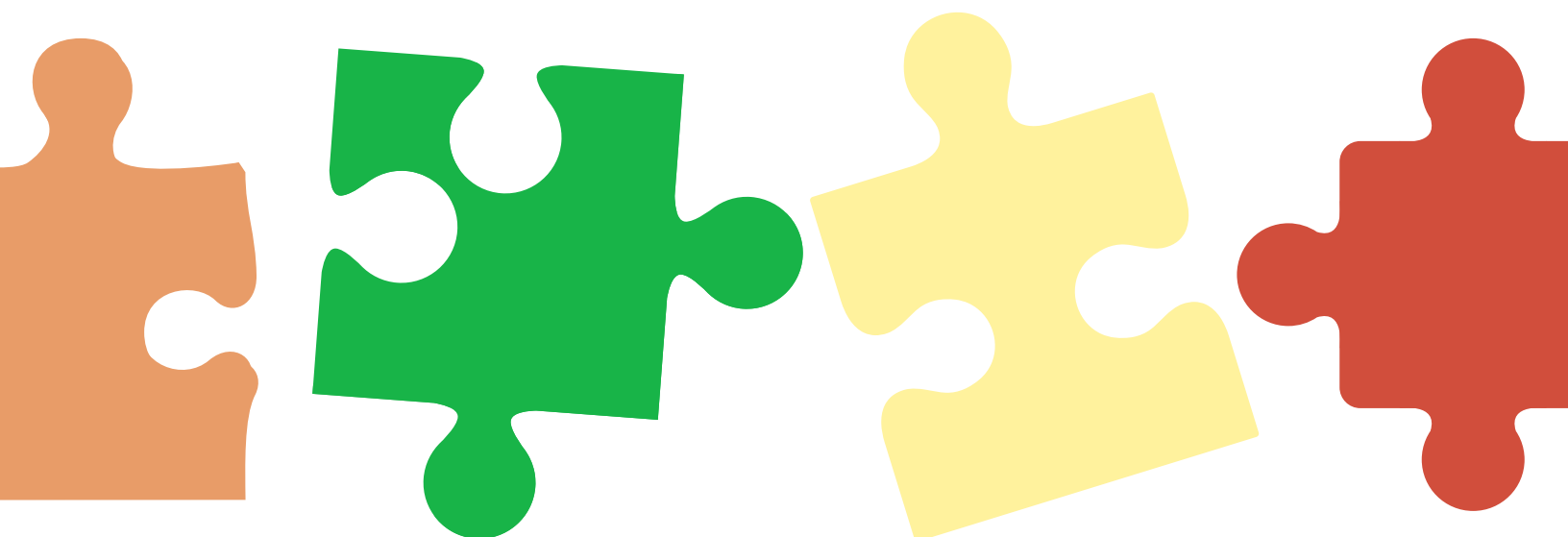


CCA NEWS

May 2020- COVID Chronicles



Summary of This Issue's Contents:

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Susie's Corner

What's Happening at CCA

The past few months with the COVID-19 pandemic have been, and continue to be a whirlwind and a challenge! Through our distance learning plan, we have been inspired by the creativity that our staff has demonstrated by finding new and exciting ways to serve their students from miles away. The families have shown their dedication by helping with assignments, keeping up with countless emails, struggling through technology issues, and everything in between. I've had numerous families reach out to thank staff and administrators for all of their support during this turbulent time.

And, the fun of distance learning is not over! Again, we are finding creative ways to serve our students. This summer we are continuing remote lessons, implementing in-home services, and slowly introducing center-based services (oh my!). We plan to continue to comply with mandates and guidelines, and will make our decisions with the health and safety of the students in mind.

Remote Learning

CCA, like countless other schools, had to design creative ways to continue services during the unlikely events of COVID. Our teachers and students turned to "remote" and "virtual" learning in place of traditional services. The staff met this challenge head on and provided an array of learning opportunities for all students at CCA. This included personalized packets of instructional material, curriculum-based activities, and reinforcing toys, instructional telephone and conference calls, zoom social groups, and more! The students were happy to have the ability to see their teachers and friends through zoom calls, and loved that the camera allowed them to see themselves! Although this was not the ideal way to end the year, our staff and families worked together to help students learn their academic material, adjust to new situations, and have fun while doing it! We deeply appreciate the support and teamwork from our staff and the amazing families we serve. Keep reading to see some examples of the fun remote programming that were featured in our COVID Chronicles.

Green Thumbs

Did you know that technically a cucumber is a fruit? The Emoji students learned the differences between fruits and vegetables while learning the life cycle of plants. So, what is the difference? It is determined by the part of the plant that we eat! If we eat the roots, leaves, or stem it is a vegetable. If we eat a part of the plant that comes from the flower, it is a fruit! After learning the difference between fruits and vegetables, the Emojis helped their teacher, Miss Hannah, put her green thumb to use. During their live lessons, each of the Emoji students helped walk Hannah through the steps of setting up a seed experiment to grow vegetables. They started with 3 simple supplies: a sandwich bag, beans, and a wet paper towel.



Masks

CCA would like to extend a huge thank you to one of our very own CCA parents, Liz Harlan, for making masks for each of our staff members. If you are in need of a mask, please let us know and we will put you in contact with her.



Summer Services

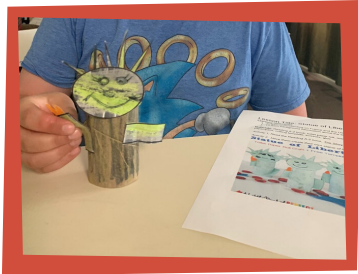
Summer looks a little different this year at CCA! To continue to protect our students' and staff's health and safety, we have made changes to our summer services. We've introduced in-home instruction and continued remote learning for some of the students receiving extended school year services, and have slowly begun appointment based services back at the Center. Our team is working hard to make sure that all areas are clean, while we encourage students to practice social distancing. We will continue to monitor the progression of the pandemic as we plan for Session 2 of quite a unique summer

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French "Field Trip"

Our STEPS staff and students took us along for the ride for a "virtual field trip" to France to learn about the country and culture during online lessons. Students learned to bake the traditional treat, pain au chocolat, made the France national flags for a craft, and learned about the history of France's famous gift to the USA: the Statue of Liberty. Making yummy treats, listening to fun songs, and pretending to be tourists in Paris made for a fun virtual lesson!



Adventure Success

We are so proud of all of our students success and flexibility throughout the year, especially during remote learning. The Adventure class, like many others, had to adapt to new learning environments, the use of technology, and working together with families and each other. The students learned how to independently use a variety of learning and communication platforms such as Class Dojo Portfolios, Khan Academy, ReadWorks, Code.org, Typing Club, and Zoom! Their teachers are extremely impressed with their hard work throughout the entire school year. A special congratulations is in order for a member of this class who earned his High School Diploma and is starting a job! We will miss him but are always happy to see our students find success when they leave CCA.

Special Delivery

How do you deliver hands-on activities and learning tasks to young students? For the Tadpole room, "packet pick up" became a weekly event! Packet pick up provided not only paper assignments, but something extra special. The packets would contain bubbles, games, and on occasion slime! All of the packets included a science, math, story time, sensory, and craft lesson and the needed materials to complete the lesson. These lessons and activities corresponded with the videos created by teachers specifically for the Tadpole crew.

As the weeks progressed, the Friday packets became a way to make sure the parents and students knew how much CCA cares about our students, and want them to feel special.

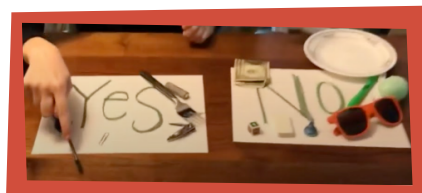
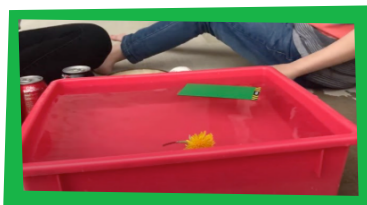


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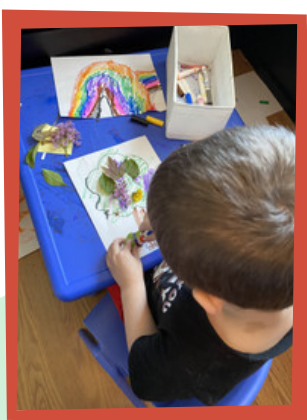
Science at Home

The students in the Raccoon classroom love to take on new challenges by using cunning creativity and this pandemic didn't hold them back! The Raccoons combined family time, imagination, and experiments during Fun Friday Science Challenges! Students and their families hypothesized whether items would sink or float, traveled to outer space to create moon dough, discovered magnetic objects, and more! These fun DIY lessons have allowed the Raccoons to interact with new materials while learning something new.



Scavenger Hunt

The students in the Leapster class had fun learning and taking advantage of the nice weather! Our preschool kiddos explored their neighborhoods, local parks, and their very own backyards. Each week the students received an assignment related to exploring nature that incorporated developmentally appropriate skills to help further their academic and behavioral progress while not in their traditional classroom. One activity was a nature scavenger hunt. This lesson focused on identifying different components of nature, recognizing colors, following directions, attending to a task, and of course having fun!



Mr. Potatohead's Schedule

The Owl classroom had a special new classmate in remote learning -Mr. Potatohead! Everyday, he helped the Owls review their schedule on the Class Dojo.

The Owl classroom did an excellent job in creating ways to reward their students and engage them virtually! After their live sessions, the staff shared their screens with their students to showcase the reward system.



Virtual Fitness

Our resident fitness instructor, Mr. Tony, made sure that our students had fun ways to stay healthy and active while staying at home. Each week, he posted workout videos with easy stretches, exercises, and ways to stay active. This was a great way for our students to get their wiggles out and learn about keeping a healthy body.

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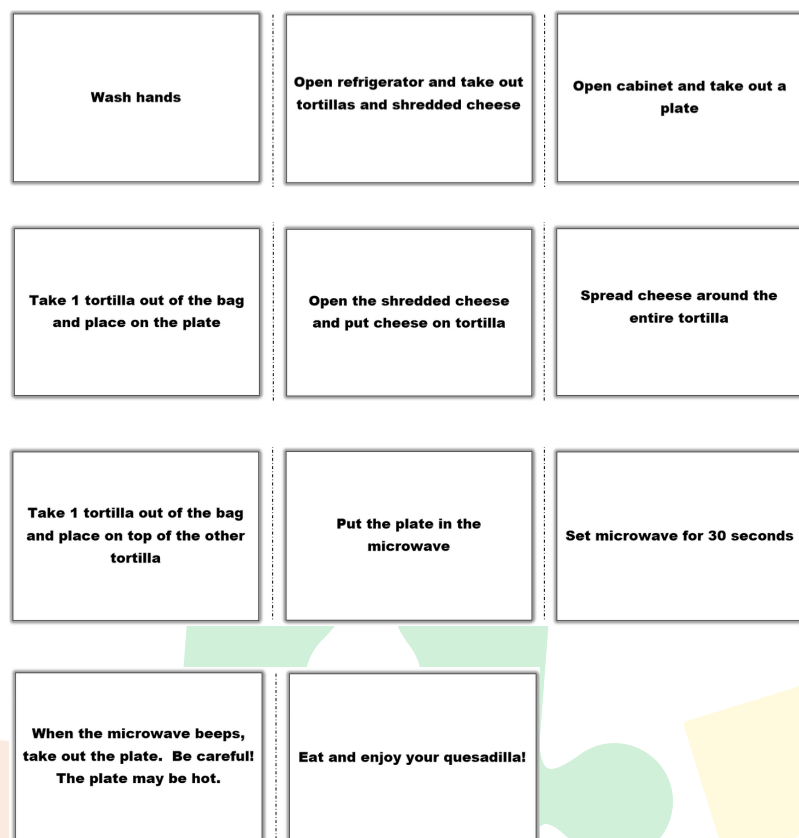
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BrainPOP!

Adjustment and change are quite a venture during this COVID crisis, but BrainPOP has helped with that! This website features over 1,000 short animated videos and activities for students in grades K-12. Especially helpful were the lessons on emotions and different reactions they might bring. During the first week of virtual learning, students had extremely pertinent questions about the changes occurring and many felt confused, overwhelmed, or anxious. "Why are we doing this?" "Why can't I go to school?" "Why do I see my friends and teachers in little boxes?" "Why is COVID-19 changing my life?" With the help of BrainPOP, the students were able to learn new skills to help cope and adjust to the changes - while laughing at the funny video characters!

DIY Quesadilla

Check out this easy cheesy quesadilla recipe from the staff and students in the Express 2 room!



Dungeons and Dragons

At the end of each week, the Superhero room would spend their "earned time" playing Dungeons and Dragons as a group, and they quickly learned the hard way that they are stronger together than apart! While traveling back to save the town of Phandalin from the very same white dragon that had just descended from its perch on Icespire Peak looking for a carry out meal (I'm sure we can all relate), the dragon, Cryovain, spotted their caravan and swooped in for the attack. The party split up in an initial effort at self-preservation, but found the dragon was far too strong and turned our good friend, Taco Master, into a nice appetizer. Gust of the Phoenix, our warrior monk, used his newly acquired math skills to figure out how many dice he needed to use to have a chance of knocking the dragon down to save Taco Master. The party communicated their strengths and weaknesses and exchanged items before splitting up to lure the dragon to expose its weak side to Taco Master. Taco Master was equipped with the Dragon Slayer longsword, and was able to drive away the dragon to find an easier meal elsewhere. There is a reason we call them the Superhero class!

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