

Hector Happenings

Contact Info

Please make sure to email both classroom teachers.

Thank you!

lsimon@csaschool.org and
aroman@csaschool.org



Important Dates

- 10/3** - Field Trip Permission Slips Due - Last Day to Sign Up to Chaperone
- 10/6** - NWEA Testing - Reading
- 10/7** - NWEA Testing - Math
- 10/10** - CSA Spirit wear Day
- 10/15** - Field Trip to Indian Springs - Save the Date! More information to come
- 10/23** - No School - CSRs
- 10/24** - No School - CSRs
- 10/27 - 10/31** - Book Fair
- 10/29** - Picture Retake Day - Please send us an e-mail if you would like your child to retake their picture
- 10/30** - Sonya's birthday!
- 10/31** - Halloween Party

Navigator News

We are excited to meet with you and discuss your child's progress so far this year! Please join us for our fall Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs) on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24.

CSRs are an opportunity for teachers and parents to come together and talk about your child's development as a whole—academically/intellectually, socially/emotionally, physically, and in terms of character/moral growth. We deeply value these discussions as they provide valuable insights that shape our teaching, instruction, and interactions with each student. Prior to the meeting, we typically send out a pre-conference form for you to complete and return. This helps guide our conversation and allows us to gather any resources that might be useful during our time together. The CSRs will take place all day on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24. There will be **NO SCHOOL** for students on these days. We will use signupgenius.com to schedule conferences and may offer additional meeting days if needed. A link for the signup will be shared soon. If you experience any issues signing up, please email both teachers, and we'll be happy to assist.

We look forward to meeting with you!

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Uniform Policy

As an integral piece of our school's philosophy, CSA has crafted a uniform policy that aims to promote a safe learning environment. As a school-wide initiative, we are sending out some uniform reminders. Please take some time to review the reminders below and make any adjustments needed. Please see the CSA Family Handbook for the full description of the uniform policy. If you have questions, we are happy to provide guidance, or you can always follow up with Leadership directly. Thank you for helping to maintain a core piece of CSA's mission. :-)

Shirts: Solid colors in white, light blue, or red.

Undershirts must be solid white. Polo shirts do need to bear the CSA elementary logo.

Socks/Tights: Must be solid white or solid navy blue.

Shoes: Dress shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: brown, navy, or black. Tennis shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: black, white, navy, and grey. Laces must match listed colors as well.

Sweaters/Cardigans/Vests: Must be solid navy blue.

CSA Crew Neck Sweatshirts: **Red crewneck sweatshirts with a CSA logo are available for purchase at the Admissions Office. **This is the only uniform sweatshirt option.** Other CSA themed sweatshirts are allowed only for designated spirit wear days.

Hair accessories: Must be red, light blue, navy blue, white, brown, or black.

Leggings are not permitted except as extra layers for recess or carpool time. **Pants** must be navy blue.

Library Volunteers

CSA is looking for volunteers to help run library check-out for classes. This would be a weekly commitment with a morning or afternoon shift. Please email Mrs. Erica Sikma at esikma@csaschool.org for more information!

Field Trip

Our first field trip is coming up in October! We are traveling to Indian Springs Metropark. Permission slips have been sent home with specific details and cost in Tuesday folders. Chaperone spaces may be limited. We will utilize a sign up interest form for chaperones and if interest exceeds capacity, we will do a lottery to select chaperones and then confirm via email. **The last day to turn in forms is October 3rd, and we will then hold the lottery to contact families who have been chosen to chaperone.

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October Learning Extension Choice Board

In your student's Tuesday folder, you'll find an October Learning Extension Choice Board. This optional, literacy-focused resource offers additional ways for students to reinforce what we're covering in Writing and Reading Workshop. It encourages them to apply their learning to creative projects or writing activities at home. We hope your child enjoys these engaging and enjoyable opportunities!

What we are Working on:

Reading: Students are building their understanding of story elements through a character study, understanding the role of the beginning, middle and end, and collaborating with reading partners to discuss what they've learned.

Math: Our mathematicians are focusing on addition and subtraction strategies, fact fluency, story problems, understanding the value of a digit and modeling and writing numbers up to 1,000.

Writing: Students are learning to expand their ideas by adding more details, revising their work like detectives to identify needed changes, working on increasing their writing stamina and beginning to study mentor texts to test out different techniques in their own writing.

Halloween Party

Our class Halloween party is just around the corner! We'll be using an online system to organize donations, so keep an eye on your email for a link to the signup through signupgenius.com. If you have any trouble accessing the system but would still like to contribute, feel free to reach out to classroom teachers, and we'll help find a donation slot for you. You can expect the signup to be available in the coming weeks.

The party will take place on Friday, October 31, and students are welcome to wear school-appropriate costumes that day. As you plan costumes, please remember that masks, fake weapons, and gory makeup are not permitted to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. We appreciate your support!

Please have students come to school in their costumes, ready for the fun. If they'd like to bring a change of clothes in case they get too warm, that's perfectly fine. We're excited for a spook-tacular celebration!

NWEA MAP Testing

We've been busy working through getting to know our learners and chipping away at assessments with each of them. Another way we assess is by using the NWEA MAP testing for reading and for mathematics. The NWEA MAP assessment is a Computer Adaptive Test that asks students multiple choice questions based on state standards and benchmarks. While students are taking the test, the questions they are presented with will become easier or more difficult depending upon their responses. In the Navigator unit, this first testing window helps us to introduce students to the testing format that they'll continue to encounter throughout their education.

Our class will be testing on 10/6 and 10/7. You can help your child prepare for this assessment by ensuring they are well rested prior to their testing day and that they receive a healthy and filling breakfast the day of the test.

Please also make sure your child is on time for school. Thanks!

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Character Corner

In this section of our newsletter, we will share information regarding our character education program including character traits, social protocols, emotional language, and related concepts like manners and kind acts. Although we might highlight specific concepts here, we will continue to discuss and practice all components naturally throughout the year. We encourage you to use these ideas and language at home in order to help reinforce and connect it to the classroom!

This month, we continue our journey into the six key character traits in our character education program: Respect, Kindness, Responsibility, Getting Along, Work Ethic, and Optimism. Our focus remains on finding natural opportunities to highlight each trait through daily learning moments and activities. Throughout the end of September and into October, the Navigator unit is shining a special spotlight on Kindness, as it connects deeply with the other traits and much of what we do. Kindness, simply put, is about thinking and acting with care toward others. It's the foundation for forming new friendships, strengthening relationships, and turning a community into a close-knit family. From our new "Buddy Bench" at recess for students looking for a friend, to activities like sharing what we appreciate about one another, and collaborative classroom art projects – kindness is everywhere! In the classroom, we stress the importance of using kind words and tones when resolving conflicts. Recognizing moments for kindness helps students build stronger character and creates a supportive classroom environment, even in challenging situations.

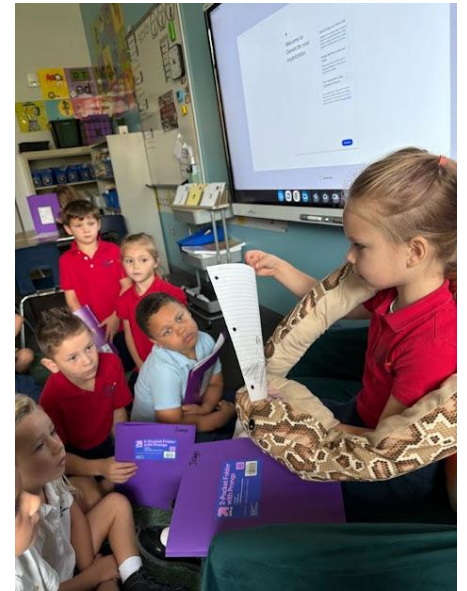
Kindness is a trait we all possess, and it's something the world could use more of. Helping students understand the emotional impact of kind actions makes the concept more tangible and meaningful.

Looking for ways to reinforce this lesson at home? Try modeling supportive language, especially during disagreements or stressful moments, so your child can see kindness in action. Sharing positive news stories that highlight acts of kindness in the community provides real-world examples. Acknowledging when your child shows kindness helps reinforce this important trait. Additionally, reading books like *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud or *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, and visiting websites like sparkkindness.org can further deepen the discussion and provide fun activities to try together!

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As our Hector learners are getting more familiar with routines and procedures, it has been amazing to see new friendships blossom, and watch their love for learning continue to grow!



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