

21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer School Newsletter

East End United Community Center

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Participation Points Winners Shocked and Surprised

The two most recent weekly participation points winners are Emma Shirley and Christian Barton. This was Emma's first participation points victory, and she was very excited and surprised upon learning she won. Fish plate, balloon car, and weather gauge were some notable projects that Emma loved completing.

Christian (pictured on the right) was a three-time participation points winner during virtual afterschool in the AG Google Classroom. Having already won chess, checkers, and Uno games as prizes, Christian will receive a Nerf Football this time.

Despite the recent run of success Christian still remains humble. "I was shocked to see that I won last week," Christian said. The aspects to virtual summer school Christian enjoys the most are the science experiments and Mrs. Yenchik's weekly installments of the book *Holes*. "Not a lot of books catch my eye," Christian said.

More information on *Holes* is covered on the back page of this newsletter. There are three weekly participation points prizes left. Will Christian, Emma, or Week 1 winner Zeta Krieger snag another award, or will a new student emerge from the fray?

There are plans in the works to employ weekly participation prizes into regular afterschool programming during the upcoming school year.



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Salt Elevates Apple

This experiment comes courtesy of homeschooling-ideas.com which contains geography, science, and writing activities:

Fill a bowl or container with fresh water, and place an apple in it. Now add salt to it. Is there a difference? The more salt you add the higher the apple should float, but why?

Salt is denser, and weighs more, than water. Archimedes' Principle states that when an object is placed in a liquid the upward force (buoyancy) is equal to the weight of the water displaced by the object. When an object floats the upward force must equal the downward force, which is the weight of the object.

Therefore when the liquid is denser, less liquid is required to create the buoyancy, so the apple floats higher in a denser liquid.

Salt Elevates Apple Supplies...

- Bowl or container
- Apple
- Fresh water
- Salt



Inside this issue:

Participation Points Winners Shocked and Surprised	1
Salt Elevates Apple	1
Listening and Communicating	2
The Million Dollar Project	2
Positive Action and <i>Holes</i> Engage Students	2



Listening and Communicating

Listening is a tough skill to master. Talking is often easier than processing the words and thoughts of others. Here are some of the primary signals that someone isn't listening (courtesy of *Diversity in Action*, Chapter 5):

- Interrupting—the speaker isn't allowed to finish stating their opinions.
- Eye contact—there is little or no eye contact with the speaker, or if there is, it is confrontational—direct and unyielding.
- Body language—arms and legs crossed, shifting position, body turned away from the speaker or aggressive, bordering on physical threat.
- Emotions—angry, threatening, upset.
- Tone of voice—loud, harsh, angry.

On the flipside here are some positive ways to convey active listening:

- Engaged—we are engaged in the discussion, but allow the speaker to finish expressing their views.
- Eye contact—we make eye contact, expressing interest and showing we are involved with what is being said.
- Body language—arms and legs uncrossed, body faced toward the speaker, sitting or standing in a comfortable relaxed position.
- Emotions—calm, relaxed, and unperturbed.
- Tone of voice—calm, easy, understanding.
- Understanding—the conversation isn't a means to force our views on the speaker; we try to understand and validate other points of view.

Becoming a more active listener can help you on both a professional and personal level. To earn a participation point, pick the listening skill you wish to improve on and message it to Mrs. Hadenak or Mrs. Deurlein.

The Million Dollar Project

This is a variation of a math lesson posted on mathgeekmama.com, which contains fun teaching resources and tips to help you teach math with confidence.

Congratulations! You have inherited \$1,000,000, but with rules on how to spend it. You need to pay for college, a home, one family vacation, a vehicle, and make one charitable donation.

1. College: Research the cost of the education for **ONE** year at your favorite university and then calculate it against how many years it will take you to achieve your degree. Add in 10% to cover inflation, books and other expenses related to education.
2. Purchase a home that is **NO MORE** than \$300,000. Research various homes in locations that you would like to live.

3. Take a family vacation. Factor all expenses into the total cost (hotel, airfare, meals, transportation, spending money, etc.)

4. Purchase a vehicle. Using dealership sites, find a car or vehicle that is to your liking.

5. Make one charitable donation. Remember that friends, family, and pets do not qualify as a charity. Find a charity that means something to you and give them funds based on a project they are working on.

You may not spend more than the \$1,000,000, but you want to spend as much of it as possible. And you may not purchase more than two of the same item. Send your expense records to Mrs. Hadenak or Mrs. Deurlein to earn three participation points.

Positive Action and *Holes* Engage Students

Two important components of virtual summer school programming are Positive Action and *Holes*.

Positive Action is an evidence based program that promotes intrinsic interest in learning and encourages cooperation among students. It works by teaching and reinforcing the intuitive philosophy that you feel good about yourself when you do positive actions.

Positive Action Coordinator Mrs. Calloway posts a new lesson every Wednesday. This week's lesson focused on acceptance and advantages to have a diverse group of friends.

"I have enjoyed doing the lessons and the insightful comments made by the students who participated," Mrs. Calloway said.

Holes is a book written by Louis Sachar. It's about a boy named Stanley who is wrongly accused of a crime. Stanley chooses to go to a boys' detention center where the warden makes him and others dig holes to search for

something in a dried up lake.

The weekly reading installments are led by Mrs. Yenchik. "I've enjoyed reading the responses from the students and seeing their art work," Mrs. Yenchik said. "I can tell that they are really taking their time."

The class is currently on Chapter 9, and plans are being discussed on ways students can finish reading the book after virtual summer school concludes.

Both Mrs. Calloway and Mrs. Yenchik miss the discussion and exchange of ideas that face-to-face teaching provides.



Drawings from Isabella Simpkins (above) and Zeta Krieger (below) to illustrate the envisioned setting in *Holes*. Zeta and Isabella are among a number of virtual summer school students who participate in Mrs. Yenchik's read-aloud.