

Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

Hatching Praying Mantis Eggs, Investigating Spies, and Documenting the Times

Our fall semester is in full-swing with classes exploring in-depth topics the students voted on earlier in the year. Most classes have either started their projects, or are now discussing what sort of project to create based on their topic and interests.

Every year brings project topics that surprise and delight all of us. This year is no exception.



In the Pond, the Litter of Puppies is studying the topic of animals, including several species of insects. They had a praying mantis living in their classroom. that left them an egg sac! The group studying praying mantises learned that once they hatch, the babies will eat one another if they are left together. This put a number of the kids in the class on a mission to create single occupancy habitats for the baby praying mantises, and work through how to give potentially 300 baby praying mantises a home once they've hatched.

In the Lake, the Grumble of Pugs chose the topic of **spies**. Students took a virtual field trip to [Spy School 101, the International Spy Museum](#) in Washington, D.C. They also explored the [CIA's website area for kids](#). Along

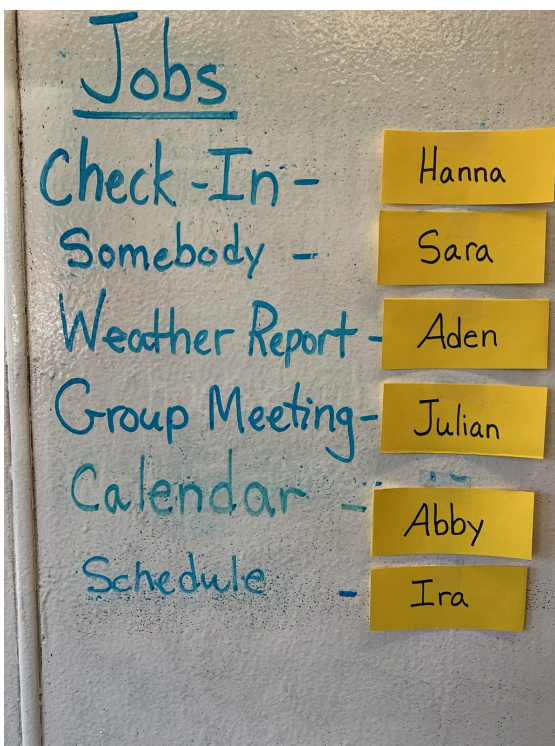


with their teacher, Mrs. Lori Nitzsche, they're learning about the history of spies, reading books about spies, learning about the type of intelligence governments are often looking for, and how gadgets and disguises fit into the reality of spy work.

In the Ocean, a Murder of Crows are documenting how people in their communities are coping with the Covid-19 pandemic. They are filming interviews with people from several different walks of life, and focusing in on a subtopic about how the pandemic has affected education and learning. The class enjoyed a meeting with professional documentary producers (and TCS alumni parents) Dan Andries and Anne Northrup, who spent a full hour with students discussing their project and sharing tips on everything from putting interview subjects at ease, to lighting and camerawork, to scripting and editing a finished documentary.

We'll bring you more as projects start to unfold!

Engaging Remote Learners with Classroom Jobs!



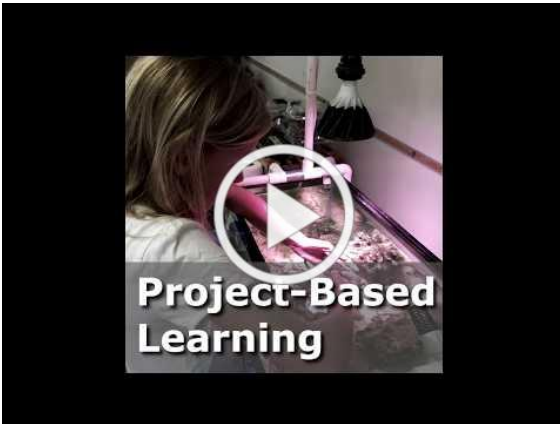
Each classroom at The Children's School has a list of class jobs that is suggested by the teacher, voted on by students, and filled by students on a rotating basis. It's a time honored and great way to give student's a sense of responsibility and ownership of their own learning environment and class community.

Thanks to the urging of our Director of Curriculum and Instruction Christina Martin, many of our classrooms have hung onto that tradition and transformed it for at-home remote learning.

Our Lake 3rd - 5th Remote Class ("Grumble of Pugs") teacher Ms. Lori Nitzsche

says there's another benefit to online jobs: "With the kids interacting on Zoom and Google, there's the danger of it becoming the Mrs. Nietzsche show all day. With class jobs, we start each morning almost like a newscast. First it's Aden with the news, then Julian with the weather, and everyone gets their turn. It's a really fun way to get everyone interacting with each other, and each student has their turn as the focal point of the meeting."

TCS Adds Virtual Tours & Info Sessions



Those who want to explore The Children's School as an option for their children can now do so from the safety of their homes. This summer, we posted extended information about our facility, as well as a one-minute video and a slideshow to provide [virtual tours](#) during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We recently added [virtual info-sessions](#) twice each month to replace our "First Friday" open house tours. The sessions are hosted by Director of Administration Pamela Freese, Ph.D., so that parents can still receive personalized answers to their individual questions and can zero in on the grades they're interested in.

As state and community health guidelines allow, we also have individual, masked, socially distanced tours of our campus for families who have participated in a virtual event and admissions conversation, and who feel they'd like to experience our facility first hand.

We hope that we can return to our First Friday onsite tours soon!

Celebrating Our Published Experts in Project-Based Learning

Many of our faculty are published in educational journals and books, and often give presentations on aspects of progressive education to others in their field.

We're proud to have thought-leaders in

progressive education like Ms. Melissa Barone, Mr. Will Hudson, and Ms. Gloria Mitchell on our middle-level faculty.



The three co-authored an article "*The Project Method in Practice*" for the University of Chicago Press Journal, *Schools: Studies in Education*. You can read a great synopsis with highlights and quotes from the article in the publisher's release "**A Hundred Years Later, the Project Method Still Ignites Learning.**"

