

CEC EXPLORER

The latest news and updates from Chain Exploration Center



August 4th national chocolate chip cookie day at Turner's.

ALWAYS STAY UP TO DATE:

www.chainexplorationcenter.org

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New Teacher Welcome

by Lori Wolff *New CEC Advisor*

Hello CEC families!

My name is Lori Wolff. Many of you already know of me, as I have taught at Chain School since 2000. I grew up in the Fox Valley and graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a dual major in Early Childhood PreK-3rd grade and Special Education. My husband and I have lived in Waupaca for over 20 years. Our daughter, Allison, will be starting her freshman year in high school this year, and our son, Aaron, is entering 7th grade.

Some of my passions include, attending my own children's sporting and musical events, kayaking, and yoga. I enjoy campfires, gardening, Disney World, and cheering on the Badgers, Bucks, Packers, and Brewers.

I have been anticipating this opportunity ever since the idea of Chain School becoming a Charter was mentioned. I have attended innovative schools conventions, toured Wisconsin charter schools, and collaborated with our current CEC advisors to learn as much as I can about the mission of our Charter. I am very passionate about becoming an advisor and sharing your visions for the children in our community. I am willing and eager to grow right along with them. Enjoy the remainder of your summer! See you soon!

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

4th Thursday of the month at the CEC, except on holidays.

September 26, 2018 (5:30pm)

October 24, 2018 (5:30pm)

Parent Involvement

Looking towards the future!!!

There will be many parent volunteer opportunities in the near future in areas like fundraising, grant writing, and community outreach. Please keep an eye out for future communication regarding volunteer opportunities. Visit www.chainexplorationcenter.org to stay up to date and informed! The website calendar is updated regularly.

Construction Corner:

The CEC has a new sign! And other minor changes have been happening to the building to accommodate the new second and sixth grades! Feel free to visit; the open house is Thursday, August 29th from 3:30-6:30. See you



Workers installing the new sign.

Annual Report

CEC Governance Council President Megan Sanders and CEC Administrator Rhonda Hare delivered the first Annual CEC Report to the Waupaca School District School Board last month. The Annual Report details the performance of the school on the accountability measures set forth in our contract. The CEC had a phenomenal first year, meeting all academic, social, and fiscal measures. But it was the positive and enthusiastic culture for learning that was created in our school that was the icing on the cake. The School Board will present us with a written response this month.

Community Garden

by Community Garden Coordinator **Catherine Seifert**

Our first season is proving to be a fruitful one at the Chain Community Garden! This summer we have had a small but mighty group of volunteers helping out on a weekly basis at the garden. The beginning of the summer entailed a lot of weeding and bug patrol while we slowly watched the plants take hold. With each rainfall, growth could be detected and before long, everything seemed to just explode: zucchini, yellow squash, cabbage, kohlrabi, tomatoes, kale, swiss chard, basil, and assorted peppers are the items that are ready, with watermelons, broccoli, and potatoes following closely behind.

As summer vacation starts to wind down and thoughts of school are ahead, the garden may just offer the transition you are looking for. Everyone who has come out to help has stated that the garden is a great place to spend some time unwinding, feeling the dirt underfoot, and accomplishing something good. Any hours that are spent volunteering can qualify towards fulfilling student volunteer hours. All of the produce has been donated to the Waupaca Food Pantry and the Senior Meal Site located at Trinity Lutheran in Waupaca.

As we are amidst this first season, we are already dreaming and planning about future seasons. We are looking to incorporate more learning opportunities for our students with garden curriculum and expanding our garden plan with more diversity. We would like to expand our community outreach with volunteer opportunities with sites we provide with fresh produce and community members with expertise that are willing to help us learn. We are looking for clubs, k-12 students, organizations and families looking to host their time in the garden.

We are very fortunate to have this garden at our school. As time goes on, we would like the garden to be "the place to be" for the great community of Waupaca.



Please contact Catherine Seifert at cseifert@waupacaschools.org if you have any questions or would like to help in the garden.

Suzuki Program

String Instruments come to the CEC!

by CEC Administrator **Rhonda Hare**

Here at the CEC, we are providing a different option for learning that is not available at other Waupaca School District schools.

The CEC has four “pillars” within its mission of project based learning: Environmental, Agricultural, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and Fine Arts.

Some of the unique curriculum and programming that we have to complement the work within these pillars was made available to us through federal grant dollars and includes:

STEM: Project Lead the Way

Agriculture: Community Garden; Animal and crop education.

Environmental: Silver Lake and Hartman Creek lab studies.

Fine Arts: Orchestral instruments

One of the “pillars” of the Chain Exploration Center is the Fine Arts. How will the CEC’s Arts program offer a different option to WSD students?



Students at a “try-it” visit at the CEC.

Suzuki, Continued:



Students at a “try-it” visit at the CEC.

We are pleased to be able to offer Suzuki instrument instruction through an agreement with UW Stevens Point.

An excerpt from the Suzuki website: How does Suzuki differ from other methods of teaching music to children? Thoughtful teachers have often used some of the elements listed here, but Suzuki has formulated them in a cohesive approach. Some basic differences are: Suzuki teachers believe that musical ability can be developed in all children. Students begin at young ages. Parents play an active role in the learning process. Children become comfortable with the instrument before learning to read music. Technique is taught in the context of pieces rather than through dry technical exercises. Pieces are refined through constant review. Students perform frequently, individually and in groups.

Notice if you take the word “music” out of these statements and add student choice of instruments, you have project based learning, a perfect fit for Chain Exploration Center!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who have been helping this summer with the community garden and all who were able to participate at our cookie and ice cream booth at Turner's on August 4th!

Thank you!!!

UPCOMING CEC EVENTS!

Aug 29th: CEC Open House + Picnic 3:30-6:30 pm

*Open to the public! Self guided tours of the improved facilities and classrooms. Picnic dinner for the whole family. **Students and families: meet your Advisor, bring supplies, pay fees and complete online registration if you haven't already.***

Sept 3rd: First day of School

Sept 21st: CEC Brat Fry at Waupaca Piggly Wiggly

Oct 3rd: First Student Project Night, time TBD



Daily Student Schedule

8:00-8:40	Gathering and Advisory
8:40-9:40	Math
9:40-9:50	Brain Break
9:50-11:30	Literacy
11:30-12:15	Specials (Art, Music, PE)
12:15-12:45	Lunch and Recess
12:45-1:00	Reflection Community
1:00-2:35	Project Time and RTI
2:35-2:50	Advisory Check Out Community Jobs



Suzuki, Continued:

The Suzuki Legacy:

Shinichi Suzuki was a violinist, educator, philosopher and humanitarian. Born in 1898, he studied violin in Japan for some years before going to Germany in the 1920s for further study.

After the end of World War II, Dr. Suzuki devoted his life to the development of the method he calls Talent Education. Suzuki based his approach on the belief that "Musical ability is not an inborn talent but an ability which can be developed. Any child who is properly trained can develop musical ability, just as all children develop the ability to speak their mother tongue. The potential of every child is unlimited."

Dr. Suzuki's goal was not simply to develop professional musicians, but to nurture loving human beings and help develop each child's character through the study of music.

What instruments are taught through the Suzuki approach? Suzuki originally developed his method for his own instrument, the violin. But materials are now available for many other instruments, and even for voice!

Every 4th-6th grader this year has chosen to experiment with violin, viola, cello or bass. UWSP's Aber Suzuki Center is one of only 24 official programs in the US and they are close enough to come to Chain Exploration Center. What an opportunity for our students! This is just the beginning!

