



COUNTRY DAY CONNECTED

Hirsch Note—Week #6 Country Day ConnectED

The days blend and the weeks seem to fly by! If you haven't watched Week # 6 Video—[click here to enjoy!](#) It was a windy day, so apologies for the static.



May brings an air of hope. Birds are visiting my new birdfeeders, and the grass growing more quickly than I can cut it. While the virus has put some aspects of life on hold, the smell of spring spurs excitement and entices me to explore the outdoors. The students have been receiving daily messages from Kaki Scheer with suggestions for expanding their knowledge of nature. Here is a taste of Kaki's lessons.

"I hope that you got outside this weekend! We went for a hike at California Woods Nature Preserve where we spotted a gorgeous six-spotted tiger beetle, not to be confused with the invasive emerald ash beetle. As we approached these animals, they darted across the forest edge and brightened our day. To learn more please click on this link:

<https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/707> "

Two MS Teaching Legends Retiring: Susie Lewis and Anna Hartle

The end of a school year always comes with mixed emotions, and the most bittersweet involves saying goodbye to long-time colleagues who have decided to retire from teaching. A few of our fellow faculty are moving on at the end of May, and while we're excited for them to enjoy the more leisurely life of retirement, we're sad knowing that they will no longer be part of our day-to-day school lives.

This year is no different. In the Middle School, two teaching legends—Susie Lewis and Anna Hartle—will wrap up their distinguished careers after 75 years of combined teaching.

Middle school math teaching phenom, Susie Lewis, a teaching veteran of 45 years—35 of which she devoted to CCDS—is turning in her tablet. Susie, a gifted math teacher who effortlessly kept pace with decades of innovation at Country Day, gave to the school in manifold ways. An advocate of whole child education, Susie made sure her students were not only adept at number sense and operations but also up to speed on current events. What other math teacher gives bonus points on an algebra test for being able to name the nine justices of the supreme court? In addition to teaching math, Susie lent her time and talent in a host of ways, including serving as the ISACS and OAIS a teacher rep, a member of the ISACS board for eight years, and chairing professional development work for OAIS. She spearheaded several of the Middle School's signature extra-curricular programs. Mathcounts, the stock market game, and the budget challenge are just some of the ways Susie brought learning to life. She was also a constant on the sidelines or in the theater cheering on student-athletes and thespians. And, Susie's paparazzi skills have documented numerous moments in the Middle School that we will treasure forever.

On a personal note, a true point of pride for Susie was being both a Country Day parent and teacher, navigating the sometimes-mixed blessing of teaching your own child. Two of her children, Karen ('95) and Greg ('94), attended Country Day, a gift that Susie said was one of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the CCDS community.

Susie, you will be sorely missed but the legacy of your lasting lessons, especially the economic and financial literacy ones, will live on. And, we'll continue to see you on campus (post-pandemic of course!) cheering on our students, keeping Mathcounts counting, and attending grandparents' day.

Also setting aside her textbooks and tablet is Anna Hartle, CCDS's beloved sixth grade English teacher. Thirty years ago, Anna joined the Country Day faculty and staff as the middle school librarian after working for three years at the Clermont Public Libraries. In Anna's early years at CCDS, she collaborated with the legendary Joan Chezem—partnering as a bibliophilic dynamic duo to foster our students' love of reading and research. In 1990, when Anna arrived at CCDS, there was just one computer terminal in the library. She found it exciting to watch the one-to-one computer/tablet program grow over the years. Before long, Anna's love of reading and language and her computing aptitude led her to the classroom where she has been boosting our students' literacy and technology skills ever since.

Early in her CCDS career, Anna recognized the pitfalls students would encounter as they entered the one-to-one computing world of the middle school. Richard Schwab, then head of middle school, asked her to create a laptop literacy curriculum at Country Day. Her Global Connections course was designed to enhance our students' technology skills and even more importantly, to promote their safety online. Anna, ever the pioneer, was STEAMing before STEAM was even an acronym!

We are grateful to Anna for the endless hours she dedicated to organizing various activities in the Middle School, including its yearly spelling bees. Always willing take on projects that would promote a passion for reading and an appreciation of language and literature, Anna was an advocate and cheerleader for our bee p-a-r-t-i-c-i-p-a-n-t-s. For the last 20 years, Anna also organized the sixth grade Make-a-Difference Day walk-a-thons, which have raised in excess of \$90,000 for charities, with \$80,000 of the total contributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Anna is also a proud teacher-parent. Her two daughters, Jackie ('07) and Becky ('10), are graduates whose savviness and self-confidence, she says, are thanks to Country Day's remarkable teachers.

Anna is moving on to enjoy the rewards of retirement—cooking, traveling, reading (of course!), cheering on the Reds from her Pelee Island hideaway—but her Country Day family will be forever grateful for the many ways she has enriched our school.

5th Grade Spotlight: Total recap!

In English, students have been diligently composing their autobiographies since November, reflecting on stories about their childhoods including their school days, their beliefs, what love is, places they have visited, the future, friends, family, items of note in their families' histories, the "me" people don't know, etc. The crowning touch will be an original title/subtitle page, a dedication, and a collection of 15-20 pictures sprinkled throughout their masterpieces. They have also painted self-portraits to accompany the memoires written in their own words at a beautiful age. They will swell with pride when they see the final product. The Petre printing press is running full-steam ahead!

Math students continue to build their skills and understanding. Starting their 10th unit, our young mathematicians are exploring measurement and how it applies to the real world. Using perimeter and area formulas, students can examine various two-dimensional figures to gain a deeper understanding of how numbers apply to space and area. After completing our final unit of study, students will embark on an end of the year project that correlates directly to the world we live in today. Using empirical data and trends, students will graph and make predictions of how the Covid-19 virus has had an impact on society. Through mathematics, we can make predictions and verify best practices based on our data. Stay tuned!

In science, students have continued to delve into real-world problems. They have completed the Forces and Motion Unit in which students enjoyed re-creating experiments at home, including the egg parachute drop and centripetal force experiments. The students have moved on to the final unit: Climate Change: Renewable Resources and Beyond. The students have had climate change conversations with their parents as well as recorded BioBlitz observations in their yards and conducted energy audits of their households. The time at home has allowed a deeper dive into this important topic. We look forward to hearing what our students have taught you at home.

Social Studies students are wrapping up their study of ancient Rome and will begin exploring the Middle Ages next week. The feudal society with kings, knights, and serfs is vastly different from the Roman republic!

Alexis Nordrum Newsletter #6: Mental Health Awareness Month

This week is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and May is Mental Wellness Awareness Month. If you are concerned about your child's mental health, where do you begin? You can start by talking with your child's teacher or ask your family healthcare provider for a referral to a mental healthcare provider who specializes the behavioral health of children and young adults. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIH) website has helpful resources too. For

more information on when to seek help and how to take the first few steps, click here: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/children-and-mental-health/index.shtml?utm_source=NIMHwebsite&utm_medium=Portal&utm_campaign=shareNIMH

Whose Faculty Yard #5? (Click [here](#) for a picture of the yard for next week)

Out of 217 answers, 6 were correct! Julia Joyce, Louisa Joy, Briana Molloy, Elijah Sitterlet, Olivia Williams and AJ Atkinson knew that this yard belongs to Mrs. Rogers who enjoys keeping an eye out for Lazarus lizards.

Important Dates:

- May 16 5th/6th/7th grade Locker Pick-up 8:00-12:00 p.m.
 - 5th Grade: Front of LS (Bring the social studies books back to CCDS)
 - 6th Grade: Front of Main Building (Bring the pre-algebra books back to CCDS)
 - 7th Grade: LAC Circle
- May 22 4th/5th/6th Grade Virtual Field Day! Stay tuned for details!
- May 29 Last Day of school and Virtual MS Awards Day.
- May 29 8th Grade Recognition Day—Celebrate the Class of 2024. More info coming next week.

Make it a great day—Go Country Day!

Hirsch

Thought of the Week:

"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me. You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you." - Walt Disney

To Do Today: "Make up your mind that no matter what comes your way, no matter how difficult, no matter how unfair, you will do more than simply survive. You will thrive in spite of it." - Joel Osteen

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