



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 1 2023 - 24

Happy Fall! We have accomplished Quarter 1 of the 2023 – 24 school year. We are thankful you have chosen to be CMS Chiefs and look forward to the accomplishments you will have this school year.

All Optional Scholars are enrolled in Honors courses which help prepare them for High School and College. An expectation of Honors courses is completion of at least one honors project a semester. Scholars have projects in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Please check with your scholar to ensure they are working on their honors projects.

Optional Scholars participate in International Studies, learning about the cultures of others in our world. Our focus countries for the year are:

- 6th grade – China
- 7th grade – Canada
- 8th grade – New Zealand

Details for International Projects for 2nd quarter will be shared soon.



For August's Lunch and Learn, scholars celebrated **Scotland**. Scholars

learned about what a loch is and shared what they know about the Loch Ness Monster. Wool is important to the Scots because it has the ability to draw moisture away from the body and release it into the air. The national dish of Scotland is haggis made of sheep heart, liver, and lungs mixed with spices cooked in the lining of a sheep's stomach! Most of us agreed it did not sound appealing.



Scholars tasted IRN-BRU, a Scottish soft drink containing 32 flavors that was "born" in 1901 to help steel workers stay hydrated during their shift.

They also tasted Scottish shortbread

cookies made by Walkers, a company that has been making shortbread 125 years. **Leanora Hulett** (7) shared, "The drink was very tangy and somewhat sweet. Overall, I loved it! The shortbread was not sweet. To me, it was tasteless. However, I enjoyed

tasting items from Scotland." While tasting, we listen to bagpipe music.



Hispanic Heritage Month



September 15 – October 15 is the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Various scholars helped us learn about its origin and about some of the countries honored during the month. Scholars are encouraged to volunteer to research and share with their peers during morning

announcements. **Carlita Davis** (7) informed CMS that during the month, our nation celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans with Hispanic heritage. The recognition began in 1968 and was only observed for a week. It was extended to a month in 1988 and is celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. **Nayeli Garcia Flores** (8) and **Carla Vidal** (7) shared the CMS Mission and Vision in Spanish. Four Chiefs chose to research and share about the culture of four Hispanic countries. **Christopher Jones** (7) – Columbia, **Makaila Fleming** (6) – Bolivia, **Elijah Sharp** (6) – Mexico, and **Anaiyah Robinson** (7) – Puerto Rico. CMS hosted a Fall Concert on September 28 where the **CMS Choir** performed selections with Spanish lyrics! (Shout out to all Optional scholars that performed either through Choir, Band, or Orchestra. The concert was wonderful!!!) Finally, **Nekeriah Pleas** (7) wrapped up the month by reminding us about the countries where Spanish is the primary language and are considered Hispanic: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. She also encouraged all Chiefs to be International Learners every day.

September's Lunch and Learn was led by **Sebastian Davila** (8) and **Ismael Munoz-Ibarra** (8). They chose the country of **Columbia** to research and share with their Optional peers. Columbia is home to the world's tallest palm trees, 10 % of the Amazon Rain Forest, and its national sport is Tejo. It involves explosives, look it up! They also shared with us about Las Lajas Sanctuary which was built because of miracles occurring in the area.



Scholars tasted empanadas prepared by El Sabor Latino – authentic Colombian cuisine – 665 Avon Rd Memphis, TN. They can be made of shredded beef, pork, or chicken. They can also include potatoes and/or cheese. The dough is made using cornmeal. Scholars also tasted lulo juice. The vibrant delight that is the lulo is especially popular in Colombia. This tropical fruit, also known as a naranjilla (meaning little orange), delivers a tart hit. “I



thought the empanadas had an eggroll taste. I enjoyed tasting them and making connections to other foods I have tried. The Lulo juice reminded me of orange Fanta. I look forward to trying more foods from other cultures,” stated **Olivia Johnson** (6). While tasting, we listened to Colombian salsa music.



Chiefs Believe!
Chiefs Achieve!



CMS Website

Are you in the know?

Our Website is a great place to keep up with events at Craigmont Middle School.

<https://schools.scsk12.org/craigmont-ms>

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns for your Optional Scholar(s). If you need help with PowerSchool access, please let me know.

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