



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 2

We have made it to the half-way point!
Continue to strive for
excellence in all you do!

First semester International Studies poster projects **were due January 6**. We look forward to learning from each other about the cultures of our focus countries.

Optional Scholars participate in International Studies, learning about the cultures of others in our world. Our focus countries for the year are:
6th grade – Greece
7th grade – South Korea
8th grade – Equatorial Guinea
Memphis in May 2023 - Malaysia
Details for International Projects for 2nd semester will be shared soon.



For **October's** Lunch and Learn, Optional Scholars took over leading the Lunch and Learns. **Ty'neria Austin** (8) and **Jesse Jarrell** (8) volunteered to take us to Fiji! Scholars learned that the island nation located in the Pacific Ocean is made up of 332 islands. We were surprised to learn that water is its largest export – Fiji water. Scholars also learned that the banded iguana is the national animal.



Scholars tasted tapioca pudding. Tapioca is a staple food for the Fijians. It can be found in many different recipes prepared by Fijians. They also tasted passionfruit juice. The passion fruit grows on vines in the rain forests of Fiji.



Jammes Salamanca (8) wanted to celebrate

November and his family's country of origin, Guatemala, with his peers. Scholars learned about the quetzal, a bird in Guatemala that represents liberty and wealth. The quetzal is also the name of Guatemalan currency. In ancient Mayan culture, the quetzal bird's tail feathers were used as currency!





Jammes and his family made authentic Guatemalan chuchitos, a type of tamale, to share with the Optional scholars. Scholars also tasted the drink, horchata, which is popular throughout Central America. Ours was from a mix but is often made at home using each family's special recipe.

Leela Johnson (6) stated, "The chuchitos are called that because they are small tamales. They were delicious! The horchata I liked but prefer the homemade version."



December's Lunch and Learn was led by **Ethan Allen** (8) and **Carlita Davis** (6). They shared with us about Japan. Did you know that Japan has approximately 1 vending machine for every 23 people. The Japanese do not have much storage in their homes so vending machines make it easier for them to buy many items quickly. We also learned about their bullet trains that make traveling the islands quick and affordable in Japan.



Scholars used chop sticks to taste tofu, a source of protein and common in Japanese meals. They also tasted the snack, Pocky,

in both chocolate and strawberry flavors. For their drink taste, scholars were able to choose from either original, lychee, or white peach Calpico.

Chiefs Believe!

Chiefs Achieve!



World Wise Wednesdays began Quarter 2. Scholars volunteer and choose a country to research and share about anything they find interesting with the entire CMS family through morning announcements. Volunteers for Quarter 2: **Adrienne Crumb** (6) – Chad, **Ty'neria Austin** (8) – Fiji, **Sebastian Davila** (7) – Dias de la Muertas, **Carlita Davis** (6) - Japan, **Jaliyah White** (7) – Germany, **Shaniya Urquhart** (6) – Israel, **Chloe Coleman** (6) – Dominican Republican, and **Nekeriah Pleas** (6) – Jamaica.

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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