



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 2 2023 - 24

Welcome to Winter ☺! We are halfway through the school year. TCAP testing and the International Festival will be here before we know it. Continue to strive for excellence in all you do!

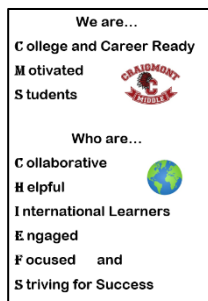


Optional Scholars participate in completing International Studies projects each semester. The first

semester project was a poster about a chosen topic in their grade's country of focus. The projects were due January 5, 2024. Please check with your scholar to ensure they completed their Optional project and that it met expectations!

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 semester will be shared after Honors Projects completion.



Every morning Chiefs participate in saying the Mission and Vision for CMS. Part of the mission is for all scholars to be International Learners. Teachers include international ties in each lesson and every Wednesday

the school participates in World Wise Wednesday. We are so thankful for the volunteers who choose a topic to share with their peers / school through announcements. The volunteers for Quarter 2 and their topic were:

Malik Murphy (8) – Bahamas, **Noah McCumber** (6) and **Malik Murphy** (8) – Cuba, **Elijah Sharp** (6) – Dia de las Muertas, **Christopher Jones** (7) – Japan, **Vandale Clarks** (6) – India, **Noah McCumber** (6) – Brazil, **Taylor Curry** (6) – Australia, **Londyn Williams** (7) – Georgia, and **Elijah Sharp** (6) – Winter Celebrations around the World



A synopsis of what is shared along with a couple of pictures are posted in the hall leading to the cafeteria. Please take time to look at all we have learned when in the building.

In **October**, **Carlita Davis** (7) and **Nekeriah Pleas** (7) chose to highlight **Russia** for Lunch and



Learn. Russia is the largest country – spanning two continents (Europe and Asia).

Scholars learned the oldest human settlement in Russia dates to 8th century BC.



Russian is the official language of Russia. Did you know it is the 7th most spoken language in the world?

Scholars tasted Kompot, a tea made from dried fruits. It is a common drink in Russia and can vary in taste based



on what dried fruits are used. They also tried Pryaniki, a popular Russian cookie. Pryaniki first became popular in the 9th century. It is often referred to as a gingerbread cookie.

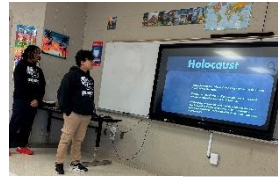
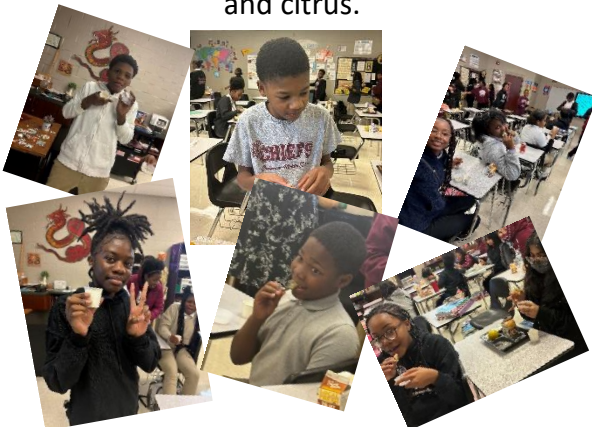




November's Lunch and Learn was led by **Jaliyah White** (8) and **Nakiah Green** (7). They chose the country of **Norway**

to research and share with their Optional peers. Norway is a European country whose average height has reached its PEAK level. Mountains covered in ice masses dominate the surface! We learned a few Norwegian phrases - God dag! or God dagonly! (good day), God kveld! (good evening), and God Morgen (good morning). Norway has had a monarchy for over a thousand years. Today, Norway is a constitutional monarchy where the king is formally the head of state but royal duties are mostly representative / ceremonial.

Scholars tasted salmon chips. Yes, chips made from salmon! The chips are high in protein, collagen, and part of the Norwegian diet. They also tried Glogg – a traditional winter drink spiced with cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, and citrus.



To end Quarter 2, **Elijah Johnson** (8) and **Diprojitt Paul Dipro** (8) chose to share about **Germany**. Did you know Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz are all German brands? Oktober Fest dates back to 1810 when a royal marriage occurred. Munich enjoyed the celebrating so much that they have continued it every year since then. Today, Oktober Fest is celebrated in many countries. German is the second most spoken language in Europe! Scholars also discussed the Holocaust what occurred. We made comparisons to events in today's society and they are encouraged to remain aware of what occurs not just in Memphis but elsewhere.

For their taste, scholars tried Bahlsen cookies. Bahlsen is a German based



company. Its best-known product is the Leibniz-Keks (butter biscuit), introduced in 1891. They also tried a "Winterzeit" tea made by Teekanne, a German tea company founded in 1882. The company was the first to sell tea in tins and went on to invent the machine-made tea bag!



Chiefs Believe!
Chiefs Achieve!



Some of the selections at the Winter Concert were from other countries. The CMS Choir sang "Silent Night" in English, German, French and Sign Language! CMS Chiefs are International Learners.

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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