



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 2 2024 - 2025

Can you believe we have made it halfway through the 24-25 school year? TCAP will be here before we know it!

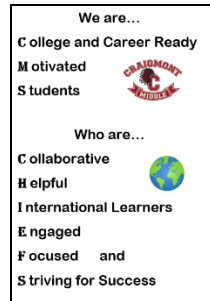
Optional Scholars are enrolled in Honors courses which help prepare them for High School and College. An expectation of an Honors course is completion of at least one honors project a semester. Your scholars should receive information for their second semester Honors project soon. They will have projects in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Optional scholars also complete International Studies projects each semester. For the first semester, students were asked to complete a poster project. They are due January 10, 2025!

Optional Scholars participate in International Studies, learning about the cultures of others in our world. Our focus countries for the year are:
6th grade – Morocco
7th grade – Honduras
8th grade – United Arab Emirates
Memphis in May 2025 – South Korea

Optional Scholars International Projects for Second Semester will be shared the beginning of March. 😊

CMS Chiefs are International Learners! Chiefs learn about other places and cultures in their daily lessons. Every Wednesday the school participates



Jeshua Marin (8)– researched and **Allisson Lugo** (6) shared with us about El Salvador while wrapping up Hispanic Heritage Month. **Shaniya Urquhart** (8) had us hungry for Chinese food when she shared about China. **L'oreal White** (7) informed us that Russia has a holiday which celebrates scholars known as Tatiana Day! **Noah McCumber** (7) researched and **Christopher Jones** (8) shared about Diwali, a major festival in Hinduism which celebrates light over darkness. **Julian White** (7) helped us understand the celebration of Dia de los Muertos. We learn about ancient Egypt in 6th grade but **Haleigh Wells** (8) told us about today's Egypt. **Elayna Green** (8) informed us about 2 castles in Ireland. **Cherita Ware** (8) let us know that K-Pop has become South Korea's largest cultural export! **Nakiah Green** (8) found out that Ugali is the national dish of Rwanda since she loves food. **Christopher Jones** (8)



in World Wise Wednesday. Volunteers choose a topic to share with their peers over the intercom during morning announcements.

Thank you, Quarter 2 volunteers:

wrapped up 2024 with information about the Chernobyl disaster in what was the Soviet Union but is now Ukraine.



A synopsis and images are posted from each World Wise

Wednesday in the hall leading to the cafeteria.



Carlita Davis (8) and **Nekeriah Pleas** (8) led Lunch & Learn for **October** (both ladies have led a L&L all 3 years at CMS 😊). They took us to the 8th grade country of focus, United Arab

Emirates. Did you know? There are no rivers in the UAE and the UAE is home to over 200 nationalities of people.



Dubai is the name of one of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates country. Dubai is also the most populous city in the UAE. Dubai has hundreds of mosques and the call to prayer can be heard five times a day throughout the city. The crime rate is virtually zero across the city.



Dubai is home to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. Dubai is home to the only 7-star hotel in the world, the Burj Al-Arab.



Scholars tasted falafel, chicken and / or lamb shawarma with rice, and Vimto (drink). Food was prepared by *Ali Baba Mediterranean Grill* at 5800 Raleigh Lagrange.



The Cerritos Monroy family prepared tamales for everyone! They also made us ponche to drink. Ponche is a traditional drink from many different Hispanic places. It can be served warm or cold and



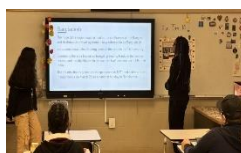
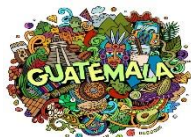
depending on which fruits are used determines how sweet it is.

CMS Optional Scholars appreciate the Cerritos Monroy family sharing their Guatemalan heritage with us.



For **November's** Lunch and Learn, **Adela Cerritos Monroy** (6) with the help of **Dairin Guillen Arita** (6) shared with us about Guatemala. Guatemala was once the center of the mighty Mayan Empire. The Mayans reached their peak between 250-900 AD before going into decline. Guatemala gained its independence from Spain in the 1820s. Today, tourists travel to Guatemala to experience the history and enjoy the beautiful landscape and delicious foods!

Adela's family is from Guatemala. She shared about the quetzal bird being the national bird of Guatemala. It can also be found on the flag. Quetzal is also what money is called. Guatemala is where chocolate first began. Did you know Guatemala is home to 37 volcanoes, 4 of which are active!



Shuvosree Paul Sree (7) assisted by **Cherita Ware** (8) shared with us about Bangladesh at Lunch and

Learn in **December**. Shuvosree was born in Bangladesh and shared about its history and culture. Bangladesh was formed at the confluence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems.



Europeans established trading posts in the area in the 16th century. Eventually the area known as Bengal, primarily Hindu in the western section and mostly Muslim in the eastern half, became part of British India. Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971 and celebrates its independence on March 26 as a national holiday.



Bangladesh is famous for its colorful festivals, flavorful cuisine with strong spices, and incredible nature.

Scholars tasted chicken and/or lamb biryani with basmati rice. This dish is often eaten at Hindu celebrations. They also tasted Mango Lassi to drink. These items were prepared by *India Palace* at 1720 Poplar Ave. Shuvosree's family also prepared Payesh for us which is her favorite dessert! It is a type of rice pudding that is also enjoyed at celebrations in Bangladesh. Thank you, Shuvosree and family, for sharing Bangladesh culture with CMS Optional Scholars. 😊



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).

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Chiefs Believe! Chiefs Achieve!