WELCOME FROM MR. FORTIN

Welcome!, Hello!, Hi!, Hallo! I would like to inform you of a couple highlights...these include the end of the 2023 ACCESS for ELs assessment that ended on February 17, 2023. We are hoping to have the results of this assessment by the end of May and will share those with parents and students immediately. Teachers use ACCESS results to make decisions about students' proficiency with English in academic contexts and to facilitate their language development. Students’ scores reflect proficiency levels ranging from Level 1 (Entering) to Level 6 (Reaching). Test scores can be used for: accountability purposes; as benchmarks against which educators can measure future performance; as a measure to make reclassification decisions about whether a student can exit English language Support services; to support decisions about placing students into appropriate classes or groups for instruction, instructional planning and to show the progress students have made. It’s important that you as a parent understand how ACCESS scores are used in our CSE system.

In addition to assessments, we have several fun events coming up to include Spring Break, Prom, Graduation and various site specific events. Please feel free to contact your child’s school regarding any details.
If you need additional information not found in this newsletter, please contact your child’s school or me, Chris Fortin, at (814) 480-5908.

MEET MR. MCCABE!

Rob McCabe has been an educator for the greater part of his adult life, teaching the subject of History in grades 7-12. He has worked in the following districts: Johnsonburg, Erie and Iroquois. Mr. McCabe is now the Assistant Principal at the Charter School of Excellence, Skills Center.

Prior to his career in education, Mr. McCabe served in the military as a member of Amphibious Assault Unit II, out of Little Creek, Virginia. In his free time, he enjoys weight training, the martial arts, cycling and reading. We welcome Mr. McCabe to the Skills Center!
My name is Taymaa. I started at the Charter School of Excellence, Discovery Center in 6th grade. I am the 4th student in my family to attend the Charter School of Excellence. My two older sisters started in high school and my brother also started at the middle school. He finished his way through high school and graduated in 2020.

This year, I’m a junior and looking forward to next year. After completing my graduation project next year and graduating, I plan on enrolling in college. I would like to student business. I am hoping to start my own party planning business.

My experience at the Charter School of Excellence has been very good! CSE offers a very good education. I am very happy that I went to this school and would recommend it to everyone!

I have been in the Charter School of Excellence Skills Center for 2 years. I came to Skills Center for a better education. When I first came to Skills Center, the teachers and students welcomed me with open arms. I was placed in the ELD program. It is an amazing program. You can meet people from different countries that are trying to learn English.

My country of origin is Iraq. My father came to America in 1995 as a refugee and for a better life. He also wanted to have a family. First, there is my sister who was born in 2002. In 2004, I was born. Shortly after me, there was one more brother and a little while after that, there were two more sisters. There are a total of seven of us in my family.

We all speak Arabic and English except for my mom. She only speaks Arabic. I know Arabic and English, but I can’t read or spell in Arabic. When I am at home, I speak bilingual but when I am in public I speak more English. All of my other family members are still in Iraq.

Iraq Facts

The world’s oldest writing came into existence in Iraq.

Iraq is home to the world’s oldest civilization and therefore is often called, "Cradle of Civilization".

Irrigation systems to water crops were invented in Iraq.
In November of this school year, on Parent Teacher Conferences Day, the ELD students had an opportunity to showcase their cultural traditions. There was ART of Woman’s Hijab in the Board Room, Candy Sampling in the cafeteria, Henna in the Board Room, Raffle Baskets, Fashion and Artifacts in Cool Beans, Holiday Hallway, Flags of the World activity in Cool Beans and One World Tribe Band in the Courtyard.

This event was a modified version of our annual ELD Celebration of Unity which we previously had prior to Covid. We hope to have even more for next year.

The students volunteered their time, hard work and talent to help make this event a success each year!

As we approach the end of the school year, students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade will be participating in the PSSA April 24- May 5. Students in 10th grade will be taking the Keystone Algebra and Biology and students in 11th grade will be taking the Keystone Literature. These will take place May 15-26.

Please be sure your students are getting a good nights rest, eating a good breakfast and on time for school each day specially during the testing and assessment window. We have full confidence that all of our students will do their best with the upcoming state assessments.
Ramadan begins on March 23, 2023. It takes place in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar when the first sliver of the crescent moon appears. The Islamic calendar is lunar, not solar, so Ramadan begins on a different date each year. Muslims that are 12 and older fast during Ramadan, not eating or drinking anything between sunrise and sunset.

Some activities to do during Ramadan are:

- Get some fresh air and daily dose or exercise
- Prioritize your personal care and hygiene
- Set realistic goals to achieve during Ramadan
- Translate Ramadan articles into English
- Invite new Muslims into your home
- Distribute meals to the poor and needy.
- Help out at home
- Volunteer
- Take time to reflect
- Take a vacation.

UPCOMING DATES

| March 24 | End of 3rd Quarter |
| March 27 | NO SCHOOL/Teacher Plan |
| April 3-10 | SPRING BREAK |
| PSSA middle school April 24 - May 12 |
| Keystones high school May 15-26 |
| May 12 | Early Dismissal |
| May 29 | No School Holiday |
| June 7 | Last day of school |
| June 13 | Graduation |

COMMENTS, FEEDBACK, SUGGESTIONS?
Contact Jenifer Dildine at 814-651-9082.