

April 2011

Cunae Connection

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Important  
dates...

- May 28* Art Auction
- May 30* Memorial Day
- June 24* Last Day of Term
- June 13-17* Exam Week
- June 25* Graduation
- July 18-29* Summer Camps



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the home-stretch. Can you believe we are at the end of the school year already? Time seems to have rushed through the year this year. It's been a busy and BIG year for Cunae. Finally our accreditation came through and although our marketing wheel is only just starting to spin, interest in our school has climbed. I am very excited about next year (not quite sure where we will put everyone - but a good problem to have). We actually already have a wait list for our preschool for 2013. We have a number of new enrolments for various year levels, and many who have started the lengthy application process.

I want to give a warm round of applause to our art students. The artwalk was a great success. For those that couldn't make it, I will be uploading a presentation on our website shortly. Thank you Ms. Vivian Fridley for encouraging the students to stretch themselves and take risks in doing their self portraiture. Ms. Abby and her preschool artists also did a terrific job.

Also, I want to say how proud of Ms. Mariella's class I am of the wonderful Monarch Waystation they have created. Thank you to Grace Elliott for all her help and contribution to the garden. We

couldn't have done it without you.

We have a big couple of months coming up. Firstly look out for our 'plaque' fundraiser which will allow your friends and family around the world help participate in growing our school. Secondly, set aside the date of May 28 for our inaugural art auction. We are still working out the details and more information will be provided in the next two weeks. Please encourage your friends and family to come to this. It will not only support our school but also the local art community.

Lastly, I am proud to say that we have our first graduation class coming through in the coming months. As we are so small it will be a whole school even, and likely that students will do their final performance art presentation on this night (June 25). We do hope you can all make it to mark this historic event, and for the seniors to pass the torch to the coming students.

As a Director and parent, I will miss them very much but look forward to being a part of their journey into the world.

*Anji Price - Director*

P.S. Don't forget re-enrolment forms are due.

Billing for September will occur in June.



## CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS HIGHLIGHTS



### A Message from Ms. Vivian,

The Art Walk, held Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. The exhibit lead the viewer completely around the pond for an adventure in portraiture as well as landscapes, jungle art, and plein air painting. First to capture the eye was the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders life size figure paintings displaying their career of choice. Careers crossed a continuum of choices: veterinarian, ballet dancer, engineer, game creator, and digital graphics/film artist. As the viewer continued touring the show, they passed the “snake box,” a series of boxes that exhibited more works from the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. A unique display for showing off talent was the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade art exhibited on pine green boxes dangling from the limbs of trees to sway in the wind. Here, visitors read about the process of suminagashi, the Japanese method of marbling paper. Students played with the marbling and colour to create a distorted self-portrait in the Expressionism style of art. A bit of Haiku poetry from Mr. Hill’s class added intrigue to the images. Moving to the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade art, the viewer had the opportunity to not just see creative works of art, but to read the artist’s thoughts about his or her risk taking and problem solving. The artist’s originality could be seen through the various media and processes for creating the portrait. One saw everything from charcoal, graphite, Prisma pencil , acrylics, oil pastel, and cut paper. Not missing an opportunity to be creative, Cali Duncan added a personal touch to her show by using left over wood from another project plus found objects to design 3-dimensional relief works of art. The trail of art ended with the senior’s work, framed to show off their extraordinary talent.

## CONGRATULATION TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE TERM: WYATT BERCKENHOFF & JAKE PRICE - WELL DONE!

### Lower School

#### “Inventors Workshop”

Ms Mariella’s Inquiry topic is Inventions. We will be looking at what an invention is, who inventors are, some old, new, and possibly futuristic inventions. The children will also have the opportunity to become ‘inventors’ themselves. More about that in the weeks to come! In Cultures we will be looking at the countries of the Middle East and very simply - as much as that is possible – finding out why it is an area so prominent in the news at the moment.

#### “You are what (and how, why, when and where) you eat”

Food-a favorite topic for all of us. In this Inquiry we will learn how the world of food operates in the marketplace and in our bodies. Slow food, Go food, No food will be discussed and we will have a wonderful field trip (a lucky parent volunteer will hopefully accompany us) to the Houston Farmer’s Market and the Central City Co-op (can’t get away from the hippy stuff)! A healthy meal is planned for our event and the students will be surveying their own eating habits.

#### “G’day mate”

The land down under is our Culture study for this session. Hats with corks, pavlovas, boomerang lessons maybe even a boat race (on dry land) are in the works. We have a guest speaker sitting by (over in the office) and Kidman, Jackman et al will be stopping by.



## CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS HIGHLIGHTS



### TERM 2 BIG Q'S

Years 7 - 8

“How Does Globalisation Affect Human Development?”

Years 9 - 10

“How Can We Maintain Balance?”

#### “Let there be light”

For grades 7-10 the students will be designing a lighting system for the stage area. They will investigate stage lighting systems and design their own for our outdoor situation. They will look at light angles, distance, illumination intensities, color, and position. We will be incorporating some aspects of sustainable living in the design. It will be solar powered so we will also look at solar panels, battery technology, and charging circuits. The students will also decide on a direct current system versus alternating current and weigh in costs and benefits of each design.

#### “Propaganda Art”

As a project in studying wars during this last term, History 9 delved into propaganda and created their own version of persuasion through visual arts. Judged on originality in the design, emotional impact of the images, and the power behind the message; Adam Price was announce Best Propaganda Art. Adam was awarded a certificate and a gift certificate to Cinemark Tinseltown.

Upcoming event for all 7th grade Meteorologists: A trip to the Weather Museum is in the forecast ...and the outlook SUNNY!

### Year 7/8

#### “Dear Diary...”

The first half of this term in Language Arts will focus on the trials, tribulations, and tragedies that unfold in Anne Frank’s poignant non-fiction classic, *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Our writing activities will include keeping our own diaries, predominantly for documenting our reactions to an upcoming field trip to the Holocaust Museum Houston, and investigating related topics in preparation for writing an extensive research paper by term’s end.

#### “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

In Business Management, we will spend the first half of the term learning the ins and outs of the business side of tourism and travel. Utilizing the TechnoKids curriculum, we will complete the “TechnoTravel” unit, culminating in creation of itineraries, adverts, and budgets for a fantasy voyage.

#### “It’s a wonderful life”

This term is all about the different forms of life on planet earth. We will start with the smallest plant life and work our way up the largest sea mammals. Special attention will be paid to the interaction of plants and animal life and how animal life is ultimately dependent on plants for survival. We will look at the water cycle, the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle and how it all works together to sustain life on earth.



## CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS HIGHLIGHTS



### “Laughter is the Best Medicine”

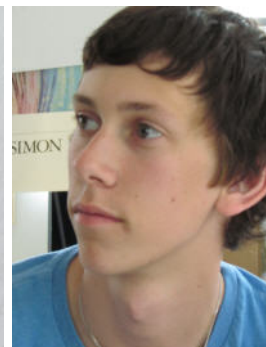
In line with our Big Question, “What can we do to maintain balance?”, in Literature this term, we will conduct an in-depth analysis of William Shakespeare’s classic *The Comedy of Errors*, specifically scrutinizing the reliability of narrator, tone, and characterizations that illustrate the tipping of scales which occurs when mankind goes to extremes. To complement the comedic elements of our literary work, our writing will examine the process of penning the perfect comedy through poetry, short stories, and plays.

### “An ‘Entre’-duction to Starting a Business”

What is the difference between an inventor and an innovator? How do we navigate the creative process from plan to product? Our first Business Management unit this term will look at project management and how to take the first steps toward becoming ingenious entrepreneurs.



Jake Price



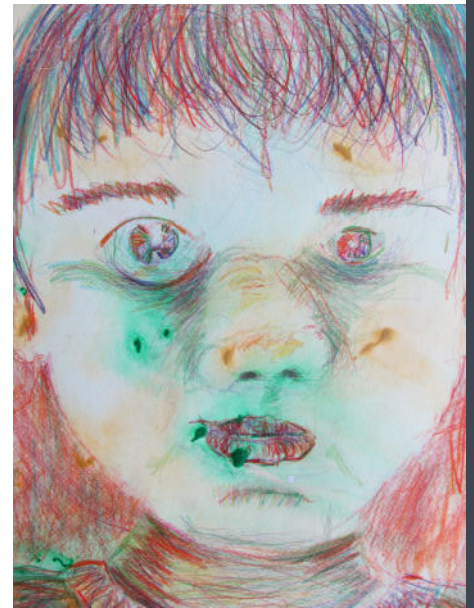
### Yr 9-12 Classes

### "That's really cool"

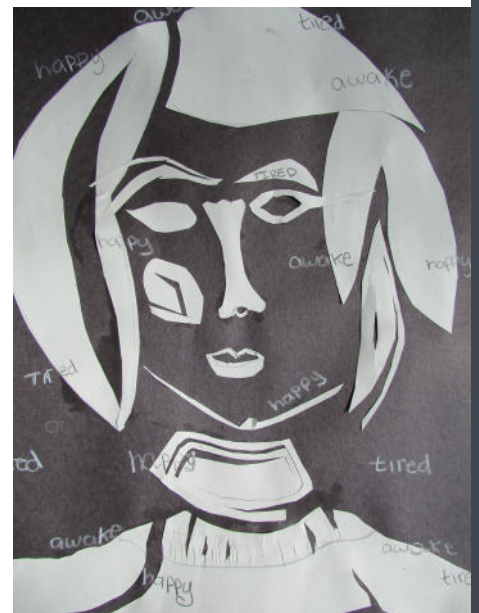
The students will learn all about energy, how it's made, and what it is used for. It's getting warm outside and the class will discover how we conquer the climate in Texas. We will investigate how electricity is used to cool us and keep us comfortable. We will also look at the future of energy use and heat-based cooling systems which use only renewable energy as a power source. In the last part of the term we will study the structure, physiology, development, and classification of animals.

### "Heavy Metal"

The seniors are working on completing their homemade MIG welder. They have decided to add independent rear suspension to their go kart project to improve its usefulness. They will use their MIG welder to complete the project. Testing will involve engineering analysis of their new design and off-road use as a final test of their project.



Wyatt Berckenhoff



Cal Duncan



## SUMMER CAMPS



Preschool summer camps also available

**SESSIONS - 18-22 July and/or 25-29 July**  
**9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.**

### ECO TRAKKERS!

For 6-9 year olds. Teacher: Mr. Jake Price

A mystery awaits, in a habitat full of clues...so bring your curious minds, a sense of adventure, and your magnifying glass. You will be required to complete Mystery Guides that will lead you to a hidden treasure. Use your knowledge and skills of the natural environment, learned throughout the program, to complete the challenge. Trakking, digging, listening, looking, and smelling abilities are all prerequisites. We will use Earth's resources to create nature based art, examine patterns in nature, and explore scientific happenings in our environment. Cave painting, a little mud slinging, eco-photography, bugs, critters and gross things, will delight the senses. So come join us, we'd love to see you.

### KIDS WILL BE KIDS

For 9-12 year olds. Teacher: Mr. Greg Hill

Search for buried treasure (really) using your new compass skills. Save a life with first-aid and snakebite skills learned at camp. We use a lot of paper as students-have you ever tried to make any-we will! Hike the woods and take a close look at nature around you and go swimming and fishing in a lake setting. Learn to cast or be a better caster as well as shoot an arrow, pitch a horseshoe or washer. Learn to make a fire without matches and compete with your fellow campers on fire building (and extinguishing) skills. Leave your electronics at home and play the games that take only brain and body power-"flag"capture the flag, dodgeball, board games and many other outdoor and indoor games. Learn to tie good knots and use that skill to pitch a tent or make a "Survivor Man" shelter. In short, some new but mostly old fashioned fun and adventure to build confidence in yourself and to just have some fun!



### INVENTORS WORKSHOP

For 12-16 year olds. Teacher: Mr. John Wagner

Join the Design Squad and explore areas of engineering, science, design technology, and the world of inventors and inventions. We'll be looking at the works of Leonardo Da Vinci, Benjamin Franklin, Eli Whitney, James Watt, Guglielmo Marconi, Michael Faraday, the Wright brothers and many more. We will lightly touch on the six simple machines that are the basis for all mechanical devices, the inclined plane, the lever and fulcrum, the wedge, the screw, and the wheel and axle, and the pulley. Participants will let their imaginations run wild and create 21st century invention ideas of their own. Topics that will be explored will range from designing, prototyping, product testing, patents, trade secrets, branding and manufacturing. The Inventors Workshop provides every student with the opportunity to think the unthinkable, create new possibilities and discover solutions through hands on learning via science, mathematics, history, and the arts--all while having lots of FUN!



For more information contact our office or check out our website [www.doortomyschool.com](http://www.doortomyschool.com)