

# CECEXPLORER

The latest news and updates from Chain Exploration Center



Students proudly present on the CEC's first project night on Oct. 3rd.

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## ALWAYS STAY UP TO DATE:

[www.chainexplorationcenter.org](http://www.chainexplorationcenter.org)

## New Teacher Welcome

by Devon Feldt **New CEC Advisor**

I am excited to be joining the Waupaca School District and the CEC team! I grew up in Waupaca and I am looking forward to returning to the district and community I call home. After graduating from Waupaca High School in 2010 I attended UW-Stevens Point. I graduated in 2015 and have spent the past four years teaching 5th grade at Weyauwega Elementary. This year I completed my Masters of Educational Leadership through UW-Oshkosh.

My wife and I live in Waupaca, she teaches fourth grade at the WLC. In March, we welcomed a little girl into our family. Emma Grace was born on the 21st and has kept us very busy so far. She loves to splash in the water, go on trips, and to eat! When I am not at school I enjoy family time, bow hunting, fishing, shed hunting, running, and working out.

This is going to be a great year at the CEC. I cannot wait to meet and connect with students and parents. I am very eager to watch students explore their interests and pursue their passions while learning at the CEC.

### GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

4th Thursday of the month at the CEC, except on holidays.

October 24, 2018 (5:30pm)

November TBD

## What Does Student Council Do?

By Student Council Secretary **Alisa Forseth**

Student Council is an organization that helps the CEC. This year our goal is to try to get some new equipment for our playground. Our mission is to help the CEC as much as we can. We take what the students ask for at the school and try to make the ideas possible. The way we elect is sort of like the presidency; every four years a different person will be elected unless they want to leave Student Council. We communicate with all the different organizations like the Governance Council, PTG, and the community. Our current positions of the Student Council are the president Oliver, vice-president Molly, treasurer Noah, fundraiser committee Avery and Addison, garden committee Wyatt, Pathfinder representatives Colton, Dani, and Rowan.



Six of the student council members.

## Community Garden

by Community Garden Coordinator **Catherine Seifert**

Students and staff are busy “putting the garden to sleep”. We have officially picked all produce out of the garden and last week, several families stayed after school to pull up plants for the season. We picked all pumpkins and have placed them around the school, individual classrooms are using them for projects, and feel free to grab one or two on your way out! The extra pumpkins are near the front doors of the school. Mrs. Bowe has been working with students to plant a garlic bed before the cold sets in. This will be a great addition to our garden for next season. Soon enough Mr. Riley will be back to till up the garden for the season, excluding the berry patches, garlic and sunflower stalks. These stalks can become homes for some bees during the winter months.

The garden's first year was a huge success. We were able to donate produce to the senior meal sites at the Rec. Center and Trinity Lutheran Church. As well as to the Waupaca Food Pantry. We did not have an overly diverse garden but were able to donate overall several hundred pounds of potatoes, greens, tomatoes, zucchini, various squash, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and peppers.

Garden produce also added to Mrs. Ristow's FACE classes with recipes such as kale chips, veggie soup, and salsa. Mrs. Wolff's and Ms. Seifert's classes used potatoes in some inquiries during our first project cycle and created several recipes made from potatoes. With our abundance of pumpkins, several classes are doing mini- inquiries with them during the fall season.

Special thanks to: Ms. Seifert, the Coordinator. Also to The Pate family, the Chicys, The Wolff Family, the Niemuth kids, Harriet, Mrs. Bowe, and everyone else who helped this summer! As we settle into the fall and winter seasons, we are all starting to dream and plan for next year. If you are interested in helping with the garden, please contact Mrs. Hare or Ms. Seifert.

[cseifert@waupacaschools.org](mailto:cseifert@waupacaschools.org) or [rhare@waupacaschools.org](mailto:rhare@waupacaschools.org)

## Agriculture: Bunny Project



By Governance Council member **Sara Zoeller**

Pictured are Chocolate and her son, whose name has yet to be determined. They are the newest addition to the CEC! Chocolate was donated by Riley Crest Farm at the beginning of the summer and she gave birth to her son during the big black out storm. They are currently living off campus but will be joining us on campus once their new home has been built. Dennis, from SilverMist, has graciously offered to design and build a rabbit hutch that will offer our rabbits the best quality of life. Thank you Dennis, we appreciate all that you do for our school!

There is another small shed off of the courtyard that was donated by the Gloede Family, neighbors of the CEC. The plan is to convert it into a small chicken coop that will house in the future a few egg laying chickens. Jim Barbeau has offered up his skills on this “remodel”. Thank you Jim, we appreciate all that you do for our school!

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# Project Night

## Our First Project Cycle: Our Place in Space!

by CEC News Crew **Tatum Johnson, Lucy Rogers,  
Sophia Shanak, and Ryder Vergauwen**

During project time, students at Chain Exploration Center are very busy. Many students chose a topic about space or a place in our world.

Our youngest students, grades 2nd and 3rd, chose topics about our outdoor world here at the Chain Exploration Center. The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders first went on a field trip to the butterfly garden or the library, where there was an exhibit about Space.

For the next step, we researched our topics that we chose using books, websites, live video chats (an example is when we had a video chat with Professor Zamfir from UWSP about outer space), and experts from our own community.

Grades 2-3 did inquiries together in class to learn about how to research. Then all grades designed the product or presentations. The last step was to present our work.

On the night of October 3rd, family and community gathered to hear what we learned.

But wait, this is not the end! The last step was to reflect and assess. We look at standards and what we have learned and also learned from each other. Then we do it all over again in the next project cycle.



### *Agriculture, continued*

What is the overall plan, you may be asking? We will be writing to the Waupaca County Fair Board to request recognition as a club, the CEC Explorers, so that we will be eligible to show at the fair. Whether that be rabbits, chickens, garden produce, a project made in maker space, something made in FACE, etc... The sky is really the limit! By having the garden, animals, and maker space at the school it will give kids the chance to take part in something they may not have had the chance to take part in before and explore something different. I am open to any suggestions or volunteer help please feel free to reach out to me at [szoeller@waupacaschools.org](mailto:szoeller@waupacaschools.org) Keep on exploring!



Students presenting at Project Night.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who have been helping this summer/fall with the community garden and all who have pledged time and materials to future projects! Thank you!!!

### UPCOMING CEC EVENTS!

**Oct 14th-21st:** Bach Festival

**Oct 18th:** PTG popcorn, Bach Festival StoryWalk

**Oct 22nd:** First Bow Assessment for Suzuki Students

**Oct 22nd & Oct 24th:** Parent Teacher Student Conferences & Bake Sale

**Oct 24th:** CEC Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm Community Room at the CEC

**Nov 21st:** CEC Project Night

## Community Partnerships

Thank you to Jim Miller for the pumpkin carving demonstration and for your example of outstanding community service at your pumpkin display each Fall. Jim taught the students principles of pumpkin growing, preserving, and designing.



## YEAR TWO BEGINS!

by CEC Administrator **Rhonda Hare**

It was with great excitement that we embarked on a new school year!

Younger students in a mixed group of 2nd and 3rd graders arrived with eagerness to embark on projects. Returning students taught new students all about the project process, the personalized learning plans, the CEC code of expectations, and mindfulness. But it isn't all the same as last year. There are new activities for returning students too!

Suzuki string instrument instruction is underway for grades 4-6. All students in these classes are learning to play a violin, viola, cello, or bass. We found out that parents sometimes need lessons as well!

Physical Activity classes have changed for all grade levels. These time periods now incorporate community service projects. Students have painted the garden shed, cleared the brush from trails, weeded the garden, and hauled equipment as part of physical activity; in addition to traditional games, hiking, and kayaking.

Students in grades 4-6 are experiencing elective courses that were chosen by them at the end of last year. Classes are up and running in online Foreign Language instruction, Makerspace, Art, Choir, and Family and Consumer Science.

As we complete our first project cycle this month, all students will meet with their Advisors to reflect and assess their performance on the first project in relation to standards covered, 21st Century skills developed, and of course-the development of a personal interest or inquiry. Wait for news as we plan for the next project cycle and Holiday concerts and events.