

October Newsletter Elementary

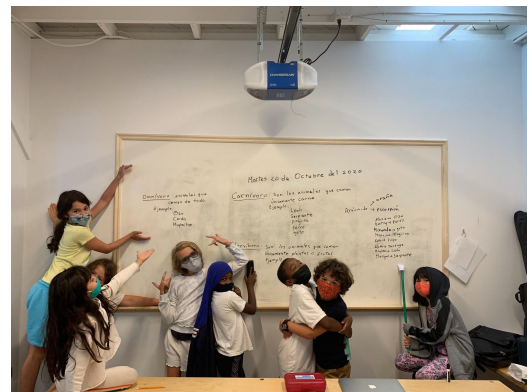
Predator vs Prey - Jorge (1st-4th Grade)

This month the students learned about predator/prey relationships. They learned about the role that plants and animals play in their ecosystem and what each role is called.



Furthermore the students learned about the limiting factors each ecosystem possesses that prevents any species population from becoming too large. For example, the reason why prey animals gave birth to more offspring than predators. Classification of animals, which fall into three distinct groups, are

based upon what they eat. This is a natural way to often group animals. Plant eaters are herbivores, meat eaters are carnivores, and



animals that eat both plants and animals are omnivores. This portion of the class was complemented with two field trips to Waterfront Education in Redondo Beach, where we learned about the relationship between predators and prey in the ocean. Students got the chance to see both animals in their own environment. In addition, students learned about the role of camouflage as a

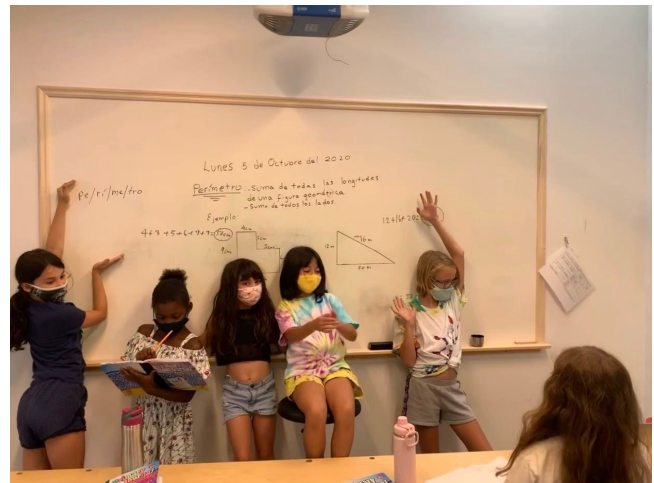


defense or tactic that organisms use to disguise their appearance, usually to blend in with their surroundings. Students learned about the importance of the different types of camouflage as well as classifications of vertebrates and invertebrates.

Knights of the Not-So-Round Table - Jorge (3rd/4th Grade)

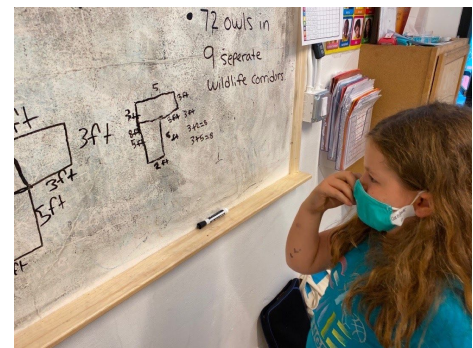
Play time is finally here! And the students were all excited about it. After spending quite some time learning about all the names of the pieces and their moves, we

started to play chess. As we played, we also learned some history of chess and where the game was originally from. This course is mixed with math concepts and vocabulary like diagonals, angles, perimeter, and area, of which we also covered this month in math. After these classes students should be able to take the perimeter of any shape and the area as well. We had fun designing our own polygons and challenging each other to solve for perimeter and area.



I Can Be A Scientist - Tasha (3rd/4th Grade)

This month our Loyal Leaders became Ornithologists, scientists who study birds. We discovered different forms of exotic bird communication skills as well as discussing duck and chicken life cycle stages. We have been working on our multiplication and division tables so when proceeding on to bird counts, we would be able to count accurately. We then used multiplication for



finding area and addition for perimeter of wildlife corridors we might be able to find birds in the wild. When looking at wildlife corridors, we took the shape into consideration when trying to find missing variables to calculate a perimeter. After practice, we went on a bird watch by making our own binoculars and observing the different types and amounts of each bird in our own community.



We then moved on to becoming Mammalogists, the study of mammals. We are in the process of creating our own science research boards on four different types of animals, comparing their life cycles and using mathematical models to show the area in which they inhabit in the wild.

We started

comparing fractions to see differences in population sizes as compared to the amount of the population considered endangered. For halloween we used comparing fractions to help us create a creepy lava lamp using $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil, and 6 drops of food coloring.



Nature Explorers - Tasha (K-2nd Grade)

We Nature Explorers have been studying how the weather and living things can affect and change the environment. We first reviewed how erosion, movement of soil and rock from one area to another, is caused by different forms of weather such as strong winds or rainfall. We talked about the different seasons and moved on to exploring the

different types of plants and animals we see during those seasons. We discovered that plants can change the way the environment looks due to their root system or by overpopulation.



We then talked about how some animals cause erosion from walking, scratching and digging. The class has also been working on different forms of measuring, first starting out practicing using inches, centimeters, and feet by measuring different objects around our neighborhood like trees and plants. We then used our background in these areas to not only study the results of the environmental changes that occur when beavers create dams, but become





a beaver ourselves to create and test our own dam using our measuring tools.

Our Strawberry group worked hard on the importance of recycling different forms of recyclable materials by creating four different bins that we are now utilizing at City Kids.

We have also been measuring using different counting

forms such as using blocks or

sticks. From there we used

categories to sort things by short

and long items. For larger

numbers, we have begun

separation double digits by tens

and ones. We have been

discussing light and colors as well, and were able to experience the reaction of color in student created lava

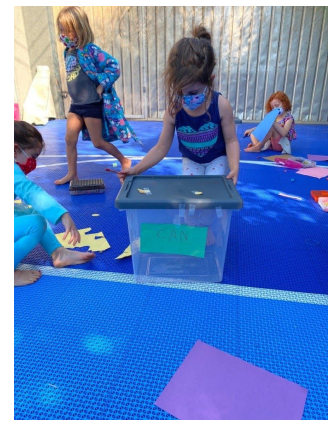
lamps for our Halloween day. On this day we also

questioned whether a pumpkin would float or sink and

discovered it floats! In the Halloween spirit, we studied

about our friend, the spider, and created our own spiders

and webs for decoration.



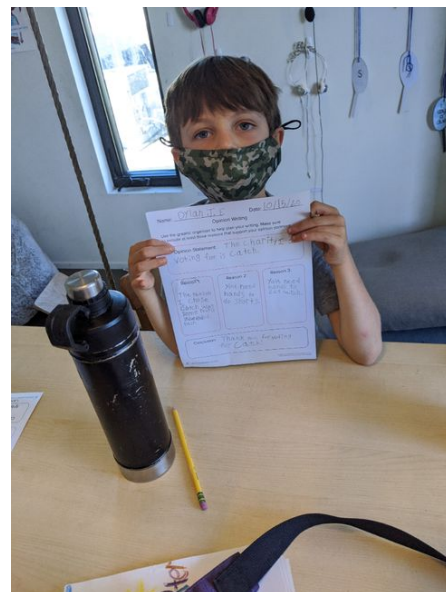
Mysteries & Theater - Orley (1st/2nd Grade)

This month, our Tennis Hawks and Icebreakers completed their movies.

You can watch the Tennis Hawks' presentation of Looking for Ribs [here!](#)

You can watch the Icebreakers' presentation of Looking for my Missing Piece [here!](#)

(Thank you to Maya in Loyal Leaders for helping to edit these movies!)



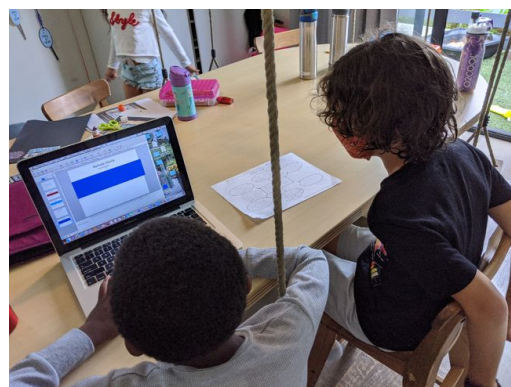
Tuesday,
November 3rd
was Election

Day at City Kids too! These two classes presented one of our propositions: to select a charity to support in the run-up to the holidays. City Kids chose between Charity: Water, Save The Children, Gentle Barn, and CATCH at CHLA. The Tennis Hawks and Icebreakers learned about each of these nonprofits, and

wrote opinion pieces making the case for their chosen charities.

Our Government, Our Voices - Orley (3rd/4th Grade)

This month the Loyal Leaders completed the movie they wrote to highlight their chosen cause: vegetarianism. You can view it [here](#).



The topic "Our Government, Our Voices" could not be more relevant as the presidential election approached. In preparation for the voting that took place on Tuesday, November 3rd at City Kids too, the Loyal Leaders worked in small groups to research and present the candidates' positions on key issues.

They also explored the pros and cons of a fascinating proposition: to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccine reaches low income communities first.

Music - Luis (K-4th Grade)

We started the month of October with a new music class every day. The classroom was very excited when the four beautiful red pianos arrived. We were very happy thinking of all the music we were going to make and learn. We started off by learning the rules of the music room. Half of the class uses the pianos



while the other half works on projects to learn to read music and musical symbols. The first project we did was to learn to write the treble clef, at first it was very difficult but practicing over and over it became easier and easier until we finally did it. It seems that each student does it in a different way but the important thing is to always start from the second line to

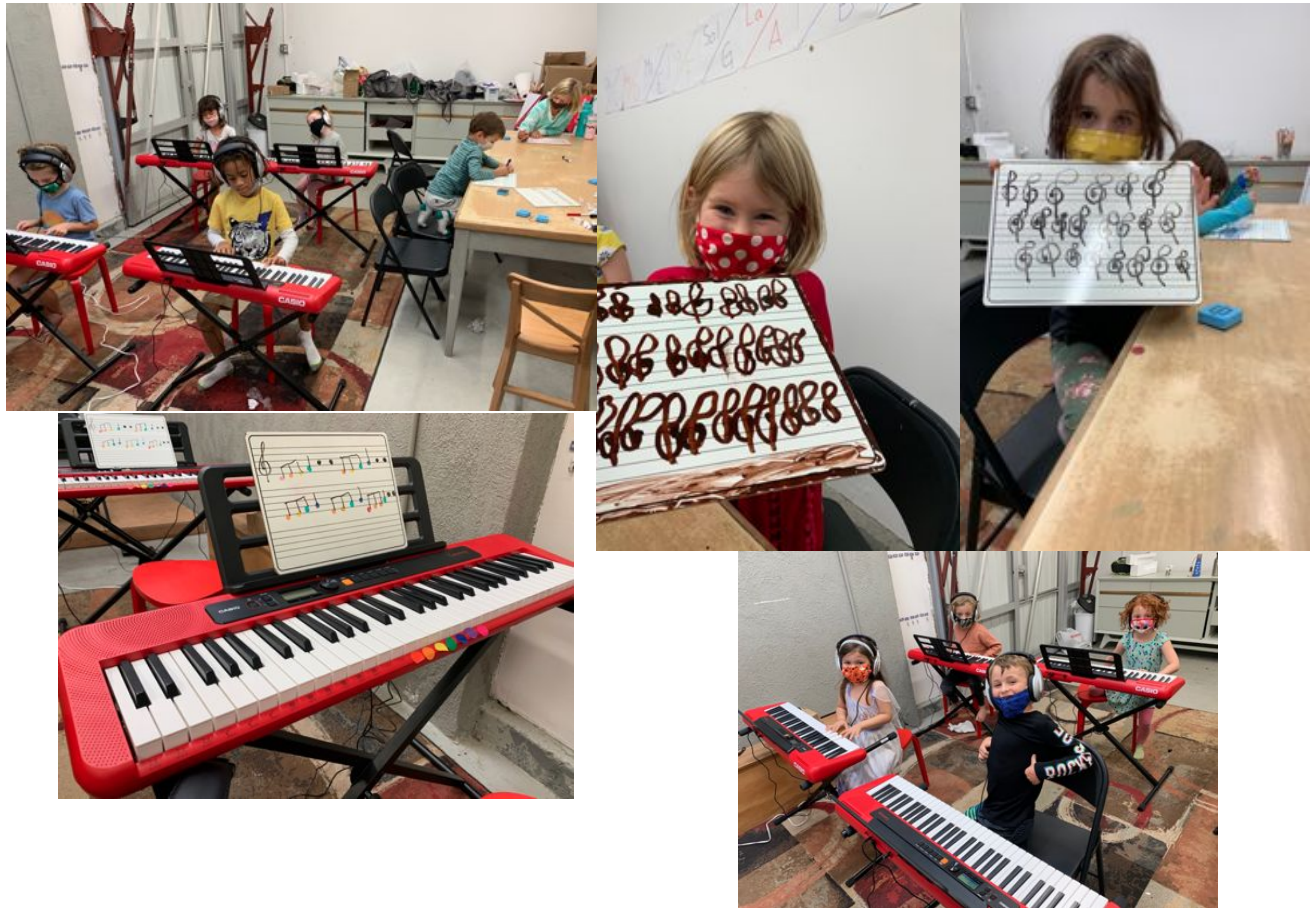
start writing music. We also practiced the C major scale both on the piano and in writing. We assigned a color to each note so that we could easily remember the note, color, and location of it on the keyboard. We then used the scale to create our own melodies for our friends to play.

To celebrate Halloween, we learned to play the Addams family theme song which was tricky using both hands and clapping,

testing each child's coordination and rhythm. The next song we learned was Michael Mayers' Halloween theme song. They liked the scary, spooky sound and exercised our pinkies using a Sharp key. For the first time, we used the piano black notes - C Sharp and F Sharp. Not only did we learn music and piano, we also learned new words in Spanish with different games like bingo to improve our vocabulary every day. The last



day the challenge was to play all the songs at the same time including the warm-up exercises, the two Halloween songs (Adam's Family and Halloween theme from the scary movie) and the scales with all the fingers to practice everything learned.



Treehouse Masters - Phil
(K-4th Grade)



Our students have been covering some exciting topics in the areas of: simple circuitry, Ohm's law, amperage and resistance, and how to calculate proper voltage for our LED lamp project. Along with how to construct a properly functioning circuit. We used basic arithmetic to calculate the proper resistance to operate a 3 volt LED with a 5 volt USB power supply in a simple, or series, circuit. This project also challenged each students' knowledge of basic geometry and measurement.



To construct our lights, students measured wood, taking perimeter measurements into account with the plexiglass inserts. For many, this was a challenging task as the perimeter changed between the outer perimeter and inner perimeter. Students then laboriously sanded the plexi inserts and sautered their wires to complete the circuits and put the finishing paint on the projects.



The Loyal Leaders class have continued using CodeCombat daily to improve upon their knowledge of coding in python. We have been focusing on learning new syntax and moving beyond basic loops to construct more complex commands.

They are completing more difficult and challenging functions while having fun and helping each other compile code. These skills will be used in upcoming projects as they begin to build a series of code to instruct their robots to complete tasks.

Note: We spoke to all the City Kids about testing this week. In many schools, tests and quizzes determine a letter grade and how your child is scored. Here, we use tests and quizzes to check their level of understanding without it affecting their GPA or an overall grade. We do want our kids to become comfortable taking tests and quizzes without anxiety or stress because one day, we know they will probably have to take a test. You may hear your kids referencing tests or quizzes in their classes but please know that we are approaching them as practice and as checks of understanding rather than for a grade.

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
- Monday, December 14 - Friday, January 1: Winter Break (No School)