



The Commonwealth Governor's School
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Commonwealth Governor's School Newsletter

November 2017

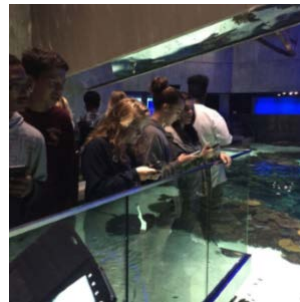
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Mark Your Calendars

- 11/15 - Stafford Co. CGS Parent/Student Information Night at NSHS and SHS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 11/30 - CGS Advisory Committee at Barnes & Noble Café-Central Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 12/4 - Spotsylvania Co. CGS Parent/Student Information Night at SHS and RBHS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 12/6 - King George CGS Parent/Student Information Night at KGMS, 6-7:30 p.m.

CGS 9th Grade APES Classes Explore "Under the Sea"

The Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes visited the National Aquarium on September 27th in Baltimore, MD. This is the first year CGS has collaborated with the National Aquarium. Students had an opportunity to touch marine life, visit with marine biologists, and see first-hand how environmental concepts discussed in class do apply to marine ecosystems in area rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean.



CGS Kilroy Robotics Team Members Provide Outreach to Area School

Students from the Kilroy Robotics team were invited to present and demonstrate their engineering and programming skills at the Falmouth Elementary School Career Day on October 31. Soumya Gottipati, Hayley Groover, Sana Natividad, and Charlie Dileo talked to students in grades 3-5 about the importance of studying hard in science, reading, and mathematics in school. Additionally, the team members discussed the various skills that were needed in order to design, build, and program a robot. The elementary students were able to operate Kilroy and attempted to direct the robot to shoot basketballs into a trash can. The children asked many questions relating to STEM careers and future opportunities they could pursue in the field of robotics.



CGS Juniors and Seniors Take the National Stage



Dr. Jocelyn Chadwick, former Harvard Professor of English and current National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) president, has invited upperclassmen from The Commonwealth Governor's School to take part in a LIVE online town hall with two other college prep high school programs during the NCTE convention in mid-November. In addition to the town hall event, CGS teachers who participate in the discussion will be asked to provide taped clips of instructional "best practices" that can be used later in the conference or may be included with NCTE convention materials.

During the town hall, NCTE will gather students and their teachers together to speak to English teachers via online about controversial topics and titles that remain in public education. One of the books that will be discussed is Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, which is a recommended Advanced Placement book CGS requires 11th grade students to read. The discussion will focus on ways teachers can utilize instructional best practices when exploring controversial topics or themes. Additionally, the town hall will ask for feedback from students who have read novels that included mature content, controversial language, and/or topics. Two to three CGS students from each division will participate in the town hall event.

CGS was selected because of its location in the United States, the academic caliber and maturity of students in the program. Additionally, CGS has collaborated with Dr. Chadwick on several literature projects and she has been a guest speaker on many occasions. She continues to be amazed by the curriculum the teachers provide in the program and the student academic outcomes she has seen among the six CGS sites. The town hall event will be on November 16.

Fall College Day Trip on a Day Off!

Seven students gave up a day off on November 7th to attend a free CGS college day trip to the program's dual enrollment partner, Richard Bland College of William and Mary, as well as Virginia Commonwealth University. This is the first time CGS has hosted a college day trip during the school year. The tours were very informative and catered to the academic needs of the CGS population. Richard Bland College highlighted their partnership with the College of William and Mary as well as their new science building. Students had an opportunity to visit with one of the chemistry

professors and tour her research lab. In addition to touring the learning facilities, students visited a dormitory and met with their college admissions officers.

The Virginia Commonwealth University admissions faculty were very friendly and gave an extensive campus tour. Students visited VCU's classroom spaces, athletic facilities, and student union as well as met with the Honors College admissions coordinator.

CGS hopes to coordinate another visit to RBC and a neighboring four-year campus in the spring. For more details on registering for a tour, please check the CGS website.



CGS Students' Generosity Feeds Hungry Tummys!

Five elementary and two middle schools as well as an area Head Start pre-school program were surprised to receive packaged snacks this month from the CGS Hungry Tummy PTO project. As part of the Fall Social ticket price, students were to donate a box of non-perishable snacks that could be distributed to area schools that have a high concentration of needy children. The donations filled two large vehicles! In case students missed the opportunity to donate in October, the Hungry Tummy project will be asking for donations again in March during the CGS Snowball.