

NEWS



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Persistence of students pays off



It took a year, more than 2,000 pieces of paper, the help of family and a friend, and a lot of determination. The result is a 15-pound origami dragon, on display in the Centerville High School Library.

Thirteen-year-old **Jarett Rusznak** started by researching. He had done small projects before, but never anything this big. After spending about three hours searching for the perfect project, he ordered paper.

“For hours I toiled over the giant pile of paper that would soon become a sculpture of massive quality,” he said. He got help from Ella Parker, a friend, to fold each small piece of colored paper. “We continued for months on end, hours a day, never giving up on our goal.” After about ten months, he

began assembling the sculpture. Then, he ran into trouble: the dragon couldn’t support itself. Jarett designed and built a base to support it. Jarett’s parents, Jodie and Jason Rusznak, agree that he was persistent as he rebuilt the base several times due to measurements mistakes, and measurement mistakes weren’t the only obstacles along the way.

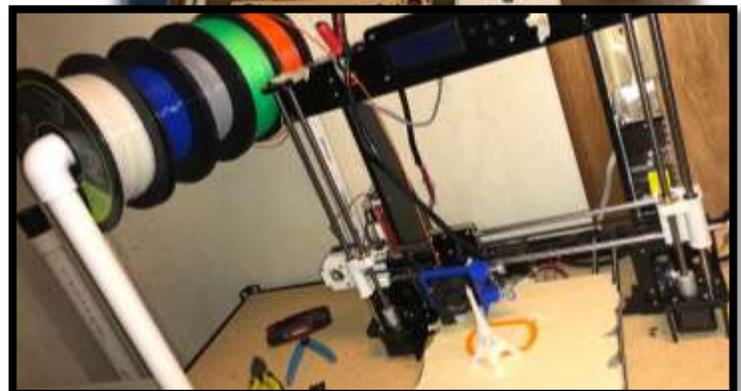
“When the project was nearly completed, our dog got a hold of one of the wings and chewed it up,” said the Rusznaks in an email, adding that Jodie helped Jarett make a new one. According to the Rusznaks, “This project required incredible determination and time commitment. For a student as young as him to demonstrate such commitment is really impressive.”

The four-foot dragon took about 400 hours to build and involved more than 20,000 folds. Jarett hopes that this will inspire others to do what they love and never give up.

Sophomore **Dylan Mollo** built his own 3-D printer from hundreds of pieces in a kit he bought from Amazon. Dylan’s inspiration came from his uncle, whom he heard talking about how his workplace was using one to make parts for its machines.

“So I was instantly hooked to the idea of being able to think anything up and within a few hours have it in my hands as a physical object,” said Dylan, adding that he first considered buying a printer already assembled, but despaired of ever owning one after seeing the price tag of about \$5,000. A few days later, however, he found the kit for only about \$400. It took him about 18 hours of construction and trouble shooting, including acquiring a few extra bits and bobs, to get it up and running.

“The hardest part of putting the printer together was the instruction manual was in complete Chinese. I had to scribe the letters into Google translate for about three hours before I could even put the first pieces together,” said Dylan. One of the things he has made with it is a replica of the Eiffel Tower, shown at right.



French students use artistic skills



Above, the “tapestry” French students made after learning about the Bayeux Tapestry, left, which is more than 900 years old. Below is their replica of a cave.



The French teacher believes it is important to teach the culture and history of the language along with the language.

“Culture and language must be intertwined,” said Kim Carter. Students in French 4 and 5 started this year by studying the significance of cave paintings and mysterious rock formations in prehistoric France, she said.

Using boxes, brown paper and paint, the students created a replica of a cave, incorporating both prehistoric symbols and modern ones that represent aspects of their lives.

After studying about the Battle of Hastings and looking at the pictures of the 231-foot Bayeux Tapestry, on which this battle is depicted in embroidery, the students stretched out on the floor in order to add a scene to their own tapestry using markers.



Winter learning

Kindergarten teachers stand in front of a bulletin board related to their winter unit on penguins. Students read books about penguins and learned about such things as the habitat and parts of a penguin.

Students are traveling from kindergarten room to kindergarten room doing activities during “Kinderolympics,” another unit study this month.



Skype session enhances book study

After doing a book study on *Wonder*, a book about a boy with a cranial facial condition, Courtney Ecker's third-graders talked to a woman from Washington with the same condition.

To culminate their book study, the class Skyped with Meagan Brown, 25, who talked about her condition and answered the students' questions.

"She faced challenges with people judging her by what she looked like," said Ms. Ecker. "She also struggled with being confident in herself and getting to where she is now that she can talk openly about how she looks."

During their book study, students also created Google slide presentations with answers to chapter comprehension questions, complete with related pictures. Ms. Ecker gave students extra credit if they went to see the movie based on the book and completed an activity comparing and contrasting the movie and the book.



Science fair winners



Congratulations to the following science fair winners from Centerville-Abington Elementary School who qualified to attend the regional science fair at Ball State University in February: Owen Burdette, Julie Carter, Hailey Elsrod, Conner Frazier, Grayson Hawkins, Claire Kaucher, Taylor Lickfelt, Brady Moore, Carissa Shadle, Kyle Sheard, Addison Talbot and Trevor Thornburg. Alternates were Avery Dickerson, Maddie Fralic, Anna Nevels, Elizabeth Nevels, Andrew Purcell and Aubrey Russell.

100 days smarter

First-graders celebrated the 100th day of school on January 23. The six classrooms celebrated together after bringing in collections of 100 items. Activities included doing 100 jumping jacks, working 100-piece puzzles and reading 100 books as a class. The students were invited to come dressed in clothing embellished with 100 of something.



High school Advanced Placement program earns recognition

Centerville Senior High School is among 19 Indiana schools districts that are on the most recent College Board AP District Honor Roll. This recognition is based on the last three years of Advanced Placement data.

“In layman’s terms, this award required that Centerville increase the number of students taking AP classes and taking the tests while simultaneously increasing our pass rate,” said Michelle Moore, high school science teacher. She said the recognition is “a testament to the hard work of both our students and their teachers.”

This is the eighth year the Board has honored districts throughout the U.S. and Canada.