



21st Century Program Newsletter

Celebrating Martin Luther King Junior This Month

This month we celebrated Martin Luther King Junior's legacy by creating a wall mural in his honor. We had a lot of fun coloring the different pieces and working as a team to create a masterpiece.



different kinds of people to come together and treat each other with respect and dignity. He wanted us all to work together to create something positive for the common good. All the students had to work together to create

Each student had one part of the poster to complete on his or her own. None of the students knew what the final result would look like until they started putting all their pieces together. Students were excited and impressed when they started seeing the pieces form

Martin Luther King Junior's face and part of his message that states "I have a dream..."

The concept behind the poster is very similar to the dream Martin Luther King Junior had. He wanted all

the big picture, just like Martin Luther King Junior wanted people to work together to create beautiful things. All the different colors in the poster represent all the different colors of people who come together with respect.



Southwest Middle School

Volume 1, Issue 1

January, 2017

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Claymation
- ☺ Scratch Games
- ☺ Past Projects
- ☺ Interviews
- ☺ Opinion

Inside this issue:

All About Scratch	2
Claymation	2
Opinion: Who Is Donald J. Trump?	3
College Presenter	3
Parents' Night	3
More About the 21st Century Program	4

All About Scratch by Surya

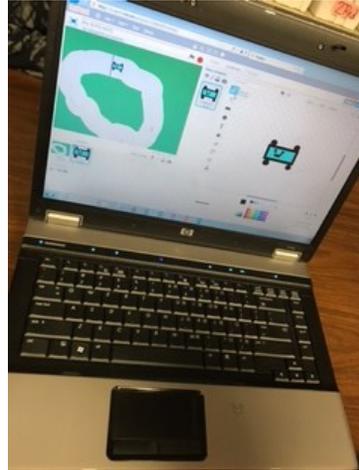
21st Century uses an amazing website. It is called Scratch.

Scratch is a cool program you can use to make a cool game and put it on the Internet. You have to learn how to use something called coding in order to make the game work. Different codes make different actions happen.

On the website, people can play your game or you can play other people's games if you want. You can add sound effects to your game, and you can even add music to your game!

Some of the games we made included:

- Block Building
- Running Race
- Bouncing a ball
- Car Race
- Precision Maze



A student is using coding to create his Scratch game.

A student drew her own car and racetrack for her game.

Claymation by Janitza

"We will be submitting our movies to a movie festival, and we are really excited about that!"

It was really fun to make characters for our Claymation projects this month. We had to make characters out of clay, and then we took pictures of the characters. After that, we put the pictures into a

program that made our characters come to life!

We wrote our own scripts and we added our voices to the characters to make them talk. It all came together to become a movie that tells the story we wrote. We will be submitting our movies to a movie festival, and we are really excited about that!



Some 21st Century students are working on their Claymation sets.



This student has his script written and is putting the final touches onto his clay character.

Opinion: Who Is Donald J. Trump? by De'Aundra

Is Donald J. Trump a man of his word? Is he the man he claims to be? Well I can assure you I am not Donald J. Trump, but simply just a 7th grader in a middle school, so I can't tell you whether he is or isn't. With that said, I can only tell you that almost everything he says or does, I don't agree with.

For starters, I don't like how he said,

"I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody, and wouldn't lose any voters". To be honest, that was a little extreme. Like, I love how he says "Let's Make America Great Again," but why? What motivated him to say that?

Now let's talk about the wall. The "great" wall he, Donald J. Trump, will build on our southern border and also

make Mexico pay for. I know many people don't like that, yet alone me. Honestly, I don't like it. It's a really dumb idea for a person who says, "You will not be ignored."

This is why I don't like Donald J. Trump.



Donald J. Trump 45th president of the USA

College Presenter by Leyinska and Surya

On January 26th of 2017, we had the opportunity of hearing Mrs. Fuchs, a college specialist, give a presentation titled "Roadmap to College: Preparing for Middle School and Beyond." During this presentation, we took notes. Mrs. Fuchs taught us how to fill out a college application and everything else that we have to know. She gave us a speech about how to get there and how to do everything at the college.

Mrs. Fuchs has been helping kids go to college for 30 years and she wants to help us find new things. For us the number of jobs are impossible and the most valuable skills you can have is knowledge. That's what President Obama also said. And when we get into high school we have to learn many things. For a police officer you have to be in college for four years. A news reporter has to be in college for four years and you do news reports

for colleges. Mrs. Fuchs went to a college called Ursinus. There are other colleges like the community colleges RACC and NCC. Another type of college is four year college, like Penn State Main and Berks. Restaurant Management, Dental Assistants, Zoo Keepers, Mechanics, and Nurse Assistants take two years to earn a degree.

If you are in college for more than four years you can be a Doctor, Judge, Minister, Astronaut, or a Veterinarian. To be a veterinarian you can't be scared of animals. There are several grants: Need-based, Federal Pell, State PHEAA, college grants, and Scholarships. Students who are U.S citizens, non-citizens, and permanent residents are eligible. If you are getting C's and D's as your grades, it is not going to make you stand out for colleges. You should get A's and B's on your grades so you

can go to a good college. You have to sit down and talk to your parents about college and make sure they can put a little bit of money aside for college. Speak to a counselor, librarian, teacher, or parents. If you're in 7th grade, talk to a counselor and read a lot. Learn how to do stuff for when you go to the Citadel. "A lot of times we don't know what we want to do in the future," says Mr. Pedraza, the program coordinator. He also said that when he was in high school, he went to a program and at the end of the year and he was given a scholarship. As a recent college graduate, Mr. Vanderhorst, who assists at 21st century, found college to be challenging, but at the same time rewarding. Mrs. Ulrich, another assistant said it could cost 10,000 or 40,000 dollars a year to attend one of the colleges or universities in the Reading area.

Parents' Night and Movie Night by Mya and Alize

So last night we were at movie night and our parents came to our school. Our 21st Century teacher, Mr. Ruch, gave a speech. The speech was about our parents getting an application for college. Then he was talking about computer class. He was telling the parents that if they have kids who go to Southwest Middle School, they can sign up for 21st Century if they have-

n't already. Kids handed out papers to the parents. The papers were about 21st Century, computer classes, colleges, and things to do over the summer. Alize, Janitza, and I passed out the papers about the 21st Century activities.

After the presentation, we watched the movie called The Secret Life of Pets. We had food,



Mr. Ruch and the 21st Century students give a speech at Parents' Night

too! We got to eat popcorn, Snickers, Twix, Smarties, Swedish Fish, and Hershey bars. It was lots of fun!

Southwest Middle School Reading School District

300 Chestnut Street
Reading, PA 19602

Phone: 610-371-5935 or 484-575-1895

E-mail: pedrazar@readingsd.org
Website: 21centuryswms.blogspot.com



More About Our Program

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program is authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The 21st CCLC program provides federal funding for the establishment of community learning centers that provide academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, in order to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects such as reading, math and science. This program is also intended to offer students a broad array of activities and to include families and the community in the educational process.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 recognizes that improved student achievement occurs when communities implement programs that are scientifically proven to be effective. The 21 CCLC program is committed to ensuring that students have access to high quality and engaging enrichment activities that truly support their learning and development. The 21st CCLC initiative further stresses the importance of diverse groups and organizations working together to strengthen school and community networks to help students and families succeed. Extended learning opportunities are a critical part of the continuum of learning that promote student achievement and school improvement.

Program Goals

- To assist youth in meeting state standards for core academic subjects by providing students with academic enrichment opportunities before school, after school and/or during holidays or summer recess.
- To offer participants a broad array of other services and programs, such as art, music, recreation activities, character education, career and technical training, drug and violence prevention programming, and technology education.
- To provide educational services for families of participating students, such as literacy instruction, computer training and/or cultural enrichment.
- To ensure that both youth and their families have decision-making roles in the creation, operation and evaluation of every 21st CCLC in Pennsylvania.
- To mobilize school, community and private sector social and health services support and resources in order to remove barriers that impede students' learning.

Contact Us!

If you would like further information about 21st Century Community Learning Center, please contact us!