

The Chicken Issue



To celebrate National Chicken Month, CH&S staff and students took a deep dive into chickens!

Did you know that a chick transitions into a mature chicken at around 6 months old? To celebrate this cute chick phase, Peter, Zoe, Mike, Gregory, and Meredith (clockwise from left) made some chick art!



Did you know...? Chicks talk before hatching. Chicks chirp inside the egg to talk with their mother and siblings. Not only that, within hours of hatching, chicks can stand, walk, and explore!









A Quarter, Some Chickens, and Fun on Red Hill Road

Just off the winding stretch between Petaluma and Point Reyes—right behind the Marin French Cheese Company—is a quirky little stop that's part roadside stand, part petting zoo, and part pure joy.

Amy and I pulled over at the small farmstand on Red Hill Road (that's also Pt. Reyes–Petaluma Road, depending on your map's mood). Yes, they sell farm-fresh eggs, honey, and butter—but let's be honest, we were there for the chickens.

For just 25 cents, you get a handful of feed and a front-row seat to one of nature's most underrated comedy acts: chickens losing their minds over snacks. And did you know chickens have over 30 types of vocalizations? Ours mostly said "FEED ME," but we like to think they were thanking us.

There weren't quite as many chickens out as we've seen before, but still plenty to make it worth the stop. Bonus: There are also goats, and sometimes a donkey hanging around looking like he owns the place.



with Darnell and Amy





Fowl Play with Amy and Darnell

The stand itself is charmingly old-school—totally self-serve and honor-system based. Eggs and honey are \$12, butter is \$15. You slip your cash in the box, grab your goods, and maybe even drop off an old egg carton for reuse. (We've tried the eggs—delicious. The honey and butter are still on our list.)

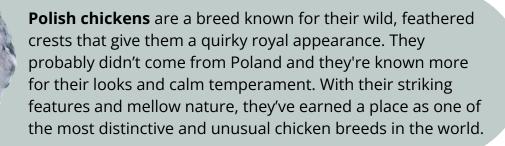
Fun fact: Hicks Mountain Hens started as a kid's 4-H project. Now it's a full-blown





pasture-raised egg operation with nearly 1,000 hens roaming the land. These hens live the good life in mobile coops (aka "chicken tractors"), pecking at bugs and grass like tiny feathered lawnmowers. Turns out, happy chickens lay eggs with more vitamins and omega-3s.

So if you're out that way with a couple of quarters in your pocket and a few minutes to spare, pull over. Feed a chicken or ten. Smile. And maybe even buy some eggs!



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Name:	Date:
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Chickens

Ready to Read READING COMPREHENSION 200

Chickens are special birds. They are part of the dinosaur family!
Chickens come from the same family as the T. rex. That makes them
like small living dinosaurs, have you seen young chickens? They look
like dinosaurs!

People started keeping chickens about 8,000 years ago. Chickens came from wild birds called Red junglefowl. These birds live in the jungle and can fly into trees to stay safe. Today's chickens don't fly very well, but they can still flap their wings. They can fly a short way to get over a fence or to sit on something high.



Chickens also talk to each other in many ways. They can make over 30 different sounds. Some sounds mean "danger." Others mean "I found food!" Chickens also talk when they are happy or scared.

Chickens have good memories too. They can remember over 100 faces! They don't just remember other chickens—they can remember people's faces too. Even if a person goes away for a long time, the chicken can still know who they are.

Chickens are not just farm animals. They are smart, they talk, and they remember. And they are a little bit like dinosaurs too!

Name:	Date:
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Chicken review questions:

- 1. Who is the chicken related to?
 - a. Cat
 - b. Fish
 - c. T. rex
 - d. Bear
- 2. What wild bird did chickens come from?
- 3. True or False: Chickens can remember faces.
- 4. How many faces can chickens remember?
 - a. 10
 - b. 5
 - c. 100
 - d. 5
- 5. Why do wild chickens fly into trees?
- 6. True or False: Chickens can make 30 different sounds.
- 7. What are some things chickens talk about?
 - a. Food and danger
 - b. TV and movies
 - c. Math and science
 - d. Cars and buses



Cathryn Berry



CH&S STUDENT PPP

If you want to put together a winning team, Cathryn Berry is just who you are looking for. Her poise and her peaceful spirit are contagious. She is a hard worker, an easy listener, and a creative and independent thinker. Nobody is a better appreciator, and probably nobody is more appreciated. And there sure is a lot to appreciate. Cathryn is so many things: an animal lover, a sports fan, and a great shopper. She enjoys Bonanza, Wheel of Fortune, Gilligan's Island, The Big Bang Theory, going out to dinner with friends, and reading her favorite cook books and magazines.



Cathryn:

is astute, insightful, and perceptive
is kind and caring
is the real thing

has nice clothes and always looks great

she's an excellent role model

is always positive and professional

has a wonderful life

and she loves Life College!



Sourdough September

With Aidan, Cat, Zachary, Martha, and Jennifer



Have you ever wondered how sourdough bread gets its signature sour flavor? This Sourdough September, Jennifer's husband, Kyle, taught us how to create a culture for a sourdough starter. We started with freshly picked, unwashed fruit–Gravenstein apples from Bruce's house, and one itty bitty plum from our fruit cocktail tree.

The trick is the "bloom"--that cloudy gray layer you usually brush off with your shirt. It contains naturally occurring yeast that it picks up from the air, yes we are swimming around in a primordial soup, so to speak.

Kyle sliced up about half a cup of fruit, then added 1 T. each of sugar and flour, and 3 cups of water. He sealed it, shook it vigorously so the bloom got knocked off the fruit skin, and stashed it in a cool spot to ferment. We'll need to shake it periodically, looking for bubbles, then add new water and more flour and sugar after a week. After another week, the mixture will be a mature culture, and the foundation of what will be a "mother starter"--one cup each of water, the culture, and flour becomes a sourdough starter! Stay tuned next month to find out what we bake with it!

We accept and appreciate donations of any size or kind. All donations to CH&S are tax-deductible.

CH&S is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Check out our Instagram (IG)

@Communityhomesandservices

https://www.instagram.com/communityhomesandservices/

Helicopters!

Donald, James, Pam, Tess, Patrick, Carolyn, and Joe have been working on a knowledge class about helicopters. We've seen them overhead, but how do they work? Just what are they capable of? Here's an excerpt:

A helicopter is a type of aircraft that uses rotating wings, called rotors, to lift and propel itself. Unlike airplanes, helicopters can hover and take off and land vertically. They are used for a variety of purposes, including passenger transport, cargo delivery, search and rescue, and even by police and news organizations. Here are some interesting facts about them: The first production helicopter was the Sikorsky R-4. The R-4 first flew on January 14th, 1942, and was put into production as a US army aircraft on May 30th of that same year.



The earliest references for vertical flight came from China. Since around 400 BC, Chinese children have played with bamboo flying toys (or Chinese top). This bamboo-copter is spun by rolling a stick attached to a rotor. The spinning creates lift, and the toy flies when released.



Whirly Birds!

The world's first all electric helicopter is the Sikorsky Firefly. The Firefly was unveiled at the Farnborough International Air Show in the United Kingdom on July 19th, 2010. The Firefly is a modified Sikorsky S-300C helicopter with its engine replaced by an electric motor and two lithium-ion battery packs. The helicopter would hold only the pilot and no passengers. Sikorsky reported an operating time of 12 to 15 minutes and a top speed of 80 kn (150 km/h; 92 mph).

Mysteriously, the helicopter was never flown and the project is now defunct...

France has had more recorded helicopter prison escape attempts than any other country, with at



least 11. One of the most notable French jail breaks occurred in 1986, when Nadine Vaujour, wife of bank robber Michel Vaujour, studied for months to learn how to fly a helicopter. Using her newly acquired skills, she rented a white helicopter and flew low over Paris to take her husband from the roof of the prison.

The QR code (below) will take you to an interesting article on the subject.





A police ambulance helicopter (below)





SEPTEMBER 2025 NATIONAL DAYS



Self-Care Awareness Month, Disease Literacy Month, Suicide Prevention Month, Whole Grains Month, Classical Music Month

- 9/1 LABOR DAY-HOLIDAY, World Letter Writing Day
- 9/2 World Coconut Day
- 9/4 Wildlife Day, Macadamia Nut Day
- 9/5 Food Bank Day, Cheese Pizza Day
- 9/6 Read a Book Day, Hummingbird Day, International Vulture Awareness Day
- 9/7 Grandparents Day, Salami Day, Neither Snow nor Rain Day
- 9/8 International Literacy Day, Star Trek Day, World Ampersand Day
- 9/9 Teddy Bear Day, Ants on a Log Day, School Pictures Day
- 9/10 TV Dinner Day
- 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance
- 9/12 Hug and High 5 Day, Video Game Day, School Pictures Day
- 9/13 Positive Thinking Day, Peanut Day, Bald is Beautiful Day
- 9/14 Live Creative Day, Cream Filled Donut Day, Pet Memorial Day
- 9/16 Guacamole Day, Play-Doh Day, Working Parents Day, Stepfamily Day
- 9/18 Air Force Birthday, Cheeseburger Day
- 9/19 Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 9/20 International Coastal Cleanup Day, World Red Panda Day
- 9/21 Chai Day, Dance Day
- 9/22 Autumn Begins, Hobbit Day, Dear Diary Day, Elephant Appreciation Day
- 9/23 Dogs in Politics Day, Great American Pot Pie Day
- 9/24 Punctuation Day
- 9/25 Comic Book Day, Daughter's Day, Lobster Day, Quesadilla Day, Math Storytelling Day
- 9/26 Pancake Day, Dumpling Day, Johnny Appleseed Day, Shamu the Whale Day
- 9/27 Day of Forgiveness, Scarf Day, Public Lands Day, Ghost Hunting Day
- 9/28 Good Neighbor Day
- 9/29 VFW Day, Urban Wildlife Refuge Day, Coffee Day
- 9/30 Chewing Gum Day















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chicken	egg	hen	rooster
chick	nest	coop	farm
peck	cluck	feather	beak
wings	legs	scratch	wattle
crow	sunrise	fence	

Real Italian Cooking: A Conversation

with Daniel and Thea

Daniel found out that "pesto guacamole" exists. "What? That's a weird combo. Who would mix pesto and guacamole?" asked Daniel, whose Italian grandma is The Queen of pesto AND Italian food in general.

"Pine nuts in pesto add a bit of protein," Daniel noted. Now curious, Thea looked up pesto on Wikipedia. "My grandma adds cream and butter to pesto," Daniel confided. Cream and butter?? That sounds delish!

Pesto originated in Italy in the 1940s, but it didn't gain widespread popularity in the US until the 1980s. Daniel and Thea chatted about why that might be. Thea asked, "I love pesto, why did it take 40 years to catch on?"

Daniel replied, "In the '40s, people were boiling everything and canning vegetables, potatoes, and meat. Pesto might've just been too much to handle."

Home canning soared during World War II, reaching its peak in 1943, with over 4.1 billion jars canned in homes and community canning centers according to *Eating for Victory: Food Rationing and the Politics of Domesticity*, Bentley, Amy (1988). We wondered, did Ms. Bentley *count* the canned jars? How did she get *that* number? But we digress...





Wartime canning and victory gardens were symbols of patriotism and heavily promoted by the government. Home canning during World War II offered families on the home-front a way to supplement their food supplies when rationing was in effect and food was being sent to soldiers in battle.

Back to pesto–Daniel said that his 87-year-old grandma makes the BEST pesto pasta. Thea wondered what "pesto" actually means. "It means 'to pound," said Daniel, who's basically a walking pasta encyclopedia. When asked if he's ever made pesto the old-school way—with a mortar and pestle—he said his grandma usually uses a blender. Close enough.

They then switched gears to one of Daniels' favorites: #AskedLidia (Lidia Bastianich of "Lidia's Kitchen," a show on PBS according to Amy who helped to proofread this article). Lidia makes all kinds of Italian food, and in one video, she used San Marzano tomatoes. "Why are *San Marzano* tomatoes so special?" Thea asked.

Pesto, Marinara, and Apples

"They're super juicy and you crush them by hand or chop them with a mezza luna –I say that from experience," said Daniel. He also sautes pancetta and onion in a pan with some olive oil and he later adds the San Marzano tomatoes, "these are the fresh, canned, imported tomatoes from Italy, and I add some parmesan to give it a little bite," said Daniel.

Of course, Thea wanted to dig deeper. They came across another Lidia video—this one included a tomato sauce with celery and apples. Thea was baffled. "Apples AND celery *in marinara*?"

"Apples add... zestiness," Daniel explained. When Thea asked if he had tried this marinara apple recipe, he said his family did try it once—and no one liked it, but they ate it anyway because "why waste good ingredients?"

"Were there *chunks* of apple?" Thea asked.

"No, you have to shave the apple. Or sieve it," said Daniel.

"Wait—'sieve it'? Do people say that? What does that *mean*?" asked Thea who likes new ways of using nouns as verbs. Daniel explained that you either grate the apples or put it through a sieve. To get in on the action, during staff training Chas managed to use the word "sieving."

Daniel and Thea took a close look at the recipe, and they noticed the apple celery marinara recipe starts with sautéing vegan sausage. "Vegan sausage?!" Daniel nearly lost it. His Italian instincts were deeply offended.

Then they read the recipe reviews—there were *a lot* of reviews. The weirdest part? A bunch of people left reviews… *without even trying the recipe*. They were just reacting to the picture and/or the list of ingredients!!

"So about seiving it," Daniel confessed, "I just made that up. I don't think they used a sieve, they shaved the apples with a grater. You can take that sieve part out"

"Bummer," said Thea, "the 'sieve' part was the funniest part of this article."

(Yes, Thea checked with Daniel AND Chas, and they agreed to leave the sieve part in.)

HENNY PENNY: A SIMPLE STORY WITH A BIG LESSON

"Henny Penny" was part of the oral folk tradition and only began to appear in print after the Brothers Grimm set a European example with their collection of German tales in the early 19th century. People have told this story for hundreds of years. It's also called "Chicken Little" or "Chicken Licken." The story teaches us to stay calm, think carefully, and not believe everything we hear.

Here is the story:

Henny Penny was a little hen. One day, something small—like an acorn—fell on her head. "Oh no!" she cried. "The sky is falling! I must tell the king!"

She ran to tell the king. On the way, she met her friends: Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey. Each time, she told them, "The sky is falling!" and they joined her. Then they met Foxy Loxy. He said, "I'll show you the way to the king."

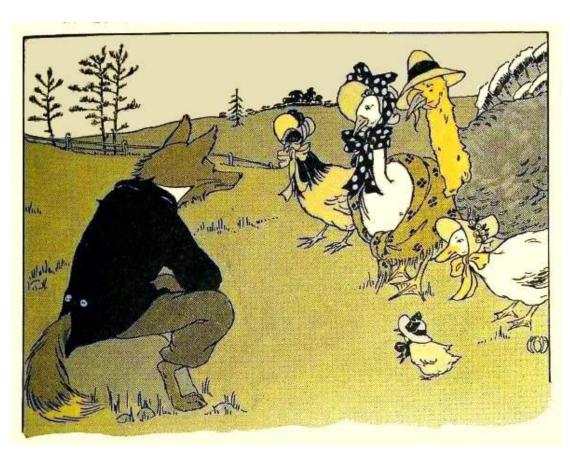
(Do you remember what happens next?)

As it turns out, Foxy Loxy was not a helper. He wanted to trick them—and eat them!

In some versions, the animals escape. In others, Foxy Loxy eats them.

What does this story teach us?

- Don't panic.
 Take a moment to think.
- Don't believe everything someone says without checking.
- Be careful who you trust!



CHAIR STRETCHES

Sometimes it is good to take a break from work and do some stretches!



Amy and Darnell took a break from editing our new Reading Comprehension worksheets to do some stretches.

Taking stretch breaks is always a good idea! You can find **Seated Chair STRETCHES for Seniors/Older Adults/Beginners (10 minutes - to increase flexibility)** on YouTube: https://youtu.be/HpPtnDbGBVg?si=yV3UBuTcaGETh7RR

To do this one, sit in a chair, bring one leg straight out in front and touch your toes (or try to touch your toes). Reach as far as it is comfortable; you should feel a stretch in the back of your leg. Repeat the stretch for your other leg. Now back to work!



Katie on Food Banks

Food banks are a lifeline for many families in our community. With grocery prices rising, it's important to know where to find help. In San Francisco and Marin, the Food Locator tool can point people to weekly free groceries, monthly food boxes for seniors, one-time emergency food, and even help signing up for CalFresh (food stamps).

It was Katie's idea to write about this: She told us about YouTuber MrBeast, who set up food banks during the pandemic. "He's humble," Katie said, noting how his generosity inspired her.

Katie also has personal experience volunteering at a food bank in San Mateo. "It can be hard work," she recalled, sorting vegetables and packing bags filled with milk, eggs, fruit, veggies, and snack bars. There was even a separate line for meat. Katie found the work rewarding, and she saw how much people appreciated the food they received.

Today, food banks remain important. In Marin, you can find them in Hamilton, San Marin, at the Novato Clinic on Thursdays, and in San Rafael. As Katie put it, "It's good to know help is there if people are struggling."

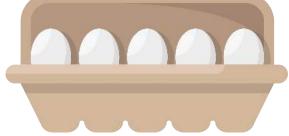
Need Food Assistance?

Use the SF-Marin Food Locator Tool https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/find-food/ to find the nearest food bank in San Francisco and Marin. Here's some info from their website:

- Once you've chosen an open pantry to attend, visit
 the site during operating hours to sign up. You must
 bring a valid picture ID and a recent utility bill,
 medical bill or bank statement. No income
 verification is required.
- All are welcome at the SF-Marin Food Bank pantries regardless of immigration status.









The Ubiquitous Chicken

with Darnell



The chicken Is everywhere. Chickens don't care where you're from. They're in your kitchen, your stories, your grandmother's recipes (chicken soup when you're sick), our country's legends (cartoon character Foghorn Leghorn to the *Chicken Run* movie). They've made themselves at home in nearly every culture on Earth. But they're not just food–they're messengers, symbols, protectors. Sometimes sacred, sometimes practical, and always present.

Who Doesn't Have Chickens?

Almost no one. There are some exceptions. The Sentinelese and Shompen of India's remote islands live by hunting and gathering—no farms, no chickens. Some nomadic tribes in Mongolia and North

America move too often to keep a coop. And then there's the Vatican, the only country with zero chickens. Everywhere else? Chickens are part of life.

Question: Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?

Answer:

The Rooster That Carries a Goddess

In western India, Buhachara Mata rides on the back of a rooster. She's fierce. Protective. A creator and guardian. And that rooster is a symbol of power, vigilance, and divine authority.

Sunrise and Spirit in China

In Chinese culture, the rooster stands for courage and luck. It's tied to the sun, the dawn, and the promise of another day. It crows evil spirits away and keeps time without a clock. And during festivals, it's common to see roosters painted in red and gold—colors of fortune and life.

The Warrior Bird of Mexico

In Mexican and Aztec symbolism, the rooster represents masculinity and solar power. It connects to Huizilopochtli, the god of the sun and war. Its call is more than noise—it's a declaration. Strength. Light. Presence.





Chickens are Everywhere!

Feathers in the Folklore

In Sweden, chickens were once believed to protect homes from spirits. Today, Sweden leads in animal welfare, ensuring all laying hens are cage-free by law.

In Russia, chickens show up in weddings. A hen might be given as part of a dowry, a blessing of prosperity. The *Kurnik*—a towering chicken pie—celebrates unity. Even the traditional headdress, the *kokoshnik*, gets its name from a hen.

Rent a Chicken, Dance Like One

In Germany, you can rent five hens for the week—coop, feed, and fresh eggs included. It's a way to reconnect with food, with rhythm, with something slower than a grocery store.

And the Chicken Dance? Yes, that originated in Germany too.

A Common Bird. An Uncommon Legacy.

This isn't just about eggs or Sunday dinners. Chickens have made their mark through myth, meaning, and memory. They're reminders of home. Symbols of protection. Messengers of dawn. They live in stories just as much as they do in barns.

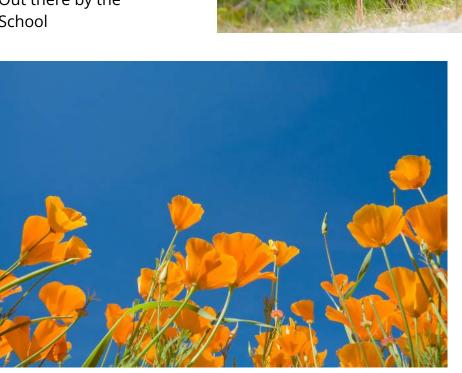


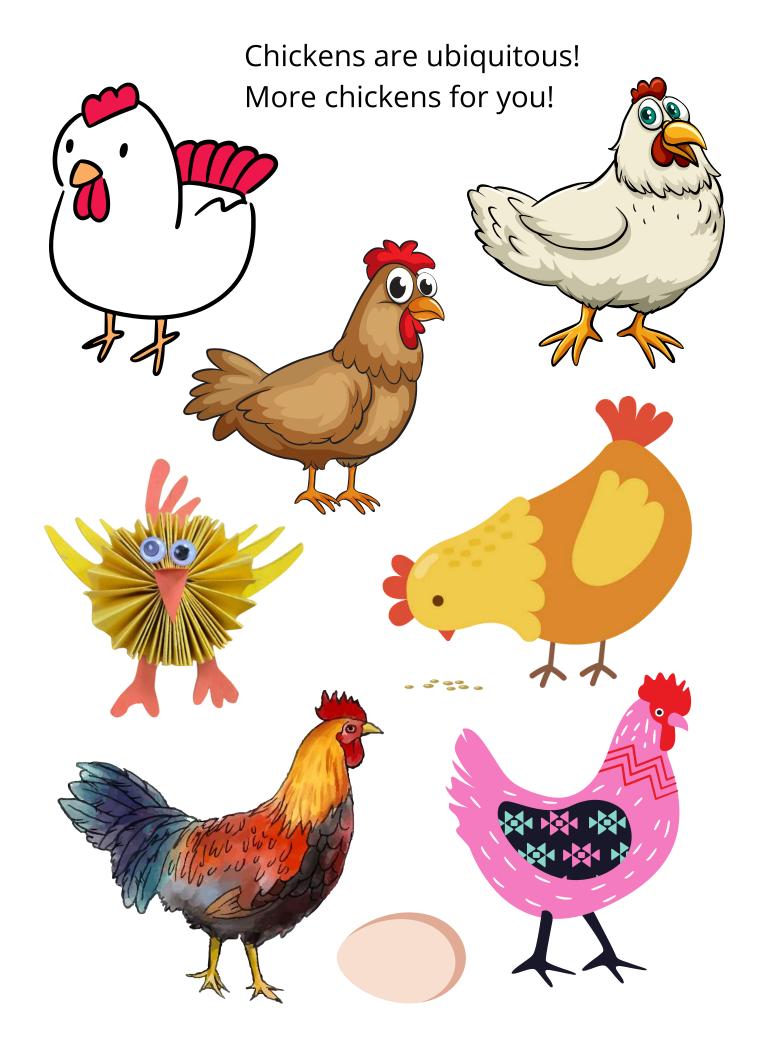
Nature Poetry by Martha

And grow them
Outdoors in the garden
And I see the
Sun make its shine
A vase on the table and water
And mud, soil and
White rock and the
Flower pink and
Lots of sun
To make it grow
A yellow flower
Put together the pink and
Yellow flowers
Together

I went for a walk
To see the trees
And the grass, look
At the flower
Where purple and blue
Flowers go to exercise
Smelling good air
Out there by the
School

California poppies, a flower
See by the grass, and yellow
Wish flowers with green stems
Outside, a walk outdoors, and
Meadow birds and grass
Leaves and animals
A bear and wildcat
A nice day, cool
Dew water in grass
Good air, midday
Lots of sunshine





Burger Collages

With Darren, Nino, Cat, Hayley, Colleen, Iris, Andrew, and Martha

National Cheeseburger Day is celebrated on September 18th. Colleen and Hayley helped Jennifer brainstorm ingredients to put on art burgers. We started simple: buns, condiments, cheese, lettuce and tomato. Then Michelle busted out some fancy scrapbooking paper and fabric samples to add to the mix, and inspiration really hit us! Our ingredients list grew: avocado, mushrooms, bacon, onions (red AND white), boiled eggs, pickles, and to top it all off, olives on toothpicks! Darren helped pick out tablecloths (are we fancy or what?) and Hayley and Colleen prepped the pieces. It took a full crew to get our "mise en place" (pronounced MEEZ ahn plas), which is a French culinary term meaning "everything in its place". Then it was burger building time-we got a big art class together and chose our ingredients one by one, gluing everything in place. Check out our collage burgers-we think they look (almost) good enough to eat!



Social Skills Class

Conflict Management Gets Real (and Fun!)

with Patrick, Zayde, and Jennifer

Our Conflict Management class with new staff member Patrick brought the energy, focus, and fun. He kicked things off with a question we've all lived through: "Has anyone ever had a disagreement with a friend or family member?" Cue nearly every hand in the room. Totally relatable.

We dove into why conflicts happen: different opinions, miscommunication, or two people wanting the same thing at the same time. Normal stuff. But the real focus? What to do when it happens.



Patrick walked us

through healthy ways to respond—like staying calm, listening, asking for help, or taking a break to cool off. Simple moves, big impact.

Then came the role plays. Patrick teamed up with Jennifer and Zayde to go over some pretend sitations. It was helpful to see the healthy responses in action!



Tie-Dye: Chaos, Color, and Good Vibes!



(from left) Donald, Pat, James, Pam, Andrew, Chris, Josh, and Carolyn

We all know that Andrew M. is the connoisseur of tie-dyed shirts-his collection is impressive! Big thanks to Patricia and Tony, Andrew's parents, who generously donated the supplies so we could try out hand at this fun and colorful craft.

How did it go? There's something super satisfying about taking a plain white shirt and blasting it with color until it looks like it's been dipped in a rainbow. Tie-dye is part fashion, part science experiment, part finger-painting for grownups.

Our group jumped in last weekend—plastic gloves, squeeze bottles, and a playlist full of groovy tunes. It didn't take long before our shirts were twisted beyond recognition, and our Enterprise back yard looked a little bit like a unicorn crime scene.

Pure joy.







Tie-Dye

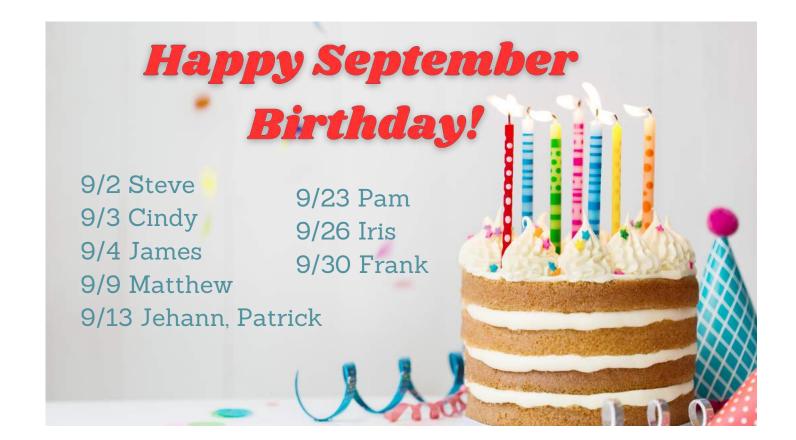
The best part? There's no wrong way to do it. Spirals, crumples, stripes, total chaos—it all works. You fold, twist, rubber band the fabric like a mad scientist, then squirt on the color. Wait a few hours (or don't), rinse, and boom: wearable psychedelia.

We dyed t-shirts. Would we do it again? In a heartbeat. So if your life needs a little splash of chaos—grab a shirt, grab some dye, have fun, and let loose!









Captain Nino Surveys the Pirate Situation: Pirate Would You Rather?

Would you rather walk the plank or be marooned? This was a close one, but a few more people chose the dry land option of being marooned on a deserted island.

Would you rather have a parrot that tells all the other pirates where the treasure is or have a parrot that tells everyone you hate them? Most people polled preferred the parrot who tells everyone they hate them.



Nino surveys Zayde and swashbuckler Jake-avast!

Would you rather eat nothing but moldy bread the entire voyage or eat nothing but seaweed the entire voyage? The vast majority of people chose seaweed over moldy bread.

Would you rather fight the kraken or fight an army of mermaids and mermen? More people would rather fight the kraken. Rickina had our favorite answer: she chose the army of merpersons: "Hopefully I would be able to talk to the mermaids and avoid a fight!"

Would you rather apply sunscreen to 17 hairy pirates or always sleep on deck next to a nest of noisy seagulls? SPF

pirates for the win! More people chose to apply sunscreen rather than sleep with stinky seagulls.

Would you rather have a really loud pet parrot or have a pet parrot that can't fly? This one was a tie!

Would you rather scrub the decks or cook for all the pirates? The vast majority of people would rather cook than clean–those are going to be some dirty decks!

Would you rather lose your ship or lose your treasure chest? Most people would rather lose their ship-hopefully the treasure chest is chock full and everyone can retire rich on land!



Would You Rather?

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Would you rather have a wooden peg leg or a hook for a hand? Almost everyone surveyed chose a hook hand. "They got it at the second-hand store." –Matthew

Would you rather have a mustache with bows or a beard with braids? This was an almost perfect tie–we think we would all look fabulous with decorated facial hair!

Would you rather be a pirate or a ninja? Another near tie, but pirates pulled ahead.

Would you rather find a treasure map or a message in a bottle? More people would rather find a treasure map–unless the message in a bottle is about where to find riches!

Nino surveys Zayde and swashbuckler Jake-avast!

Pirate Flags

You probably picture a skull and crossbones when you think about a pirate flag. But did you know that pirate ships had multiple flags that had different meanings? (Check out the flags we designed for our own pirate ships!)



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