



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom

Dear Parents,

January Follow-Ups

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at the Invention Convention. As I have stated many times since January 20, I was so impressed by and proud of your kids' work and effort. My absolute favorite part of the whole thing was seeing your kids professionally introduce themselves and speak knowledgeably about their inventions. I hope they have learned some skills that will serve them well throughout the course of their lives.

We got a ton of media coverage of the IC, so hopefully you've had a chance to take a look. I also added a huge batch of pictures to my website:

Daily Herald: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20150127/news/150128876/>

Des Plaines/Mt. Prospect Journal: http://www.journal-topics.com/news/article_66b4e2fc-a72c-11e4-bd21-7bcc5c7ed53e.html

CCSD59 webpage: <http://www.ccsd59.org/news/problem-prevention-at-the-invention-convention>

Pictures: <http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/photos-class-of-2014-2015/>

This Month

We have begun our next novel in ALA, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. So far, we have had some great discussions that have centered on controversial topics. The students are engaged and active in our conversations and analysis of the novel. At the start of each lesson I present students with an essential question. Last week's was "What are the primary functions of dialogue in a piece of literature?" As we read and annotate, we focus on determining an answer to the essential question. These questions promote critical thinking and deep analysis.

In social studies, we have begun our study of World War One. We are, overall, taking a more traditional approach to this unit in an attempt to properly balance the type of instruction students are receiving this year. This will also help prepare them for AP Human Geography next year. Last week, I taught the students how to take two-column notes. We will repeatedly practice this skill throughout the unit because it's a tricky one; it's sometimes difficult for students to figure out what information is important and what is ancillary. My hope is that they are learning note-taking skills that will transfer with them to high school. We will also be having a series of traditional quizzes throughout the unit, with a final test at the end. Rest assured...we will do plenty of supplemental activities and primary source document analysis throughout the unit, as well. I'm planning for a good balance.

Finally, we will begin our unit on argumentative writing this month. Students have been practicing their (civil!) arguing skills repeatedly over the past couple weeks. Ask them what some of their favorite topics have been. This unit will culminate in the writing of a

formal argumentative paper, and most likely, a formal debate. More info to come next month.

Important Dates to Remember:

2/16: Presidents' Day—NO SCHOOL

2/20: Graduation picture day (students received information about this yesterday)

2/23: Field trip permission slip and money due

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hahn

hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org

847.593.4350

