



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom

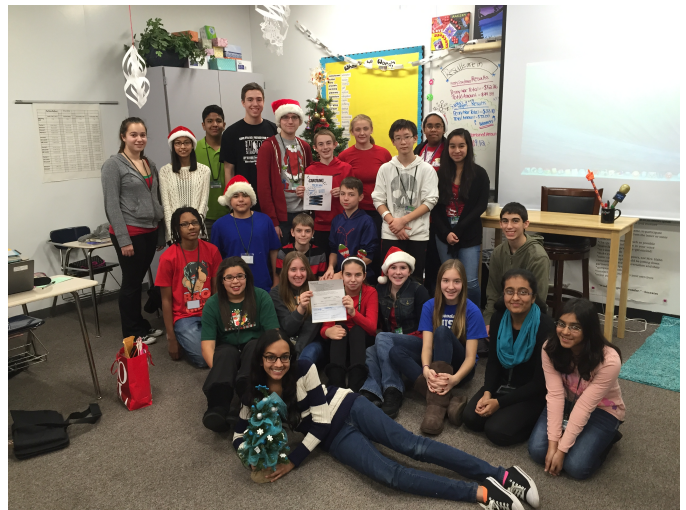
Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful, restful winter break.

### December Follow-Ups

We ended the calendar year with a "bang." The AM class' service project, Operation Cocoa, brought in a whopping \$434, which we promptly sent off to the Heartland Animal Shelter in Northbrook, IL. The PM class made a generous donation of \$219.12 to the Make-a-Wish Foundation through their Project Caroling/Penny Wars fundraiser. I am immensely proud of your kids' willingness to volunteer their time and money for these worthy causes. I think Charles Dickens would have been proud of our dedication to helping those in need.

Speaking of Dickens, one of our goals when finishing *A Christmas Carol* was analyzing the **craft and structure** of the final stave (chapter). After deciding the most prevalent mood in it was happiness, we analyzed Dickens' choices in creating that mood. We compared his choices to three other renditions of the story (two movie versions and the production we saw at the Goodman Theatre) then discussed which version conveyed the most happiness and which was truest to Dickens' original work. This activity was based off Common Core ELA standards 8.4-8.6. Analyzing craft and structure is new for many students, so it is something we will continue working on this year.



If you haven't had a chance to see the pictures from our various December activities (field trip, service projects, secret snowperson gift exchange), please visit my website and click on the links on the right of the page: <http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/>

I also want to let you know that a handful of your kids were on the WGN morning news on December 24! We happened to be in the right place at the right time the day of our field trip: <http://wgntv.com/2014/12/24/demetrius-first-trip-to-chicagos-christkindlmarket/> Forward to the 1:20 mark to see us!

Did anyone receive a **gift of writing**? If so, I hope you loved it. The students loved composing them.

My original plan for January was to read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, but the EGHS teachers have asked me not to teach it since they are bringing it back into their curriculum (even though they told me otherwise last spring). As a result, we will begin John

Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* after our novel project presentations and MAP testing. This is one of my favorite books, and I hope your kids will love it, too.

## **Invention Convention**

Hopefully your child spent some time over winter break working on his/her invention. Each student has a large envelope titled Inventor's Portfolio that you should be seeing at home. Everything for the project is housed in this envelope, including a checklist of things to do before the January 12 due date (attached). Please encourage your kids to finish this project sooner rather than later. They are welcome to stay after school any day except Wednesdays if they need help or a quiet place to work.

I hope you are planning on coming to the Invention Convention on the 20<sup>th</sup>! After perusing each invention station, each guest will vote on the top three inventions. Last year, through parents' generous donations, we were able to present each of the winners with a prize. As a result, I am wondering:

**\*Might you have any unused gift cards lying around your house that you would be willing to donate as a prize?**

**\*Do you work for/own/have a connection with a local business that might be willing to donate a prize?**

**\*Do you work for/own/have a connection with a business that might be willing to donate refreshments?**

**\*Might you be willing to purchase and donate some refreshments?**

(I can take care of lemonade or water or something if we can round up some snacks.)

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

1/5: Classes resume, Independent Novel Project DUE

1/6: Visit from the teen librarians from the DPPL (suggesting historical fiction books for next quarter's novel project)

1/9: End of 2nd Quarter

1/12: All components of invention project DUE; Reading MAP test

1/13: Math MAP test

1/16: Report cards posted on Skyward

1/19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL

1/20: Invention Convention 2015! Students arrive at 5:30; doors open 6-8 P.M. (See attached flier.)

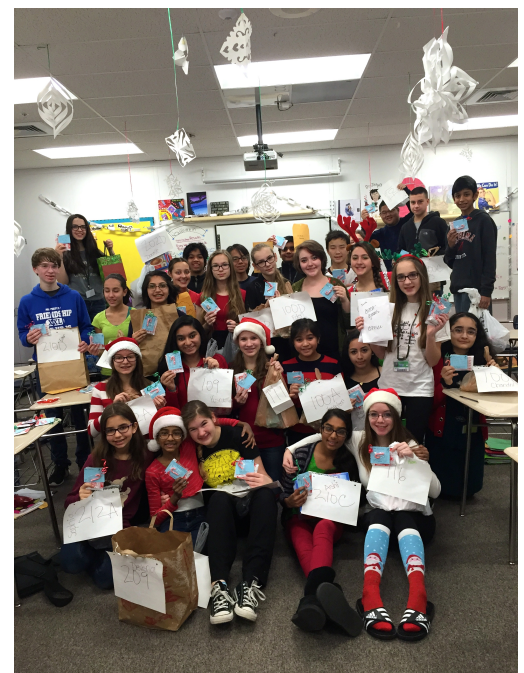
As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Hahn*

[hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org](mailto:hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org)

847.593.4350



## **Invention Checklist**

Make sure you are logging/photographing/recording your progress on your inventor's log!

### **Invention**

- Purchase materials.
- Construct your prototype.
- Tweak and finalize your invention.
- Apply for a patent.

### **Marketing**

- Create a clever, appropriate name for your product.
- Create a catchy slogan for your product that sums up, in a few words, the gist of what it does.
- Create a print ad for your product. It should include: product name, slogan, and image.
- Print a color copy of it on your own or send a PDF of it to Mrs. Hahn so she can print it.

### **Commercial**

- Write script. Remember to include the product's name and slogan. Underline the claim.
- Film commercial. Remember to save footage to Google Drive.
- Edit commercial.
- Import appropriate background music.
- Finalize commercial.
- Export commercial to Quicktime.

### **Report**

- Follow guidelines to write report.
- Print report.
- Self-edit report (dot-to-dot).
- Include a formal heading (use *Frederick Douglass* paper as an example) and a title.
- Revise and print report.

### **Booklet (In-class)**

- Print all papers associated with your invention.
- Assemble, in chronological order (oldest on the top, newest on bottom), your papers, with your print ad as the cover page.
- Bind your papers into a booklet.

### **Presentation**

- Practice your presentation. Remember that it must be informative, clear, and engaging!



**You are invited to attend the  
2015 Friendship Junior High  
Invention Convention**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2015  
FJHS Big & Small Gyms  
6-8 P.M.**

**(Set up for inventors is 5:30; clean up is until 8:15.)**

**Come hear about and see the inventions of the future.  
All visitors will vote for the Best Inventions of 2015!  
First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded.**

**Refreshments will be served.**

**Questions? Contact Mrs. Hahn ([hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org](mailto:hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org))**