

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom



Dear Parents,

As we near the end of the year, I am starting to really treasure my time with your kids. They truly are a group like no other.

Practically every time I collect and provide feedback on your

kids' work I am astounded by how hard they work and how seriously they take their assignments. I am relishing every moment with them, and there were many moments in February during which to do this.



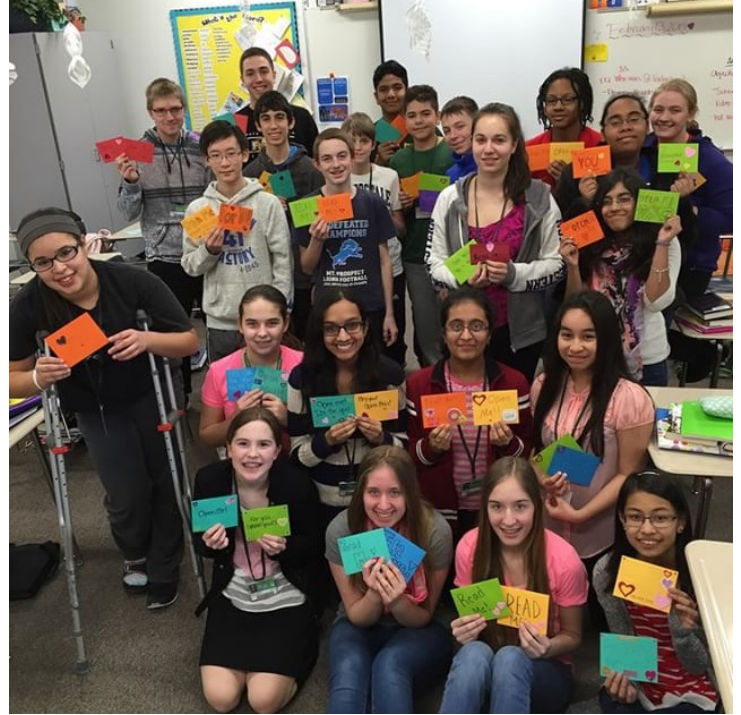
We have pretty much made our way through World War One. I am very happy to report that students have a solid grasp of two-column note-taking. We have practiced all together, in pairs, and independently, and the notes I saw late last week were outstanding. I am confident they will excel in this regard next year in their AP Human Geography classes. Students will be taking a traditional multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay question test at the end of this week or early next week. They should study their notes to prepare for this assessment.

As promised, we balanced that traditional style of learning with more interactive lessons,

as well. Students are in the process of analyzing primary source poems written during WW1. Additionally, we did a rather in-depth study of propaganda, not only in WW1 but in our current world, as well. After learning about propaganda techniques, students chose a topic they felt strongly about and created their own pieces of propaganda. Ask to see your child's work--I'm sure he/she will be able to properly explain his/her reasons for including certain phrases and images.

This lesson bridged the gap between SS and ALA--students are now in the process of learning how propaganda differs from argumentation. We looked at sample student argumentative essays last week and are making notes on the qualities of them. This list will be the basis for the writing of our own essays this month. I hope your child will choose a topic that he/she feels passionate about. If you have a minute, ask your child what topic he/she is thinking about delving into and why. It might help your kids decide if they've chosen the right one.

We are nearing the end of our *Of Mice and Men* unit, as well. The kids are asking great questions while we read, and they are doing a magnificent job analyzing the text on a deeper level. Last week's EQ was "If authors are social commentators, what commentary is Steinbeck making in chapter four, especially with regard to racism in the 1930s?" We had a great couple lessons about what life was like, in reality, for blacks during the Great Depression, and we are in the process of analyzing how that reality played out in Steinbeck's novel. As always, your kids are enthusiastic about engaging in literature.



Finally, I am very proud to report that our anonymous letters of kindness project for Valentine's Day was a hit. Ask your child about our secret project...I have included a couple pics here, but there are a slew more on my website:

<http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/photos-class-of-2014-2015/> It was such fun working on this with your kids. .

PARCC testing is coming this week. The students have practiced navigating the format of the test. This is the first time this test is being administered nationwide (I believe only ten states are using it as of today). If you've been keeping up with the news on it, there is a lot of controversy about PARCC. I don't know what the longevity of it will be, so for this year, we just want the kids to try their best and not stress out. It always helps if they come to school well-rested and having had breakfast, too. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 3/5-3/11: PARCC Testing (altered school day schedule to accommodate testing)
- 3/9: 3rd Quarter Independent Novel Project Due
- 3/13: School Dance
- 3/20: End of 3rd Quarter; 2:05 dismissal
- 3/23-3/27: Spring Break--Enjoy!
- 3/30: Classes Resume
- 4/2: Report Cards Issued; Graduation Picture Retake/Spring Sports Pictures
- 4/3: Good Friday--No School

Sincerely,

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