

MAY NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom



Dear Parents,

By my count, as of Monday, we have 23 days left of school until graduation (excluding weekends). What?! A lot will be happening this month--we will be on a roller coaster of due dates and fun activities. It was great visiting with so many families this week at portfolio sharing. Thank you to those who came.

Most students really took advantage of the celebratory nature of our 1920s unit. Although short, this unit was centered around the essential question: What defined the 1920s as an era? Students determined that slang, music, dance, technology, activist movements, war, laws, and politics are some of the many things that define a decade, so we focused our attention on those things. From Prohibition to slang, Harlem Renaissance to the Charleston (yes, we ALL danced!), our study of the 20s was the "bee's knees!" Please see the following link to see video and photos of your kids dancing:

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

I often talk about how proud I am of your kids, but I can honestly say I think the kids are even more proud of themselves than I am of them about having completed their argumentative essays. So many students have expressed not only how much they learned about their chosen topic (everything from wearing uniforms to abortion), but also how much they learned about the format of an essay. I am confident that students



are moving to high school with a solid understanding of the parts of an essay: funnel intro, thesis, topic sentences, evidence, backings, counterclaim, rebuttal, conclusion, and bibliography.

The kids are doing a magnificent job reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* play. Volunteer readers are bringing the story to life through their expressive readings. Ask your child if he/she is playing one of the characters this act. Students who don't have parts for Act 1 will have a chance for Act 2. I alluded to this a little last month, but I'd like to take a minute to fully

explain our summative task for *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Mr. Fred Rogers once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Therefore, our focus in the story is on the helpers, whose real names were Miep Gies and Victor Kugler (among others). They risked their lives to do what was right--hide the Franks and VanPels from the Nazis. As such, we as an eighth grade team are asking all 270+ students to complete an "act of kindness" as their final assessment. There are a myriad of steps to this project (that we have gone

over as a class), but the final task will be to create a short newscast of the act of kindness. Students will have to get their project idea approved by you by Wednesday, May 6.

We are taking our much anticipated field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry on Monday.
Reminders:

- Dress nicely; jeans are ok (no rips); avoid t-shirts.
- Bring a disposable bagged lunch.
- Bringing a phone and money is optional.
- Students will return to FJHS around 4:30. A special late bus route has been created for us. (Volleyball players are doing something different--ask your child about this if applicable.)

Final Reminder: Fourth quarter marks the start of the Six Flags eligibility standard. Students who want to attend the class trip to Six Flags in June must not have any missing assignments or Fs in any classes this quarter. Students and parents should check Skyward frequently to ensure students are staying on top of things.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 5/1: No school; Washington D.C. trip--HAVE FUN and soak up lots of information!
- 5/4: 8th grade field trip to MSI--arrive back at school at 4:30 P.M.
- 5/5-5/8: PARCC End of Year Tests
- 5/15: Act of Kindness project completion due date (+ reflection)
- 5/18: 4th Quarter novel project due
- 5/21: Plain white t-shirt for tie-dying due (please send in a large Ziploc bag)
- 5/22: Act of Kindness newscast due
- 5/25: Memorial Day--no school
- 5/29: 60's fun day!
- 6/1: Six Flags trip!
- 6/4: 8th grade graduation at EGHS (ahhh!!)

Enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend!

Sincerely,

Kristin Hahn

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