

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom



Dear Parents,

## Follow Up From Last Month

Your child can confirm that we have stayed busy right up until the end. We wrapped up our Anne Frank unit by adding the final entry to our ongoing journals, taking a vocabulary test, and presenting our Acts of Kindness newscasts (which turned out phenomenally). Your kids entered my classroom this year as kind human beings, so I am especially thankful that they took the Acts of Kindness task and built upon their existing kindness to be especially creative in making a difference in the lives of others. Portfolios of their work will be sent home on 6/3; *I hope you take a few minutes to peruse all the wonderful pieces of work your kids have completed this year (especially their lists of things they learned)!*

Fourth quarter novel projects were outstanding, just as I had hoped. I have added a slew of new photographs to the Novel Project album on my website:

<http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/independent-novel-creative-projects/>



The students' work over the past four quarters has greatly impressed me. They have mastered the skills of summarizing, citing textual support, and formatting a formal piece of writing, among others. Additionally, their presentation skills grew exponentially. Some students, for the first quarter presentations, shakily stood in front of the room with a death grip on their notecard. I wish you could have seen them this quarter--almost all stood up there with confidence and spoke knowledgeably about their novels without any assistance whatsoever. *Thank you to those parents that helped them practice along the way.* I hope they will carry these skills with them into the future.

The final weeks in social studies have been a blast; we began with a meaningful lesson and discussion about the role of American citizens--how people demonstrated their citizenship back in

the 40s as compared to today. We then assumed the role of citizens during the 1940s and rationed when we followed a recipe for and baked Honey Cakes, a sweet treat that was made during the war when butter and sugar were scarce. We played some games of yesteryear--marbles, pick up sticks, and jax--and even kicked up our heels and did some swing dancing! You have got to take a look at the pictures and video from that day to believe it: <http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/photos-class-of-2014-2015/> We officially wrapped up the year by delving into the culture of the 1960s--tie dying t-shirts and participating in an 8th grade "60s Fun Day" on May 29.

### The Sentimental Part :)

You and your kids are most likely feeling so excited about the upcoming graduation...and you should be! You've spent days, weeks, months, and years looking forward to this momentous day when your child officially waves goodbye to his/her grammar school years and opens the doors to high school. For me...I would be lying if I said I am feeling excited, or even bittersweet, about it. The fact is, I am downright sad. One might think that after fourteen years of teaching, a teacher doesn't experience many "firsts" within any given school year. But this year has proven me wrong:

\*This was the first year where no student of mine failed a single quarter. And this isn't the result of the class getting easier. If anything, I feel as though my class was harder than ever this year, partly due to Common Core, and partly due to the fact that I could challenge your kids in ways I never could before. I know I will never have another group of 53 students who work as hard as your kids do.

\*This was the first year where I didn't have a single parent complaint. If you're not in education, you might not realize how extraordinary this is! Even more, many of you went out of your way to send me a kind email...I will never forget that. Thank you for trusting me to make the right decisions for your kids' education this year...I hope I have served them well.

\*This was the first year where I genuinely never wanted to miss a day of work, either for a sick day or a professional development day. Granted, I trusted my students to work hard in my absence, but I somehow missed being with them if I was supposed to be there.



\*And finally...this is the first class, in fifteen years, that has been truly utopic...where everyone has gotten along, where barriers between students have crumbled, where no teacher/student tensions have existed, where walking into 210B every day has been a joy...your kids are leaving big shoes to fill and a huge hole in my heart.

I have enjoyed every minute of working with you and your amazing children. I am going to miss them tremendously, but I know I will read about them in the news one day because this is a group that is going to change the world.

Important Dates to Remember:

6/3: 210b Graduation Party at school--4:15-6 P.M. (Ask your kids for details.)

6/4: 8th Grade Graduation at Elk Grove HS--7 P.M. (Students need to arrive at 6:30.)

6/5: Summer begins! (All other FJHS students will be in school until 6/10.)

Please check back on the website after graduation--I will have posted lots of pics of the final days with your kids. **I wish you and your families the absolute best in the future. See you at graduation!**

Sincerely,

*Kristin Hahn*

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