

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/LA Classroom



Dear Parents,

Spring break is right around the corner, but it hardly feels like it with today's snow!

Advanced Language Arts

We concluded our *Of Mice and Men* unit with two back-to-back Socratic seminars and wow--what great conversations the students had! The ending of the book was rather controversial, and it made us all reconsider our ethics and beliefs. After analyzing the origin of the title by reading the poem "To a Mouse," the students took their summative assessments. I am grading these literary analysis essays right now and am, so far, impressed with what they've come up with in response to our EQ: What social issues was Steinbeck addressing in *Of Mice and Men*, and what was his commentary about each? One student, in his conclusion, wrote, "I am glad we read this story to the depth we did as I never would have understood these references to social issues, given the time we live in has some different issues." #proudteacher

Students took the AR tests on their INP books last Friday. They will continue to have one period/week to work on their written work and presentation. We are going to build in some presentation rehearsal time to class this quarter in an effort to improve our skills. Therefore, the presentation slide show will be due, in class, on Wednesday, March 16.

Regular Language Arts

We are continuing our study of *The Outsiders*, with our focus on stereotypes. Students have been doing a mix of whole class, partner, and individual reading. My hope is that the students earn this week's ice breaker activity by coming prepared to class and participating in discussions. They had some room to grow after last week, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

We continue to dedicate one day per week reading and discussing our AR books. A handful of students have made great progress toward reading their individualized AR goals. Please remind your children to read at home everyday.

Both Classes

Students have solidified their thesis statements and are planning for their essays. They went through some intensive introduction-writing lessons last week and have shown a great deal of growth and improvement over the course of the last week. This "funnel method" format of introductions is consistent with what will be expected at the high school, so mastery of this is a big ol' check in the "prepared for high school" column! Once students complete their essays, they will share their work with their intended audience via Twitter. More details to come, but the 8th grade teachers are very excited to share the students' work in this 21st century way!



Miscellaneous



A special congrats goes out to my 1/3 class for carrying out a legacy project they titled Book Buddies. In short, they encouraged students and staff to donate their gently used books to the children at Northwest Community and Lutheran General Hospitals. They collected over 1,000 books (exact number TBD), made bookmarks, and will deliver these books on Thursday (in honor of Read Across America Day, which falls on March 2). An article was published in the *Journal*, and they have received a lot of positive feedback from their peers and teachers. I am very proud of the students who have actively participated to leave a legacy here at FJHS. To read the online article, go to <http://www.journal-topics.com/> and type Book Buddies into the search bar.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 3/11: Regular LA AR points due**
- 3/15: No School (primary election day)**
- 3/16: INP slideshows due**
- 3/18: 1:50 dismissal**
- 3/19-3/27: Spring Break--Enjoy!**
- 3/28: INP due**
- 4/1: End of 3rd quarter--all work due**
- 4/8: Report cards home**

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact me!

Sincerely,

Kristin Hahn

847.593.4350

hahn.kristin@ccsd59.org

<http://friendship.ccsd59.org/teachers/hahnkristin/>

Twitter: @mrshahnfjhs

Instagram: @mrshahnfjhs