

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/LA Classroom



Dear Students,

This is it! The end of 185 days of 8th grade EQs, projects, participation, annotating, formatives, summatives, reading, writing, lessons, laughter, and learning in 210B. I'm proud of those of you who journeyed with me this year and challenged yourself in one way or another. I hope you are leaving feeling prepared for the next stage of your life. I am excited for what high school will bring you!



## **Both Classes**

Our Holocaust unit came to a close with Holocaust Remembrance Day and the viewing of our Act of Kindness (AoK) newscasts. Many of you were interested in this unit (and Anne Frank's story); check out this site for a slew of great Holocaust-related book titles, if you've got down time this summer:

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/holocaust>.

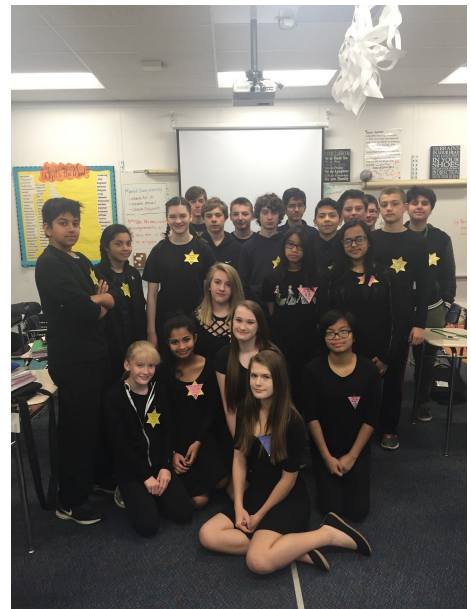
Many of you put your heart and soul into your AoK project. Some of you spread kindness in our school by recognizing under-appreciated staff members like our secretaries, the nurse, counselors, lunch ladies, teachers, and janitors, while others of you ventured into the community to bring joy to librarians, firefighters, neighbors, and family members. If you haven't shown your parent your newscast, I strongly encourage you to do so before your Gmail account closes down. My goal for this project was simply to get you thinking about how little it takes on your part to make someone's day. I hope you realize that you have the power to counteract the negativity in today's society by spreading

kindness wherever you go.

Student portfolios will be sent home on June 7. Please take a minute to go through your work with your parents, and then store this envelope someplace safe. I hope you will look back with fond memories when you relocate it many years from now.

## **Advanced Language Arts**

Friday concluded our final book talks/creative project presentations. Wow! When I think back to the start of the year and how many of you were glued to your slideshow presentations, I'm so proud to see how far you've come. Almost all of you, this time around, were able to speak knowledgeably about your book without any notes! I hope you will continue to build confidence in public speaking as you grow--it's a great life skill! I've included some of our favorite creative projects on page three. Next year's ALA students will have a high bar set for them in this area!



## **Regular Language Arts**

Among other things this month, like finishing *The Diary of Anne Frank* and presenting our newscasts, we finished our in-class read aloud, *Stargirl*. All year we've struggled with consistent participation, so last Thursday I said to you, "Tomorrow we are going to finish the book, and at the end I'm going to say, "Tell me something." I'm proud to say that after I closed the book on Friday and said those words, many of your hands shot in the air. Yay! We had a good discussion about what you took from the book--that it's okay to be yourself, to be unique, and to not compromise who you are for anyone else. While you may not say it or show it, I know in my heart that some of the things I tried pounding into your heads this year stuck. May you continue on to high school with an open mind, an open heart, and the willingness to give people a chance before judging them based on how they look. I am proud of you, and I will miss you. And if you ever hear the song, "Reunited" I hope you will think of me. :)

## **The Sentimental Part**

Parents, thank you for trusting me with your child's education this year. I appreciate your support and the encouragement you gave your kids all year. If you have any feedback that can help me improve as a teacher, please email me.

Finally, I want to thank the students who walked into 210B every day with an open mind and a willingness to learn. I thank those of you who worked really hard this year--who did more than the bare minimum. I thank you for respecting me and for laughing at my stupid jokes. I thank you for not laughing at me when my hair was really frizzy. I thank you for teaching me your slang words and keeping me current. I thank you for showing kindness to me and your classmates. I thank you for saying "bless you" (when someone sneezed) and I thank you for making this a memorable year for me. I wish you the absolute best in your life. Treat others well, treat yourself well, and be happy.



## **Important Dates to Remember:**

- 6/1:** 8th grade trip to Six Flags (pick up at FJHS @ 6PM)
- 6/2:** 60s fun day! Wear tie dye and bring your dancin' shoes!
- 6/3:** All library books due  
Graduation gown distribution, 9th period (Hang up your gown ASAP once you get home.)
- 6/7:** Report cards go home  
Graduation at Elk Grove High School, 7PM (student arrival is at 6:30)  
Graduation dance at FJHS, Post-ceremony 'til 10:00PM

**See you at graduation, Class of 2016!**

Sincerely,

*Kristin Hahn*

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