

# MAY NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's 8th Grade ELA Classroom



Dear Parents,

The first of "the lasts" happened on Thursday--the administrators came into homerooms to announce the honor roll students for the last time of junior high! There will be many such bittersweet moments like this in the coming weeks, and I look forward to sharing them with your kids.

## All ELA classes

As I expected, the students have been engaged and immersed in our study of the Holocaust. I know this because even during my "dry" lesson about the background of the Holocaust (guided by a slide show presentation) the students had their hands up and were asking questions and expressing outrage over the information I was telling and the pictures I was showing. Students began the unit by researching a victim of the Holocaust and honoring that person on April 24, national Holocaust Remembrance Day, by wearing a self-created badge on their left shoulder and speaking knowledgeably about their person throughout the day. I was SO proud of how beautifully they commemorated the victims of this tragic historical event.

We continued the week by analyzing and making inferences about a piece of disturbing Nazi propaganda called *The Poisonous Mushroom*, and we made connections to events happening around the world today. Because we are short on time, we will only be reading "The Diary of Anne Frank," an adapted play version of Anne's original diary (as opposed to doing book clubs as previously mentioned).



This will begin on Monday, and as we read, we'll weave in a virtual field trip to the actual house in Amsterdam as well as some video clips to enhance their learning.

A screenshot of the newsomatic.org website. The top navigation bar includes the "newsomatic" logo, and links for "Games", "News Room", and "Info". The main content area features a large yellow banner with the text "Kids Pick the News!". Below the banner are three images: a teacher in a blue "Firebird Feed" shirt, a group of students holding up certificates, and a classroom scene. A text box at the bottom of the images reads: "Thank you to Mrs. Hahn's 8th grade class at Friendship JHS in Des Plaines, Illinois. They voted for the news stories for today's News-O-Matic edition! They did a great job!"

## Passion Projects

1/2: As I shared with you through email a couple weeks ago, the staff had the extraordinary opportunity to work with Russell Kahn, founder of newsomatic.org, a kids' news site based in New York. Russell and his staff wrote about the two topics the *Firebird Feed* staff had

voted on, and gave us a “shout out” on their site last weekend.

Our staff put out their “online only” issue 5 on April 21. Take a look at it on [firebirdfeed.weebly.com](http://firebirdfeed.weebly.com). We will be spending the remaining four Fridays of the year (!) prepping for our big “8th Grade” issue, which will be distributed on June 1. We will also be talking through the process of “leaving our legacy”--how will the staff transition and prepare in the incoming 8th graders since they won’t be here in the fall? I have talked to numerous staff members who are so thankful the *Feed* will carry on next year, and so am I.

4/5: **Mark your calendars to come see *When Stars Collide*, an original play by the 4/5 Class of 210B, on **Wednesday, May 31, at 6:30PM!**** The students have been doing a great job of divvying up the tasks; they formed committees and have been rehearsing their lines. We actually got on stage Friday during 5th period to begin blocking the scenes, and many students are off to a great start with their memorization. We are all so excited to perform the play for you at the end of the month, and the excitement is spreading beyond the walls of our classroom, too. There is much to be done in the next few weeks, but we are hoping it comes together. **Thanks, in advance, to all parents who have and will continue to show support to their kids in the massive endeavor, be it through donating money, picking up supplies (shout out to the Habas family for getting our scenery boards this weekend!), helping your child memorize his/her lines, buying tickets for the whole family to come, and much more. THANK YOU! A huge “thank you,”** as well, to Mrs. Megerle, for generously purchasing a t-shirt for each of us. The kids were SO excited the day she came in with them! **As I mentioned in an email this week, if your child cannot attend any of the dress rehearsals (dates below), please send either written or electronic communication to me by Friday, May, 5.**



### **Important Dates to Remember:**

- 5/2: PTO meeting, 7PM in teachers’ lounge
- 5/22, 5/23, 5/25: *When Stars Collide* dress rehearsals, 2:50-4:45PM
- 5/27-5/29: Washington D.C. trip
- 5/29: Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL
- 5/30: Honor Society ceremony
- 5/30: AR project due (regular ELA students only)
- 5/31: *When Stars Collide* performance! 6:30PM, FJHS auditorium
- 6/1: AR points due
- 6/2: Six Flags trip for participating 8th graders

Sincerely,  
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More pictures below!



