

May 9, 2008

Hello!

It's great to be back! As you probably know, we had a fantastic learning experience and had our eyes opened. We studied immigration and border issues before we left but soon found out that the issues are much more complex than we could imagine. In an effort to share their experience and educate the community, the 10/11 grades will be hosting a series of guided conversations at the Wilkinson Public Library. We have scheduled the following 3 Wednesdays, the 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> at the library from 6-7. Students are preparing topics for discussion each of the 3 nights. Look for publicity around town and listen for our announcement on KOTO. The 10/11 grades are working hard on their documentary. This Friday they finished the pre-production phase by capturing and logging their videos. Next week begins the production of their documentary. We were very fortunate to have Porter Teeagarden with us to teach the students about filming and editing. Students' academic classes are in full swing for the next 2 weeks. Let's try to stay on task and finish up the school year on a strong and positive note. See you at the movies!

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## **Biology**

For the remainder of this year the class will be studying the major systems of the human body. Once a week the class will discuss some the fundamental concepts of evolution. Topics covered this week were:

- Genetic probability
- Structure and function of DNA
- Body systems overview
- The skeletal systems
- Major evolutionary transformation throughout time

## **Algebra 2**

The next three weeks will be focused on rational and radical functions. Topics covered this week were:

- Multiplying, dividing, adding, and subtracting radicals
- Multiplying binomial radicals
- Rationalizing the denominator
- Using the conjugate to rationalize binomial denominators

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## High School English

Wow! It sounds like the Arizona trip was a fabulous learning experience for these students. They all came back with thought provoking perspectives. This week we began our final unit on the history of Buddhism and the novel *Siddhartha*.

Sarah Barthelow

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<b>Monday:</b>
1. Vocab lesson 11
2. Written trip reflection
<b>Tuesday:</b>
1. Share reflections
2. Background research on Buddhism
<b>Wednesday:</b>
1. Share vocab sentences
2. Present Buddhism research
<b>Thursday:</b>
1. Go over vocab exercises
2. Finish Buddhism presentations
3. Discuss novel
<b>Friday:</b>
4. Vocab quiz
5. Passive voice
6. Discuss <i>Siddhartha</i>












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## High School History

Dear High School Parents,

This week in World History, we continued our study of World War I. We reviewed: how international rivalries and nationalism pushed Europe towards war; why and how WWI began in 1914; described how technology made WWI different from earlier wars; described how WWI became a total war; explained the effect the war had on morale around the world; analyzed the causes and effects of American entry into the war; described the issues faced by the delegates to the Paris Peace Conference; and explained why many people were dissatisfied with the Treaty of Versailles and other peace settlements. After our completion of the chapter, we took a WWI quiz and then began reading *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Erich Maria Remarque. Widely considered the greatest war novel on WWI, I am extremely excited to finish the year with this literary masterpiece.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thacher

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### **High School Spanish**

This week the high school wrote poems about the border. They were wonderful to read. We'll do a display in the hall next week. They are also reviewing the preterit tense and learning irregular preterit verbs. Next week they'll be working on the imperfect tense. The theme for the final exam is the differences between the preterit and imperfect tenses.

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### **Upper School Music**

A very productive week was had by all in the upper school music classes... upon our return from break I communicated our short time frame leading up to the June 5 Mountain School Rock Concert and that all I was interested in was the music and the preparation for our show. The classes responded with a strong focus and excitement that immediately brought our music to a high level. It is amazing how fast we learn as a group when we all share the same goal and focus. What seemed difficult or even incomprehensible yesterday becomes clear and manageable today.

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### **High School PE**

Dear TMS families,

Students are back to spending time outside on the Lawson Hill field for regular PE. Activities will be limited due to the short spring season, but we will pack in a number of skills and experiences with a variety of sports.

- Warm ups include jogging, stretching, and strength exercises.
- Practiced soccer skills and played a game.
- Worked on basketball fundamentals and played World Cup with rules to encourage teamwork and strategy.

Best regards,

Dan Conzelman  
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