

May 9th, 2008

Dear Upper School Parents,

The Hawaii trip was nothing short of amazing. From snorkeling in crystal clear water swarming with fish, eels and turtles to watching the volcano glow as lava poured into the sea, it was a fantastic experience for everyone. While we all miss the beach, volcano and sand, the students transitioned back to regular classes well. Immersion, Hawaii presentation preparation, and getting back in the swing of school were the primary goals this week.

Please take time to check in with your child with regards to their immersion project this weekend. Project deadlines are rapidly approaching. Immersion projects are demanding; good planning and support from home help them run more smoothly.

7th Grade Mathematics

- Learned to solve sudoku puzzles as a logic exercise
- Continued work in Algebra I book
- Reviewed solving equations
- Studied operations with negative numbers
- Quiz next Wednesday

7/8 Science

- Mapped rainfall patterns in Hawaii
- Drew connections with altitude, wind direction, vegetation, and ocean clarity
- Learned to calculate average rainfall for various areas using weighted averages
- Compared Hawaii to the Galapagos Islands
- Began work on Hawaii presentations

Please join us at morning meeting Monday, May 19th for the student's presentation on the Hawaii trip.

Mahalo,

Andrew Shoff

Hawaii trivia: Did you know that while thirteen species of "Darwin's finches" evolved from a single species on the Galapagos Islands, over forty species of Hawaiian Honeycreeper evolved from a single finch species in Hawaii? Imagine if Darwin had visited Hawaii instead of the Galapagos!

Andrew Shoff
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"Mathematics seems to endow one with something like a new sense" -Charles Darwin

7th and 8th English

Thank you all for lending us your students for the Hawaii trip! I had an incredible time and really enjoyed getting to know each of the students outside of the classroom. This week we dove right into to our last English unit. Students are finishing up their study of VCR and have begun reading *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

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Monday: 1. Trip reflections: School Watch
Tuesday: 1. VCR Lesson 15 2. Research background of Frederick Douglass
Wednesday: 1. Transitive and intransitive verbs 2. Share Frederick Douglass background 3. Pre-writing: Frederick Douglass
Thursday: 1. Go over VCR exercises 2. Share pre-writing 3. Read Frederick Douglass ch. 1 out loud
Friday: 1. Work on POL

7th and 8th Grade History

Dear 7th and 8th Grade Parents,

This week in American History, we reviewed: Thomas Jefferson's presidency and how he sought to set a democratic tone and to reduce the role of the federal government; the significance of the Louisiana Purchase; described how the British and French violated the neutrality of American ships from 1800-1812; explored how conflicts with Native Americans (Tecumseh) in the West and with the British at sea led to the War of 1812; explained the outcome of the War of 1812. All in all it was a great week. Next week, there will be a chapter 10 test on Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thacher
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7th Spanish

The seventh grade is reviewing family vocabulary and learning about possessive adjectives and stem-changing verbs this week and next. There will be a quiz on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

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7th and 8th Music

This week we had two very focused rehearsals. Coming back from break and experiential trip means we had not really been together for three weeks. After a quick run through of the songs we were able to very quickly get back to the level we had been at before the break. Everyone was a little surprised at how quickly we got back to that place and how well we played. Now we dial it in for the June 5 concert here at the Mountain School.

Mark Galbo
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7th/8th Grade 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.

- Students will work on building experience and skills in soccer, frisbee, and baseball this spring.
- Warm ups include jogging, stretching, and strength exercises.
- Practiced soccer skills and played a game.
- Practiced frisbee throwing fundamentals, game strategy, and played Ultimate Frisbee.

Best regards,

Dan Conzelman
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