

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> 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  
ashoff@telluridemtnschool.org  
728-1969 ext #16

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

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

The Algebra 1 class will finish off the year with graphing. They will take what they learned earlier this year and apply it in new ways. Topics covered this week were:

- Review of graphing
- Writing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines
- Solving systems of equations

Kirsten Ostberg  
kostberg@telluridemtnschool.org  
728-1969 ext.# 19

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### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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*.

Sarah Barthelow

[sbarthelow@telluridemtnschool.org](mailto:sbarthelow@telluridemtnschool.org)

(970) 728-1969, ext. 21

<b>Monday:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Trip reflections: School Watch</li></ol>
<b>Tuesday:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. VCR Lesson 15</li><li>2. Research background of Frederick Douglass</li></ol>
<b>Wednesday:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transitive and intransitive verbs</li><li>2. Share Frederick Douglass background</li><li>3. Pre-writing: Frederick Douglass</li></ol>
<b>Thursday:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Go over VCR exercises</li><li>2. Share pre-writing</li><li>3. Read Frederick Douglass ch. 1 out loud</li></ol>
<b>Friday:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Work on POL</li></ol>

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## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> History

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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

[tthacher@telluridemtnschool.org](mailto:tthacher@telluridemtnschool.org)

729-1969 ext. 18

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## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Spanish

The eighth grade Spanish class is learning about reflexive verbs and talking about their daily routines. We'll be completing a fun project and taking a quiz next week.

Jennifer Manhoff  
jmanhoff@telluridemtnschool.org  
728-1969 ext. 20

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### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Music**

This was the first week we had the opportunity to play with Harry on drums, who is now sitting in for our departed Frances. As I knew would be the case, Harry immediately brought a level of musicality and attention that allowed the band to get back to the musical depth and polish we had before. Spirits were greatly lifted and it was good to see everyone relax and feel excited about their music again. This class remains an exceptional group which they look forward to demonstrating again at our June 5 Mountain School Rock Concert!

Mark Galbo  
mgalbo@telluridemtnschool.org  
728-3736

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### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
dconzelman@telluridemtnschool.org  
729-1969 ext. 25

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