

April 7, 2019

Dear 7th Grade Parents:

Happy April! We're so excited for the warm weather. Hard to believe that Easter Break is a week-and-a-half away!

Despite taking the ELA State Exam this past week (Math is next month), the students enjoyed a trip to Archbishop Molloy High School to see their production of "Once Upon A Mattress." The show was lovely and they enjoyed seeing some former DWCA students working the show and on the stage.

Reminders:

- Easter break starts Thursday, April 18th: (full day of classes Wednesday, April 17th)
- Saturday, May 4th Ring/Pin Ceremony for 7th graders. We are hoping all families will come and celebrate students moving into their important role as the upperclassmen in their last year at DWCA.

Keep reading for an update of what has been going on!

ELA

Students have finished the ELA state exams and they have also completed their study of the book *Lyddie*. They discussed working conditions in factories and what life was like for an independent, orphaned young girl. They engage in deep and thoughtful discussions about why Lyddie did the things she did - such as hitting her boss with a bucket, rejecting a marriage proposal, and deciding to go to college. They will be taking their final exam on Monday - a reminder that students should be showing you their exam grades and any grade below an 85 should be signed and shown to me.

Next up, students will start their study of *Romeo and Juliet*!

Science

Seventh grade students are continuing their study of the human body person with the structures and functions of the digestive system. This unit also included information on basic nutrition stressing the essential nutrients within the food groups. Students are now working on developing a foldable illustrating the basic nutrients, foods which are good sources of each, and the health benefits of each for the human body. Nutritional labels were analyzed and students measured the fat and sugar of some of their favorite snacks.

An exam on the structures of the digestive system and their functions will be on Wednesday.

For STEM, students looked at various foods and tested for starches and sugars. Students were asked to observe, analyze and evaluate their results.

Social Studies

In social studies we have been looking at the topic of Manifest Destiny, the expansion of the United States in the mid 19th century. Students examined the different ways in which the United States acquired territory, and how these ways differed. We explored the major armed conflicts of the period, from the War of 1812 to the Mexican American War. Students looked at the ways in which we explored the new territory, and read the first hand accounts of the journey of Lewis and Clark, and explained why it was important to survey the new territory

In the next week we will be concluding our look at Manifest Destiny, and looking forward to the Pre-Civil War period. We will be having our test on Tuesday, with extra help on Monday. Following our exam we will begin our look at the abolition movement, and we will be studying the various prominent abolitionists of the time, from William Lloyd Garrison to Harriet Tubman.

Religion

Students have been working hard learning about different virtues they can begin to apply in their daily lives. They began to work on the virtue of humility, which they can begin to mold into their lives as they look forward to their last year of middle school and look towards their future in high school. As we wrap up the Lenten season, the students have been working on reflections based off of different passages in the Book of Psalms they can use as messages of hope and prosperity. Looking into next week, they will continue to learn about different virtues including meekness, chastity, and liberality.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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