

News from Mrs. Savage

December 2, 2021

Dear Parents:



I hope this letter finds you all doing well and recovering from a fun Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

It's hard to believe that we are already in December and in Christmas mode! Here's what's been going on in class:

ELA - We are continuing to read our mystery novel *FRAMED*. During our class readings, we are utilizing new vocabulary words, making predictions and inferences, connections and meeting new characters along the way. All students receive vocabulary sheets, target sheets with chapter questions and a note-taking sheet for the novel. There is an entire section of their ELA binder dedicated to the "class novel." Please check in with your child to see that this section is organized and complete.

In addition to our reading, students read various short stories and identified "Theme" in text. They have been assessed on this topic through a Google form (so, there is no hard copy). Please consult with your child to review their grade. They are able to access the form on their Chrome Books.

SS - We have been studying the Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age). Students have been viewing presentations & videos and taking notes, creating a historical time-line, working in groups, reading text to extract important information. We are learning how the Hunter-Gatherers survived during this time period, their tools, shelter, their routines, etc. We are now starting the

Neolithic Period (New Stone Age), and will be making comparisons between the two.

Religion (6-1) - We have reviewed the two Creation stories in the Bible and students worked on an in-class Creation activity. We have now started the season of Advent, so our focus is on the various symbols of this special time of year. Each student in 6-1 has decorated an ornament for our "Jesse Tree." This is a symbolic tree during Advent that represents the ancestors of Jesus through thousands of years. Each ornament represents various Scriptures from the Bible.

Other news....

-December 8th: school is closed for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

-December 9th: Report card conferences. There will be a sign-up, so be on the lookout for this. I will then follow up with the ZOOM link for parents

-Expectations - We still have a number of issues with students arriving to ELA and SS class without their materials. I remind the students every morning on the materials to bring to class. At this juncture it is not acceptable to arrive to class without HW, binder, class novel, and IN SOME CASES, A PEN/PENCIL TO WRITE WITH. I encourage all parents to have a conversation with their children. It is time for the kids to step it up in terms of their responsibility. There really are no excuses for this to be the norm, as opposed to the exception. During homeroom students have more than ample opportunity to get themselves together and pack their totes.

-Homework/written work quality: It's no surprise that I have a high standard (but a reasonable one), concerning the work that is submitted. I believe it's important to take pride in the work produced. I believe that all these students are capable of so much, yet many are still not following through. Their written work is rushed, sometimes not even a full name is written! They are not using the RACES format that we learned in class. Since we are at the end of the first trimester, this is a perfect opportunity

for parents to sit with their children to discuss the effort they are putting forth. Let's start off the second trimester on the right foot!

- Jackets: the winter chill is upon us and all students are expected to wear a jacket to school. Please dress accordingly for the forecasted weather.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me gsavage@dwcaonline.org and I will respond in a timely manner.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Savage