

## Teacher Write-Ups 5/21/19

### 1-2 Class

#### Ms. Morgan's Report for the Board

The big highlight this month in class as second grade swim lessons. Second graders in on the coast receive free swimming lessons from Mendocino COast Recreation and Parks Department. We head to the pool each day this week for a one hour lesson and the students are enthusiastic and already making progress. Along with swimming instruction they also teach the student water safety which is so important for the students living by the ocean. While I am away with the second grade Ms. Becca says with the seven first graders and Ms. Adams teaches a special PE course called "Fitness Fun". This time also allows Ms. Adams to get to know the students who will be her second graders next year when she is teaching my class in the afternoon. She will also be subbing for me May 20th-23rd when I am away at a training in San Francisco. I am excited to report Ms. Natalie and I are both attending a training at the Exploratorium next week! We will learn hands on approaches to teaching the new Next Generation Science Standards with other teachers from Northern CA. The training includes a hotel, sub pay, travel stipend, and meals! We are very excited and will return to share our new knowledge with the rest of the staff. We have live caterpillars arriving this week and will watch their metamorphosis into butterflies. We are on track to complete the math curriculum and will complete three of four Language Arts Modules. The second graders will begin taking the NWEA assessment next week to familiarize them with this computer based test they will take multiple times each year moving forward. I have been focussing on getting the second graders ready to move up. All the classes did a switch for a class period last week and my second graders spent time in Ms. Natalie's, her 4th graders went up to Ms. Tulley and the 6th graders went up to the Jr. High to introduce everyone to next year's teachers and classroom environments. Natalie will continue switching a few more times and I'll take her 4th graders for the 2nd graders to spend more time in there. Lastly, we had local artist Pete Gealey in class last week who taught the students to draw his style of cartoon veggies. They came out great and we will host him one more time this year for another drawing lesson. We had a second visit from Pam from Audubon Society and went birding last week as well.

Thanks for reading and for your service!

Kim

### 3-4 Class

This week we are testing. We've had only a few tech issues, only a few formatting questions from the students. Although I loathed taking a week of time last month to do interim testing, I can see that this is likely why we have a record low on issues, and students taking charge of resolving things on their own.

Parents and Jen Daoust who-doesn't-even-have-a-student-in-my-room! have come forth with food to feed our classroom masses. Students ADORE the TLC and food! Thank you to Cynthia

Coupe who stepped in as coordinator of parent efforts, and thank you to parents and Jen for all the food, and food service which unrolled seamlessly from my vantage point.

I've promised students a field trip to mini-golf but the weather is not cooperative. We will go on the first sunny afternoon.

I'm excited to be attending the NGSS conference in SF next week. I have subs lined up to work next week, assisted by Veronica who also has a sub credential.

I informed students that if Ms. V tells me they were amazingly professional in their conduct during my absence, then we will brainstorm, discuss, and vote upon a fun activity. Some of the girls desperately want to make slime, so I'm sure that will be a nominee.

### 5-6 Class

Good afternoon, Board Members,

Last week was testing week in our classroom. Before the tests, we did practice tests and then debriefed as a class about the kinds of questions they saw and what tripped them up. This was a new approach for me. I have given practice tests before, but never dissected them with the kids. It was pretty cool to listen to the kids sharing their concerns and their problem-solving strategies. I think it decreased the anxiety level overall. During testing week, the kids were served tasty breakfast food each day, which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed. I have to say that the kids were very positively focused during the tests and genuinely seemed to be working through all of the problems with tenacity. Some kids even said they enjoyed testing week!

They also enjoyed a well-deserved pizza party on Thursday.

This week we are back to the grind, finishing up a unit in social studies and moving back into science. We have enough (unopened) cookies left for a mid-week boost and hopefully we'll slide into Friday with our motivation still intact.

### 7th Grade Class

Hello board,

In history class the students are wrapping up their South America and Mexico unit. They have been studying the Mayans, Aztecs, and Inca civilizations. They will have a test on Thursday.

The 7th graders are plugging along in math class. We are studying a geometry unit which they are really enjoying. After a few units of algebra they are happy to learn something new. In English class we are working on our last unit. The lesson for the unit is how to overcome hardships and adversity. The students are ecstatic that they no longer have to write book reports or hand in reading logs.

My pregnancy is almost at an end. With 8 weeks to go I see the finish line. The baby is gaining about 1/2 pound a week, and has lodged herself under my ribs. I am really excited to be almost done.

## 8th Grade Class

This month in the Junior High classroom:

The big news for this month is that we have successfully completed the CAASPP testing in our room for all the 7th & 8th graders and the high schoolers. Testing went well with only a minimum of tech issues and the students enjoyed the breakfasts immensely. A huge thank you goes out to the parents (Rhonda, Jen and Chelsi) who provided breakfasts for our classroom. In addition several of the students got into the spirit and brought in snacks to share so we were well fed!

To celebrate we went on a field trip this week to Chamberlain Creek Falls up HWY 20 near the Noyo Boys Camp. I was blessed with lots of support from parents who helped drive and chaperone despite the long, dusty logging road you have to go up to get to the hike! A great thanks to them as well for helping out! The kids enjoyed the trip immensely, which served as a reward for all of those who had their work all up-to-date and turned in. Dani stayed back with students who had missing work and who are perpetually not fulfilling their responsibilities so that they could have some one-on-one tutoring time.

We have been enjoying a unit on genetics and how traits are expressed in populations and how change occurs over time in science class. Yesterday our topic was the genetic mutations in bacteria which are making them immune to antibiotics and how we can help by using less antibiotic soaps and hand sanitizers and instead relying on cleanliness and non-antibiotic cleansers such as vinegar or bleach, etc. The students have been enjoying really lively discussions throughout!

The 8th grade students are really excited as they will be finishing their final unit in their math program next week. I have plans to work on strengthening their basic skills through concentrated work on Alex so that we are sending them to the high school really strong. Those students who had wanted to tackle Algebra 1 this year will get to concentrate on that too. One of our 8th graders has successfully completed 1/2 of this year-long course and is into the second half with plans to finish before August so that he can start Geometry in the Fall. The kids are doing great work!

If you have any question, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Kasperson