Class Write-Ups

Class 1-2

Miss Morgan's class had an exciting start to the month.  We culminated a unit on the human body with tracing each student's body on butcher paper and pasting on organs to create a life sized diagram. You may have seen them strung up at the Science Fair! We also made gold and red shakers and participated in the Children's Chinese New Year Parade in Mendocino Village along with the 3-4 class. The kids had a great time and learned about the cultural traditions of the holiday. We also finished the week with a Valentine celebration where the students exchanged cards, ate healthy snacks and played cooperative games.

Upcoming exciting news is that I have arranged for the entire class to receive swimming lessons at the CV Starr pool. We will go for 10 lessons, every Tuesday and Thursday in March from 11-12. It looks like we have enough parent volunteer drivers that it will work. The lessons will disrupt our regular schedule but learning to swim is important in our ocean side community. I have outreached to the parents and have only heard positive feedback and support for the plan and from the students as well. The lessons will cost $250 total which will be paid for from my class PTN fund. We will still have funds left over to go to the B Bryan Preserve in Point Arena at the end of April to see the zebra and feed the giraffe!

Lastly the ladies from the Noyo Center for Marine Science will be visiting next week to teach about marine mammals. The 1-8th classes will be visiting the "bone yard" out on the mill site again this spring to see the giant grey whale skeleton. We will also participate in the Marine Science and Art Fair at the old Rec. Center in March.

Please get in touch with any questions!

Class 3-4

The kids did a nice job on their science fair projects.

We are now moving into phase 2 of the mission projects in which kids build their hands-on project at home AND prepare an oral report, both due next month. There are a few kids who lack support at home for this project, and we will create accommodations in the classroom to ensure success.

 The Chinese New Year parade was fun and wove in nicely with our novel, In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.  Sadly, our service learning project at Caspar Beach, working on debris survey, was cancelled due to sneaker waves.  We will reschedule.

Reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and academic language mastery continue to be a challenge for this group of students and continues as a work in process.

On a personal/professional note, additional to my continued online masters studies, I've completed the first of the three required CSET tests for the state, and am actively working on the first of the four required CA Task Performance Assessments.

5-6 Class

The students just finished and displayed their Science Fair projects and presented them at Science Fair night. Everyone did an awesome job! We are now starting to work on our research papers, 5th grade will be researching a state that they chose, and the 6th graders will researching an ancient civilization. They will be writing a paper along with creating a visual to go along with it.

In Science, the fifth graders, we are continuing our Unit on Systems of living Things on Plant Systems. The sixth graders have just started Chapter 6 on Plate Tectonics.  We will study the layers of the Earth by what they are made of, read about Wegener’s theory on continental drift, and explain why it was not accepted at first.

High School Class

High School Class Update for January/February for Board of Directors:

The high school students and I have been busy this past month finishing final exams from semester 1 and wrapping up those classes, and then moving into our new classes for semester 2.  I have met with all of my families and updated them on course decisions for semester 2 and reviewed their child's progress towards graduation requirements, successes on their latest NWEA exam, and progress with personal goals that each of them had set at the beginning of this school year.

Jen and I are happy to report that a lot of the new systems we put in place this past semester with yours and Roger's support (including new policies to guide course completion, additional tutoring staff, etc.) have really payed off!  There were only 3 students who did not complete classes by the end of the semester (and two of these students have shown marked improvement so that this situation only happened with one of their classes each, one which is also a very hard class).  Rates of failure of classes has dropped significantly as well from being what felt like a trend in the high school program to being isolated to a few struggling students.  These struggling students report feeling good about the new credit recovery procedures that Roger and I developed giving them clear guidelines, deadlines, and consequences for the credit recovery opportunity.

Students are now all up and running in their new courses with pacing guides that we have reviewed and approved for each of their courses to ensure this second semester will go as well as the first if not better!  Also, with the stress of final exams behind us, the students and I are having fun planning 3 different outings: a beach bonfire at Caspar Beach, an ice-skating trip to Santa Rosa, and an over-night trip to the Monterrey Bay Aquarium and possibly the Rosicrucian Egyptian museum in San Jose on the way home.  Stay tuned for requests for approval on this last one!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.