

Teacher Write-Ups
11/28/17

1-2 Class

As we pass the mid way point of semester one, first and second grade families received Progress Reports last week. I have assessed all the student's current reading levels to see growth so far and identified academic and behavior issues for the parents. I will hold conferences when we return from break. Second graders will be headed to the CV Starr pool for 10 free swimming lessons over the next three weeks. This year, MCRPD is unable to include my first graders in the lessons but luckily we have a great plan in place. Ms. Adams, the 5th/6th Aide is a trained gymnastics instructor and amazing PE teacher. First graders will have a special "Fitness Fun" class with Ms. Adams and Ms. Becca at school while second graders are at the pool. Our theme in science this past month was land forms and students completed a project building land and water forms (such as mountains, hills, rivers, etc) out of salt dough. Other fall activities included harvesting a pumpkin in garden that we made pumpkin pancakes from and exploring the idea of gratitude through writing assignments and art projects. We've also continued with the Sanford Harmony social emotional learning program and students have a new buddy each week for "buddy up" activities that allow students to eventually work with and get to know each other student in the class with the goal of increasing empathy.

5-6 Class

Dear Board Members,

This has been a busy week. First of all, students are working furiously on their NANOWRIMO novels. The students set impressive goals for themselves, and some have already surpassed them.

In science, students worked in small groups to design and build biomes. These are small-scale terrarium/aquarium ecosystems complete with land and water plants, bugs, and goldfish. It was amazing to watch the kids plan and build together, tackling problems and revising their designs to meet the needs of the project. The kids really enjoyed the process (especially the rainy day bug hunt) so we will be looking for more Next Generation Science projects of this sort in the future.

As a staff, we reviewed the fall student/parent surveys. I've read mine carefully and will be looking for ways to respond to the needs mentioned. If you have any ideas, I am open to anything that serves the kids and is workable.

That's all for now.
Linda Tullley

Jr High

Hello Everyone!

In English this week students will continue writing their NaNoWriMo novels. Students will be writing their novels during the hour long English period Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the month of November and December. Students are at about the half way point and have enjoyed having Amie, who is in charge of the

NaNoWriMo novel project at the Fort Bragg Library, come in on Fridays to help them with their novels. The deadline for the novels is December 15th. Students will also finish their study of prepositions in Grammar and Lesson 6 in Vocab with tests next week. In Life Science, students will finish Chapter 7 "Genes & Gene Technology" by completing the PBS documentary on the controversies of genetic engineering and have a classroom debate about the pros and cons of using DNA technology in our lives. In art students have been learning about John James Audubon's Birds of America paintings and will do their first oral presentations on the bird they chose to replicate. In PE students have finished the unit of flag football and will begin the new unit on hockey.

Students were given missing assignment reports and encouraged to work on any missing work over the break, as they will have another progress report going home to be signed at the end of the month (next week). Mrs. Kasperson has also offered students an extra credit assignment in history that is due at the end of the month for those looking to improve their grade in the course.

Last week the Fort Bragg Lion's Club held a dinner for the TRCS students who helped with the Haunted Hall of Horrors. Not only did these students help immensely with the set up, production, and tear down of the Haunted Hall, they also became Leo Club members! Congrats to Aiden McFadden, Jack Connolly, Caden Webb, Kaden Green, and Zak Brink who helped raise \$850 for the TRCS Washington D.C. trip with this Haunted Hall fundraiser! Our monthly family movie night fundraiser will also be showing the movie Frozen from 6pm-8pm on the First Friday in December.

Sincerely,
Samantha Walz

High School

This month in the high school class I have been changing up some of my instructional methods in order to try and target weak areas I have identified through the students NWEA scores and through ongoing staff discussions about our school's CASPP scores. I am focusing specifically on increasing the students vocabulary more quickly and on raising their reading comprehension and analysis levels more effectively. To this end I am trying to integrate more reading activities into all the students' subjects, and focusing on creating as many opportunities throughout the day to get the students using their vocabulary words as possible. I am also thrilled to have my classroom library back in my classroom after many years of having to store it in other spaces (including in boxes one year!) around the school campus! This allows me to require more reading since they have lots of books available! ;)

Students are also involved in an informal Model UN program that we are creating. Each of the students has chosen a country from around the world and has spent the last month on Friday mornings learning about things like the GNP of their country, exports and imports, number of nuclear arms, major religions, major immigrant populations, positions on world issues, etc. Next they will tackle creating solutions as a team for some of these world issues. I have chosen for them to focus on issues such as growing racism against Jews in Italy, climate change, North Korean aggression, and struggling emerging democracies as demonstrated by apparent fixed elections in countries in Africa. I can't wait to see how they decide to approach these issues. I am modeling our program loosely after the World Peace Games in which students are given an opportunity to gain understanding and perspective on the various factors that lead to large scale world problems in the hopes that as adults they will be better equipped to participate , even if in perhaps small ways, in contributing to solutions instead of taking apathetic positions on such issues.

Finally, I continue to try and build a greater sense of community and thereby a greater sense of civic responsibility to actively live our REACH values in our classroom and our community as well. Since the closing of the campus (effective until December 8) after the theft issues, we have had many opportunities to discuss values and the consequences of not living by commonly held good values in a democratic society. I am using the Sanford Harmony Program activities to help with a lot of these discussions. The one negative is that a lot of the families of those students who were not involved are disgruntled that their own children are also bearing the consequences of the actions of a few students. I am hopeful though, that if I can weather the negative comments there, that I can teach all of the students a life-long lesson about the necessity for a society to use positive pressure to ensure that all members understand the importance of upholding a common set of values so that those who might otherwise be tempted to drop these values are instead upheld in them by the positive societal pressure not to give in to temptation. My main focus in our discussions is that when we adopt an apathetic attitude to the violation of general values like respecting private property, that we then give the impression that it is no big deal to violate others' rights. I am trying to show the kids that having an attitude of "do as I say, not as I do" or of "I don't think that is right to do, but I won't bother stopping you from doing it because what you do is your business" we actually end up losing rights ourselves. I hope that this will be a positive outcome of this situation.

Other than these things we continue having fun with science labs, reading Beowulf, doing art projects, and cooking in our kitchen space! Despite missing everyone, being separated from the rest of the campus, we LOVE our space! Thank you for giving us a great space for this temporary separation! We have tons of room to do any project we have dreamed up so far. ;)

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

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kasperson