

B-8 EXPECTATIONS

Quo Fata Ferunt

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Holocaust Museum.....May 24

BOOTCAMP for doughboys (and girls)

During the 3rd quarter in Social Studies, our 8th graders learned about the “Great War” and America’s involvement in World War I. Since technology was more primitive nearly 100 years ago, we learned about the different weapons and tactics used in combat.

A simulated World War I Doughboy BOOTCAMP was held in Peacock’s gym - “I want YOU for the US Army.” There were presentations by “army doctors,” “French instructors,” “song leaders,” and others to help us win the Great War. Our Doughboys went through some tough training and a grueling obstacle course to prepare them for the fight. Finally, General Aaron Struck gave us a great inspirational speech before we left for France. All those who helped and were assigned roles did an excellent job – ‘TEN HUT, SOLIDER!

A Novel Idea!

After covering the 1920’s and 1930’s in social studies, we read a novel in class. *The Wave*, by Todd Stasser, offered students a background understanding of why people behaved the way they did and allowed the Holocaust to thrive for years.

The Wave is based on a high school history class in California in 1969. Students were studying WWII and having difficulty understanding why people would give up their individual rights to blindly follow a leader, even if it were for the betterment of their country. We all know it’s easy to look back and see what was wrong, but are we able to recognize it as it happens? *The Wave* revealed startling group behaviors during this classroom experiment. The psychology of the group quickly pulled students into its behavioral “norm.” Only two students saw it for what it was. They had much to teach us.

So that it never happens again!

“Our vengeance was rebuilding life,” said Benjamin Meed. The Holocaust is a human tragedy that must never be repeated. It models what can happen if prejudice, discrimination, and hatred exist in the hands of unchecked arrogance mixed with unlimited state power and technology used for inhumane purposes. From 1939 to 1945, millions died. Six million Jews were murdered simply because they were Jews. When we learn how and why these things were allowed to happen, hopefully we can prevent them from ever happening again.

The 3rd and 4th quarter of Common Time will be devoted to learning about the Holocaust. Students will begin by

identifying what makes them and their families unique then participate in activities that help them grasp an understanding of stereotyping.

Throughout the unit, students will research various topics, view videos, and read novels and articles. After each step, students will record their thoughts in a response journal.

The final step in understanding the Holocaust will be to research and create their own Holocaust Museum. Students’ displays will be open for the entire school and parents to visit. Students will visit the newly opened Holocaust Memorial Museum in Skokie on May 24.

MATH FACTS

4th Quarter Advanced Math

Pythagorean Theorem-Radical Expressions and Equations-Distance Formula-Midpoint Formula-Similar Triangles-Operations with Rational and Complex Expressions

4th Quarter Math

Area and Circumference of Circles-Surface Area and Volume of Prisms, Pyramids, Cylinders, Spheres and Cones-Graphing Cubic and Quadratic Functions-Operations on Monomials

CHEMICAL EQUATIONS AND S'MORES

As the winter turned to spring, eighth graders were busy learning about the physical and chemical properties of matter, balancing equations, making s'mores over a Bunsen burner, performing a melting/freezing lab using moth flakes, and identifying metals by the color emitted when placed in the flame of a Bunsen burner.

For a culminating activity on the atom, your child made a computerized atom using the program *Crystal 3D* or *Director*.

During the fourth quarter students will learn about radioactive elements, substance abuse, and will dissect sharks.

On April 21, the eighth graders will visit Fermilab.

FAREWELL TO MR. BROWNLEY

Peacock Students & Staff,

Thank you all so much for making my student teaching such a great experience. Although I am saddened to leave Peacock, I am excited to take all that I've learned here into a classroom of my own. I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with such an enthusiastic staff and student body. To the 8th graders, I had a great time teaching you and I wish you all the best of luck in high school! Once again, thank you all for your hospitality and giving me the opportunity to be a part of this great school.

Sincerely,

Brent Brownley

Language Arts and Common Time

Third quarter meant that ISAT time was quickly upon us. While students had been diligently working all year within the state's frameworks, there was polishing to be done.

Students worked hard on refining persuasive and narrative essays. Since there is a time limit on each essay, we did several "dress rehearsals". Each dress rehearsal was designed to be as close to the actual testing experience as possible. Students arrived in the classroom and were given a pencil, paper, and their prompt. They were expected to show a graphic organizer, or web, in addition to the essay.

There were many surprises in store for students as they dealt with the

The best of times; the worst of times

Social Studies "roared" through the 1920's, the Great Depression, and celebrated Black History month during the third quarter.

In Chapter 24 "The Roaring 20's" we learned about the exciting decade and all of the good times in America. While studying that chapter, we also created All-Star Cards for Black History Month. Each student researched an African American of importance. Each student did an AWESOME job on their trading card!!!

Before break, we covered the Great Depression of the 1930's. At the conclusion of the chapter, each student had to compare the 1930's to today through an assignment called "Then and Now." Each student was able to draw some connection between the two time periods, making posters, finding articles, or creating a rap song about it. Everyone did a FANTASTIC job, and we had a great 3rd quarter!

pressures of creating the best possible essay under a time constraint. Most discovered that they had to remain very focused and were grateful they had taken an extra three to five minutes to develop a graphic organizer.

In language arts we read *Nothing but the Truth*, a Newberry Medal winning novel by celebrated author Avi. It documents events of a student's willful behavior and his omission and twisting of the truth to get his way. What began as a small incident quickly grew out of control as people with part of the truth overreacted. The consequences surprised everyone!

Finally in Common Time we prepared for the ISAT extended responses in math and language arts. Next quarter we'll study the Holocaust then create our own Holocaust museum exhibit based on our research. All parents will be invited to visit in May.

La Clase de español

We ended 3rd quarter by saying *adios* to Chapter 9 and the body parts. In the fourth quarter we will start by creating our own Spanish "text book". This project is done in class. There is a timeline that each student should try to adhere to. The points given on the timeline will be entered into STI from time to time, but it is the responsibility of each student to keep track of his/her grade. Ask to see the timeline to make sure that your child is keeping up with the project!

During the fourth quarter students will learn how to form commands, the present progressive and they will be introduced to the past tense. We will also review *ir*, *ser* and *estar*. Students will illustrate a cartoon to show the difference between going to do, doing and did.