

VOCABULARY RIDDLES

- I got tricked yesterday, fooled today, and my friend told me it's the Fourth of July in December? What am I?

Gullible! - Mark Edler

- I don't like having a relationship with other people, I prefer to stay far away as possible, I seem lonely but I'm perfectly fine. Who am I?

A Hermit! - Gabrielle Tangen

- I am really bold, have no fear, and like to push the limits. What am I?

Audacious! - Claudia Dineen

Let's Go Shopping!

Mrs. Standart's sixth grade math class completed a Thanksgiving dinner project requiring students to plan a Thanksgiving menu to feed 10 people! They were required to create a shopping list, compare prices, calculate discounts, sales tax, and the price per person. Sixth graders presented their menus on Google slides using colorful graphs and pictures. In the spirit of comradery, Mr. Ahn's seventh and eighth grade students were required to plan a party for 10 people with a budget of \$1,000! Wow...big spenders! Students

researched the cost of food, DJ's, and other forms of entertainment!

Our eighth grade geometry students delved into the fascinating study of reasoning, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, and now the study of congruent triangles. Just ask one of our mathematicians to explain SAS or SSS – you'll be amazed at their knowledge! As they began exploring the entire World of Mathematics, our students gave oral presentations about famous Greek mathematicians, and they just concluded reports about

some amazing mathematical current events. Their geometry studies are further expanded each Thursday with an additional class creating origami structures under the direction of Ms. Shirley Omori, which extends the students' knowledge of geometric figures through tactile learning. How fortunate these students are to experience this unique mathematics program!

Dear Mr. President Elect...

The day after the election of 2016, PHS middle schoolers wrote letters to President elect Trump about their hopes and dreams for the future. Issues such as homelessness, poverty, and education were discussed before the middle schooler crafted their sincere letters.

Dear President Elect Trump,

Hello, my name is Sofie Edler. I'm an 11 year old sixth grader. I live in Palos Verdes Estates, California. I go to a school called Peninsula Heritage School, or PHS. I enjoy Aerial Arts and listening to music. I also love reading manga. I have a cat named Percy. I love him so much, and all other animals, especially foxes.

I hope you could remember this request. It is about animal abuse. Animals have been tortured and killed for no reason at all. Some animals are left in dumpsters or in old houses to live on their own because people don't care and don't want to deal with them. Animal abuse is a big problem and will cause extinction to some types of animals.

Please consider my request on working on animal abuse. Thank You.

Middle Schoolers Travel Back In Time



Charlotte Edler's
election poster

Life in the sixth grade is not ordinary...in fact it's extraordinary! On the first day of school the spectacular sixth graders were transformed into missing Neanderthals and embarked on virtual tours of the Lascaux caves in France. Later they learned about the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia and created board games as a culminating activity! Come to the classroom to see their creative projects, play, and learn about history too! Mr. Ahn's seventh grade social studies class began the year

traveling the roads of Rome and learned about the rise and fall of the Roman Republic. To expand their knowledge about Christianity, seventh graders had a question and answer session with Rev. Dr. Sunny Kang, the residing pastor and St. Luke's Presbyterian Church. Currently, seventh graders are learning about Islam and are beginning to investigate the Five Pillars of the faith.

In the spirit of the Presidential election each eighth grade student was given the task to

create a poster encouraging people to get out and vote. Mrs. Standart was impressed with the creativity of her students and how involved they were with the project. Eighth graders also discussed the reasons for voting, the political party system, and the qualities they think are the most important for our leaders to possess. Students also took a more in depth analysis of the formation of our country and its dependence on other European countries. Currently they are learning about the origins of slavery in America and its impact on the economy.

*"For the first time
in months, my
Sprint and
Bancorp stocks
went up!"*

-Zak Willoughby

Seventh Graders Invest in Stocks!

In September, Mrs. Mahoney's seventh grade language arts class was given the fortunate task of investing \$50,000 into the stock market. They learned about stocks and dividends and Mr. Mahoney came and taught the class about the New York Stock Exchange. The seventh graders check the status of their stocks every Monday and add the data into

their Google spreadsheets. The project is a springboard for expository writing projects which will be tackled later this year. Here is a list of the stocks that our seventh graders have invested in.

William: Kraft, FEGFC, Activision Bliz

Zak: First Bancorp, Nintendo, VCA, Sprint

Athena: Disney, Netflix

Julian: Sony, Amazon

Ryan: Google, AT&T,

Izzy: CVS, Netflix

Cameron: Apple, Nike

Middle School Gives Back

The PHS Middle Schoolers are collecting reading glasses for the impoverished in Uganda. Every other year, our sensational music teacher, Charley Miller, travels to Uganda to bring glasses, medicine, and love to Ugandans who live in deplorable conditions. Mr. Miller has given a presentation

to Mrs. Mahoney's sixth grade social studies class about his travels to Uganda to enhance the world history curriculum. Middle school student council members will educate the rest of the student council about the project who will help collect glasses as well. Next year, the fabulous middle school

students will organize another drive to collect stuffed animals for Uganda too.

PHS Middle School = LOVE



Middle School SpanishOle!



The Middle School Spanish program is muy fantastico thanks to Senora Graff and the dynamic Cailler duo! Sixth graders completed a heartfelt project for Dia De Los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. They con-

Dia De Los Muertos alter

structed altars to honor loved ones or pets that have passed away. Also, students researched famous Hispanic Americans such as Ellen Ochoa, an astronaut, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The Middle School students love reading the Spanish magazine entitled, "Que Tal?" which keeps them abreast about events in Hispanic countries. Moreover, students ate delicious

tamales as they learned about foods native in Latin American countries. Students are learning Spanish grammar, enriching vocabulary, and presenting oral presentations. Buen trabajo, middle schoolers!



"I liked making a dry ice bomb in Science lab! We placed it under a bunch of ping pong balls and they flew everywhere!"

**Samantha
Walter**

Science Wizards....

Did you know that the PHS middle school campus has a state of the art science lab equipped with it's very own sensational science teacher, Dr. Mary Wilson? The seventh and eighth graders demonstrated dry ice explosions, conducted whoosh jet engine simulations, and experimented with flame tests to identify elements. They also extracted DNA from bacterial cultures, worked with samples of gallium and

aerogel, grew crystals, worked with hydraulic simple machines, extracted iron out of cereal, and watched mitosis and meiosis under microscopes. Lastly, the seventh and eighth graders analyzed food by testing simple and complex carbohydrates, made coarse cell cakes, and whipped up a batch of mitosis cookies! Wow! These kids are busy!

PHS middle schoolers have not just one amazing science teacher, but two!! Mrs. Mallon taught the sixth graders about caves and later they constructed their own with stalagmites and stalactites. Students also created solar ovens and challenged each other to see whose oven would reach the highest temperature.

SCIENCE = FUN!

Arts Alive

The ever impressive Mrs. Patricia Harunk, had the pleasure of teaching the sensational seventh graders studio art this trimester. The seventh graders learned about Picasso and the Cubist movement while created self portraits using geometrical components. They learned about anthropomorphism and constructed animals depicting human qualities such as love and wis-

dom. Other art projects include 3D under the sea pictures, Day of the Dead masks, and Statue of Liberty paintings.

Mr. Miller, the PHS music teacher extraordinaire, has the middle schoolers strumming away on their ukuleles and guitars to 70's folk rock. Rock on middle schoolers! Mathieu Cailler, our very own

award winning author for the month assisted eighth grade students in developing erasure poems by utilizing excerpts from various authors, including Herman Melville and Virginia Woolf.



Isabella Poulin's cubist creation

Physical Education

The Zia Fitness field trips can't be beat! Thanks to the generosity of George Toney and the Zia Fitness gang, middle schoolers are strengthening their muscles using TRX bands and developing hand/eye skills with the Dyno Vision Board which is a revolutionary technology designed for professional athletes. Students also are learning self defense and participating in fun aerobic activities!



What other middle school has students play Frisbee golf, volleyball, jump rope, and team-building games in the same month? Not to mention help set a Guinness World Record? Why the dynamic Mrs. Nygaard has her student not only strive to be physically fit but learn the importance of sportsmanship as well.

Drop Everything and Read...and Write too!

The sixth grade is reading the heartfelt book entitled, *A Fish In A Tree*, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt which is about a tenacious young girl struggling with Dyslexia and the drama of middle school. It's a beautiful story about perseverance and the importance of standing out instead of fitting in. Sixth graders also crafted numerous expository essays and creative stories too! Recently they designed an invention and mirrored the television show, *Shark Tank*! Students had to present their inventions to the "Sharks" consisting of Mrs. Mahoney, Mr. Zak, Mrs. Burden, and Mrs. Nguyen, and persuade the Sharks to fund their projects!

The seventh graders read the true story, *A Long Walk To Water*, by Linda Sue Park. The book is about a boy named Salva, one of the "lost boys" of Sudan and this week they began George Orwell's classic

story, *Animal Farm*. The students analyzed the differences between Communism and democracy and discussed the meaning of equality and liberty as they examined the Declaration of Independence. Every week seventh graders have a choice to write an informative, creative, or persuasive piece from fun-filled writing menu!

Eighth grade English students tackled literary devices such as satire, parody, and juxtaposition through media caricatures and the short stories of Washington Irving. Students later tried their hand at incorporating these devices into their narrative poems entitled *A Monster's Lament*.



Dracula's Secret By Aidan Byrne

Today Dracula shared a secret with me. He told me what he really wants to be. He said, "Opening an Italian restaurant is my dream. I am tired of making people scream."

"Since I cannot go out during the day," he said, "all I do is stay home and bake bread!" He told me he wants to try garlic once and for all! But is afraid one whiff might make him fall.

Dracula told me he is tired of Halloween.

And that he no longer wants to be mean. "I want friends!" he said, "and laughs and more! And I want to cook a wild boar."

He told me about flying to Rome. To enjoy some cappuccino with some foam.

He is changing his name, too. And would like to be known as Lou.