

# Biweekly Update 7

## December, 2014





We have had a busy and fun first half of the term. Our WWI and WWII units have given the students a good grounding in the many causes and effects of these two profound conflicts. Key lessons constructed the larger framework for the students who earnestly delved into the subtopics that interested each most. This week they will be presenting their final projects which range through trench warfare, the holocaust, Dutch resistance, Japanese-American internment, and the Atomic bomb to name a few.

In Mathematics, the students learned how to find a line's slope by comparing how much it changes along the "Y" or "X" axis. They discovered how to calculate the changes in rise and run with the different formulas provided as well as how to use those numbers to define a line's slope also known as steepness. This week they worked on challenging word problems and received a practice test to ensure their knowledge on this topic before they take their second math assessment on Tuesday, December 16. We will be taking timed tests to assess mastery at each level going forward.

In Spanish, our students learned everything related to a restaurant from placing an order to asking and paying the check as well as going grocery shopping in "el mercado". They also learned to conjugate the following verbs: comprender (to understand), aprender (to learn), escribir (to write), recibir (to receive) and vivir (to live). The students were excited to work on their first project "La tienda", which consisted of creating a business in the food industry and a poster advertising the menú.

In English, the students are working on a creative writing piece that will see them observe a person, place, or thing and describe it in detail using concrete and abstract language features. We are working towards building a writing portfolio for students and teachers to track progress over the course of their time in our program.

Finally, our students have been working at making homemade holiday gifts for our fundraising. We have ready-to-make cookie jars, chocolate boxes, and evergreen sprays. If you, a friend, or relative is looking for that late game gift grab, perhaps one of these will fit the bill. Ask your student for details.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and wonderful New Year! Enjoy your time with family and friends.

All the Best,  
Will and Erika

