

March

2015



Biweekly Update 11

As spring approached, students were introduced to our Bees unit. Students so far have learned about the anatomy of bees, life stages, colony hierarchy and the history of honey. We also received the visit of an active member of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, Mrs. Eloise Naylor, who spoke to the students about Pollination and Safety tips when dealing with bees. This presentation was very interesting and essential to the learning of our students, since they will be taking care of the honey bees our school will be keeping.

In English, students finished reading, *I Am Malala* and engaged in seminar discussion. They identified the themes of women's rights, passive resistance, freedom, and family. We also considered the complicated interplay of tradition, culture, politics, and gender identity. Now there is time to focus on Read-a-thon books for the remainder of the month. Students were given the freedom to choose their next writing assignment format as well as topic and have begun to organize their ideas. Whether transactional or poetic writing, they will have guidance and feedback throughout the process. We are seeing some significant progress in student writing skills lately.

In Mathematics, students learned about the types and properties of angles as well as the angle addition or postulate. They have learned how to measure the degree of angles by using a protractor and other instruments. Students have started to receive practice problems for their upcoming state test (Stanford Achievement Test). On March 13th, the students will be having an assessment to demonstrate their understanding on the following topics: Pythagorean Theorem, triangles, angles and angle addition.

In Spanish, students concluded their presentations for the project "Una vuelta al mundo Hispano." This project provided students with a cultural inside to different Spanish-speaking countries. Our next unit will introduce "La Familia" (Family) and "La Casa" (Home). During this unit students will receive a couple of writing assignments, in order to improve their writing skills in Spanish.

We are currently putting together our spring trip based on our fourth term study of water. (Humanities and Occupations) In between we anticipate taking a week to do some field work and study. (Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 8) We plan to head up to Sandy Hook, NJ and do a two day program with the Sea Grant Consortium, then travel down to Tuckerton, NJ to work with the Jacques Cousteau National Research Reserve for a day and finish with work at the Nature Conservancy in Cape May, NJ. We plan on staying at local campgrounds. We will be surveying for available tents. I will have a clearer picture of itinerary details, packing list, and budget information in the coming weeks. This is sure to be a fantastic learning experience!

All the best,

Will and Erika