

MANJ

Adolescent

Program

Biweekly Update



*Spring  
Awakening*



## Biweekly Update 12

It's spring again and the adolescents are getting plenty of time out of the classroom! Since we have been back from break we have been tending bees, planting gardens, and landscaping. Working with local beekeeper Lou Maylor, we installed and maintain 40,000 gentle honeybees in two starter hives in the back pasture. We hope to garner 100 pounds of beautiful raw honey in our second year of operations. Our garden beds have been cleared, composted, and planted with cold crops such as lettuces, cabbages, broccoli, and peas. We will harvest our first planting in June and prepare seeds for our summer yield. It's been a joy to vary our work and get more exercise outdoors.

In Humanities, we have begun our new unit on the social science of water. Students are learning about the complicated problems of water abundance/waste, water scarcity/quality, and economic scarcity. Students are analyzing the causes of these problems and looking for solutions that could make a difference. Each student represents a region of the world at a simulation UN summit on water at the end of the unit. All of their instructions, requirements, and deadlines are in their notebooks begging for inquiry.

In Language seminar we will be reading two books connected to our units on water. The first is Hemmingway's Old Man and the Sea and the second is Mark Kurlansky's Cod. In the spirit of spring, language workshop will feature a unit on poetry writing. We will explore haiku, limericks, sonnets, and free verse. Students recently read a few challenging poems on water, including two by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Vaughan.

As the end of year quickly approaches, we have initiated our last mathematics unit "Statistics". By the end of the term students will be able to effectively conduct research, acquiring the ability to collect, understand, organize and use data and information to explain cause/effect relationships. Therefore, students will choose a research project assignment for the course of Mathematics this term. This week students learned and practiced all statistics measurements such as, mean, median, mode and range.

In Spanish, students learned about the most popular "deportes de equipo" (sports) played in Spanish Speaking countries as well as "las partes del cuerpo" (body parts). Students were introduced to the following sports: fútbol (soccer), béisbol (baseball), básquetbol (basketball) and voleibol (volleyball). They also learned how to conjugate the verbs correr, atrapar, pasar and gustar. We also had fun playing a guessing game, in where the students seek for clues by asking questions in Spanish, practicing some of the skills they have acquired throughout the year.

We had several offers to borrow tents for our upcoming trip. Thank you very much. We are sorting out the inventory and will get back to you on needs.

Enjoy the warm weather!

All the Best,

Will and Erika