

Forming a learning community

MANJ Adolescent Program

Mid October



Biweekly update 4

It's been chilly mornings and warm afternoons lately, and we'll take that! The past 2 weeks have seen the students get deeper in their study of the human brain. They have worked on small projects such as the brain cap activity and creating their own superheroes. This week we visited the brain exhibition located at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia where the students learned about the human structures, neural activity, brain electricity and perception. We also visited the electrophysic lab at the Rutgers Camden campus, which provided the students with a better understanding of the neurotransmitter GABA.

In English, students have been crafting their persuasive essays through several revision processes. We have also been doing seminars on Eastern and Western philosophy. This week the students will receive a copy of Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front, one of the war classics that will tie in with our World Wars unit beginning next term. Look out for guided reading questions and vocabulary.

In Mathematics, the equalities unit was concluded and the inequalities concept has been introduced. The students have learned how to solve simple, multi step and compound inequalities. Next, they will be introduced to inequalities word problems, which are a caterpillar in order to develop a good understanding of math problems. I will be providing them with the skills needed to solve word problems as well as solving mathematical problems in their everyday lives. Friday, October 31st they will taking the first math assessment, which will include all the concepts and skills they have learned so far.

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In Spanish, students were introduced to the Spanish adjectives. They also learned how to utilize them when introducing themselves as well as relatives and friends. Our next lessons will include "Pronombres" (pronouns) and short paragraphs readings, which will help the students with their pronunciation and comprehension of the Spanish language.

Doane Academy have once again put together a fall dance for the surrounding small middle schools. Last year our students had a really fun time. It will be held in the Doane dining hall on Friday, November 7th, from 7-9:30 pm. It is semi-formal attire. Arranging carpools makes it more convenient for parents and more comfortable for students.

We have been in touch with Gladwyne Montessori School in Philadelphia again this year and are planning to get together a few times this year. Their adolescent program director, David Shin, suggested that we join Edmodo with them. Edmodo is a classroom social media site monitored and facilitated by the teachers in both communities. It is used only for educational purposes and grace and courtesy are mandatory. If you give your son or daughter permission to join this wider Montessori middle school community please e-mail me. If you have further questions, feel free to get in touch.

Have a great week.

All the best,

Will and Erika