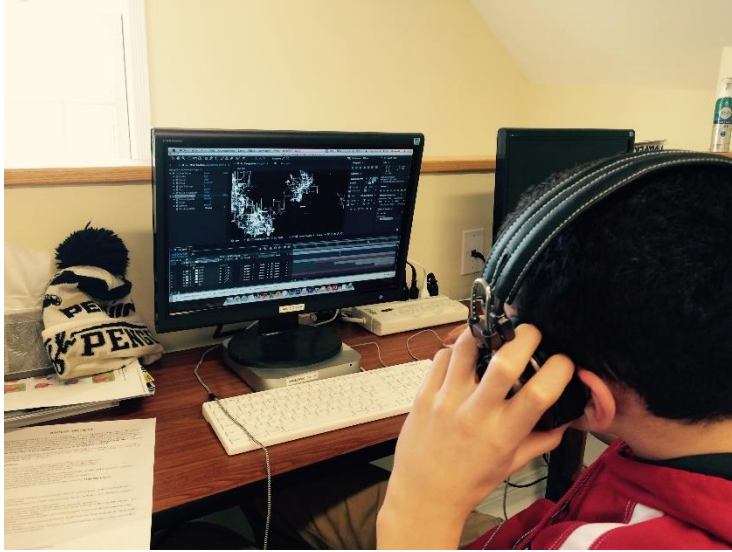


Biweekly Update 8

January 2015

Happy New Year



We opened the Volcanism unit by discovering the parts of a volcano and formation of magma as well as the different types, volcanic status and shapes of volcanoes around the world. The students were assigned their final projects for this term which consist of constructing a 3D replica and report of the chosen volcano due January 30. Students also experienced their first lab activity (underwater volcanoes), which provided them with an understanding of density as related to hot and cold water and to layered liquids and molecules.

Mathematics introduced the geometric applications: distance, midpoint and endpoint formula, and finding missing coordinates. Students are familiarizing themselves with equations and formulas involving radicals, including extraneous solutions. The academic plan for the rest of this term is to introduce the following concepts: square root functions, the properties of radicals, right triangles, hypotenuse and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will recognize the absolute necessity of the “shapes” about society that is critical to enjoying their life.

In Spanish, The students were introduced to a series of education videos ¡Viva el Mundo Hispano.! The exciting series transports students to more Spanish-speaking countries as it continues the humorous adventures of six teens in a boarding school. The videos are designed to help reinforce the language skills already learned by the students as wells comprehension of the Spanish language and the structures of dialogue. It expands the students' cultural awareness by exploring customs of Latin countries Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Venezuela.

The students read *The House on Mango Street*, a series of interconnected vignettes. The main character discusses the ups and downs of living in a lower income section of Chicago. Through the character’s eyes the students learned what it is like to be poor, to be a female on the threshold of womanhood, and the difficulties of an immigrant family. The book also explores how a person can become a product of his/her surroundings.

In Language workshop, the class is working on a descriptive essay, a creative writing exercise challenging students to think poetically and expand their vocabulary. Many grammar, usage, syntax, and punctuation decisions have come from this and the students are seeing new ways to elevate their writing.

It’s been a great start to the new year and we look forward to meeting with you for conferences this week.

All the best,

Will and Erika

