

## Newsletter 8 Happy Friday!

### Science~

The students took apart the entire Science World magazine this week. Once they finished reading all articles they then chose their favorites in which they were to take notes on each of them and create a short presentation of the one article they found most interesting.

They shared their mini presentations with their classmates. I love giving the students the opportunity of being the instructor to one another, they gain confidence as well as the ability to take the leader role on, while teaching their peers something they are interested in.



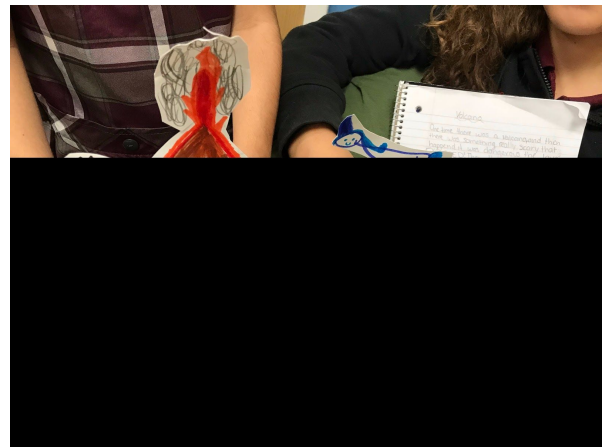
### Math~

*Fake News Fake Data* is the article we focused on this week. The students were able to look inside and understand how social media and other news sites can actually be misleading us. The students were able to see what bad data and misleading graphs look like and how they are the reason for the large amount of fake news

that is out there. The students task was to identify and analyze graphs. Graphs can be a great way to share data to the public, but it was important for us to learn that not all graphs are created for the right reasons. I thought this was a great way for students to understand that they need to be in control of how news is presented and how to separate fake news from the truth! Being able to interpret news and information about the world is something that is important for generations to come since social media has become a way of spreading news. The students need to educate themselves and understand the difference between an educated resource rather than believing everything they see on the internet.

### Buddy time~

This week we chose to write short stories with Ms. Anna's class! The students worked alongside their younger peers as the young students dictated their stories, the older student wrote. Our students were able to guide the young students stories, their ideas, as well as their overall process to create a short essay that they later made into a puppet show. The students took paper plates and gave the younger students a chance to create their own interpretation of the characters from the stories they wrote together.



## Exploration~

~Columbus vs. the People activity ties right in with our exploration of the renaissance. The role playing project starts with a monstrous crime that was committed in the years after 1492, when millions of Tainos on the island of Hispaniola lost their lives. The student's job is to figure out who- and or what - was responsible for this genocide. All the defendants are played by the students,

1. Columbus
2. Columbus' men
3. King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella
4. The Tainos
5. The System of Empire

There is one prosecutor (me), each defendant has been taken over by the students who have been put into groups of two. The students came up with opening and closing statements that were then followed up by asking witnesses to the stand and finally a jury that will overall make the final decision of who is guilty. This activity created by Howard Zinn is usually done in a high school history courses and is leveled for students of higher education. As for our middle school students, they did a fantastic job stepping up to the stand and defending their freedom against the crime they were accused of.



~ *History Channel's Engineering an Empire: Da Vinci's World* was a short film we watched on Friday that went along with a note taking sheet. The sheet followed the movie and gave the students to fill in the missing parts to complete the notes sheet on Da Vinci's World.

## Vocabulary words of the week included:

- ~ prosecutor
- ~ defense attorney
- ~ jury
- ~ ethnocentrism
- ~ conquest
- ~ indigenous people

## Things to ask your child:

- ~ Ask your child about their poem they wrote this week!
- ~ Current events from the week
- ~ How their biography speech and presentation is coming along
- ~ If they are using Khan Academy for at least 30 minutes each week

Hope you have a great weekend,  
Ms. Alexandra

“History is important. If you don't know history it is as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, anybody up there in a position of power can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking up on it.” — Howard Zinn