

May 29, 2020

Hello 6th Grade Families,

Though with the holiday it was a shorter school week, 6th graders have been busy finishing up Superhero projects, learning about terracotta soldiers, ecology and much, much more.

Please enjoy a look back at the week!

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### **Advisory - Nayantara & Advisors**

This week Middle Schoolers participated in a Spirit Week assembly run by our school-wide Spirit Planning Committee. We were treated to a visit from some Upper School student-athletes and we shared what we love about Calhoun. Thank you to our dedicated planners and to everyone who participated in the many events that were offered this week.

### **English - Chelsea**

In English we're getting towards the end of *Harbor Me* and doing some writing about the emotions and experiences the characters are going through. Next week we will finish the book together as well as share our final superhero projects! So far the projects are so creative and I can't wait for us to all be able to see them!

### **Health - Alyssa**

Students will be using their 3-day nutrition, sleep, and physical activity logs to complete a mini-project. Students will be calculating their calorie input and their calorie output for each day, and then reflecting on their choices of food, activities, and the amount of sleep they are getting each night. Students will analyze if being home has changed their routines, if they are more or less active now, and if their sleep is being impacted by all this change. Hopefully this is the beginning of the students realizing how much of an impact they have on their own bodies and the choices they make in caring for them.

### **Math - Kevin**

Our investigation into 2-D and 3-D measurements continued this week. We also introduced the ideas of surface area and volume of rectangular prisms. Students have become well versed in working outside of mathematical comfort zones, and it has really shown in the quality of the dialogue in class. We will continue our investigation into nets and "unfolding" 3-D shapes into their flat 2-D faces

### **Physical Education - Nick**

We are continuing with our daily physical activities. On Monday, students received a new list of five different workouts, ranging from 90s dance party workout to a leg and cardio workout, as well as workouts for volleyball and basketball players. Sixth graders should try to complete at least two workouts for the week, though one per day is even better. On Friday, students completed a Google Form to share their workouts. As always, the goal is to keep our students active and moving for at least 20 minutes per day.

### **Science - Zach**

For our penultimate week of science classes, we started to close our chapter on ecology by looking at the different relationships organisms have in an ecosystem. Starting with a focus on prey and predator relationships, we took a look at how energy is distributed from sunlight into plants, diminishing as it travels through the rest of an ecosystem, and is eventually recycled back by decomposers. Students finalized the

week by playing a short game to identify the type of ecological relationship two organisms have based on real life examples. To support the start of our final project, we are creating individual food webs based on real ecosystems or fictional settings from books, movies, and other media.

### **Social Studies - Gloribel**

In social studies, we learned about the economic/social policies and legacy of the Han and Qin dynasties. Specifically, we focused on how emperor Shi Huangdi worked to establish a powerful central government and the result of a legalist philosophy. We are currently looking into the discovery of terracotta soldiers and the history it reveals about ancient China. This army of life-size terracotta soldiers and horses that were buried in the tomb of the emperor is only one of the many wonders to have been discovered.

### **Woodshop - Mike**

It's been quite an unexpected semester in Woodshop this year, to say the least. However, seizing the opportunity to focus on design and graphic work has yielded some really inspiring results, and the remainder of the year will focus on developing the design and drawing skills we've been working with since March. The logos I'm getting are really cool! The kids should be proud of their work.

### **Languages**

#### **Mandarin - Yutong**

This week, students continued to practice and reinforce their time related vocabulary. They learned how to form complete sentences for asking and answering questions about time. They did a world clock assignment where they researched, wrote, and spoke about the times of cities in different time zones.

#### **Mandarin - Jia**

We are currently using previously learned words about numbers and daily activities, combined with some new words to tell time. Students are practicing high frequency words and phrases such as "o'clock," "half," "a quarter on a clock," "am/pm," etc. During Zoom meetings, students engaged in interpreting, translating and competing in live games. Assignments involved practicing words and sentences in Quizlet.

#### **Spanish - Linda**

The goal for Spanish this week was to complete the four Duolingo lessons related to grocery shopping or *ir de compras*. Learning useful terms and expressions related to fruits and vegetables, prices, verbs such as *comprar*, *refrigerar* and *poner*, direct pronouns, and adjectives were all part of their lesson. The goal of this activity was to be able to identify where things are located or ask where to find things at the supermarket while focusing on correct grammatical structures and pronunciation related to the above topics.

### **Music**

#### **Chorus - Alison**

Students finished up their final composition project for the year, using a poem as the basis for their lyrics. In our live classes, we listened together and discussed a few different musical examples of the poem "[i carry your heart with me (i carry it in]" by e e cummings. Students explored how speaking a poem out loud might help them create a melody, and they discussed how different melodies or instrumental parts can make the poems feel or sound completely different.

#### **Woodwinds & Brass - Ben**

This week our 6th graders worked to put the finishing touches on their video projects! Next week students will continue working with teachers on instrumental technique as we wrap up the year. All students are encouraged to keep instruments over the summer, but there is also information available about returning them for those who choose to do so.

**Strings - Kiwon & Luke**

This week 6th grade strings continued to work on their home concerts/independent work, which should be completed and uploaded to the portal by Monday.

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I hope you have a wonderful weekend! Please reach out with any questions via email at [hannah.scarritt-selman@calhoun.org](mailto:hannah.scarritt-selman@calhoun.org).

Sincerely,  
Hannah Scarritt-Selman