



ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE GAZETTE

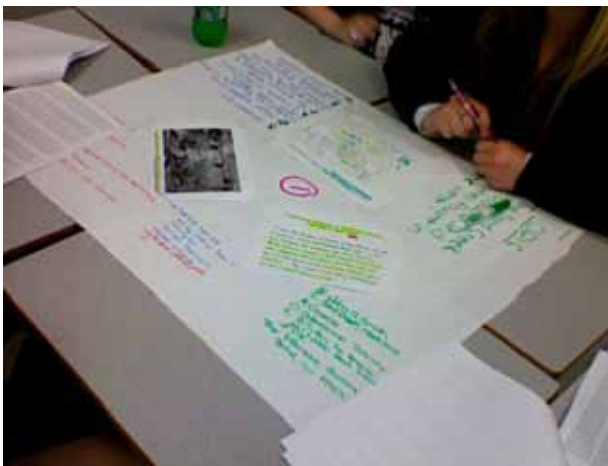


May 1, 2010

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Ms. Shea's AP US History class is rushing headlong towards the modern end of US History in preparation for the AP Exam on May 7th. Students are working feverishly on review packets, and will be launching into all-out in-class review after break. They will be covering (and re-covering) material from 1608 to the 1900s through fishbowl activities, chalk talks, socratic seminars, annotated timelines and high-level review games. Once they have completed the exam on the 7th, they will spend the remainder of the trimester exploring issues, events or figures in American History they find personally interesting, and critically exploring American History through film.

In American Social Movments, students are exploring the groups and individuals who have sparked change in society. Students are using primary source documents as well as secondary sources to discover the motives, methods and impacts of various social movements. Recently, they explored documents about the motives for the development of Native American social movements from the colonial period through the American Indian Movement of the 1970s using a "Document Shuffle & Ink Think" strategy. This activity is part of an ongoing effort to include more differentiated instruction, where students are given different types of learning tasks and different levels of support based on their needs. In small groups, the students move between documents that are categorized into themes. At each document group, they perform specific tasks to analyze the documents indivudally and collectively, and connect the information back to the guiding question for the unit. Students found the experience far more interesting and enlightening than standard document analysis, as they were able to discuss documents with their group members, see what previous groups had written on the documents, and (most importantly to them) "move around the room instead of having to be stuck in a desk all period."



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

English Department Celebrates...



“By all accounts, National Poetry Month has been part of a nationwide revival of interest in poetry over the past decade or so.”

-Publisher's Weekly

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is now held every April, when publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of organizations and businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.

Teachers from across the disciplines celebrate National Poetry Month by reciting their favorite poems on the loudspeaker throughout the month of April. On the classroom level, students in Mr. Wormuth's Poetry: Dylan Thomas to Bob Dylan class recently learned

how to write haiku poetry and have begun to work on their final project (which will culminate in a performance of original poetry generated during the various workshops offered in class throughout the trimester.) Students in Mrs. Dewey's English classes will soon be learning how to analyze and annotate poetry utilizing the on-line Poetry Out Loud Anthology.

Teachers can access a variety of educational resources in support of National Poetry Month by going to Poets.org (and clicking the “for educators” tab) where they will find a variety of resources, including: curriculum units and lesson plans, essays on teaching poetry, teacher discussion forums, selected poems to teach, and tips for teaching verse. Another great resource is the Poetry Out Loud website – poetryoutloud.org.

FINALIZING SCHEDULES FOR 2010-2011

Starting with our current juniors, guidance counselors hope to begin meeting with students in mid-May to finalize their schedules for the 2010-2011 school year. Students will receive their schedules and materials needed to fine-tune their schedules shortly before that time. Students and parents are encouraged to take the time to review the schedules and meet with their guidance counselor during study halls. We will meet with juniors first, then sophomores, and finish with the freshmen. Students should check FirstClass in early May to confirm the specific dates.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors continue to complete and submit applications for the myriad of scholarships available. Several additional scholarship opportunities have early to mid-May due dates, so keep checking the black scholarship crate in the guidance office.

8th GRADE REGISTRATION

A significant chunk of the past month saw guidance counselors traveling to area elementary schools to meet with 8th graders and their parents for the purpose of selecting classes for the coming year. It was nice seeing familiar faces as well as making new connections. We are looking forward to working with these young people and their families for the next four years.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

English 9 – The Freshman English classes have been very busy. April is poetry month and we have been working hard developing the inner poets within all of us!! Students have been learning about Diamontes, acrostic poetry, cinquains, haikus, concrete poetry, and many others! Students have been creating their own poems and developing a poetry portfolio that includes all of their work. We will finish up the school year with a short story unit.



In Math classes, we have been working on quadratic equations, geometry concepts such as parallel, perpendicular lines and transversals as well as the angles that are formed by each. My consumer math has been working on bud-

gets, how to interpret pay stubs, etc.



In life skills we've been working on team work. We've done lot of team building exercises and projects. The students are also working on giving an oral presentation and sharing information with other people (the importance of eye contact and speaking clearly). We've been practicing using and counting money and other math skills that will help later on in life (making a budget, opening a bank account, measuring while cooking etc.) The students are doing great!



Pinciples of English classes, some of the students are beginning essay writing using graphic organizers. Some other

students are finishing up their creative stories and will be “publishing” them (for themselves) next! We are also using Spellography to address spelling in class!



AFS International Club

The AFS/International Club has continued its busy Spring schedule. All of the AFS Exchange Students were invited to join other AFS students from all over Maine to visit the Maine State House to learn how Maine Government functions. We had a guided tour of chambers. An officer of the court explained how a bill is debated and passed. The students sat in the seats of the members of the House of Representative and debated a current bill before the Maine house. The bill was whether Maine should require cell phones to be labeled that they are hazardous to health because they give off radiation. Even the Exchange Students are not of this country they did a very good job of debating both sides. They were then allowed to vote electronically and see how it came out on the electronic vote board. The measure did not pass. Afterwards the students had a private meeting with the Governor. He spoke to each student (about 50 of them) and then entertained general questions and answers.

The International Club and the National Art Honor Society held their 3rd Annual International Rave. This is a popular dance with many students. This year we had excellent DJ's with a great repertoire of Techno Music. The DJ's were Danielle Cyr, Justice Maddox-Wilbur and Sam Keefe. The dance was especially well lit this year with many flashing lights and revolving light fixtures which made it even more fun for all. The Relay for Life team of the SHAG club sold many light sticks to raise funds for the Relay for Life.

The AFS/International Club's big event of the year is the International Pot Luck Dinner and Cultural Performances. This year we have in our club many very talented club member and Exchange Students. Because of this the Cultural Performances were just amazing. Many of these students are seniors so this was their farewell performance. A large number of supporters of International Culture attended. The evening is open to the public and admission is an international dish to share. The food is always delicious and this year was no exception. Following dinner the diners cross into the Theater for the cultural performances. The show opened with Entropy, returning because they support intercultural exchange. The members of the band who performed are all recent graduates of EHS. Justin Chamberlain, lead guitar. Brendan Bouchard bass guitar, and Spencer Small, lead vocals. They treated the audience to an all-acoustic performance. Tyler Small is also a member of the band, he is the drummer. Thuy Nguyen then recognized the contributions of the Advisor, Mrs. Macbeth, Mrs. Bonney, ESL teacher and unflinching support of exchange students and new residents from many cultures, Mrs. Carter for sewing beautiful costumes, known as ao ba ba, for the Vietnamese Dance. Mr. Frazier for lending his Music room for weekly practice sessions of the Vietnamese Dance. Many members of the AFS/International Club are graduating seniors. Mrs. Macbeth honored them and their parents for their support and accomplishments. Next, Sha Liao and MyMy Nguyen sang a lovely Chinese and Vietnamese song. Alex Keefe and Kevin Nguyen did an amazing free-style hip-hop break dance. Mei Kato from Japan choreographed and performed a rhythmic gymnastic dance with Mei danced with rope and Thuy Nguyen danced with ribbon. Then, Sha Liao, who has only arrived at Ellsworth High School a few weeks before the performance danced a ballet on toes. The last performance of the evening was a dance choreographed and taught by Thuy Nguyen. It was an interpretive dance about life in a rural Vietnamese village leading up to the beginning of the Viet Nam War and how it changed their lives. Dancing with Thuy Nguyen, My Nguyen, Morgan Clement, Mei Kato, Katy Schrader, Danielle Cyr, Abby Piacentini, Roshanna Vachan and Belle Vachon.

This is not the end of the International Club activities. The very next day we had "Italian Day" for the hot lunch. We have been having the cuisine of each of our exchange students. Thee Menu was lasagna, salad, garlic bread and Torte Limona, which is a lemon tart on a short bread pastry topped with powdered sugar. Dilizioso!



PHYSIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

STUDENT COUNCIL FUND RAISER FOR EMMAUS CENTER

It's hard to believe that we are heading in to the last full month of school! Students successfully completed a unit in archery, weight training and table tennis during the month of April. Upcoming units that will be held outside are: tennis, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee and croquet.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Ellsworth High School is fortunate to live in a community rich in scientific research. Students have the opportunity to participate in internships at both Jackson Laboratory or the Mount Desert Biological Laboratory, both world renowned genetic research facilities. During the school year students may apply to work at Jackson Lab and if accepted are matched with a staff scientist. Students travel to the lab several days a week to participate in ongoing research projects under the supervision of their mentor scientist. The year culminates when all the students participate in a presentation of their research for their peers and mentor scientists.

This year we have been fortunate to have several students participate in Jackson Lab internships. Braden Kell has designed and programmed an interface for searching through computed genetic data. When complete, this will allow scientists to access the data and download results from across the Internet.



Braden Kell

Aaron Burmeister works for Dr. Rick Maser in the field of microscopy using fluorescent imaging FISH slides of both wildtype mice and a 4th generation of telomere-deficient mice. DAPI stain is used to color chromosomes whereas rhodamine is used to mark the telomeres of the specimen. He will be measuring telomere length in the latter specimens and, when compared to the mouse donor, the data will hopefully show phenotypic correlation between telomere length and the health of the mice.

Taylor Jones and Chloe Taub have been accepted into a highly competitive summer research program at Jackson Lab for students from all across the nation. This will continue the work they both began during their school-year internships, allowing for an even deeper exploration into their research topics. An Ellsworth High School graduate, Lucas Jordan, was also accepted into this competitive program and will be pursuing information technology applications.



Taylor Jones



Chloe Taub

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Since the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory is not fully functional throughout the year they only provide a summer program for students. Katarina Rydlisky has accepted a position in this program. Katarina will have the opportunity to work with visiting genetic researchers and professors from all across the nation.



Katarina Rydlisky

As you can see, students from Ellsworth High School are fortunate to have research opportunities available to them that many college graduates don't have, better preparing our students for college and the scientific work environment.

This year Ellsworth High School chemistry students have continued their participation in a University of Maine water research project entitled, "Get Wet!" This student-scientist project increases local participation and understanding of regional issues impacting water quality. GET WET! "offers opportunities to educators, students, local governments, and the general public to learn about their local natural history

and allows them to draw the connection between land use and water quality." Students bring in water samples from home and test them in class for chloride and nitrate concentration in addition to conductivity and pH. Researchers then independently test the samples back at the university and the lab results are then compared with the results the students measured during class. Students see that their results are the same as those determined by actual scientists.



LIBRARY

April is poetry month. During April teachers and other faculty read poems to the school over the public address system each morning after announcements. Mrs. Macbeth goes around in March and asks for volunteers. This reading and listening has become very popular. Mrs. Macbeth has no trouble filling the slots and staff that cannot fit into the scheduled reading are disappointed and ask to be on next year. Four slots for April 2011 are filled already!

During April, Mr. Frazier brought in his Pop Music Classes to do their research projects on the development of popular music through the decades. Mrs. Dewey's Non-fiction classes were instructed by Mrs. Macbeth in the use of the new Destiny program and found non-fiction titles for themselves that were on interesting topics. Mrs. Keblinsky brought several classes to peruse the magazine Psychology Today for developments in the field of psychology. Mrs. Svec's French classes researched famous French personalities in the libraries collection of books and periodicals.

MATH

The 2009-2010 school year is nearly over, which means that for the Ellsworth High School Math Team, the season has just now officially come to an end. The State Meet was April 6th, and our team earned 10th place out of 26 schools in their division. The high scorer was Ben Chapman, with 37 points. Over the regular season, Ellsworth earned 3rd place in the Hancock-Washington County Math League, only losing to George Steven's Academy and Washington Academy. Senior Alex Homer was awarded the Coaches award for showing great commitment to the team and for consistently being a high scorer.

Other news in the Math Department: the new course, AP Computer Science, has been going very well with positive response from the students. They report feeling prepared for the AP exam, which is May 5th, and I also am confident that many of the students will earn excellent scores. Over the year, I try to prepare them for the exam in as "fun" a way as possible. Many of the student's assignments are to create the code for games, for example: Rock-Paper-Scissors, Tic-Tac-Toe, Battleship, and even a primitive form of the classic Nintendo game Mario. After the AP exam, I look forward to getting into the graphical component of coding to improve the gaming programs they have made previously in the year. After teaching the course this year, I feel very confident in the material, and look forward to improving the course even further next year.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



Mrs. Corson's Spanish classes are beginning a brief cultural unit on Cinco de Mayo. They will gather information from various sources, do authentic crafts, learn popular songs from this holiday, and then self-reflect on what they have learned! Pictures of our celebration and learning will be in next month's newsletter!

French 2B is in the middle of an exhaustive study of French food including much vocabulary, grammar, and culture. They look forward to presenting their group skits focussing on a family meal or restaurant situation next week.

French 3B finished up thier French History Unit and did a wonderful job writing their first history paper in French.



French 4B finished their study of the Subjunctive and is now discovering the wonderful world of LE PETIT PRINCE, their last unit in their study of French at Ellsworth High school.