



Acadia Team Newsletter December 1, 2023

NEW TRIMESTER!

With a new trimester comes a new opportunity to start fresh. All students have a "clean slate" when it comes to grades. We hope you will

take a minute and reflect with your student about those things that went well this trimester and about those things that might be done better. If you find in your conversation suggestions for how teachers can help,

please do not hesitate to let us know. Please feel free to reach out to the team! We know that when we partner with parents and families, we create the best learning environment for our students and community.



On the Horizon:

- 12/1 - Trimester 1 Ends,
- 12/4 - Trimester 2 begins! 6th grade has new World Language Classes
- 12/13 - Photo Retakes
- 12/14 - Trimester 1 grades mailed home
- 12/21 $\frac{1}{2}$ day for students
- 12/22 - Winter Break
- 1/2 - School resumes

Needs on-team:

- We're all set for now!
Thank you for your continued support!

In our classes:

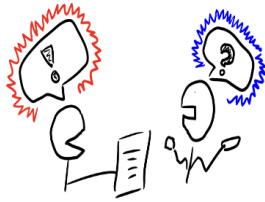


Forecasting the Future:

We ended this unit by focusing on challenges and the possible. Our students know the data and realize that climate will be a major challenge, political and technological, during their lives. Students picked an aspect of climate change and learned how it may be part of a solution or part of the problem. I hope our students leave this unit with awareness and determination knowing that what they do matters.

Hero's Journey:

This week we spent time "cleaning" up our missing assignments, finishing our Hero's Journey Story, offering feedback and reading. It was a relaxing week of work time, considering so many students had so many assignments to complete in their classes.



Myths and Legends:

We also continued working on our Hero's Journey essay, finding text-based evidence, editing work for others, and reading. Ms. Roesner's favorite day was Friday, when we did the "Grinch Mindfulness breathing." We "let all the sounds that were gathered in our brains" out with our exhale. After that, students wrote a letter introducing themselves. This is part of our BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) work. BARR is a nationwide initiative aimed at supporting students in a systematic way.



Rock On!:

This week we had a multi day rock cycle lab. Students used canyons (Thank you for the donations!) to model the stages of the rock cycle. They used hand tools, pressure and heat



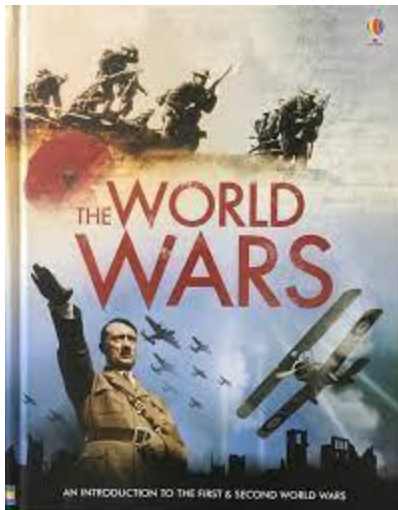
to put the crayons through weathering, erosion, rock formation and change.

Next Trimester's Classes:

20th Century Change and Challenge:

This class will look at (mostly) US history from the time of WW I to the late 1940's. We will explore prohibition, women's suffrage, Jim Crow laws and other aspects of race, the Dust Bowl, and the Great Depression. This and the Conflict class will look at the impact of the appeal of fascism and communism during times of crisis..

20th Century Conflict



This class looks at the causes and impact of the world wars. We start with a fairly quick look at WW I. A key part of the unit will be the impact

of secret treaties, Nationalism and the Treaty of Versailles. Student will learn about the different government and economic systems

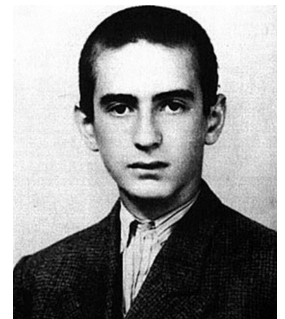
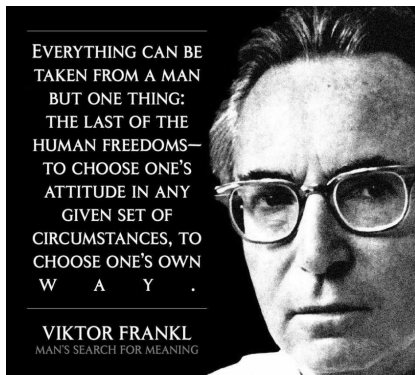
"The Last of Human Freedoms":

Inspired by these words of Viktor Frankl in *Man's Search for Meaning*, this class will explore the human impacts of the World Wars and the Holocaust. Thanks to a grant from the Maranacook Education Foundation, students will read two books: *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Man's Search for Meaning* (Young Readers' edition) by Viktor Frankl. Our work will be celebrated with members of the Community Cafe and other community book groups when we gather to enjoy refreshments and multi-generational conversations about the impacts of these works on our thoughts.



"Never Fail to Protest":

Inspired by the words of Elie Wiesel, this class will look at some of the causes students care about. Students will choose a topic first that they are passionate about and prepare an argumentative essay about their topic. Students will also prepare a lesson for their peers about this topic that they will lead in the



Elie Wiesel, age 15



classroom. Topics may range from what is happening in the Ukraine and Russia, to human greed, animal rights, Area 51 and aliens, taxes, to fake news and ways to use AI. We'll start next week with some controversial statements and ask students to express their thoughts. We'll also

work together to create ground rules for how we can have respectful conversations about potentially hard and emotional topics.