



Friday outdoor activity on the vernal pond behind MCHS!

Sand Beach, after the storm on December 18, 2023, an AWESOME example of erosion.



### On the Horizon:

1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no school

1/17 - 8th-grade visits to the High School

1/24 Early Release for students

1/25 Community Cafe 9:30 AM - The Christmas Truce (play put on by Acadian Students)

2/8 - Community Conversation re. Night & Man's Search for Meaning

2/29 - 8th grade parent night at MCHS

### Needs on-team:

- Duct tape! Our team goes through a lot.
- Snacks for 1/25 Community Cafe Play

## Acadia Team Newsletter January 5, 2024

Part of becoming educated means taking on hard ideas and subjects, compassionately. Please note that our students are now studying events of the 20th Century. We'll be tackling subjects including the Holocaust, Racism, lynching, World Wars 1 and 2, Women's Suffrage - and more. *If we're doing our jobs correctly as teachers, students will have moments of discomfort with these topics.* We encourage you to reach out with concerns, questions, or suggestions as we navigate some of our World's hardest historical events.

### In our classes:

#### 20 Century Conflict:



We have come to the end of WW I. At 11/11 at 11 am the fighting stopped; two days after the leaders had reached agreement to stop fighting. We have looked at why the US joined the war and how our doing so changed the war and our Nation. President Willson said the US went to war to make the world safe for

Democracy. Now we are looking at his 14 points and those efforts and the Treaty of Versailles. At Versailles, the Allies excluded Germany, with

famously vengeful results. In our classes, students are going to be renegotiating the treaty. Each student will represent a nation( France, England, USA, Germany) as they negotiate a

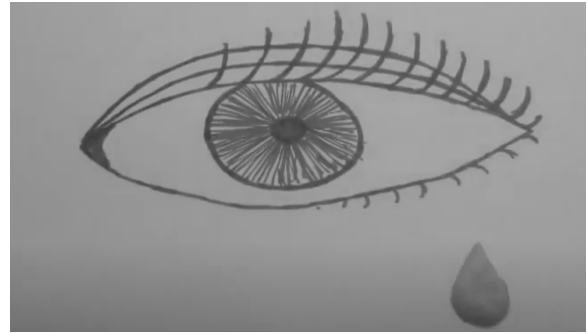


The negotiation began with each side holding tight to their original positions.

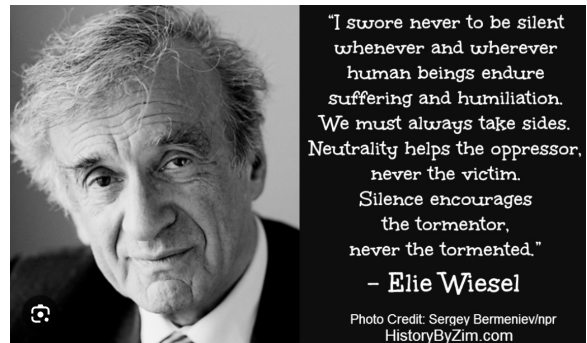
treaty. Each student will have to know their nation's needs, strengths, and weaknesses, as well as those of the other nations. Students' treaty proposal and how they do in the negotiations will count as a test grade. This project is fun but challenging. They need to be prepared.

### 20th Century Change & Conflict:

The 1920s were called roaring, but why? We looked at how the US changed from a rural nation of horses to a mostly urban/town of electricity, cars, and radios in that decade. Students explored some of the many technological and cultural changes of the 1920s. With a discussion before starting on the difficult nature of the topic, we looked at the history of lynching. It was used as a terrorizing message to Black Americans. We listened to and watc



hed an animation of the song, Strange Fruit. [Strange Fruit](#). Students were moved, calling the song creepy and sad. I am proud of how they are connecting the learning from all their classes.



### The Last of Human Freedoms:

We've begun reading Night together as a class. While the preface and forward have been difficult reading, we've had time to ask questions each day. Night is a first hand account of the life of an adolescent during the mid 1940's. This includes details about what he (Author Elie Wiesel) saw in the Concentration Camp at Auschwitz. Students have had many questions about this historical event and how it connects to our lives today.

Students are also preparing for the play "A Christmas Truce" for the Community Cafe. Parents are welcome to join us for this production.

### Never Fail to Protest:

We begin each class with a mindful moment, followed by a writing prompt. Our most recent prompt was based on a quote from the book Night. Students chose a phrase from the book to use as the first line in a story. It's interesting to see where students took this task.

Students are continuing to collect information for their argumentative essays using Google Keep. They have chosen their own topics and are preparing to teach their peers about their learning. Be sure to check out their work.

**Math 6:** Our 6th graders just completed a review and quiz on ratios and unit rates. This coming week we'll start tackling some tougher applications of our skills and start a review for the Unit 2 assessment.

**Math 7:** Our 7th graders completed a review and began a comprehensive quiz over expressions and equations. Next week we dive into inequalities in the final step to the unit assessment.

**Math 8:** Our 8th graders began their unit assessment on Friday. Monday we will finish up and take a little time to review the results. Then we will leave behind Pythagoras and start into a deeper understanding of functions.

