

QHIA Weekly Update: December 22, 2016

[QHIA Website](#)

Classroom Phone # (831) 336-5168

December 23-January 8: Winter Break

Hello families,

This is your final update for 2016! I will not be answering my work email until January 8. Please refer to this update and our website for info you need when we get started again on January 9.

***Make sure you read the details about our independent study week: January 9-12.**

Thank you Sheryl for the beautiful photos of our kids that you posted on our FB page. You truly captured the joy of the day :



Return Week, Jan. 9-13 *Very Important Structure. Please take note!:

Monday-Thursday: Independent Study/Homeschool or Classroom Day option.

Students have the option to homeschool for the week, or come to the classroom **between 9-1 for Independent Study**. I will be frontloading their CK12 Math and Science, and can also provide activities for ELA and Social Studies to choose from. Many families take this time for traveling (*email me for details on how to document educational activities if this pertains to you), or focused field trips, projects, science fair focus, etc. Feel free to email me if you have questions regarding this format.

Between 1-4pm, I will be scheduling individual midyear meetings with parents. These will continue between 2:45-3:45 throughout the month of January. Please click on the googledoc below to choose a meeting time.

[Amber's Winter Family Conference Schedule](#)

Friday, Jan. 13: Capture the Flag at Quail Hollow Ranch between 10:30-12:30.

Friday, Jan. 20: QHIA Fundraising Concert at the PAC (performers TBD)

Wednesday, Jan. 25: SF Symphony Field Trip at Davies Symphony Hall. Carpools will leave at 8:30am. More details when we return.

Classroom Wishlist:

The kids have come up with a classroom Wishlist for the parents (most of which revolves around food :)

1. ****Mini-fridge***This is their heart's desire :)
2. snacks/breakfast items (these kids are hungry all the time)
3. Hot air popcorn popper and popcorn kernels
4. Tea

My additions:

1. Each student has their own reusable knife, fork, and spoon
2. Each student has a water bottle that they leave here.
3. Kitchen knives, serving spoons, cutting board

Homework Assignments

No homework is assigned for the Winter Break.

Charter Science Fair/Research Paper

Our Charter Science Fair is on Friday, Feb. 3. All students are participating, and can either conduct an experiment, or conduct a research paper/project. They will have an opportunity every Tuesday morning between 9-11 to work on their project and research paper, which I will provide instruction on. Most likely, students will need some support/work at home as well. This will be the writing focus for the month.

Please click on links to excellent Research Paper Guidelines (we will be using these as reference material):

[Spearfish Middleschool Research Paper Guide](#)

[Duxbury Public School Research Template](#) (see page 21 for basic outline example)

UPDATE from 12/19-12/22:

Math and Physical Science:

Students completed their midyear math benchmarks. The results will be emailed to you individually, although I already shared them with each student in a mini-conference. For science, students focused on completing their CK12 and worksheets on Balancing Equations.

History and English

Focused ELA/Theater: We compared and contrasted an excerpt from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with a script of the same story. Students discussed imagery, meaning, and how to cite text evidence to support their opinions. (Students completed this this week.)

Art/PE

Line Dance: Students worked in groups to choreograph their own original Line Dances with a 4-8 Count structure. The choreography was really good! Each group taught the class their dance, and students danced for a solid 35 minutes straight! 2 groups also choreographed performances for the class. I was very impressed with everyone's creations and participation.

Kandinski Art Trees: Students had the option of creating Christmas Tree Art in the style of Kandinski. This is a very different form than watercolor and alcohol inks; very precise with vivid, bold colors.

Cyber Bullying Workshop: This week we focused on what it means to be a bystander and an upstander. Once again, the kids were very involved with the conversation, providing examples of what they can do to change from being a bystander to an upstander. The majority of the students thought that a workshop for parents would be a good idea. I will be sending a survey out to see if you would like Jen to have a parent workshop. In February, our charter will be sponsoring the film, "Screenagers" at the PAC. More info on that in January. Click on the link for the trailer:

[Screenagers Trailer](#)

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you and your children. I truly value my job and the opportunity to teach, play, collaborate, and spend time with your students. Have a very merry holiday, and enjoy the unstructured down time with your families.

See you next year!

Sincerely,
Amber

All important info, including All Student Assignments and our calendar of events, will be accessible at any time here. Just click on this link:

[QHIA Website](#)