

QHIA Weekly Update: November 11, 2016

[QHIA Website](#)

Classroom Phone # (831) 336-5168

Hello QHIA families,

What a week...

As promised, I will start with important info that you need for next week, however I encourage you to read the update on what we did in class because your kids are truly inspiring :)

*Please read a separate email regarding the Winter Holiday Craft Faire which is coming up!

We have completed our unit in Physical Sciences on Matter. **Next week the students will have an opportunity to choose one project, to be completed in no more than two hours (approximately:) as a culminating activity.** We will brainstorm some more ideas on Monday, however these are a few options they can choose from, so they can get started, if they are staying home from the 9-11 portion of the day on Monday:

* **Google Presentation, at least 10 slides, with pictures and words on the following:**

- States of Matter
- Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter
- Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures
- 4 States of Matter
- Changes of States including: freezing, melting, boiling, evaporation, condensation, sublimation, deposition
- Laws and Theories including: Law of Conservation of Mass, Kinetic Theory of Matter, Boyle's Law, Charles' Law, Amonton's Law, Dalton's Atomic Theory
- Atoms, including but not limited to: protons, neutrons, electrons, valence electrons, ions, isotopes

* **Write and illustrate a children's story about one of the above mentioned topics**

* **Create an artistic poster, in color, accurately depicting one of the elements on the Periodic table.**

* **Film themselves conducting an experiment that involves one of the topics mentioned above (including the silly putty one we did in class.) They can create an alternative persona, have a costume, etc.**

* **Compose a BioPoem using personification for Matter or Atoms**

* **Compose a spoken word piece, to the tune of "Alexander Hamilton", on any of the above topics.**

* **Any other idea that the students run by me. Just have them email me what they are thinking of!**

Important Info for Next Week:

Tuesday, November 15, 6-7:30pm: Parent Ed Workshop Night with Martha: "Developing Higher-Order Thinking Skills and Effective Questioning Strategies" (Will also introduce Academic Vocabulary) *See separate email from Charter Admin. with more info.

Wednesday, November 16, 3-4pm at the Charter Fall Creek office. Dr. Bruton will be with us to share the State of the District. Additional focus will be the WASC report, and learning more about LCAP goals and supplemental funds. All parents who are interested are welcome, ***but we particularly need representation from the Quail Hollow programs. Please consider attending!**

[Thursday, November 17](#): Life Touch School Picture Retakes from 8-12 at the Fall Creek/Charter site behind the SLV High School.

[Thursday, November 17 at 1pm](#): You are invited! Come and join our potluck, connect with other parents, check out our classroom, and look through your student's collected work so far!

[November 18](#): Capture the Flag at QH Ranch from 10:30-12:30

[Nov. 21-25](#): Thanksgiving Break

Sneak Peak into December:

[December 2](#): Winter Holiday Craft Fair on QH campus from 10-2 [*Sign Up for a Spot Immediately!](#)

[December 6](#): Parent Education Night: "Using Projects and Problem-solving to Engage Every Learner!" 5:30pm.

[December 7 at 6pm in the multipurpose room on the QH campus](#): I will present an update on our QHIA program to our School Board, and the students will perform a spoken word piece from "Hamilton"!!!

[December 16](#): Skate Day at SC Roller Palladium from 1-3

[December 16 at 3pm](#): Deadline to turn in Charter Science Fair Application to Katie

UPDATE:

Classroom Culture

Whew. On Wednesday, students arrived one by one, clearly demonstrating in words and in their bodies that they were shaken. The first message I gave them as they came to me individually was that this was not their burden to bear alone. The adults in their lives are listening to them, supporting them, and will take care of them. It is virtually impossible for the brain to learn new information, proceed with "business as usual" when one is feeling emotionally or physically unsafe. After giving them some time with each other, a large group outside in a sharing circle, a small group inside coloring together, etc. I proceeded with our day in the following manner:

- a guided visualization/mindfulness activity in the sun, then in the grove
- reflective art time: students worked with clay, sculpey, watercolor, made silly putty, worked on puzzles, etc.,
- movement in the dance room: (from my years as a movement therapist) swinging, shaping, percussive movement, slow motion, stillness
- group circle: students said aloud all of the emotions they were feeling, followed by affirmations of all of the things they had that they could count on, that they were grateful for. I formatted these into the following poem for them.

[November 9, 2016](#)

- Guided diamante poem: beginning with the challenging emotions, moving towards the positive reflections of those, students created individual poetry
- Ended with a Michael Franti video on voting and a perspective on hope
- Ended with Nahko and Medicine for the People video "Black As Night: I Believe in the Good Things Coming"
- Group Photo holding posters, like those in the Nahko Bear video

I appreciate that it was a difficult day for many of you to send your students out from the safe haven of home, and I am grateful that you entrusted your children to me, and take that responsibility seriously. They were visibly grateful to be with each other. I am so proud of these kids.

Math and Physical Science

Students worked primarily on their Math Chapter Checkpoints, and finished their Science work on Matter. After some time for review, we played a Game Show with students separating into 2

teams, answering questions on the topic. Amaya, who was home sick, even Skyped in to join us!

History and English

Electoral College and Women's Suffrage

On Tuesday, I showed the students some videos, and we had a lesson on the Electoral College (with a nod to Alexander Hamilton-a primary creator of this process).

[Electoral College-3rd Grade Classroom Experiment](#)

[Alexander Hamilton on the Electoral Process](#)

[Electoral College with Map](#)

I also dressed in white, with some Rosie the Riveter nuances. The students wondered why I was dressed that way. I gave them opportunities to google it. They uncovered that I was giving a nod to the Suffragettes and the Women's Rights movement. I also showed a few videos on the Suffragettes, primarily Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. One really cool series I found was from the site, "History", called "The People Speak" in which contemporary actors and actresses reenact famous speeches, trials, etc. from pivotal events in history. I showed them one from Susan B. Anthony's trial. Check out the link!

[The People Speak-Susan B. Anthony](#)

Causes of the American Revolution

Students reviewed their paragraphs on The Sons of Liberty, with a grading scale on the board, and awarded themselves what they felt were appropriate points for completing the activity.

Art

All of the activities mentioned in "Classroom Culture"

Line Dance!

Reviewed a history of Line Dance in America, going back to the courts of King Louie and Native American dancing. I emphasized that the unique reflection on society that Line Dance had was that it was always created by the youth of each generation, not by professionals.

I played some classic music that has popular Line Dance and Social Dance dances attached to them, such as the Bunny Hop, the Stroll, the Hustle, etc.

We learned the Cupid Shuffle, and then students broke into self-chosen groups to add their own embellishments/choreography. We had each group lead the rest of the larger group with the new versions, and saw how easy it was to catch on to variations of the same dance, just by dancing along, not needing to stop and give direct instruction. Each group then performed their version in front of everyone.

They were all so brave and creative! All participated thoroughly :)

Thank you for sharing your students with me!

~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](#)