

Mrs. O'Neil – Grades 5 and 6 – Reading/ELA/Writing

Happy New Year!

In Grade 6 Reading, the second theme of our reading was *How did democracy develop?* The students began this unit focusing on the development and qualities of a democracy from Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. The students continued their discussion throughout the unit with outlining the relationship between free people and their government in the United States, which included reading about the United States Constitution, the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact.

The students studied this unit through genres such as Expository Text (Informational), Historical Fiction and Poetry. During these readings, the students cited relevant evidence from the text, made inferences to support their understanding, compared and contrasted ideas and concepts, and analyzed the author's purpose in each selection.

In Grade 6 Writing, the students planned, drafted, revised and edited expository essays. They also wrote concrete poems (shape poetry). These poem's visual appearance matched the topic of what is being written. They continued their analytical writing with responses that demonstrated their understanding of each text.

In Grade 5 Reading, the students began discussing their second theme *When has a plan helped you accomplish a task?* Their discussion began with examples on how to accomplish a goal. All the students were in agreement regarding the first step to accomplishing your goal; "You have to have a plan."

The students studied their reading unit through genres such as Folktales, Expository Text (Informational) and Narrative Fiction. They were able to engage in collaborative discussions, cite information from the text, and make inferences to support their understanding.

In Grade 5 Writing, the students did a fabulous job on their research projects, *Christmas Around the World*. They followed their research plan which allowed them to achieve a well-written report. Everyone researched a different country and then reported back to the class about what they learned. The students enjoyed learning about how these countries celebrate Christmas.

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade continue to work very hard with their grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. I am so pleased to see how far they have come.

It is my wish that each and everyone one of you has a happy and prosperous 2023!