

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Mar. 1, 2019

Quiet on the Set! We're Making Podcasts!



After weeks of research, interviews, and a frenetic week of scripting, we began to record our podcasts. Crews had to make sure: all members contributed writing to the script; all voices are heard during recording; music was finished and explained where it landed in the podcast; the voice of local experts were heard; it lasted between three and eight minutes. Like any collaborative effort, crew work requires communication and responsibility. Some crews worked like well-oiled machines – others seemed stuck in first gear, unable to get past assigning tasks. Eventually, all six crews were able to research, write, speak and record their scripts.

Exhibition Night is Wednesday, March 1st and we can't wait to share these working drafts with you. Most exhibitions are a showcase of finished, polished work, but we're using our winter exhibition as an opportunity to get feedback on the content, speaking quality, and overall flow of the podcast. Thanks in advance for your help. We will finalize them in the next two weeks, send them off to NPR for the student podcast contest, and share them with our community!

Tankas on Being Twelve

As we finish our poetry study, we looked a little closer at the tanka, a Japanese poetry form that follows a syllable structure as opposed to a rhyme pattern. We connected the tanka to our identity work to produce pieces like this:

*A long, boring talk
About our changing bodies
Awkward lankiness
Growth spurts, weird types of bad jokes
Not a teen, but not a child.*

Can you figure out what makes a tanka a tanka?



Simon Says...

- ✓ **The Stink is Real** - The back hallway is beginning to smell like tween spirit! PE is a workout – kids sweat and kids smell. It's all part of adolescence – but maybe time to start deodorant?
- ✓ **Google Reminders** - Your child's GCCS Google account is accessible from home but should NOT be used for social media or signing up for other non-school related sites.
- ✓ **Passage Writing** - Our first draft of Reflecting on Rochester is due Friday, March 8th. Students should have both a digital and hard copy to share.

Hooray for March!



March is a crazy month for sixth graders – winter becomes spring (at least on the calendar!), passage work becomes a reality, NYS testing looms on the horizon, and the Four Cities trip kicks off the final expedition of our students' time at GCCS. It's enough to make you want to lie down, but we can't pretend it'll all go away. As we discussed in earlier newsletters, we're also seeing a shift to more 12 year-olds in the room, and that also has a way of moving the classroom mood. We continue to offer support for all students but are expecting greater independence in written tasks and meeting deadlines. Check in with your sixth-grader and see how they're keeping on top of the work.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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