



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Nov. 16, 2018

Salve! – Greetings From Roman Britannia!



Our expedition work into food access and equity has taken on a Classical flavor during the past few weeks as we explore what life was like in Ancient Rome, particularly what it was like to be a Roman living along Hadrian's Wall in 130 CE/ AD.

We have been researching the Roman class system and learning how one's station in life affords greater access to food, resources, and wealth. This will have implications towards the end of our expedition as we make connections to our modern era to see how things have (or have not!) changed in roughly 2,000 years. Our Roman journals have been the primary vehicle for synthesizing our learning. After reading about a topic, students take notes and craft narratives for their characters. They get both peer and teacher feedback to improve the quality of the work – and as we continue to remind students, only through multiple drafts and revisions can good work become high-quality work.

This week we looked closely at food production and distribution in Roman Britannia and discovered many of the foods we take for granted weren't yet available. No corn, tomatoes, or potatoes; they wouldn't arrive for another 1,400 years with the Columbian Exchange! Students also learned about day-to-day life in the Roman era and how much was involved to get adequate food supplies moved around the Empire. Rome had a sophisticated trade and distribution network, but like today, not everyone had access to the best quality foods.

We also took some time to look at Roman baths, writing, and the idea of "curse tablets" (be sure to ask your sixth-grader what that was all about!). We took a turn at crafting our own tablets – but these didn't curse anyone, instead, they were more of a reflection of gratitude and courage. While the Romans may have asked for the goddess Sulis to curse those who had wronged them, sixth-graders instead sought forgiveness and understanding. We wrote our messages and cast them into the "sacred spring," letting go of our worries and being okay with making mistakes (after all, to err is human!). After break, we will wrap up our study of Rome with a final journal entry – all about the feasts the Romans enjoyed.





In Visual Arts we are practicing our hand at observational drawing and abstraction using the apple as our inspiration (watercolor and acrylic paints come next!) and in music we had our first try at the ukuleles and even had the chance to perform at this week's Community Circle. In Physical Expedition, we are working on weaving our dance phrases together into a performance for potluck - we have some amazing dancers in this class!



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Conferences are coming!** - On Tuesday, December 11th, we will have a half day to provide for parent-teacher conferences. Clearly, a half-day will not be enough for 33 conferences, so we will be offering additional slots throughout the week. Look for a Signup Genius link in an email after Thanksgiving Break.
- ✓ **SNACK!!!** - Sixth-graders have voracious appetites and we have decimated our snack supply. We need a complete re-stock going into December. Please consider an extra bag/ box or two of snack on your next grocery run (and thank you!).
- ✓ **Eight Cities Paperwork** - Paperwork and first payments for the spring road trips are due Wednesday, Nov. 28th. Remember, participating in fundraising efforts can help reduce your final bill!
- ✓ **GCCS Potluck** - Remember that Friday, Dec. 14th is the GCCS Family Association Potluck hosted by our class! We look forward to seeing everyone there, 6:30 p.m. Bring a non-perishable food or personal care item in support of those in need.

Winter Recess Rocks!



The early snowfall this week was a brutal reminder for some sixth-graders that being dressed for below freezing weather is important. Hats and gloves (and coats!) are a minimum - snow pants optional, but we don't want to hear complaining about cold and wet bottoms. Boots are better at insulating feet than sneakers. We go out unless the feels like temperature is 12° F. Please reach out to us if you need assistance procuring winter recess gear.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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