



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Nov. 3, 2017

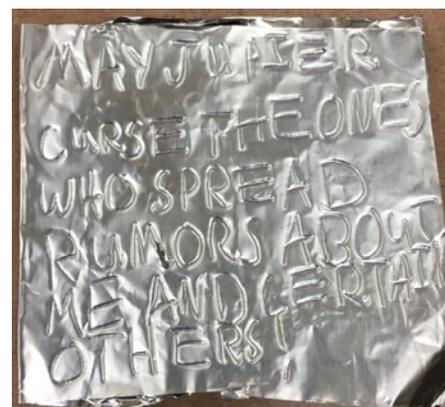
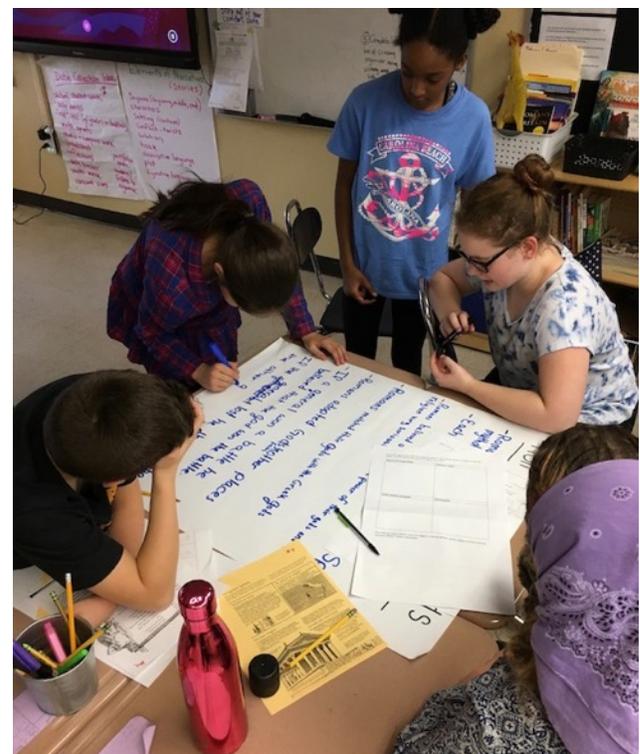
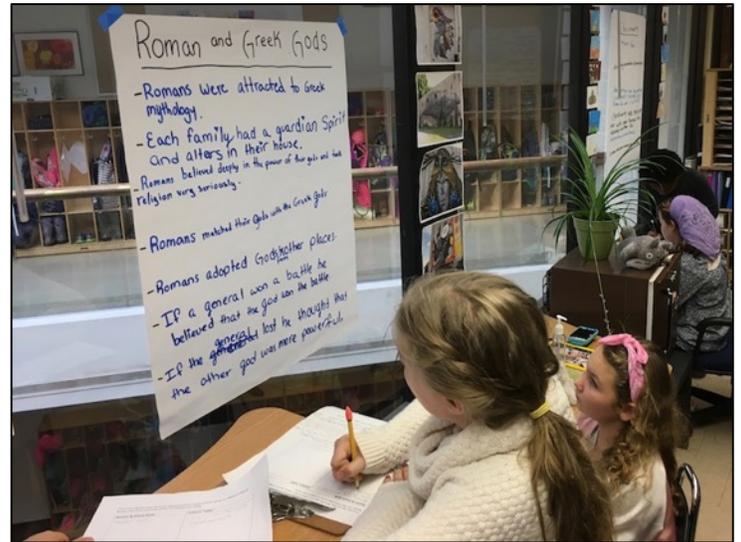
Understanding Romanization

It's hard to believe that our fall expedition is nearly over and exhibition is in only three weeks! We are learning about the Roman Era and what it means to be Roman by looking at the Roman experience in Britannia, in particular what life was like along Hadrian's Wall.

Students are developing an understanding of life at the time by writing journals from the perspective of one of the three Roman classes and their experiences in northern Britain. Some have tragic backstories, others tell of a proud lineage from elsewhere in the Roman Empire, and all help us understand what it means to be a Roman. This week we explored the process of Romanization - bringing the wealth and might of the Empire to other areas (for better or worse). We did a gallery walk to explore technologies that helped promote the Roman way of life (Aqueducts! Baths! Food!) as well as how Latin became the *lingua franca* of the Empire, uniting over a dozen cultures under a single umbrella or spoken and written form.

Religion was another force that helped define what it meant to be Roman, but this was a bit trickier, as Romans adopted and adapted the gods and beliefs of newly conquered lands. In Britain this meant co-opting Sulis (goddess of wisdom and healing) and creating a hybrid deity with Minerva (Roman goddess of justice and wisdom). Sulis Minerva was a powerful Roman-British deity who would take revenge on those who wronged others. She was offered curse tablets by Romans who felt betrayed or hurt and we created our own curse tablets, casting out our own anger, frustration and stress.

Later in the week we researched the different religions practiced in the Empire, from the traditional pantheon of Greco-Roman gods to a new religion that offered followers the promise of peace and grace in the afterlife. While this upstart cult was persecuted in the early years, it evolved and eventually became the official religion of the Empire. You may even recognize it today by its name: The Roman Catholic Church!



Embracing Independent Reading

Developing a love of reading can happen at any age, whether it means reading blogs and online articles, poetry and young adult fiction, or informational text. Sometimes it requires a nudge, or finding the right carrot to entice a reluctant reader to try a book. We are developing reading stamina in sixth grade, providing students with time to read materials of their choice to practice fluency, comprehension and effort. Your sixth grader will soon be writing a DEAR Letter to us to help us better understand the kind of books s/he enjoys and why. If your child is not an enthusiastic reader, you might be hearing from us with some tips to help improve fluency and comprehension (and modeling reading is a great way to show its importance!).



- ✓ **Recess Gear** - Can you believe fall has finally arrived? It is definitely chillier (and muddier!) than usual, so having a change of shoes is a must and a jacket (even a hat!) is a great idea. We try to avoid indoor recess at all costs, knowing that 6th grade bodies need to move, but sometimes it's our only option.
- ✓ **First Four Cities Fundraiser!** - We are making some bucks off of burritos on November 8th at the College Town Chipotle (1360 Mt. Hope Avenue). Look for flyers and online links soon!
- ✓ **Math Test** - Students math a ratio and rate assessment on Tuesday, Nov. 7th. Check in with your sixth-grader and see how you can support him/ her!
- ✓ **Middle School Info Night** - November 16th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. we will meet in sixth grade with alumni, families, and reps from schools you may want to consider for 7th grade and beyond. Please let us know if you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.



Service with a Smile

Our class service opportunities kicked off this week with a small but hearty crew pitching in for the Grocery Run 5K. While our students commit to a great deal of service in school (compost, for example), we ask sixth graders to step outside of their comfort zone and explore new areas where they can not only practice Service and Compassion, but also gratitude.

Consider signing up with a few families to help out at [Foodlink](#) or create your own clean up a park event. Ten service hours are required as part of our Sixth Grade Passage – don't wait until it's too late!



Your Sixth Grade Team

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