



HAWK TALK

FROM MR. RASAR



A Word from Mr. Rasar

November 5, 2021

Happy Fall Holmes Families!

This month's newsletter includes information and highlights from our English Language Arts and our Dual Language teachers, a reminder about tomorrow's D59 vaccination opportunity, and much more. Please make sure to read through all of the information.

This past week, you should have received your child's Term 1 report card. Please make sure to review this academic report with your child and celebrate their accomplishments. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card please reach out to your child's teacher(s) directly via email, through Skyward, or call the Main Office to set up a time to touch base over the phone.

As our Term 1 has come to an end, we would like feedback from you about your child's experience and our communication at Holmes. Please take a few minutes to complete this [survey](#) to provide us on how we are doing in meeting the needs of your child and our school community. I truly appreciate your feedback and need it to make sure we are on the right path for our school. [Holmes Fall Survey](#)

Thank you for your learning together with us!

Mark Rasar
Principal

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Principal

Holmes Happenings

Dual Language at Holmes

One of the major goals of Dual Language is bilingualism and biliteracy. We are working towards that goal by intentionally practicing the 4 language domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English and Spanish.

6th grade Dual Language students are finishing up their narratives in Spanish! They have developed real or imagined experiences using effective techniques, descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. We have read the short chapter book, *Mi Abuela la Loca* by José Ignacio Valenzuela and we will soon continue to practice how to identify claims, reason, and evidence. We celebrated the Day of the Dead as a school by learning the history and traditions shared at home.

Our 7th grade Dual Language students have been busy understanding literary elements in a story in English. We had our first literary elements gallery walk, where students read and analyzed each other's narratives. As a class, we read *Holes* by Louis Sachar, we analyzed how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of characters.

Dual Language students in 8th grade are excited to be finishing their first learning experience in English. They have read many literary nonfiction texts, including the memoir, *Ugly* by Robert Hoge. Students are now writing their own memoirs in English and have the opportunity to participate in The Third Annual Personal Narrative Writing Contest sponsored by The New York Times.

ELA at Holmes

English language arts focuses on enhancing effective communication. Fluency in expressing oneself includes speaking, listening, and writing in a way that is clearly understood through reasoning, organization, and delivery. Writing conventions, enhanced vocabulary, and personal craft add understanding and depth to students' writing. Activities to engage learners include a daily read-aloud as a mentor text that is entertaining while highlighting various reading skills and strategies, interactive vocabulary building lessons such as a *Word Cemetery*, and a *Wheel of Stems*, collaborative learning teams, writing anecdotal stories, using symbols to tell a story, narrating a podcast. iReady continues to be a supplemental resource for skill-building.

Sixth-grade students studied story characters to enhance the reading experience; character traits, setting, and theme were analyzed as vehicles to improve critical thinking and interaction with the text. Sixth graders advanced their effective communication skills by writing a personal narrative that highlighted a memorable moment in their lives.

The upcoming learning experiences will explore nonfiction reading and research-based information writing, culminating in an informational text that teaches interesting and important ideas about the topic.

Seventh graders analyzed characters through the eyes of the authors. The study of characterization creates an understanding of the "back story" of an author's development of characters. The realistic writing experience stemmed from each student's one experience that evolved into a fictional story following a story arc that visibly depicts the ups and downs of a plot. The next reading unit will focus on research skills in commonality of topic study groups: effective note-taking, authentic and valid resources, bias, connotative language, arguments worth pursuing, and discern disinformation and media distortion. The unit will culminate in an argumentative essay.

Eighth-grade learners read nonfiction books to become familiar with complicated issues by analyzing central ideas and themes. The writing unit culminated in students' choice of a small moment in their lives and a memoir that enhanced narrative and expository writing. Writing prompts that require reflection are often required in standardized testing and application essays for jobs and education.

Dystopian reading is the next genre, and students will be expected to apply and transfer their skills from one context to another. The engaging content of dystopian literature creates conversation with real-world connections. The writing learning experience will be a position paper, an argumentative, that will focus on logic to appeal to the reader.

Art at Holmes (Day of the Dead Artwork)

The Art classes worked really hard to create artwork for a Day of the Dead celebration. Check out their artwork at [this link](#).

Community Events

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

CCSD59 will host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at our Administration Center at [1001 Leicester Road](#) in Elk Grove Village, Ill. Appointments are still available for children ages 5-11, and you can find information on how to register [here](#).

Calendar Events

- One Hour Early Dismissal - 11/3
- Teacher Institute Day- No School for Students - 11/8
- One Hour Early Dismissal - 11/10
- PTO Meeting - 11/16
- One Hour Early Dismissal - 11/17
- One Hour Early Dismissal (Before Holiday) - 11/23
- Non-Attendance Day - School Closed - 11/24
- Thanksgiving Day - School Closed - 11/25
- Non-Attendance Day - School Closed - 11/26

[View Calendar](#)

Latest News

- [Photos: State Sen. Ann Gillespie \(D-Arlington Heights\) visits Holmes students as Principal for a Day](#)
- [Board Update 10-12-21](#)

PTO Update

PTO Meetings

- Tuesday, November 16, 2021
- Tuesday, January 18, 2022
- Tuesday, March 15, 2022
- Tuesday, April 26, 2022

