

Classroom Notes
October 2020

October 4, 2020

Hello parents — I hope this finds everyone well and ready to tackle another Monday. :) Some highlights from the Junior High this week...

— (from Mrs. Craft) We've been discussing adjectives in Spanish this week. For example, the students used the image of an animal to describe it. They used the dictionary to look for the adjectives and then, they made sentences using artículo, sustantivo (noun), el verbo "es" and the adjetivo. Then they shared to the rest of the group so everyone could have a list of adjectives. In the next lesson we used more adjectives, but now to describe themselves! We added to the list with fun facts about them, hobbies, etc. So they had the opportunity again to use the dictionary to look up for new words and share with others.

— (from "Mr. B," Mr. Baraniak) In Science class we've been using the daily temperature-taking at school to practice the scientific method, asking the question of whether temperature and age are related. We gathered data from groups of unidentified students — primary, elementary, and jr high — and staff, and compared their temperatures through the months of September.

Results are in and the conclusion indicated that temperature variations were less than one full degree. However, we found that the younger-aged students had the highest temperatures. Therefore, in order, primary students had the slightly warmer temps followed by elementary, followed by jr high, and lastly and the coolest were the teachers !!!

— (from Mrs. Nixon) In Writing Workshop we worked on creating personal narratives, paying attention to narrowing our focus. We read a personal narrative written by someone in the students' age range and talked about the tools the writer used to make his story appealing to the reader. Some of the tools included using circular writing (the conclusion mirrored the title), painting a picture using lots of details, expressing emotion effectively, etc. We talked about the value of examining good writing to help ourselves as writers. This analysis was followed by students writing their own personal narratives, reading them aloud, and hearing feedback from each other. Their writing reflected many of their observations from the earlier analysis.

More news next week. Meanwhile, remind your student to study for his or her first math test on Tuesday! It's on material they'll use for the rest of their lives: divisibility rules, the story of numbers (naming), and integer operations. Rah rah! Go class!

Bests, Elizabeth.