

What's the Scoop?

Get the inside scoop on Miss Chamoun's classroom!
The Skokie School ★ Oct. 2014

Getting Into The Swing of Things!

A Word from Your Teacher...

Things are getting spooky at Skokie during the month of October! Since the first day of school, students and teachers have hit the ground running. As the first day came and went, students and teachers quickly became acclimated to the school schedule and expectations. I was impressed with students' willingness to create a safe and welcoming environment through our class contracts and mission statements. I know that if we abide by our contract, we are going to have a successful year!

The first month was busy {and very tiring, might I add!}, but much was accomplished in English and Social Studies. Students have learned an organizational method to use when writing analytical responses to literature, called the Box Format. This format helps students use transition words, find strong evidence for their claims, and elaborate on their great ideas. More so, students have learned various prefixes during our Survivor Vocabulary activity, a yearlong activity for students to learn strategies to decode unfamiliar words.

During Social Studies, students have started to discuss the idea of "belonging" to a community. They have thought about and answered questions such as "What caused people from the past to settle in a community? What does it mean to settle in a community? What does it mean to belong?" Students will be studying ancient civilizations by using nonfiction-reading strategies we discuss in class. Further, students are studying worldly issues during current event Fridays, not only to discuss the importance of being part of the global community, but also to work on summarization and research strategies.

Looking ahead, students will continue to think about the idea of belonging when reading our first class novel, *Freak the Mighty*. We will discuss different fiction-reading strategies to study theme, character, and conflict. From there, students will be writing a fiction piece about belonging to tie our integrated unit together.

If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email, phone, or an arranged meeting.

I look forward to a spook-tacular October! Have a bewitching Halloween season ☺.



Where there is no imagination, there is no horror.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Sr.

Reminders

- As you continue to read your IR novel, don't forget about the opportunity to recommend novels to your peers and tell them what world you got lost in while reading! See the "Reading Takes Us Around the World" bulletin or see Miss C for more details!
- Please be sure to keep up with your IR, as we will be using this first month's data to create individual reading goals. Throughout the year, we will continue to revisit your goals each month during conferencing and self-reflection.
- Parent/teacher conferences are coming up, please be sure to sign up to meet with your child's teachers using the following link:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D45ACA72CAFA7-chamounweir.

Parents

**Each month, I'll feature different questions you can ask your child to start conversations at home. Some questions may be recurring, since they are activities or themes we will discuss throughout the year. Happy conversing ☺!*

1. What goal did you set for IR? How can you achieve this goal?
3. Why do you think Winnetka is a good community to settle in? What does it mean to belong to the Winnetka community? How do you feel when you belong to a group/community?
4. What current events are you most interested in? What problems are arising in the world today?
5. What is your writing goal? What can you do to achieve this goal?

Mark Your Calendar!

- **October 13:** Columbus Day—No school ☺
- **October 16:** Early dismissal & P/T Conferences
- **October 17:** No school ☺
- **October 20:** P/T Conferences



School and District News

District

For updated district news, please visit www.winnetka36.org.

Skokie

- Kelly Tess provided information regarding our conference organization this year. Please be sure to check the *Home Scoop* for more information! Also, be sure to sign up to conference with your child's teachers using the following link:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D45ACA72CAAFA7-chamounweir>.
- The REACH Advisory theme this year is "Choose Kindness." At the end of September, students attended an assembly to kick-start the social and emotional learning program. Each Wednesday, students will be participating in projects and activities with their advisor and an exploratory teacher about this year's theme.
- Miss C's REACH partner this year is Mr. Wilson! We will be working together to discuss kindness throughout the year.
- If you'd like to sign your child up for a fun school lunch on Halloween, you can order now. You can participate in this special lunch, even if you are not in the regular school lunch program. Order by going to <https://secure.myFoodDays.com> then signing in and following the instructions to place your order.
- If you missed signing up for school lunch for the first part of the year, it will open up again in December/January. If you have questions about the school lunch program please reach out to Amy Hilades at Amy@Sproutsville.org.



Happy Birthday Shout Outs!

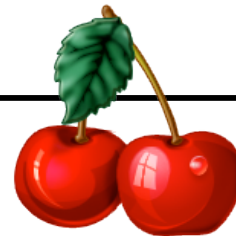
A very happy birthday to Charlie C. {October 29}!



The Cherry on Top...

During each month, I will be observing students who have shown outstanding growth, who have upheld Advisory values, and/or who have helped to strengthen our classroom community. One to two 6th graders will be awarded student of the month in Miss Chamoun's class.

- **6A: Molly W** {Self-advocacy, as well as problem solving, listening, and collaborative skills}
- **6B: Tommy W.** {Self-advocacy, problem solving, and being proactive}



Teacher Contact Information

Room: 115

Email: daniellechamoun@winnetka36.org

Available Meeting Time: 7AM, lunch, or after school by appointment