

What's the Scoop?

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

A Time to Give Thanks!

A Word from Your Teacher...

There is a lot to be thankful for as Trimester 1 is coming to a close! I am thankful for working with a wonderful team of teachers and students. Our team {as well as **all** teachers!} has been hard at work to create meaningful lessons to develop students' critical thinking and creativity skills. Students have been working hard to adapt to a new chapter in their educational and social lives. They've been persistent and dedicated to go above and beyond what is expected of them inside and outside the classroom. In addition to our outstanding team, I am thankful for the support of our wonderful parents, who encourage children to be active participants in their education. And lastly, I am thankful that Thanksgiving is around the corner {bring on the mashed potatoes!}. I look forward to a relaxing break and time with family and good friends.

This past month, 6th graders worked diligently to research and synthesize information about the ancient settlers in Greece, Egypt, Rome, and the time period of the Middle Ages. Students worked collaboratively on a brochure via Google Drive to format and summarize their research to present to peers. I was impressed with students' enthusiasm and engagement during the project! Further, students have been learning more about analytical and argumentative paragraph writing using the box format. Students have progressed in terms of finding specific evidence from the text, which will be a strong foundation for 2nd and 3rd trimester's writer's workshops.

This coming month, students will be revising their Independent Reading Goals with Mrs. Marut or with me. Additionally, they will be reading their first novel in class, *Freak the Mighty*, and learning about close reading/annotation strategies to further investigate the essential question about belonging. It is my hope students learn not only about the theme and purpose of studying literature, but they learn about how characters are portrayed, as the novel will serve as a mentor text during our fiction/narrative writer's workshop near the end of the month.

As I mentioned during conferences, I encourage you to peek into students' Google Drive folders or Schoology accounts to see the great work they have been doing all month long and the work they will be doing in November! As always, please contact me should you have any questions. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving! Gobble gobble ☺.



Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart.
Seneca

Reminders

- As you are reading your IR novel, don't forget the opportunity to recommend novels to your peers! See the "Reading Takes Us Around the World" bulletin board or Miss Chamoun for more details!
- Please be sure to keep up with your IR, as you do not want to fall behind on your goals. We will continue to revisit your goals each month during conferencing and self-reflection.
- Students, many of you are forgetting to turn in work or are turning in poor quality work. Please look out for Friday lunch passes from me to work on anything that is missing or needs to be revised! It is my hope that this does not become a habit!
- Report cards in the form of checklists will be coming home near/around Thanksgiving. Further, students will be receiving written feedback from me to take home and get signed shortly after.

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. Who do you relate to more in *Freak the Mighty*: Freak or Maxwell? Why? What can we learn as readers from these characters?
2. How are you progressing or not progressing toward your reading and writing goal? Can you show me an example on Google Drive?
3. What will your fictional/narrative story be about? Why did you choose to write about this?
4. What is one thing you are proud of in Trimester 1 and one thing you can improve for next trimester?

Mark Your Calendar!

- **Nov. 4:** Half day
- **Nov. 14:** End of Trimester 1
- **Nov. 26-28:** Thanksgiving break



School and District News

District

- Learn more about the Winnetka Experience #WE through October's *Winnetka Wire*.
- There was a presentation at New Trier High School about raising digital natives at the end of October. The goal of the presentation was to raise awareness of what our children are doing with technology in class and how parents can assist in facilitating their digital experience at home.
- For updated district news, please visit www.winnetka36.org.

Skokie

- Parent teacher conferences are just wrapping up at Skokie. Thank you for your time and effort in meeting about your child with the teachers!
- Register via the school's website for "Every Monday Matters" service club, where interested students will plan and design projects centered on charitable services. The club will serve as both a student leadership group and a group for local charitable events. The club meets every Thursday morning.
- If you come early to school, please go to the RC where Mrs. Gordon will greet you at 7:30AM. You can read or work on homefun there. If you need to see a teacher, you should have a pass or Mrs. Gordon will call the teacher to be sure he/she is in the room before allowing you to go there before 8:10AM.
- Please see the Ms. Tess's Home Scoop for Halloween information!



Happy Birthday Shout Outs!

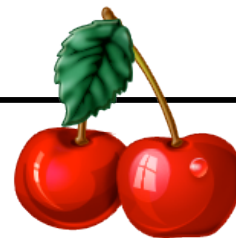
There are no November birthdays in Miss C's advisory this month. Check back in December for birthday celebrations!



The Cherry on Top...

During each month, I will be observing students who have shown outstanding growth, who have upheld Advisory/REACH values, and/or who have helped to strengthen our classroom community.

- **6A: Charlie C** {Strong peer model and hard worker}
- **6B: Caroline C** {Strong peer model, hard worker, self-advocate}



Teacher Contact Information

Room: 115

Email: daniellechamoun@winnetka36.org

Available Meeting Time: 7:30AM, lunch, or after school by appointment