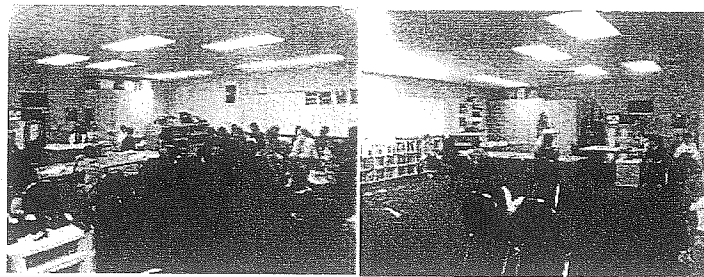


## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Wednesdays & Senior Project Update 9/18/13 Week #2

### *What we did...*

I'm happy to report that every single 6<sup>th</sup> year was able to participate in the mock trial run-through. With nine speaking roles and 12 jury members, all 21 one students had an opportunity for meaningful and engaged participation. The jurors took their job very seriously and it was fascinating to listen in on their deliberations. The jury could not come to a unanimous verdict and the trial ended in a hung jury, with 11 guilty votes to 1, not guilty. Theresa Hurley, the Associate Director of the Contra Costa County Bar Association and the presenter of the mock trial, was completely impressed with the level of discourse and respect among the Eagle Peak students.



### **Order called to Courtroom 501**

The mock trial ran over into our weekly leadership/group activity time. Much to the kids' consternation, we were unable to do the scheduled partner obstacle challenge. I have promised to make it bigger and better and we'll put it back on the menu in two weeks.

Please give your child a huge round of applause for remembering to bring their Senior Project binder to class. Not a single student forgot and we were able to get to our project work without delay. This week we worked on narrowing down two topics of interest in preparation for research; they will continue to work at home on their topic free writing assignment. They received a handout about how to choose and narrow down a topic; please feel free to read through it, as it will help you in conversation with them.

At the beginning of our Week #2 meeting, this is what the kids had to say about Senior Project Week #1. They wrote their 1-3 word answers independently of each other:

awesome (3) flabbergasted (1) great (1)

excited (10)	happy (2)	interested (4)
worried (2)	uncertain (2)	prepared (1)
nervous (8)	fun (5)	anxious (1)
good (1)	confused (2)	annoyed (1)
epic (1)		

If you find it helpful, allow this list to guide you in supporting your child. They are certainly not alone in their feelings.

### ***Next Week...***

Next Wednesday we will walk as a group to the Ygnacio Valley branch of the Contra Costa County Library. Lynne Noon, the teen resource librarian, will lead a resource and research lesson to help guide the students in choosing a topic that is just right; not too small and not too vast. The goal is for all students to leave with a few books in their backpack so that they can begin the work of reading and research.

### ***Reminders...***

Please remember to check in with your child at least once weekly to make sure they are staying up to date with their assignments. There is a wide range of skill sets in terms of organization and follow through; some children may need more assistance at home than others. I want your child to feel appropriately challenged but not overwhelmed.

Your child should come to class next week with:

- Senior Project binder. Including completed Assignment <sup>#1A</sup> #2 with parent initials (see *Senior Project Assignment Timeline* in their binder).
- Contra Costa County Library card or completed application.
- Appropriate attire for walking to the library. (1.1 miles, approximately 21 minutes.) We will use a combination of trail and neighborhood sidewalks.
- A portable snack.
- We will depart EPMS at 8:30 AM and plan to be back on campus by 12 PM.
- The general field trip permission slip that you filled out with your school registration packet will cover this outing.
- **I STILL NEED ONE PARENT VOLUNTEER TO HELP CHAPERONE. Please let me know if you can help.**

I'm having a great time with your kids and am learning so much from them. As always, I welcome your questions comments and concerns.

Have a wonderful week!



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