

Humanities Update

Rachel Stone • Sunday, Mar 14 at 10:31 PM • **6th Grade**

Dear Sixth Grade Families,

In addition to the joy of a day dedicated entirely to reading, it was a pleasure to have our three advisory cohorts able to mingle during breaks on Friday! And we are very much looking forward to more on campus time starting March 29th.

We've been marveling at how social scientists like archaeologists, historians, and geographers work together, with the expertise of their own disciplines, to figure out what happened in the past. Students had their first history quiz, a great vehicle to put their study strategies to work. As we look back on the past year, we're also thinking about how future historians might look back on this era, what artifacts and primary sources might be chosen to show future sixth graders about 2020-2021. Students made timelines, working as a class to figure out a good scale to represent the past ten thousand years, since the advent of agriculture. (When they made personal timelines in the fall, most students chose two inches per year; this time we chose 2 inches per thousand years.) They'll be able to add important dates and events to them as we continue through ancient civilizations and into independent research projects. You might want your kid about what made the "New Stone Age" so new, or how they feel about there being no year zero on the timeline. I'm excited to look at [replicas of] ancient Mesopotamian artifacts, and dig into some powerful primary sources with them soon.

A part of our Humanities curriculum is the importance of arts to human society, to archaeologists, and to our own human need for expression as

well. We recently had a special zoom visit from alumna Sam Fitzpatrick-Zimet. As a senior at California College of the Arts, her senior thesis project is about the impact of art on youth during the pandemic. She gave an inspirational artist talk, and invited our students to participate in her **thesis project**, offering **four powerful prompts** to our students. Your students will have the opportunity to have their artwork featured (anonymously if they prefer) in CCA's online art show, and printed in a book for this project. It is great to have an alumna sharing her story of finding power in being able to make a difference in the world through her passion. Let me know if you have questions about this exciting collaboration!

Prompts:

- 1. Pick a feeling (or many feelings) anger, grief, fear among others. What does this feeling look like? (Colors, shapes?) Sound like? Where does it come from? What does it say to you? What do you say back?**
- 2. What are your greatest hopes for what things will look/be like in 2 years? For you? For your family and friends? The world?**
- 3. Create your very own safe place. Fill it with things that comfort you, bring you happiness, anything that would give you a sense of security.**
- 4. Create an expressive self-portrait. Use colors that represent the emotions you have been feeling.**