

January 21,2020

Dear Parents,

Happy 2020! We are almost halfway through our 5th grade school year!

I am writing this January newsletter to keep you informed of some the content and routines that that have been presented and studied during reading class since our last marking period. Please be advised that the end of our 2nd quarter marking period is this Friday January 24,2020.

We are coming to closure with our Human Rights unit. The children have been immersed with information about what was happening in our world during the 1930s and 40's in order to build background knowledge and understanding of the setting for our upcoming novel *Esperanza Rising* .

Below I have listed some of the content that we have covered during class while completing word nerd vocabulary, Close Reads of Time For Kids articles and using comprehension skills while listening to and viewing BRAINPOP videos. Feel free to engage in a conversation with your child using the buzzwords below. You will hopefully discover that your child has an newfound awareness of human rights. Throughout the lessons, students have also learned that human rights abuses have and continue to be a worldwide problem that give rise to ethnic, racial and religious conflicts.

*WWII

*Holocaust

*The United Nations (UN)

*Eleanor Roosevelt the wife of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, wrote a special document which "declares" the rights that everyone in the entire world should have as written in the UDHR.

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

*Human Rights can be violated

*immigrants and refugees

*asylum

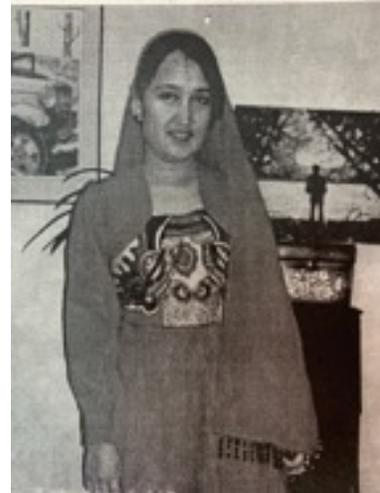
*quotas

*genocide,ghettos and concentration camps

*discrimination

*inalienable rights

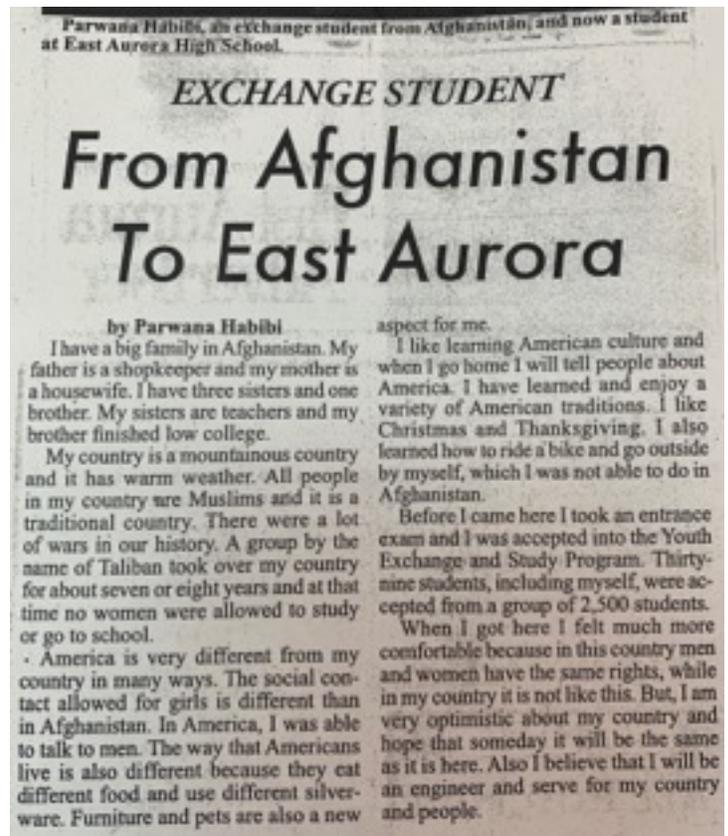
*migrants and immigrants



We were very fortunate to invite our MS teacher aide **Darcy Sowyrda**, into our classroom to listen to her first-hand account of hosting an exchange student from Afghanistan (*Parwana Habibi*) back in the mid 2000's when her daughter was a student at East Aurora High School.

Darcy spoke to the children about how much her family learned about Middle Eastern culture as compared to our Western culture here in America. She provided many connections to our Human Rights unit including the use of many word nerd vocabulary words. Ask your child about Parwana's story and how both Parwana's life and the Sowryda's family life has forever been changed for the better.

Mrs. Sworyda also spoke of hosting a 6 yr. old boy from the Bronx during several summers as part of the "Fresh Air" Program. Maybe you too can VOLUNTEER TO BE A HOST FAMILY!



NEW ROUTINE

TIME FOR KIDS independent online weekly reading assignment (It will begin Monday January 27th)

Every Monday, students will be introduced to a new cover story article in their individual **paper** copy of Time For Kids. Using their paper/print copy and free access to the online version of the magazine along with my Google Classroom home page students will be **independently** expected to...

HOW TO CLOSE READ

1. Read once to get the GIST (general idea)
2. Look for indents and number the paragraphs. Annotate and (MMM) MAKE A MESS IN THE MARGIN
3. Label the text features.
4. CIRCLE unknown or confusing words and phrases
5. UNDERLINE key details and label them with the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why, how)

1. **CLOSE READ** the paper copy of the article (see note to the left)
2. **Make annotations** on the paper copy of their magazine:
 - * Circle unknown words
 - * Underline the key details
 - * Label text features
 - * Label the details using the 5 W's

3. **Summarize** the article online (Students will keep their summaries "slim" and be

very selective in their word choice) Use the guide that summaries should be worth less than \$5.00 -each word they use costs them 10 cents!

4. **Complete the online multiple choice quiz** (immediate feedback provided)

Student work for each article will be due on the following Monday. They will hand in their existing print magazine to be graded and they receive a new print magazine article for the new week. *They can complete the online summary and quiz at anytime during the seven days between assignments.* If it is not completed by the following Monday **when they arrive at school-** they will be automatically assigned to ALC on Tuesday. This routine will provide students the opportunity to *build time management skills* while working on a *long range assignment*. This routine will enhance their exposure to *informational text* while we will be reading *Esperanza Rising* (*literary text*) in class. The students will receive the following grades:

5 points for their CLOSE READ/Annotations

5 points for their summary

1 point for each correct multiple choice response when taking the online quiz

If the students score lower than a 75% on the quiz, they will have to do corrections.

Students should be encouraged to look back in the article. The students should have their paper copy of the Time For Kids magazine right in front of them when they take the online quiz and must use it to locate the correct answer choices. *Many of the children do not take the time to look back in the text to find the evidence which proves whether their answer choice is correct or not.*

In this first magazine article entitled LIFE ON THE BORDER: Holding Onto Hope, the children will be reading about what happens when migrants from Central America arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border. Reading the article will familiarize them with a current event that is happening NOW and it will deepen their understanding of the setting and plot of the novel Esperanza Rising. After reading, students should reflect on the following questions:

Why don't all migrants make it into the United States?

What happens to those who don't make it?

What can happen to those who do?

Tips for using TIME for KIDS online

<https://www.timeforkids.com/g56/holding-on-to-hope-2/>

ADJUST READING LEVEL

Adjust the reading level by clicking the dropdown menu at the left side. (The website defaults to the reading level featured in our paper/print edition).

LISTEN TO AUDIO

To hear an article read aloud, click on the Read Aloud link at the top of the screen. A play button will appear **at the bottom of the article**. Click the play icon to begin.

Announcements

“Just Breathe” Monthly Club

Mindfulness, Movement and Music



1st meeting *Wednesday January 22, 2020*
during ELT with Mrs. Cichocki and Ms. Cavanaugh

What is this monthly club all about?

Participants will develop skills together that will help them respond rather than react! Explore how mindfulness, breathing techniques and movement can help you in and out of the classroom. Learn how music can energize and calm your body

We will focus on

- * Awareness (paying attention to your experience through through your senses and the mind)
- * Non-judgment (not labeling things “good” or “bad”) Be happy with where you are and where you can go!
- * Stillness in heart and mind - connect them and experience true mindfulness



Mrs. Cichocki will also be hosting an optional **Reading BOOK CLUB** on random dates during ELT.

A children's literature book will be selected and read aloud. It will directly relate to what we are learning about in class. The first book that will be read is Jars of Hope. The Club will take place in Mrs. Cichocki's Room on Thursday January 23, 2020 from 2:30-3:15. Amid the horrors of World War II, Polish social worker Irena Sendler worked in the Warsaw Ghetto for Jews. When the Nazis began shipping Jews out of the ghetto in cattle cars, Irena started smuggling out babies and children to give them a chance to live. She hid babies in places like laundry piles, a carpenter's tool box, or a potato sack, and she helped older children escape through underground sewer tunnels. After the children were out of the ghetto, Irena found safe places for them with foster families or in convents. Irena kept records of the children she helped smuggle away, and when she feared her work might be discovered, she buried her lists in jars, hoping to someday reunite the children with their parents. Jars of Hope is a dramatic and sophisticated picture book that addresses themes of discrimination, courage, and

friendship. It honors the newly discovered story of a small group of Polish women who risked their lives to save thousands of Jewish children.

(Thank you for the recommendation Sherri Voss)

If your child wishes to participate, **please send in a note** stating they have your approval to attend.

Announcements continued...

During the 3rd quarter, beginning on Monday January 27th, 5th graders will be moving from their HEALTH rotation with Mr. Rakoski to **FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)** with Mrs. Parker.

Please note that Friday January 24th is an "A" Day (last day of the 2nd quarter). Monday January 27th will start the 3rd quarter as an "A" Day!

Friendly Reminders

- * The fifth grade team requires ALL students to bring a book to read to class as well as study hall so that if they are finished with their classwork and homework, they will be able to read to self. What we are seeing is that students are not prepared with a "good fit" book. They are often not prepared with a book or generally just not invested in the books they bring so their reading experience is diminished. **Please see that your child has at least two books here at school to choose from.** *In this letter I have included some book suggestions related to our human rights discussions as well as history during the 1930's and 1940's so students will be able to make connections to the setting (time and place) in the upcoming novel we will be reading in class.*
- * Please continue to take time to **review your child's paperwork/planners** with them on a daily basis. Your support and input is so valuable.
- * Children need to be reminded to **place their wet boots at the bottom of their lockers** so as not to damage their Chromebooks and other items stored in their lockers.
- * Students may need to **replenish certain school supplies** (pencils/glue sticks etc.)
- * PLEASE see that your child has a **working pair of earbuds** to use at school. Many have been lost or broken.

Book club flyers are attached. The due date for submission is January 31, 2020.

Our Class Activation Code: L9NDJ

<https://clubs.scholastic.com/home>

**You may choose to spend time reading aloud to your child –or better yet, take turns reading or have them read aloud to you. Some of the books suggestions I have included below will definitely promote meaningful discussions that will get your child connected to their emotions and opinions! Your child will more than likely be curious and have additional questions that you can answer while reading!*

WORLD WAR II

Stepping on the Cracks

Mary Downing Hahn

It's WWII and late 1944-Margaret and Elizabeth, both 12, are hoping that their brothers will be home from the war in time for Christmas. Meanwhile, tracking their archenemy, bully Gordy, they discover that his older brother Stuart is hiding in the woods near their Maryland community. The girls are outraged at the deserter, but as they learn about his family's circumstances, they gain sympathy.

Code Talker

Joseph Bruchac

Ned Begay tells his grandchildren about his experiences at a Navajo mission school and as a U.S. Marine during World War II. He and other Navajos used their language (which was scorned at the mission school) to create an unbreakable code. They also participated in some of the war's heaviest fighting.

The Book Thief

Markus Zusah

The Book Thief stands out for the uniqueness of its omniscient narrator—Death. Yes, Death. He's actually a pretty affable fellow, and he takes a strong interest (unusual for him) in the life of a German girl. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. Still traumatized by the loss of her family, Liesel lives with foster parents outside Munich as the effects of war come ever closer—until, finally, they explode (literally) on her doorstep.

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS

John Boyne

It's 1942 and Bruno discovers that his father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences. The Boy in The Striped Pajamas is an important read as it teaches us that no matter where you're from, we all have more in common than we think.

Summer of My German Soldier

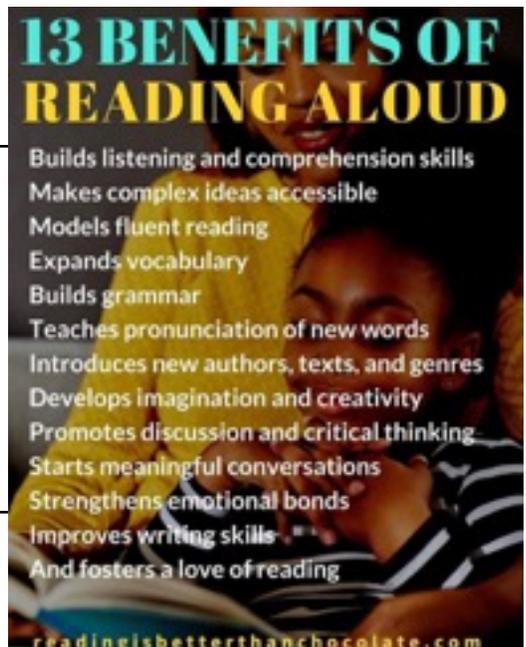
Bette Greene

The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends — even her freedom — for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.

The Boy At War Trilogy

Harry Mazer

The first book, A Boy at War is based on the attack on Pearl Harbor that initiated the United States' involvement in World War II. The books follow Adam Pelko, the son of a navy commander stationed at Pearl Harbor, during the Japanese attack of December 7, 1941



HOLOCAUST

Is it Night or Day?

Fern Schumer Chapman

It's 1938, and twelve-year-old Edith is about to move from the tiny German village she's lived in all her life to a place that seems as foreign as the moon: Chicago, Illinois. And she will be doing it alone. This dramatic and chilling novel about one girl's escape from Hitler's Germany was inspired by the experiences of the author's mother, one of twelve hundred children rescued by Americans as part of the One Thousand Children project.

Number The Stars

Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

A Bag of Marbles

Kris

In 1941, Joseph and his brother must hide their Jewish heritage and take a long and dangerous journey to reach their other brothers in the free zone.

Milkweed

Jerry Spinelli

A Jewish orphan must use his wits and courage to survive in the Warsaw ghetto.

Hidden Like Anne Frank: Fourteen True Stories of Survival Prins, Marcel

Some children were only three or four years old when they were hidden; some were teenagers. Some hid with neighbors or family, while many were with complete strangers, but all know the pain of losing their homes, their families, even their own names.

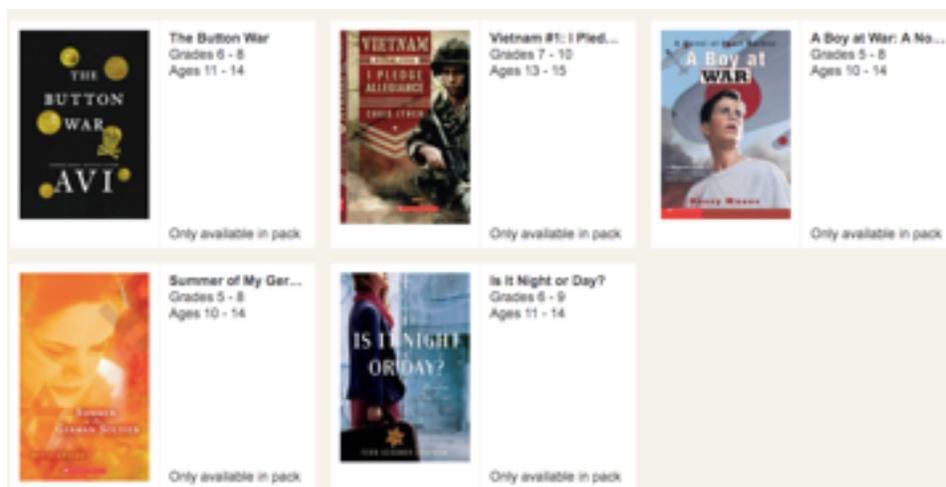
In addition, if you are ordering from our **scholastic online book orders** there is a five pack available for \$14.50. It is **TEENS AT WAR PACK.**

Item #6345 in YA Teens January

Grades: 5 - 9

Ages: 10 - 14

Reading Level: LEX: 530L - 860L



Also available online through scholastic is:

My Survival

by Rena Finder with Joshua M. Greene

Rena Finder was only 11 when the Nazis forced her and her family—along with all the other Jewish families—into a ghetto in Krakow, Poland. Rena worked as a slave laborer with scarcely any food and watched as friends and family were sent away. Then Rena and her mother ended up working for Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who employed Jewish prisoners in his factory and kept them fed and healthy. But Rena's nightmares were not over. She and her mother were deported to the concentration camp Auschwitz. With great cunning, Schindler was the one who set out to help them escape.

Item #48Y2 in Arrow October

Grades: 5 - 8

Ages: 10 - 14

Reading Level: LEX: 970L

All you need to do is enter the Item # in the search box at the top of the scholastic book club webpage.

Another resource to CHECK OUT readbrightly.com

Tweens (Ages 9, 10, 11, 12)

As kids grow older, they need books that resonate with their complex lives — as well as educate and entertain them. Explore books and topics to find age-appropriate selections guaranteed to keep your middle grade reader flipping pages FOR ANY GENRE OR TOPIC. The suggestions at the link below include the title, genre and summary for appropriate young adult books related to the holocaust and WWII. There is also a direct link under each book to purchase it on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Target !

Lastly, thank you very much for your kind generosity at holiday time. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering me at Christmas time. I have composed thank you notes which are attached to your child's packet.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

This [January newsletter is available in digital form on my webpage](#) along with past newsletters.

Mrs. Cichocki

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