

**5/6A** has been discovering the origins of our species and themselves. By working with family members near and far to construct a family tree, supplying personal artifacts and "song-telling" the students are revealing their place on the timeline of a family we are all members of begun over 3 million years ago. In science, we are learning about the genetic advances which contributed to the unraveling of this enormous mystery. We have begun with plant and animal cells. We are reading two beautiful novels, set in Africa, to enrich our understanding and appreciation of literature, family and our vast homeland.

**5/6 B** - What an amazing beginning to school! Our class is becoming a cohesive whole, we have jumped into the curriculum with both feet, learning about Early Man in Humanities, plant and animal cells in Science, and we are going full-speed ahead with our 6th grade Algebra. This Friday, Planned Parenthood will visit with the boys and girls of the combined 5/6th grades; divided by gender. What a gift that they provide such an excellent service to our community. The students have chosen either A Girl Named Disaster or Journey to Jo'berg as their first books, and have been given a packet of questions to guide them through their work. I will be handing out Spelling Dictionaries to the students today so that the children can log the words that they are having difficulty with. We are continuing to make our Early Man timeline this week and should have it ready to hang from the ceiling by the end of the week. What fun! Betty

## 8th

We are studying chaos and organization through our readings: The Forest People, The Martian Chronicles, and Search for Delicious, and through discussions and readings in Existential philosophy. Students are wrestling with the questions, "What is the effect of too much subjectivity or objectivity?" Students have also begun short fictions and are having a lot of fun with this.

In science, we've begun our study of geology and have already had our first field trip to Skytop where we practiced our mapping skills. The kids seemed enthusiastic when we reached the top of the mountain after a long, hard climb. We took over the tower as we scanned the horizon and viewed the surrounding area while simultaneously entertaining other visitors.

### Notes from Michelle...

Hello and welcome back! We have had a great start to the year and everyone is in full swing!

Here are some short notes:

People have been great about parking in the right place, let's keep it up!

Please remember to get your parent cooperative sign-ups in. Talk to me about Classroom Service, Claire Wasser about fundraising, and Amy Weiss about Beautification, if you have any questions.

This year continues to have Science as the focus of curriculum development. If you come upon resources, people, field trip locations, that relate to the science curriculum (in the curriculum part of your handbook!) let us know!

Immersion Week this year is on New Orleans. If you have any ideas for arts, food, culture, etc, it is not too early to let Jackie or DeWitt know.

