



# JANUARY

## Newsletter

Dear Families:

Hi all! First, I need to apologize because I thought I sent this newsletter out at the beginning of the month, but I have just realized that it did not send from the account I used. Ugh! So I have adjusted it to what we *have been* doing this month and not what *we were going to do*. LOL!

It was really nice to have a great break from Zoom school over the Winter Break, but I am happy to be back with the students. I missed them!! I'm looking forward to the day that this craziness is all behind us and we can *really* be together again. Here are what we have been working on this month and will continue into February.

At this time of year, we focus on writing in **Language Arts**. **4th graders** will be focusing on how to write a 5 paragraph essay with our "Hamburger" model. **5th graders** will be continuing to write more chapters for their autobiography.

Last week, we started reading together [Phantom Tollbooth](#) by Norton Juster. We will be doing a novel study and using this book to learn about comparing and contrasting characters and events with text based evidence, exploring different themes, studying figurative language and developing vocabulary. This is a classic book that is a wonderful fantasy fitting for this time.

In **Math** we **4th graders** have started learning the basics of algebra (which they always LOVE) and how to use algebra with solving word problems. **5th Graders** are working on multiplying and dividing fractions and word problems.

In **US History**, we are exploring the colonial and revolutionary time period with online assimilation and games. It is interesting to compare the start of our nation to what has been happening in current events. We have had many deep conversations regarding the election, insurrection, and the inauguration. [Click here to a link](#) of the poems that the students wrote after our lesson and discussion of Amanda Gorman's poem at the Inauguration.

In **science**, we have been studying the Watery Planet and the idea that water is a profoundly important natural resource, but one which requires surprising ingenuity to find and maintain. This has also led to many insightful discussions regarding droughts in California.

Please remember VAST Tutoring as a resource if you feel your child needs some extra help. They attended our last PTO meeting and announced that they are ready to support more kids. The sessions are through zoom and the Community Center will work with families and teachers to partner students with tutors at convenient times for families. They are prepared to offer scholarships.

# VAST

Come get support with VAST online tutoring!

Valley After School Tutoring (VAST) is starting it's 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of tutoring!

\$100 per trimester fee includes:

- Up to 3 one on one tutoring sessions a week through March 12, 2021.
- Flexible tutoring hours on ZOOM while Lagunitas School is distance learning.
- To schedule time with a tutor email: [vast@sgvcc.org](mailto:vast@sgvcc.org)
- For more information about VAST please visit <https://www.sgvcc.org/youth-programming/vast-tutoring/>
- We offer scholarships! If the \$100 trimester fee is too much, we will work with you!

For more information contact Robin at [vast@sgvcc.org](mailto:vast@sgvcc.org)



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PO Box 194  
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415-488-8888 [sgvcc.org](http://sgvcc.org)

The teachers and the new PTO officers are looking for ways to get more involvement and support a Montessori community and we would LOVE to hear from you. Please fill out this initial survey to help us understand how best to go forward.

Thanks!

[PTO Feedback Form](#)

## 5TH GRADE PARENTS:

We are now on Chapter 4 of the Autobiography which is a Photo ONLY chapter and students will learn how to write captions through this chapter and then for all the other chapters. In the packet this week are the student directions (which we will go over on Tuesday) and the pages for the photos. I have also copied the instructions here.

***\*\*\*Please try to have photos for students by February 8th. If there are any questions or problems, please let me know.***

# 5th Grade Autobiography

## Chapter 4: My Early Years

**Date Assigned:** Tuesday, January 27

**Photo Pages DUE:** Monday, February 8

*In Chapter 4 “My Early Years”, you will make photo pages from birth to age five (end right BEFORE you go to Kindergarten). You were so darn cute!!! Try to get at least 2 pictures for each age but you can have more or make a collage on the page too. Just leave room for CAPTIONS which we will learn how to write in a lesson.*

- ***Ask your parents*** for parents BEFORE taking pictures out of albums or books.
- *Order photos from online sites to be picked up or delivered in time to have pages completed by Due Date.*
- *Glue pictures on the pages and if needed add more pages if needed if you have more photos for each age grouping. \*\*Remember leave room to write captions later.*
- ***Remember to look for photos that also show events in your life during these times as well. Such as: if you moved, started a daycare, or preschool, a sibling was born, visiting family members or friends, special trips, doing an activity or any other major events that happened during these years.***

That's it for now! As always please reach out if you have questions or concerns or help with anything. I am here!!! (Or I may be out riding the hills on my new hobby, but I will be back! LOL!)

Have a great remainder of January!!!

-Alex

**THANKS**

