



Howard Valentine School

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"Home of the Timberwolves"



Date: November 28, 2016
To: SISD School Board
From: Colter W. Barnes; Principal, Teacher, and Greenhouse Manager
RE: **Howard Valentine Board Report for November 2016**

Student Count: We currently have 18 students enrolled at Howard Valentine School; 3 kindergarteners, 3 first graders, 1 third grader, 1 fourth grader, 2 fifth graders, 2 sixth graders, 2 seventh graders, 2 freshman, and 2 juniors.

Update:

November was another busy month for Howard Valentine School. Below is a summary of some of the projects and events our students participated in...

We hosted our annual Halloween carnival & dinner on Saturday, October 29th, and what a success it was! Not just because of the money we raised (>\$750), but because of the turnout/participation we had. The food and decorations were excellent, games entertaining (especially throwing pies at the teachers' faces), and setup and cleanup weren't too daunting. Parents, community, and the school all worked together to make it affordable, fun, and memorable.

Our local Arts & Seafood committee hosted the annual Christmas Bazaar at the school on Saturday, November 12th. Again, another successful event. Our students (that weren't participating in the girl scouts or their own booths) sold chicken & duck eggs from our school farm, jarred pickles, cream of mushroom soup, rhubarb & apple butter from our culinary arts class, and homemade eggnog and artwork from the previous week's "entrepreneurship" Ed Camp.

Speaking of Ed Camps, we continue to see positive results stemming from these. Ed Camps are a way to provide students with a voice and choice in their education, which has been proven both in the research *and* at our school to increase motivation/engagement. Rather than the teachers having to script every moment of every student's day from when they're 4 years old until they're 18, never (or rarely) providing the student's with the chance to make a decision with regards to their education, Ed Camps shift the (unhealthy) teacher-centered paradigm into the students favor. Students at our school generated a list of subjects they like to learn about, for example: metal forging, app/website design, archeology, tie-dying, robotics/drones, trapping, dissecting animals, bone articulations, sewing/knitting, small engines, etc, etc. Every Thursday afternoon Keane and I facilitate 2 of their choices with Judy hosting a silent reading & study hall Ed Camp in another room. Students get to pick which one they attend AND what they do during that 3-hour block. As long as it pertains to the subject, they are welcome to "nerd out" on it. So far, the results we're seeing are promising...

We had a Pre-Thanksgiving Sandwich Dinner Fundraiser on Wednesday, November 23rd that was a big hit in the community. Rather than people having to cook the night before they were to spend all day

cooking for thanksgiving, as many do, they could have homemade, delicious sandwiches (+ cookies & chips) delivered by our students & ASC. Many parents and community members/businesses donated resources and/or their time and expertise to help us make it successful; a big thank you to everyone for your continued support!

On another note, Mr. Richards is experimenting with a Montessori-style classroom structure during his elementary math class where students work on different tasks independently, rotating through different stations of bookwork, computer work, using shapes and objects, etc. So far it has been really helpful for working with 7 kids spread across four different levels.

The elementary and middle school science classes are focusing on different biomes of the world, with a particular focus on the rainforest. The elementary class is making models of the rainforest and discussing all of the ways that trees impact our lives, from providing resources like wood and paper to providing the oxygen we need to live.

The 4-9th grade English class has written some short stories as part of a creative writing unit. They are currently peer-editing drafts and hope to have some finished stories before the start of the break.

We've started shooting archery in P.E., and will be spending time over the next 2 weeks preparing for our Christmas program scheduled for Saturday, December 10th. A community member prepared an original script that includes all students and staff, as well as the members of our school farm (chickens, ducks, fish, etc.), and is sure to be a comical endeavor. We hope to see you there!