

## Language Arts Department Article

The Language Arts department has been striving all year to challenge our students to learn and grow in their communication skills within the classroom.

In Janet Roach's College Composition class, seniors are currently working on a Narrative essay and a Supporting Reasons Argument. Later they will write an Analysis Essay discussing Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" and Bacon's "Four Idols," a student satire in the style of "A Modest Proposal," by Jonathan Swift, and research essays on Media and Politics as well as the fairness of Millennial stereotypes.

In Tyler McConnell's junior English III class, students are in the middle of a Mark Twain survey -- presently reading "Roughing It," Twain's humorous journalistic work concerning his 19th-century adventures as a young man in the American West. Robyn Taylor's Honors Junior English III is also working through Mark Twain by analyzing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and accompanying literature from the same time period.

Moving down to English II, Rob Wofford's Honors English II is analyzing poetry and sharpening their blended essay skills while Robyn Taylor and Judy Moore's English II classes are working through John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and discussing characterization and theme. These classes are working continuously on skills needed to succeed on the English II EOC.

Next, in Alec Conner's English I classes, students read the play *12 Angry Men* in order to take a look at drama, set design, as well as have a conversation on what it means to stand for what you believe. We talked about the consequences of making big decisions and what it means to be guilty or innocent in the eyes of society.

The students also have the opportunity to take Foreign Language classes. In Judy Moore's French classes, they are looking forward to "La Chandeleur" the first of February when they get to make savory or sweet crepes. The students have a wonderful time cooking, but really like to eat their concoctions. Conversational French is the focus for both classes at present. Students are practicing more conversation and pronunciation using vocabulary to answer questions.

Over in Amanda Irwin's Spanish classes, students have been learning about the Missouri Seal of Bilingualism and discussing the benefits of taking College Spanish (Elementary Spanish I and II). In class, we have been exploring ways to talk about how we feel, and the best ways to maintain a healthy mind and body. We are looking forward to April, when we will be asking teachers, staff and administrators to judge the Annual Salsa Competition!

The Culture Club, sponsored by Judy Moore and Amanda Irwin, offers students a chance to continue to learn about different cultures. We are celebrating Chinese New Year by learning some of the country's cultural practices: learning to use chopsticks, how to say "Happy New Year" in Chinese, describing our zodiac animal and characteristics, and eating egg rolls, and learning about the future with fortune cookies. We extend our thanks to "China King" for assisting with our learning and eating. Students will be learning how to say love and friendship phrases for Valentine's Day as well as preparing string hearts to purchase and give to friends and loved ones.

Finally, the language arts department offers several elective classes. Rob Wofford's speech classes are learning Lincoln Douglas's affirmative argumentation structure. Tyler McConnell's journalism class is studying journalism covering poverty in America and Dent County in particular and his creative writing class is working as a class to write a humorous script of an episode of a popular TV show together as a "writing room" class. Our Mass Media class, also known as The Hilltop Yearbook, is continuing to work on putting together the yearbook based on the skills learned the first semester about design, photography, and writing.