

Dear 6th Grade Students and Parents,

We would like to share with you a very special project your child has been working on in Social Studies and Language Arts. This project is the Wax Museum. We started this project in January and it will end with the culmination of the Wax Museum in May. We hope that your student has already shared information about this wonderful project with you and below you will find more information about it and your child's role in it.

Research/Writing Process:

1. Your child has **selected a famous person** who has made a positive impact on the world. We provided the students with a list of potential people whom they could be. It was recommended that the students find someone in which they had a connection with. For example, if a student is into ballet, they would look for a famous ballerina. If they admire people who helped social change in the world, then they would look for someone who brought about social changes, etc.
2. The next step of the project was the **research phase**. The students spent ample time learning from Mr. Slanina and Mrs. Rath, our librarian, proper researching techniques. The students learned how to find proper sources and credit those sources.
3. Once the research phase was completed, the students turned their research into a **biography** about their selected person. This week, the students are finishing up the final draft of their biographies. Once this is complete the final step in the writing process is turning the biography into an **autobiography**.
4. The final step is the speech. The students will **memorize their autobiographies** that they wrote (we will practice at length in class). This part will need to be reinforced at home too. They will also need to wear a costume/clothes that makes them look like that person. For example, if your child selected John F. Kennedy, they might have on a tie and jacket and could start their speech out with something like, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country! Hello, I am John F. Kennedy. I was born in 1917 to Joe and Rose Kennedy..."

Costume:

The costume is not meant to burden you as parents - a costume can be put together fairly cheap, if not free, by being creative. We will discuss costume options in class with the students as well as show the students several examples from prior years. It is our hope that starting this project this far in advance, gives you plenty of time to get something together without a lot of stress.

Poster:

The students will also be required to create a poster about their character. I will provide several days for the students to print out pictures and time for assembly. In the past students have purchased letters and other "accessories" for their posters. These are not required but do add appeal to their poster. As with the costume, I will provide discussion and past examples of posters for the students to see and collect ideas from.

Wax Museum Night:

The Wax Museum night will be an important and memorable night for your child. All students will be positioned throughout the entire school and frozen like wax museum statues. Once money is put in your child's jar, they will spring to life and share their character's story. 100% of the money collected will be donated to a charity which will be voted on by all of the 6th grade students as a group. Over the past 5 years, this project has raised over \$18,000 for a multitude of charitable organizations. The audience for the speeches will be parents, relatives, friends, other teachers, people from the community, etc.

Dates:

The date for the big night is **Monday, May 13, 2019**. Our museum will be open from 5:45-7:15 pm. This night is one that you and your child will never forget!

**If you have any questions, please feel free to email travis.swartz@k12.sd.us

Thank you,
Mr. Swartz and Mr. Slanina