

Chalk Talk – CAS

High School - Creative Writing students have just completed a collection of poetry alphabet books for use in pre-school and elementary school classrooms. The finished books will be printed, bound, and delivered to CAS elementary school teachers shortly after Thanksgiving.

Students Mrs. Silverwind's English classes are finishing up with their novel reading, and are completing their study guides to review for finals. The novels they are reading include *Lord of the Flies*, *Animal Farm*, and *to Kill a Mockingbird*. Several students are also reading independently. Some of the books they are reading include *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin.

Students in all English classes are also finishing up their semester projects, which are due December 3. The seniors are completing their research papers, which are due December 7.

The CAS chess tournament, taking place at lunchtime, is underway, with the majority of first round matches having been completed. David Scripture, Devin Thuma, Chris Etrata, Sean Rist, Jonathan Encinas, Josh Bates, Eric Meade, and Paul Kays advance to the second round after defeating opponents. Ryon Grant and Brittany Allen advance to the second round by forfeit. Second round winners will advance to a third round, from which the first place winner will emerge. First, second and third place winners will receive gift cards to local merchants.

Middle School - The seventh grade class traveled to Cochise College's geology department on Tuesday to attend a special presentation by Professor Roger Weller. Mr. Oh!'s students have been studying minerals, their properties and how to identify them using tests such as Moh's Hardness Scale and density. The eighth graders are all happy to have completed their final exam in physics. They are looking forward to studying astronomy soon! The Friday creative writing class has been busy penning very funny and unique short stories based on writing prompts. By the end of this quarter, the students will have written and self-publish their very own childrens books.

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, there was no Wednesday after school Mentoring club or Thursday Garden Club meeting. Last week, members of the CAS 4-H Garden Club transplanted their winter vegetable seedlings into larger peat pots. The club currently is growing them in the lab room, in the indoor grow lab. It has been more than a year since the landscaping company finished planting trees and shrubs around CAS, so garden club members also performed tree maintenance by cutting the plastic ties around the trees and removing their restrictive stakes. Mr. Oh! showed them several trees that were damaged by this staking method. The Tuesday afterschool Technology Club members are putting the finishing touches on their podcasts and videos they are producing showcasing all the other clubs. The Technology Club includes students from the middle and high schools and is also one of CAS's 4-H programs. Special thank you's go out to Darci Tessman and Rachael Patterson for their volunteer 4-H leadership with the Techies.

On November 23, Mrs McWhite, the high school math teacher, instructed the students on the Tower of Hanoi, in which the students tried to move blocks one at a time to a separate location, keeping the blocks in order. They also learned about reaction time by seeing how far a ruler would pass through their hands before they were able to stop it, by pinching their thumb and forefinger together. These along with other exciting adventures await the junior math club after the holiday season. Junior math club members include Daniel Thomas, Desmond Riehl, Mya McWhite, Tahir Hairston, Anna Richards, Nevaeh Catura, Dante Busceme, Dylan Hess, Olivia Gholston and Haley Baldenegro with several students who have tried the club. Mrs. McWhite would like to express how grateful she is to be working with students who are excited about math and the things that can be done with math.

