

DEL REY UPDATE

The return to school after Winter Break is usually a very solid time in student learning. We almost always see a jump in student maturation and accomplishments. It is lovely to see the curriculum themes come to life across grade levels. In writing, for example, our youngest students are reading and writing in the genre of non-fiction and are moving those skills into writing where they are teaching us how to do things that they are experts in. As you move up the grade levels the theme continues, but spirals up in sophistication. Fifth graders are diving deeply into argument essays and learning to support their statements with evidence found in non-fiction texts. All students explore the non-fiction text features like tables of contents, captions, illustrations and diagrams, glossaries, etc. that are the guideposts to deciphering informational texts. They then apply those replicable features into their own work, thereby growing their own skills.

Del Rey's School-Wide Read Aloud title for the month of January is: *How to Read A Book* by Kwame Anderson illustrated by Melissa Sweet. It serves as an excellent mentor text introducing beautiful figurative language into a non-fiction format.

This past week we witnessed an insurrection in America. It has shown us the importance of civics education for our students. As a district, we shared many resources with educators and families to facilitate discussion. As we head into February and Black History Month we have many more opportunities to embrace equity, diversity, and inclusion. The fight for social justice for all continues. We are living through an important historical moment where we can make these connections for our children.

The Del Rey Community Coalition has chosen some excellent titles to support this work. The suggested titles for January are: *It Began with A Page* -How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way by Kyo Maclear and *As Good As Anybody* by Richard Michelson.

Despite the upheaval in our country and the world-wide pandemic, students display resilience and are doing amazing things in school.

Upcoming Events:

- February 10: DRPC meeting