

**Humanities Department News**  
**Weeks of November 28 and December 5**

**Social Studies:**

In a continued effort to make the past relevant and present, CP US History students recently completed a comparative focus on the causes of the 1930s Great Depression and the 2008 Great Recession. Issues pertaining to unemployment rates, bank practices, credit, foreign affairs and presidential actions were reviewed for each time period. After the Thanksgiving day break, students will be summarizing the New Deal programs of FDR and prioritizing those individually determined to be most effective in consideration of the short and long term. Following the depression-era focus, students will transition to the event that officially recovered the nation: WWII. This history changing event, which offers many engaging subtopics, will provide students with an opportunity to take advantage of independent study efforts, in addition to whole class ones, as they prepare their first formal research paper of the year. As currently scheduled, much of the paper's organization will be processed before the winter break, with the formal writing piece occurring after the New Year, through the first half of January. A great deal of class time will be provided to ensure that students stay on pace and can check in regularly with their progress.

-- By Jessica Memmott

**English/Language Arts:**

Senior English students will view and analyze modern satirical news sources such as The Colbert Report and John Stewart as models for the different rhetorical devices employed in effective satire. We will then read and discuss the 17th century work "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift to demonstrate written elements of these devices. After we explore the genre through both written and visual media, we will discuss how all of these examples are used to effect social change using humor as criticism. We will then brainstorm some modern day issues that affect our students directly and have them create a satirical video to effect social change in their own worlds.

-- By Alicia Robinson

**World Languages:**

Students in Latin Rotation are currently learning their second declension noun endings and have begun exploring Roman mythology. Over the course of the next couple weeks they will learn about the Roman gods and some of their basic myths. They will also be introduced to adjectives soon.

Students in Latin I are learning about noun adjective agreement, passive verbs, and will soon begin learning the basics of average Roman daily routines and lifestyles. They will also be learning the third noun declension and one of the past tenses.

Students in Latin II are working towards the National Latin Exam that will be taking place in the spring. Currently we are reviewing noun adjective agreement, passive verbs, and indirect statements.

Students in Latin III are currently studying the uses of the subjunctive in Latin and learning about medieval Latin authors.

Students in Latin IV are making their way through selections from Ovid's Metamorphoses, unadapted, and will soon begin learning about meter and literary devices in Latin poetry.

-- By Andrew Holmes