

# Seventh and Eighth Grade News

## Academics

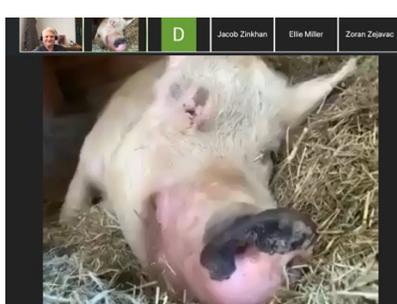
We are on our last leg of academic work for the year, and we are hoping to bring a number of things to closure this coming week. Students are currently in the process of presenting their Social Studies individual projects on “Entrepreneurs of the Past and Present.” So far we’ve heard and seen presentations on Elon Musk, George Westinghouse, Walt Disney, Henry Ford, Bill Gates, Marissa Mayer, Mark Cuban, Mark Zuckerberg, and J.P. Morgan. The focus of the presentations is on financial decisions made by these entrepreneurs, and the impact the decisions have had on the U.S. and world economies. As we listened to these final presentations, we were struck by how much more detailed, focused, articulate, and well-organized all of the students’ presentations have become over the course of the year.

For the second half of this cycle, students could choose to read either *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or to read a series of classic short stories. Our stories this week were “The Hand” and “The Open Window.” Our final story (for next week) is “The Tell-Tale Heart.” The final vocabulary test will be given this coming Monday. Students know what their final math target goal is, and everyone is working to reach it.

Speeches! It’s that time of year! Our 8th graders are working on their graduation speeches, and *will need to submit them to us before Monday*. Many of our seventh graders were asked by 8th graders to write speeches in their honor, and the drafts of those speeches are due *on Monday*.

## Virtual Field Trip to Indraloka Sanctuary Farm

Wednesday, the day of our virtual field trip, finally arrived, and at 12:50 PM, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders signed on to Zoom for our 25-minute tour of Indraloka Sanctuary Farm, located in Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful day there, perfect for a virtual tour. And the tour did not disappoint! Our kind and friendly tour guide introduced us to some of the friendliest, most mellow farm animals I’ve ever seen. The animals, used to being treated kindly, readily came up to our guide and the camera. We met rescued goats, cows, sheep, and pigs. Here are a few screen shots from our first ever virtual field trip:



# GRADUATION

Graduation is still planned for 6 PM, May 28 at 5104 Riverview Blvd (on the outside lawn of Janice's son's home in northwest Bradenton). **There is one change to the plans reported last week:** Each graduate will have a designated space for them and their family to park their car. **Following the social distancing guidelines set by the state to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people, it is requested that attendees remain in their cars for the duration of the ceremony, coming out only to videotape or photograph their child's speech and portion of the diploma ceremony which is focused on their child.** Graduates will be called up to the microphone to give their speeches and light their candles. The order will be publicized beforehand. The microphone will be disinfected between users.

Unfortunately, since we need to keep numbers down, both for safety, and to comply with guidelines for gatherings, it is necessary to limit attendees to graduates and their immediate families only. This year, we will not be able to accommodate 7th or 6th graders and their families. Once on the property, all individuals are asked to stay in their cars until your graduate is called for his/her speech. As much as we would all love to hug each other and everyone, we simply cannot. We also encourage people to wear masks before and after the ceremony.

These may seem like difficult restrictions, but we may be the only school in the state of Florida that is having an in-person and on-time graduation!

## Online Speeches and Video

Two important parts of our 8th grade graduation ceremony have been the speeches in honor of the graduates, given by the seventh and sixth graders, and the video. Both of those elements will still be happening, but they will happen online. The graduates will also give their speeches on line, so the

6th

and 7th graders can hear them as well. We'll also show the video at that time. All families are invited. The event, which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 9:30 the morning, will also be recorded so those who are unable to see it at that time may do so later.

## Drive-Thru Moving Up Ceremony

The Moving Up Ceremony will take place during its traditional time, the morning of graduation (May 28). However, the new version will be a drive through at the school, with teachers standing by the road to wave and cheer each group on. The details for this event are described in the Friday

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## Thank you to...



ALL of our students and families, for your flexibility and adaptability, your support, and your patience during this extraordinary time. We love you all, and we miss seeing each of you in person.

*Level 3 Families, we are always grateful for all you contribute to our middle school program.*

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Wednesday, May 27 9:30 AM.....Graduation Speeches and Video on Zoom**

**Thursday, May, 28 8:45-10 AM.....Moving Up Ceremony**

**Thursday, May 28, 6:00 PM.....8th Grade Graduation**

**Questions?**

PARENTS AND STUDENTS: We encourage you to contact us with any questions and concerns. The best time to call us is in the evening; alternatively, you can email or text us any time:

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*-The Level 3 Team*

*(Robin, Deana, Erica, and Beronica)*