



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY CLASS. . .

UPPER SCHOOL WORLD GEOGRAPHY

I am so proud of all the geographers I have this year. They are doing a wonderful job of diving into the subject matter. In addition to completing the nightly reading, these students are asked to find current event articles from the region we are studying. I ask students to write a short journal entry, as a way to reflect on the article. Through these articles, we are discussing important—and sometimes weighty—issues of contemporary life. I am continually impressed at the insight and compassion these students bring to their interpretation of current events, even on difficult matters such as dictators, genocide, and social justice. I am witnessing them grow into global citizens, which is a real privilege for me.

In October, we had the opportunity to visit Fairview Gardens in Goleta. This farm is an international model for sustainable organic farming. The tour around the farm enhanced all of our knowledge about where our food comes from. It was great to see these students holding chickens, uprooting carrots, and feeding goats.

We just finished our unit on Mexico and Central America, and the students did very well on the unit test. It was clear from the class average of “A” on this particular test that they all put time into studying both the maps and the concepts within the text. In addition to mastering the map, they analyzed and responded to a challenging article on Mexico’s economy. Each student demonstrated his or her ability to think critically about the United States’ relationship and economic ties to Mexico.

During the first week of each unit, we have a “Regional Celebration,” and we cook food from the region we are studying. We have some excellent chefs in the class! At our most recent meal, we enjoyed some wonderful huevos rancheros and Mexican crepes.

I am looking forward to more map-making, cooking, and discovering as we take on the rest of the globe!

~ ~ Beth Wirth