

January 21, 2011

Dear Parents:

Please note that your child will be working on a long-range project during the months of January, February, and March. As many of you already know, the Fourth Grade children are responsible for performing in our annual Wax Museum at Hamilton School. This year, the Wax Museum is scheduled to be held on March 11th. In an effort to get this project underway, we have explained the Wax Museum to the students. We have also assigned “Biographies” as your child’s next Book Report topic.

We have spoken to the students – at length – about the fact that this book report will be used for our Wax Museum on March 11th. The students are currently trying to choose famous people in the fields of history, science, politics, or literature. We have explained to the students that they cannot do reports about famous sports or entertainment figures.

Attached is the timeline of the due dates, outline for the rough draft, and rubrics for the written piece and tri-board. The forms are different than what the students have been using for book reports, so we will review all of these thoroughly with the children before sending them home.

We have been working hard to add more biographies to the selections in our school and class libraries. If your child is unable to find the book she/he wants, please feel free to use any outside libraries. We have told the children that they cannot gather their information solely from the internet. They must have at least one written resource such as a book or pamphlet.

Thank you, in advance, for the time you will put into this project. We appreciate all you do on behalf of your children.

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Teachers
Hamilton School

January 21, 2011

We have developed the following "Timeline" to help your child with this project.

Assignment	Due Date	Accomplished (Put an X)
<u>Choose a person to study and show your teacher the book. Return the signed portion of this letter:</u>	<u>January 27th</u>	_____
<u>Use the enclosed format and submit rough draft:</u>	<u>February 11th</u>	_____
<u>Report to be completed (Typed):</u>	<u>March 2nd</u>	_____
<u>Report will be returned and graded using enclosed rubric:</u>	<u>March 7th</u>	<u>Teacher will "X" this one</u>
<u>Use a "Tri-Board" to mount report and visuals:</u>	<u>March 10th</u>	_____
<u>Student wears costume and brings in any props:</u>	<u>March 11th</u>	_____

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Use the following outline form to help you find and note important information about your famous person.

I. Youth

- A. Birth place and date
- B. Home life and experiences
- C. Schooling (when and how much)
- D. Interesting facts and stories about youth

II. Adult Life

- A. Adventures and experiences
- B. Lifestyle and personal habits
 - 1. Personal behavior (cruel, kind, honest, etc.)
 - 2. Leadership experiences (Did men follow this person? Why?)
 - 3. Physical abilities and disabilities (illnesses; physical problems)
- C. Personal information
 - 1. Marriage/children
 - 2. Jobs held
 - 3. Adult hobbies and interests
- D. Reasons for fame
 - 1. Firsts - anything person accomplished first in human history
 - 2. Inventions and discoveries (give complete details)
 - 3. Impact on United States or the world (importance of what person did)

III. End of Life

- A. Death
 - 1. Date of death
 - 2. Age when person died
- B. Fame
 - 1. Was the person famous at the time of death?

IV. Sources

- A. List places where you got information
 - 1. Books/Internet
- B. Include author(s), copyright dates, and publishers
 - 1. Don't worry about correct format. Just give information.

Grading Rubric for _____ (Student's Name)

I. Youth

- A. Birth place and date 10 points _____
- B. Home life and experiences 10 points _____
- C. Schooling (when and how much) 10 points _____
- D. Interesting facts and stories about youth 5 points _____

II. Adult Life

- A. Adventures and experiences 10 points _____
- B. Lifestyle and personal habits 10 points _____
 - 1. Personal behavior (cruel, kind, honest, etc.)
 - 2. Leadership experiences (Did men follow this person? Why?)
 - 3. Physical abilities and disabilities (illnesses; physical problems)
- C. Personal information 10 points _____
 - 1. Marriage/children
 - 2. Jobs held
 - 3. Adult hobbies and interests
- D. Reasons for fame 10 points _____
 - 1. Firsts (anything person accomplished first in human history)
 - 2. Inventions and discoveries (give complete details)
 - 3. Impact on United States or the world (importance of what person did)

III. End of Life

- A. Death 10 points _____
 - 1. Date of death
 - 2. Age when person died
- B. Fame 10 points _____
 - 1. Was the person famous at the time of death?

IV. Sources

- A. List places where you got information 5 points _____
 - 1. Books
 - 2. Internet
- B. Include author(s), copyright dates, and publishers

Total number of points earned _____

Grade Earned _____

Tri-Board and Presentation Rubric

Costume: 30 Points

- *should portray your character, the era (time in history)
- *must be appropriate for school
- *you do not need to purchase a costume; may be made with materials from home
- *should be creative

Props: 15 Points

- *should be something your character would use
- *some examples would include a stethoscope for a doctor, a pen and clipboard for a researcher, etc.

Tri-Board: 30 Points

- *Tri-boards (approximately 4' x 2'8") may be purchased at office supply stores (Staple's, Office Max, etc.) - let the teacher know if there is a problem in getting one
- *report - must be included on your poster; must be neat and corrected if necessary
- *pictures-portraits of character and/or things and places that pertain to the character
- *five questions-MUST HAVE FIVE QUESTIONS YOU CAN ANSWER ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER PREPARED AND POSTED ON TRI-BOARD IN LARGE FONT!
- *neatness/creativity-should be neat, colorful, and show that you put effort into it

Presentation (five questions that are posted on tri-board): 25 Points

- *preparation and ability to answer each question
- **answer in complete sentences
- **speak clearly and slowly