

# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 6TH:

In Humanities

In Science,

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

🌿 **ILP Conferences will take place between October 20th to 24th.**

- You should be receiving an **email** directly from Helios' Communications Lead, **Melissa Kerr** with **scheduling instructions**.

🌿 Please send your child's **emergency kits** in if you have not already done so. (This announcement continues to be necessary 😊)

# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29TH: FOCUSING ON PROCESS

In Humanities, **students became curators**, transforming Room 1 into a gallery space of their own work. They had the opportunity to see how their researched events fit within the wider scheme of the Silk Road narrative, and were able to glean from the research organized by their peers.

What has been most impressive throughout the process of putting our exhibit together has been their engagement with the **writing process**— each student showed commitment not merely in fixing errors of grammar and mechanics, but in **revising for depth, specificity, and clarity**.

Their proactiveness in **seeking and applying feedback** has truly paid off.

My favorite part of the exhibit has been the **audio tour** they created. Each “track” goes deeper into the overview of their **posters**. Ask your child to listen to theirs, or to read their **transcripts**!

In Science, students continued their study of **salts**. We looked at sodium chloride's impact on **melting point** and used this special chemical property to make a delicious frozen treat.

We then started our last chapter of investigation 1, **chocolate!** Students looked at the complex combinations of chemicals, and **tempering** processes, that come together make the treat we know and love. Ask your student about the difference between dark, milk, and white chocolate.



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# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22ND: ZOOMING IN, ZOOMING OUT

In Humanities, each student has been researching three distinct events, significant to the Silk Road's multi-century history to prepare an ✨ immersive timeline walkthrough experience. ✨ By next week, a full exhibit will be in display, supplemented with a collaborative student-created audio-guide to lead visitors as they engage with the content through time. Ask your child which three events they've investigated, and how each connects to intercultural exchange.

In Science, students shared their first presentations of the semester. Their knowledge on the chemical structure and functions of sugars, artificial sweeteners, polysaccharides, and electronegativity was truly impressive. We then began our new unit on salts with microscope exploration. As we did with sugars, we have found salts are wildly more than a sprinkler in food. Ask your students about crystalline structure and salts that burn blue!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

**ILP Conferences will take place between October 20th to 24th.** We'll be sending out a link to schedule your meeting with your child next week. Be on the lookout!

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### PERIOD OF DISUNION AND SASANIAN DYNASTY

570 CE

#### MUHAMMAD THE PROPHET

Born in Mecca, Arabia (modern day Saudi Arabia), in 570, Muhammad is considered the last prophet according to the Islam. Orphaned at an early age Muhammad had a difficult early life. When he was 40, he was said to have experienced his first revelation through an angel. Throughout his life he founded the religion of Islam, a monotheistic religion worshipping the god Allah. This would become important later on in the silk road when Islam starts to grow thanks to trade and interactions. Before Muhammad, Arabia was torn between tribes with multiple religions, by his death in 632, Muhammad had managed to join Arabia into one religion, Islam.



#### QUR'AN

The Quran is the holy book of Islam, written by Muhammad. He based it off of his revelations of god over a 23 year period of time. The Quran is separated into 114 chapters, each filled with prayers, guidance, stories, and promises of good fortune. The language in which the Quran was originally written is Arabic. The Quran is one of the shorter holy books, being a mere 604 pages long. It is shorter than both the New Testament and the Bible. Islam does recognize both Jesus, Moses, and all of the prophets from the other holy books.



Kushan Roman Empires  
2<sup>nd</sup> C. BCE - 3<sup>rd</sup> C. CE

### FIRST EVIDENCE OF BUDDHISM IN CHINA

~ 65 CE

RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE SILK ROAD:

Chinese Culture

Buddhist missionaries influenced Chinese language, artistic concepts, literary works, and philosophical thought concepts like karma and the Four Noble Truths.

Buddhism first entered China in around 65 CE, through the words and teachings of merchants and monks along the Silk Road. At first, it was mainly concentrated in immigrant Chinese cities, like Luoyang, and later spread to the rest of Han China.

Emperor Ming is linked to this as well, because it is said that he had a dream that led him to seek out more knowledge about Buddhism from India. In China, Buddhism coexisted with Taoism (borrowed ideas) and Confucianism, two prevalent religions at the time.

Trade:

Buddhism affected trade as well, as missionaries in China provided social, practical, and economic support to merchants. Merchants also passed on Buddhist teachings, facilitating the religion's spread.



# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH: STRUCTURES MATTER

In humanities, we've been experiencing writing grow richer as we investigate all of its ✨**contextual layers**. ✨ We finished analyzing the last of our three Silk Road narratives with the travels of Benjamin of Tudela— which took place a whopping millennium after our heavenly horse explorer, Zhang Xian. Up until this point, our accounts have focused on travelers attempting to access communities and commodities, *unfamiliar*. Our Tudelan explorer was a Rabbi who traveled across three continents to document evidence of communities who shared his faith. I could tell you why, but it might be more interesting to ask your child how Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela's journey was a product of the religious climate and political structures of the early 12th century. 😊

In science, students found their “element bestie” by determining how and why different elements chemically bond. We then began our sugar mini project where students are investigating an in-depth study and model of a mono or disaccharide. While studying their sugar's chemical composition and use within food, they're also engaging in the extension of electronegativity, polysaccharides, and more artificial sugars. Ask your student about their favorite sugar!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



**Back to School Night** was yesterday— it was genuinely a delight connecting with those who attended. ICYMI, our **BTSN presentation** can be accessed [here](#).

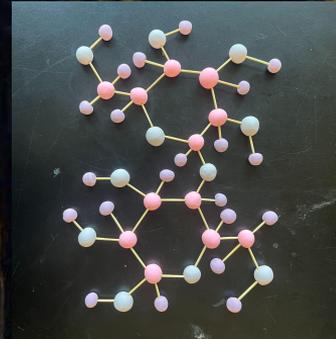


If you are willing to advise our students with their passion projects this year, our

**Parent Expertise & Passion Survey** is open for submissions.



Please send your **child's emergency kit** in if you have not done so already



# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH: PRODUCTS OF ENCOUNTERS

Do interactions create synergy? friction? collisions? bonds? If the answer is, "all of the above," what determines the derivatives of encounters?

In Humanities, students engaged in a "Silk Road Simulation," discerning how cooperation and tact in trade and exchange could substantially build up societies collectively. They saw how geography and placement could stall or advance the movement of goods, and engaged in close reading of primary sources that documented how kingdoms strategically halted or welcomed cross-cultural interactions to gain advantage of wealth, knowledge, and power. The texts were not easy reads, but students' commitment to tackle through matched the persistence of our good friend, Zhang Xian (ask your child about his travels 😊).

In Science, Herons evaluated the benefits and shortcomings of different atomic and molecular models used throughout history. They used these models to build and identify various atoms and molecules, and began their "Sugar Unit" with a taste test to determine how well they know their sweet substances. We compared the characteristics of monosaccharides, disaccharides, and artificial sugars and tested how well certain elements chemically bond. Ask your student about Splenda!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

It was great to have a number of you join for our **CAFE** this morning! Thank you for joining for all the skits, performances, and news updates. 😊

**Tech Agreements** were discussed with Ling today. Let us know if you have any questions on acceptable use of technology.

**Back to School Night** is coming up this **THURSDAY**. It begins at **6pm**, and will conclude by **7:30pm**.



# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1ST: LAYING FOUNDATIONS

It's week three, which means we've begun our deep dive into curriculum.

In science, students began studying the structure of atoms, tinkering with legos to model different elements and molecules. They observed, assessed, evaluated, and debated, practicing scientific argumentation skills pivotal for studying chemistry.

In humanities, we explored the development of intercultural exchange in world history; typically the Silk Road (which your child will tell you, is, in fact, many roads) is associated with the beginning of globalization. However, they engaged with evidence for existing encounters that laid the foundations for established routes which made diffusion of ideas, and procurement of luxury items, possible at the turn of the century.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



Our **Hérons Cafe** is next week, during **community meeting**. Please join us Friday, September 12, 8:30-9am.



Make sure your child has selected their [Lit Club preference](#).



We have a [Fall 2025 Augusta Camping Trip Album!](#)



Please send your child's emergency kits in if you have not already done so.



### Ask your child about:

Elements of Chemistry

Heavenly Horses 🐎

Peace and Friendship Accord 🕊️

The significance of Zhang Qian's travels 🐪

Radioactivity of Isotopes ☢️

# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF AUGUST 25TH: EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE

Camp Augusta's tagline is **challenge by choice**, and during our week with them, we found they embody the sentiment to their core. Counselors invited students and teachers, alike, to **embrace discomfort and engage** in activities (ranging from candle-making, to aerial yoga, to "Giant's Junkyard") — regardless the level of confidence, assuredness, strength, or skill one came in with.

It was incredible to see how our crews went beyond taking physical challenges, and wrestled with what it meant to feel weak, unsure, and unable. In times of apprehension and chaos, especially where teamwork is involved, it's easy to deflect, project, blame, or grow embarrassed. Our students, however, demonstrated an incredible **willingness to be vulnerable, show encouragement, accept feedback, and maintain joy** through it all.

We're grateful for the bond and mindset that is cementing, and that we're taking back into our classrooms.

ALSO— a HUGE thank you to our parent chaperones: **Assaf, Caitlin, Harshita, Kristal,** and **Liz**. We appreciate, so deeply, your presence and support on the trip.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



No school on Monday, in observance of Labor Day  
We have a [Fall 2025 Augusta Camping Trip Album!](#)  
Please send your child's emergency kits in by the end of the week



# HERONS' WEEKLY UPDATE

## WEEK OF AUGUST 18TH: ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY

Hérons are known for clumsy take-offs, but our launch into the new year has been strikingly smooth. Students have been stepping up, stepping in, and when needed, stepping back, to ensure a spirit of community, kindness, and risk-taking is taking root.

This week, we've been focusing on norms and expectations, exploring how wildly divergent perspectives can be, and considering the value of positioning ourselves to perceive the world around us in a way that may not come naturally.

Students have also begun MAP testing, which is always a hit. 😊

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



Please send in your child's emergency kits ASAP  
ICYMI, our "Meet the Teachers" slide deck presentation  
can be found [HERE](#)



Camp Augusta is coming up TUESDAY. Review Karn's  
parent email [HERE](#).

