Spring Time is "Learning by Doing" Time

As Spring springs, HFA students come out of the cold and turn up the heat on Learning by Doing. At HFA, we understand that students don't like to just sit and listen to lectures - they like to get their hands dirty and show what they know. Here's a quick sample: Students in HFA's new TEALS coding class have been writing real world computer code all year; HFA Seniors have all participated in a 75 hour work based internship experience and are preparing their Senior Defense presentations; students in STEAM I just completed their Pinewood Derby races learning about velocity and momentum, while students in STEAM II are testing their popsicle stick bridges and learning about careers in Engineering; Drama is preparing for the annual school play; 9th graders in ELA are defending their opinions on the "most important artifact" in the museum; and Biology students are debating about Scientific Ethics . . .

GAPP Students Prepare to Study Abroad

On May 7th, 13 German III students will take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Pfullendorf, Germany to reunite with partners they hosted in the fall. We are thankful again to be working with our partner school, Staufer Gymnasium. Pfullendorf is located in the south, an hour away from Switzerland and Austria, and three hours away from France. These students, Frau Carr, and Mr. Haney will be in Germany until May 28th. Our students will have the opportunity to see the Pfahlbauten ("The Houses on the Sticks") in the beautiful Lake of Constance, climb the 767 medieval steps to the top of the Ulmer Münster, the tallest church in the world, and shop in Konstanz, where they can put one foot in Germany and the other in Switzerland. They will stay with host families, attend German high school, and experience German culture firsthand. - Frau Mary Carr
Chemistry Unleashed!

Students at HFA have the opportunity to take a fun, hands-on elective, that supplements their understanding of Chemistry. In *Chemistry Unleashed*, students continue their investigation of "What types of materials burn?" and "What is required for combustion to occur?" by making homemade sparklers. Students weighted out multiple metal powders and combined them with an oxidant and a cornstarch base to make their sparklers. Most were surprised to find out that almost all metals burn when in powder form. It's fun to see how chemistry is a part of everyday life and the day-to-day products that we use.

-Ms. Tammy Goodman

HFA Students Become Historical Detectives

In *Village History*, students recently visited the Benson Ford Research Center which is the onsite artifact and collection holding area for the entire Henry Ford. During their two days, not only did students get to see objects that rarely see the collection floor but they also signed up for an account that entitles them to the same research benefits granted to the curators. The staff brought out original Sears catalogs from the 1920's to help students with a project that asked them to assume the role of an American immigrant who just accepted a job and now needs to build a wardrobe that fits the profession. Students were able to immerse themselves in history with actual objects, explain the benefits and difficulties that might come from a person at the time doing this, and make modern comparisons and contrasts to this today. - Mr. Jeff Koslowski

Creating Prototypes of Strong Bones

In *Humans Body Systems*, students learn that it is not only the mass of the bone that is important in its effectiveness, but its structure as well. Students build model bones using at most 100 grams of paper (about 40 half sheets) and tape. The goal is to see how many textbooks can be stacked on the model bone before the stack falls over or crumplest down. A comparison is made between their current model bone and previous models to see which held up more books, taking into account the mass of the bone. The best model bone so far held 42 books (over 120 lbs.) - Dr. Robert Leclerc