



Weekly Connections #5

MLCA@HOME

JOURNAL ENTRY BY JESSICA TODD-HARPER

Thursday April 30

This morning I woke at 5:50, dressed, and walked into the children's rooms to wake them. I prepared two steaming bowls of Mrs. Meyers cleaning solution, one for each floor, and put a pile of rags by each one. Then I started picking things up- random socks, misplaced homework, hair bows, endless little magnetic balls that have fascinated Marshall lately- and began the process of putting them in their places. Several headlines from cast off sections of newspapers called out to me the various worries of our time: the economy has shrunk by 4.8%; US deaths pass 60,000; homeschooling is hard. I mull these ideas over while picking up laptop chargers, little bits of cut up craft paper and a collection of sewing needles and thread stuck into some doll clothes in a pile in the living room. Big concerns and little concerns. I can do nothing about the first but I stand a chance at an orderly house.

Thursday is cleaning day. The first two Thursdays of this new routine no one was happy. The kids were full of protest and let's be honest: I was too. Chris and I have what one might call an "artistic" sensibility when it comes to clutter. Want to turn the living room into a fort? Fine. You're building a paper model of the city of Jericho on the kitchen floor? Cool. But once a week, we have always insisted on cleaning everything. Clutter is "creativity" but dirt is gross. As soon as we could afford it, we had a housekeeper come, and that's the way the kids have grown up. So now that we had to do the scrubbing ourselves, there were a lot of questions. Why do we have to dust the furniture anyway? Why couldn't we leave dirty clothes under our beds if we liked it? It was pointed out that the large nest of picture books, dog toys, and cast off sweaters on the window seat was very convenient for all. I want to say that with sage mothering and MLCA savvy I coaxed them into swiftly cleaning while they recited poetry but that's not what happened. I yelled, they yelled, we all



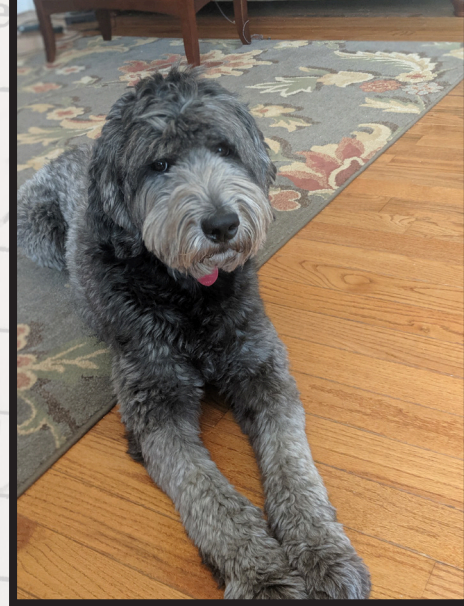
were frustrated. Ditto for week two. Then the third week the kids all started to plot the night before how they would like to divide the work and I gave them leave to complete the job anyway they liked. I would take the hardest rooms (read: kitchen, mudroom) and they could divvy up the rest as they liked. Nicholas decided he would wake up at 6:00 and get his share completed before his 9:00 class. The other two children slept in and took all day, but they did it. Meanwhile Nicky flaunted his leisure while they vacuumed and scrubbed. The following week we were all up at 6:00 and all the children were finished by 9:00. This may sound like a hopelessly bourgeois point of gratitude, but I am amazed at what we have learned by having to clean our own house. And it's not just that the kids now know how to clean a whole house without complaining, which is a miracle in and of itself, but also that cleaning has very unexpectedly given me two quarantine gifts: a marker of the passage of time (cleaning day and zoom church day are the only things to differentiate any day from another right now) and the illusion that everything is normal. When I am wiping the kitchen cabinets I am not thinking about the economy shrinking or really anything else. I'm thinking about how hard I have to scrub to remove blueberry pie drippings (pretty hard) as opposed to coffee splashes (not so much). The hidden blessing of cleaning day is that for three hours at least, my family feels like a team against a pretty straightforward foe and the sodden blanket of worry that weighs down all of us seems to disappear.

Please submit for next week ! Email Chloë by next thursday May 7th



Art History Elective is back! The students enjoyed an overview of works, periods and artists studied so far this year.

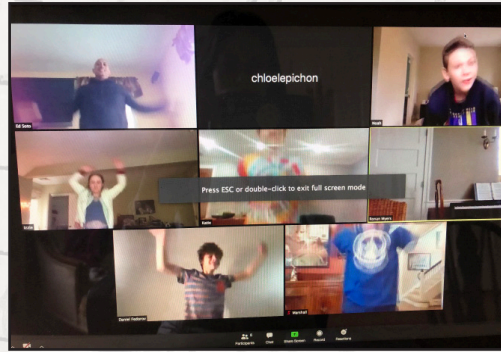
Friday the school dog ...misses all the students and sends the MLCA community his love!



#StillLearningGreatThings Thanks to MLCA!

Memory Passage 6/7th Grade By William Shakespeare Act III, scene ii, from Julius Caesar, spoken by Marc Antony

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men—
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.



The students are glad to see Mr. Soto and play his games! Although there was some technical difficulty which is now resolved, the 6th/7th grade had fun - see this [snippet!](#)

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS WEEK'S SUBMISSIONS
**PARENTS: CALL FOR JOURNAL
ENTRIES ABOUT YOUR LIFE
UNDER QUARANTINE**

#StillLearningGreatThings
thanks to MLCA

Send your anecdotes/pictures/videos
by tuesdays:
admissions@mainlineclassical.org

Noah gets help from his family restaging "Marc Anthony's Oration at Caesar's Funeral" by George Edward Robertson. This is an English assignment for all 6/7th graders who are studying Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and memorizing passages in Mr. Walter's class





NATURE ESCAPES

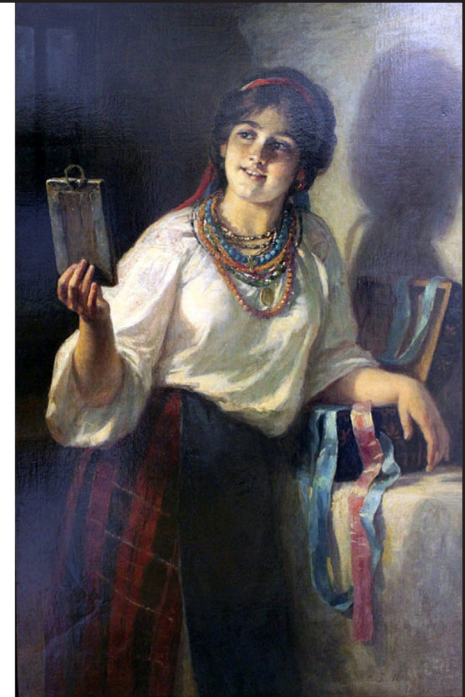
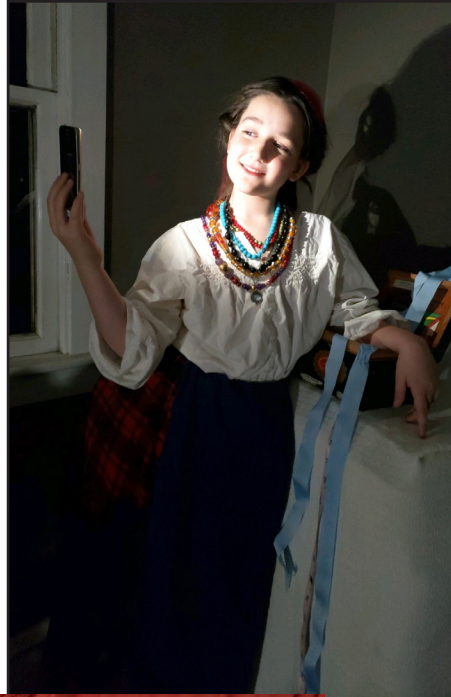
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO SURVIVE THIS TIME OF QUARANTINE?

The Winfields went to HILDACY, part of natural lands preserve and it looks worth a visit! The Posners visited RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK; Rachel frequently walks to MERION BOTANICAL GARDENS; the Ferreira family took a long walk through ROLLING HILL PARK in Gladwyn.



Hildacy, part of natural lands preserve. June found a nest and waded in the creek.

Newsa posing with a modern twist "Oksana" by Harito Platonov



Tali Shpilman, a future MLCA student posing for a painting recreation. Current MLCA students (Ari and Ben) singing and dancing in the background to keep her entertained!

PHOTO CHALLENGE

Send us more...
We love what you
have created so far!

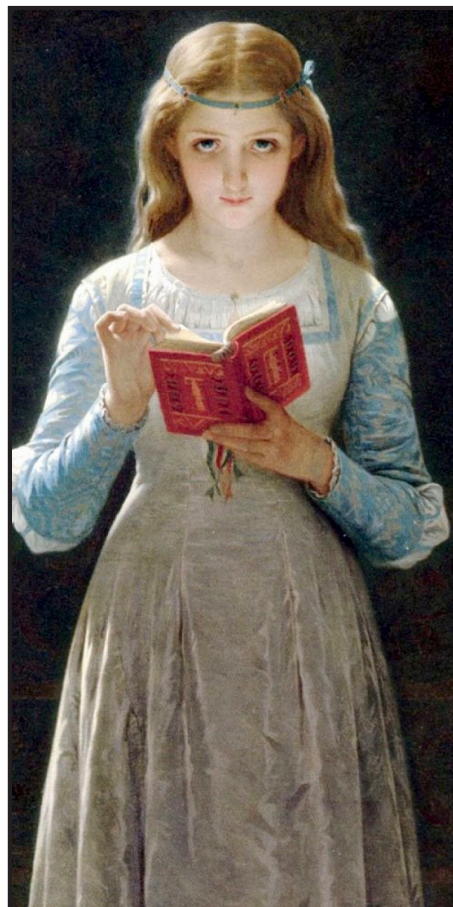
Raica and Pietra in "Unknown" by William Bouguereau



Rachel poses as "Girl in a Blue Dress" by Johannes Verspronck



Olympia poses as "Flaming June" by Sir Frederic Leighton and Pietra poses as "Ophélie" by Pierre Auguste Cot





Sending our best to Rachel and Raphael's family who have all been recovering. So nice to see you all playing together! We are so glad that you shared this picture with us.



Zoe is starting to walk on ceilings after being at home for so long :)



Above right: Adam Weinstein in his COVID suit with messages from Malcolm and Alex on the wall of "Positive Messages" behind him. Thank you Adam!



Avery's mother taughts her how to play Chinese Jump Rope. Avery, you will have to teach Mr. Soto and the rest of the school - what a fun recess activity!



Alana learns how to cook more traditional recipes from her mother. June loses her second tooth!



BIRTHDAYS

We miss celebrating with you!
Send pictures if your birthday is coming up.
There are no birthdays this week!



Anne invents "Hoverboard Boots" with magnets. She is hard at work...

Connor helping at the barn, hanging with his cat and UNICYCEING!