

## STATE OF THE UNION

*"He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information on the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient*

--ARTICLE II, SECTION 3

# Home-School Connection #17

## 1.22.15

Write at least 4 thought provoking questions

**STATE OF THE UNION:** On Tuesday,, President Obama gave the annual State of the Union address so we learned about it. We also had our own SS State of the Union. I attached the information and speech to our website:

<http://Sstarkclasswebsite.weebly.com/home-school-connections-hshtml>

Ms. Espinosa announced me and then I walked up the aisle shaking hands and greeting you. With our executive director (Jiashu) and peace and paper (Beau) on either side of the podium (Reggie). I stood up and gave a little speech, and just like the Congress, you clapped for the parts you liked.. You then had a chance to write your own response to the state of our class union. Your detailed and honest ideas were impressive. What did you or your peers have to say? Do you have ideas for how to make our classroom even better as we head in the 2nd half of the year?



**AND THE RESULTS ARE IN:** You narrowed down the long list of choices for the name of our river table village to Riverton and Crystal Creek. The class was almost evenly split. Those who felt strongly got together to form arguments to persuade others to join their side. A representative from each group shared your arguments and you had a final vote. Riverton won by two votes. We decided the village will include the Crystal Creek Commons. Thanks to SS families for hauling in bags and buckets of soil, we can now begin the planting process. What are you looking forward to designing for Riverton?

**TAXES:** In the State of the Union, President Obama said some people need higher wages and we need to improve child care, schools, bridges and other programs to help poor and middle class citizens. President Obama wants to fund these projects by having wealthy Americans pay higher taxes. Ask your parents what they think of this. Also ask your parents positive and/or negative opinions they have about taxes. For example, Brookline already has high taxes, but they could get higher to pay for new spaces and materials for all the new students that are coming. What do your parents think of that? Last, but not least, please discuss or do some research about what items in our country or state are taxed. What questions do you have about why some items are taxed and why some items aren't?

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**MAPS, ECONOMICS, WORLDLY GOODS:** Ms. Davidson brought in a wide collection of world maps and we hung them up in the hall. We will pick two of them to display where items we use are made. What differences have you noticed amongst the maps? What differences do you think you will find when we compare where things were made in 1763 compared to now?

**TEAMS/FRACTIONS:** We started to focus on division of fractions and we are continuing to focus on adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. You are using this information to write fraction word problems about one of your current teammate before you move into a new team. How much time have you spent getting to know everyone on your current team? What are some goals you have for your next team?

**CHINESE NEW YEAR:** You are learning a new song to sing at Driscoll's Chinese New Year celebration. Here is the link to watch it: <http://viewpure.com/xYXwM4uNuJw>. The lyrics on our website. You will wear your amazing dragon sculptures and parade through the school and then sing this song in the gym.

### OTHER ITEMS:

- **LIBRARY:** Ms. Neale read excerpts from two biographies about Hancock and Washington and we discussed how their backgrounds affected their achievements.
  - **SKILLS/GOALS:** Typing, Handwriting, reading, organization, following directions? How's it going?
  - **VOCABULARY:** You tried out a program called Wordly Wise. What parts were harder, easier or more interesting? Talk to your parents using some of the vocabulary.
  - **CONCERT:** There was a chorus holiday concert on Friday. What did you think?
  - **SPECIALS:** What's going on in P.E, Music, Conservatory, Chinese, Morning meeting, recess,
  - Something else? What did you talk about?
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Due: **MONDAY** : We made a time to do this on:\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature & Comments:

Student Rating (1-5) Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.