



Week 4 Newsletter

Dear Quad Manhattan Parent,

In our most recent Strategy Games class, we welcomed a new student, Xander and it was fantastic to have him! We began our class by going over the schedule and clarifying any questions that the participants had. We then did our group check in by saying our names, how we were feeling and what our highs and lows for the week had been.

After our check in we engaged in this week's psychosocial lesson, which focused on how we express ourselves when we become angry or frustrated. The students were asked to describe how they act or behave when they become upset. The students gave several answers, ranging from telling an adult to crying. This led into a discussion about healthy ways that we can express our feelings to one another in class. We gave a hypothetical situation that might come up in the tabletop game and talked about ways that we might express our emotions to one another in real life. Together we came up with a physical signal (opening and closing a raised hand) to let each other know when we are feeling upset.

After our lesson we played this week's psychosocial improv game, Gift Giving. This is another circle game that can be played at home. It starts with one player who gives an odd, imaginary gift to the person next to them. An example from our game was a jar of spoons.

Then no matter what the gift is, the person receiving it must say why it is the best gift ever. This challenges our creative thinking skills and encourages us to accept our partner's offers.

When we began Dungeon World at 4:30, Xander was "thrown in the deep end" when, by chance, his character had the opportunity to go first. Despite being given the option to temporarily "pass" on his turn or take an easy "softball" turn, Xander confidently and thoughtfully examined what was going on so far in the game. After a few minutes considering his options, and asking his fellow players a lot of great questions, Xander confidently sprung into action on his turn. I would say this was a best-case scenario, in terms of diving right into the action with a new player; if anything, Xander got us swept into the game even more quickly.

The session very much became an organic and natural discussion of violence and consequences. We had an in depth (and fun) discourse about the merits of capturing or slaying an orc magician. While the students talked about the merits of each option, they also made personal requests from each other; at one point one student asked another not to attack this enemy because their own negotiations with the orc were still underway. These requests led to further discussion and consideration, rather than arguments and disputes (as so often can be the case!). It was very impressive to see the level of discourse at play.

Best,
Samantha, Timm, and Heather

Announcements

Sadly, this class was the last class that Oliver would be joining us for Strategy Games. It has been an absolute delight having Oliver in the class and playing alongside him, and he will be a sorely-missed addition to our class, as will the druid "Revilo" be missed in our adventuring party! We'd like to wish Oliver the best of luck in his new school, and that he has many positive and fun experiences there!!

There will be no class on Monday, October 9 (Columbus Day). We will see you on the 16th!

Thanks for reading!