



Week 17 Newsletter

Dear Quad Manhattan Parent,

We began Strategy Games class with our weekly check in. We have definitely noticed over time that the students are displaying a greater ability to respect the time constraints of their check ins. They have also improved in their abilities to face the individuals with whom they are speaking. Then, each student shared his highs and lows from the week and used the Zones of Regulation to describe his current emotional state.

In order to practice and reinforce important social skills that we have been working on over the course of the semester; such as, turn taking, respecting others' choices, and working together towards a common goal, we played an improv game called One Word Story. You play this game in a circle and together the group builds a story one word at a time. This game requires the group to try to be on the same page and to predict where the story might be going. It also requires them to shift gears if the story suddenly takes an unexpected turn. It is a silly and enjoyable game that can be played at home around the dinner table.

In the Dungeon World portion of class, we picked up our story with a moral conundrum, whether or not to steal from a friendly wizard's tower. On the one hand, the wizard would probably not miss the magic item in his vault, especially given that it was "cursed"; on the other hand, the wizard was a close (if silly) ally and would not appreciate having his hospitality taken advantage of. The students debated the pros and cons, as well as the practicalities concerned (dangers, guards, and the desirability of a cursed item). The debate left students still at odds on what exactly to do, which eventually drew forth a compromise of sorts as they hurried away from the tower.

The session ended with the characters all reunited for the first time in weeks. The events of the past few weeks had led the players to assess, and reassess, how they feel about their fellow players as teammates, and to talk through issues of trust. Over the next few weeks, the students will most likely be discussing how they agree and disagree with each other's in-game strategies, which will be an interesting a productive opportunity for valuable peer-to-peer feedback.

We look forward to seeing you child on Monday!

Best,
Samantha and Timm

Thanks for reading!