

## ELEMENTARY 2 – ZETA

*We shall:*

*Cooperate with one another; include one another;  
respect one another, the materials and the environment,  
and use a 12" voice inside.*

Zeta Class Compact, 2011

Our class began the school year with a discussion of what an almost-perfect school year would look like. Once that vision was in our minds, we generated the four points of our class compact, which we committed to upholding this year. We are having class meetings nearly every day to build community and make class life run smoothly. Opening with honoring and thanks, we discuss agenda items (most recently relating to the class pets), and after coming up with about three solutions, come to a decision through the means of a blind vote. I observe a growing sense of community and belonging as students publicly thank one another, point out one another's strengths and engage in respectful discussion for group decisions.

Tuesday afternoons end with a Godly Play story or devotions, alternating weeks with the Kappa 3-Day students. For devotions we are reading and discussing *Warriors of Ethiopia: Heroes of the Gospel in the Omo River Valley* by Dick McLellan. Each chapter is a story of one native missionary's service or testimony. The stories are straight-forward, unembellished and compelling instances of authentic Christian service in the midst of persecution and hardship.

Math is ramping up, with children remembering the work they left off with last spring and moving forward into newer territory. There has been a lot of decimal work, and the "magic scissors" (used in the introductory lesson) have been busy. Likewise, a few outbursts of irresistible dancing have accompanied the Test Tube division chant of "Bring down, distribute, write, clear the board. Slide!"

In science, all the E2 students are studying the vital functions of life: fourth and fifth graders are learning about the vital functions of plants, and sixth years are learning about the vital functions of animals in preparation for their more detailed study of human biology. Ask them about my mythical Very Lazy Student who wouldn't do any work.

For language, the students are working on moving through the multiple steps of brainstorming, outlining, and drafting personal narratives. It's hard work! Their literature groups are going well, focusing on character development. A point of clarification: The Zeta 5-Day students will be joining the parent-led book club celebrations along with 3-Day students. Their books are in line with the author recommendations given in the Scope and Sequence packet.

