

Mission Hill School News

Letter from Child Street

Our Students Write

Dear Mission Hill School Friends, Families, Students and Staff,
This week's news is from our students. Each letter or article is in their voice. Our cover includes several voices from Robert's classroom, The Role Model Hawks.

REMINDERS

May

Sat. 5/2: Wake Up The Earth Festival (see back page)

Fri. 5/9: Spring electives begin

5/5 - 5/9: Screen Free Week

5/6 & 5/7: Math MCAS for grades 3&4

5/8 & 5/9: Math MCAS for grades 5&6

Fri. 5/9, 9:00 - 11:00: Welcome Session for new families

5/12 & 13: Math MCAS for grade 8 AND Science MCAS for grade 5

5/15 & 16: Math MCAS for grade 7 AND Science MCAS for grade 8

This week Mission Hill is having bike week by Boston Bikes, which was started by our old mayor, Thomas Menino. Students have the chance to ride bikes donated by the company. You learn safety rules about bikes and how to ride properly. Each class has the chance to ride two to three times the week before and after April vacation.

This will be my second year riding and I can't wait to ride again! – Luisairy

Us kids get to do bike week! We get to ride bikes on the tennis courts and on the field. We get to do either free bike or stuff the instructors tell us to do. I prefer free bike.- Daniel

Everybody is so excited for Bike Week! The whole school is excited about it. I can't wait to ride a bike today!- Anais

Bike week is one of my favorite weeks of the year. I like Bike Week because it gives kids a chance to do and learn new things. My tips for biking are to not get too riled up and to focus because if you start thinking about all of the things you want to do on your bike, you could lose concentration and you might crash. My second tip is to listen to everything the instructor says because your bike could have something wrong with it and you'd want to know.- AJ

~Ayla Gavins

From the Classrooms

3 and 4 year-olds

Room 108

Warlin Pujols Guerr0 created this beautiful felt storyboard tale.

Holding Hands



By Warlin
April, 2014

These girls are going to school,
1, 2, 3, 4!



And she is going to work with her dad
and the other dad,
1, 2, 3!



These two girls are going home,
1, 2!



And he was going to work with him,
1, 2!



Kindergarten

Room 106

Several of the Perigrine Falcons (Lumi, James and Sarah) gathered around to retell a story they loved, *If you Give a Pig a Pancake*.

Here is the story retold by them with commentary.

This pig was walking by this house and smelled some pancakes. Then he went inside and he saw a little girl. He asked the little girl if he could have some pancakes. He asked her for cakes with syrup on it. The pig got sticky and wanted a bath. Then he wanted a toy ducky. That reminded him of the forest where he was born. He went past another little girl. She helped him build a tree house. Then he went into the garage and then said, "Can

I decorate the tree house?" Then he asked her for another pancake and the girl was fast asleep. The end.

All three students said they liked this story. Sarah said, "I like it because he gets to build a tree house and decorate it and because he was dancing on the table". James added, "I didn't like when the pig got sticky". Lumi shared her thoughts. "I liked it because he got to eat pancakes, because I like pancakes and syrup". All agreed that other people should read this book.

Room 107

Nyla and Erik of room 107 created a story for everyone to enjoy.

It was in Neverland long, long ago. The people were running until a guy yelled, "Stop!" He said stop because he was looking for fairies, because the people had fairies. Then all the people were trying to run, run, run, run!!! Then there were more fairies that came from Neverland.

There was one fairy who didn't get caught. It was a boy fairy named Zach. Zach had blonde hair and his shorts came down below his knees. The leaves of his outfit went all the way up to his armpits. It was tight enough to go up to his armpits. It went up and like a zig-zag. He had little shoes made out of green leaves with 2 pom poms on each one.

People were starting to be rude to the fairies because they wanted to catch the fairies. They forced the fairies to lead them to pixie dust. Pixie dust is the dust that

makes fairies fly. Oh no! Stop right there! Said the fairies except for Zach who was still free. Every other fairy wanted the people to stop trying to lead them to the pixie dust. Zach's sister, Princess Bella Ella, wore a beautiful dress down to her feet. It had a bow on the top. And she had high heels. She loved swimming. Princess Bella Ella was also free and she said, "Stop right there!" to the people. They said, "ok". She said, "Stop being rude to me or you will get kicked out of this land forever." They stopped.

The end.

Room 109

These original stories are from two Original Stars, Hiram and Alex.

Once upon a time there was water dripping from the ceiling. The alarm went off and I was walking, walking and walking because it was time to go home. I hate alarms.

The silver school bus was here. The bus was walking fast into the school on its humungous 100 feet. The bus got up and started to walk. He walked into the sun. Then the feet walked and walked and the bus tripped on a rock and fell on Hiram when Hiram was walking out of the school. Hiram was hurt and a sweetie came.

The sweetie was walking to school. Then scream cheese came and was walking with sweetie and they became friends. – By Hiram

Once there was a rectangle block and a fat brown chair and they were holding hands. Then there was a few letters and they

walked across the street and got on the bus at the bus stop. A car was beeping. The car kept beeping and they (blocks, chair and letters) didn't move. When it beeped louder they still didn't move. Then there was a computer car charger plug walking with them. It didn't say anything. They were at the bus stop. The bus came. Then they went on the bus and got dropped off at their homes in different places. The end. – By Alex

Grades One & Two

Room 204

A group of Magic Learners (Maya M., Fatemah, Maryam, Shirley, and Roldani) spoke openly about Vejigante mask making inspired by the study of Taino people.

You have to cut out a circle paper. You have to make eyes and a mouth. When you are finished with your details you staple a line to it (the mask) for it to stay on your head.

Another student began to describe how to make another style of mask. You get a balloon and you put paper around the balloon. When you're done you pop the balloon and you paint around it. You put a lot of details to make it scary or funny or something. I saw Vitoria's was a cat. I asked her about it. She said hers was a bunny. I wanted to do a cat. I made a silly one, but I wanted to make three. I got to make one for me and one for my baby cousin. I made mine with a lot of scary things on it, but it wasn't scary. It was silly.

After talking about the masks one student explained what they were beginning to study. She said, "Moving place to place: Who we are and where we come from."

Room 205

Thoughts on recess and music by Gianna from Ashleigh's All Stars

Recess is the most fun part of my day. I play on the monkey bars every day. I hang upside down. Sometimes I get scared. I call a teacher when I get scared. Sometimes I scream. I play with friends from my classroom and from different classrooms. Sometimes I don't get along with other students from my class when I play with them. We like to play together and by ourselves.

Listening to music makes me laugh the most. I like music class and singing. I love music because we get to sit and sing and play the drums.

Room 217

Lightening Dragons (Janira, Marquell, Cyrus and Brian) share thoughts about the things they are learning this week.

In our classroom we are learning about movement, biking and singing.

Cyrus says, "We are learning about how people travel."

Marquell says, "When you go down a hill, you have to use your breaks".

Brian says, "When you are biking up a hill, make sure you go slow so you don't fall down."

Janira says, "When you go biking, you should wear your

helmet so you won't damage your brain."

Lighting Dragons are learning so much! Something special about this week is we got to go bike riding!

Grades Three & Four

Room 207

Athena and Sadiqah from the Role Model Hawks share information about a new study and wonderings they have.

The new theme is *Peopling of America!* In our class we are doing interviews of people out of the country and state. We are learning how other people live and survived. I (Athena) want to learn more about flags. I (Sadiqah) wonder if babies move to somewhere else by river.

Room 216

The Clever Cats (Melissa, Nelson and Enajisia) share a story detailing their trip to the Farm School in Athol, MA.

I wasn't that excited because I've been there like four times. I fell asleep on the bus because it was a long ride, going and coming back. I laughed on the bus with my friend. I couldn't stop and I was out of breath.

When I got to the farm we played a game and split up into groups. We ate lunch and went to see animals. Some animals were making a lot of noise. There was a lot of poop and it stinked.

When I was with the horse I had an apple. The farmer cut it and the horse ate pieces from my

hand. The horse opened his mouth and I saw all his teeth. The big huge horse drank his water so fast that he tipped over the can.

We went to the cow barn where there were cow babies. There were also pregnant cows that were big, huge. It smelled bad. Next year I hope we can build a cow fence.

We went inside the chicken barn, collected eggs and put them inside the barn. I liked feeding the chickens. The chickens were so loud you could hear them everywhere.

We saw a cracked egg with a baby half way out. The nest was squished in the corner of the tree branches.

There was a swing that we played on. The swing went so high that I almost touched a tree with my feet.

We all went fishing. I caught three fish.

The pigs were big. They snorted when they ate corn.

I went where the goats were. One goat kept eating my nametag. It was pulling it and choking me. There were poops everywhere. They looked like they were little rocks. So I thought they were rocks and I stepped on them by accident. If you go with the goats and make a lot of noise they will bump you and chase you out of the barn. I didn't want to make a lot of noise because I got scared.

There were dogs all over the place. They started following us. People kept following one of them. One dog almost pushed Melissa in the water.

I like Farm School because

there are a lot of animals. You explore and feed them and help them.

Grades Five & Six

Room 210

Darius from the Smart and Spiffy Warriors interviewed Jenerra Williams, teacher of grades one and two at MHS, for this week's news. He asked questions that he was curious about. He thought we'd like to know what he found out.

Jenerra is 42 years old.

Jenerra's favorite color is orange.

Jenerra loves giraffes.

Jenerra loves gospel music.

Jenerra likes ice tea.

Jenerra lives in Dorchester.

Room 215

The White Lions created "Inside/Outside" projects this week. Each collage, poem, essay or drawing consisted of two sections: the "me" that others see, and the "me" I am inside. Kiana Fields wrote the following reflection on her project:

When I was doing this, I was really focused on my inside self. I wanted it to feature stuff that I liked. Once I filled it with things I like that people may not know, I added images that symbolized how I think of myself. I think of myself as a little crazy, but I am also calm. People may not see me like that, so I put some things that symbolize calm. After I did my inside self, I decided I want my inside self really inside my outside self. I created a folderlike thing to be

my outside. I was thinking about what people think about me and decided that I don't know enough to fill it up. I asked around and got some very different answers. I found some pictures to represent what they said and filled it up. I am proud of my work and feel like I put a lot of effort into my work. When I was making my inside, I felt like some people wouldn't believe what I put on it.

Grades Seven & Eight

Room 213

Francisco's Speech in the Taino Trial Role play

My name is Columbus. I'm the one that sailed to the Tainos' islands. I only wanted to take the gold. I did not cut the Tainos' hands. Even though I think I'm not a bad person, you guys think I am. I did not kill those Tainos, it was my men. I know my men are going to say I'm guilty but I think it doesn't matter because they still killed those Tainos. I just wanted the gold. They made it hard so my men killed them. The Taino also killed some of my men when I left them behind. The king and queen are the ones that sent me to get the gold and gave us a lot of swords and war equipment. The king and queen said to get the gold and kill them if they attacked us and if they did not give us the gold. So it's their fault. My men also followed my rules. They could have killed me, there was about 20 of them with

swords, as if they were ganging up on me.

I did kill a couple of the Tainos. But it was only because they tried to kill me. I had to defend myself. Although we thought that the island was filled with gold, it really was not. If the Tainos were still alive, I would like to apologize. Because I hurt them, they will not accept my apology.

Marvin's Speech in the Taino Trial Role play

Greetings. My name is Matthew Carter Withington III. And I think Christopher Columbus should plead guilty. My reasons why Christopher Columbus is guilty is because he made ordinary men become monsters. And he made us take the Taino as hostages and put them in cages to dig up the island for gold. But then we couldn't find gold. We went to "Hispaniola" A.K.A Haiti and Dominican Republic.

I say to Columbus: "You did the dirty work. You raped them. You set dogs on infants. You cut the hands off Tainos who didn't deliver enough gold. You whipped Tainos if they didn't work hard enough in the mines". We hear that all the time and some of us really don't care because some of us actually helped them. In Columbus's journal, it states "they will make fine servants...". The reason why us men followed Columbus is because he had power over everyone. If we disobeyed Christopher Columbus, he'd give us

warnings, and or make us slaves. Maybe even whooped us for leaving him... maybe... that's his decision. I don't trust him anymore and neither do the other men. I think the King and Queen should be guilty of murder because they told Columbus which told us as an order to kill the Taino.

I feel like killing them three people because I just noticed that I've done something very bad and I am truly sorry for the damage for what I have done. I had nightmares of me and the other men killing their type of people. Listen, everyone makes mistakes. And we learn from all the mistakes we all make. It's normal for us to do that because eventually, you can teach others to learn from their mistakes.

I'm going to do the right thing and tell Columbus to give up all the gold remaining of the Taino because it was wrong to take their valuables away from them and take advantage of their gold and other valuables. The idea was to get the "goods" and then take them as hostages to search the island for more gold, ... I'M DONE FOLLOWING COLUMBUS'S ORDERS.

Room 214

The Caribbean Environment and the Taino, by Luis Querubin

The environment is everything that surrounds you. People live in every kind of environment. Environments shape the lives of people a lot. The Tainos were located in Caribbean islands. They lived in The Bahamas, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and other islands.

The Caribbean is located in the tropics, the zone between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of

Capricorn. The Tropic of Capricorn is the southernmost line of latitude from the Equator where the sun's rays hit the Earth at a 90 degree angle. The Tropic of Cancer, also known as the Northern Tropic, is the line of latitude furthest north where the sun's rays hit the Earth directly. There is little daily or seasonal variation in weather and temperature there.

The environment of the Taino shaped them. The Taino were surrounded by water. They fished and traveled by boat. Because it was so hot, they did not wear lots of clothes. They were also surrounded by vegetation. The women and men harvested corn, nuts, cassava, and other roots.

Hot Topics

Mission Hill School is part of the Wake Up The Earth parade!

Come join us tomorrow Saturday, May 3rd at the Wake Up the Earth parade. Your kids can wear the vejigante masks they made with Jeanne in art class or their most colorful spring clothes. The parade assembles at 10:30 at Curtis Hall and the Monument in Jamaica Plain. We walk to Stony Brook Station where there will be performances, ethnic foods and merchandise, children's activities, information tables and more! Raindate is Sunday, May 4th.

See you at the festival!

~*Marietje Halbertsma*

Courtney's Corner

Check out Courtney's Corner for information on various programs and resources for you and your family.

Rincón de Courtney

Mira la información que esta fuera en el "Rincón de Courtney" para información sobre varios programas y recursos para ti y tu familia.

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