

Mission Hill School News

Letter from Child Street

Looking for a Few Good Folks... Who Happen to be MHS Parents or Caregivers

Dear Mission Hill School ...

This year leadership among families at our school has accomplished many great things. Parents and caregivers volunteered in classrooms, donated classroom supplies, attended Family Council meetings, attended Governance Board meetings, organized and attended a fundraising and community building movie night, organized and attended a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Day and wrote a letter to Boston Public School Administrative team to protect our students from over testing. The list goes on.

REMINDERS

Mon. 6/9 - Grade 7 portfolio presentations begin
Wed. 6/11, 6 - 7 p.m. - Grade 8 Art Show
Thu. 6/12, 5 - 7 p.m. - Governance Board Meeting
Tues 6/17 - School in Session at MHS
Thu. 6/19 - Graduation
Fri. 6/20 - Field Day, Staff vs. Student basketball game
Tue. 6/24 - Early release at 1:30 (breakfast & box lunch provided)
Wed. 6/25 - Last Day of School - dismissal at 1:30 (breakfast &

Some of our formal Family Leadership roles will have vacancies next year. We are in need of two people to fill the Family Council co-chair roles. The position involves planning Family Council meetings (business, social, and educational), facilitating communication of ideas or plans among families and between the school and families, and electing Governance Board parent/caregiver representation. All of the efforts are in support of the school and make it a better place for our children.

Next Thursday night is our final Governance Board meeting of the year. The agenda includes a staffing update, results of the School Quality Review, reading of the assessment portion of the Autonomous schools manual, update on Good Morning Mission Hill (movie about our school) and update on our facility (school building). If participating in discussion and decision making on topics like these interests you, please come and consider joining the Board. You don't have to be a Board member to attend the meeting. Dinner starts at 5:00 in the art room (211) and the meeting starts at 5:30. Hope to see you there.

If you would like to be part of Family Council leadership, the Governance Board, or both, please contact Amina Michel-Lord at 617-635-6384, our main office number.

~Ayla Gavins

From the Classrooms

3 and 4 year-olds

Room 108

“My family presentation is tomorrow!” William Dickey exclaimed. He has been a respectful observer as other families have come in to teach us, and soon it will be his family’s turn to share. When Dixon’s mom came in for Dixon’s Family Presentation, she told us that Dixon was born in China. William Dickey made an important connection, “My mom is from China, too!”



Jeremy likes to reminisce...“Remember when my mom came in for my Family Presentation?” he asks thoughtfully. Then he adds, “We are from Puerto Rico and I am going to visit Puerto Rico soon.” Besides making wonderful personal connections, and learning about the big world we live in, the students in Room 108 are beginning to understand that

we all have stories, that every story is different, and that every story is important. We are making a class book of all our family presentations and will share a copy with every family on our Exhibition Day! We look forward to seeing you then – Thursday, June 12th at 9:30 am in our classroom.

~*Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin
& Donna Winder*

Kindergarten

Room 106

Last Friday the Peregrine Falcons made their way to the Boston Nature Center. Emma’s class also joined us for the trip. We were on a mission to explore and enjoy nature. I would say that we meet our mission.

We started with a review of how we should be in nature. Children reminded each other that if they wanted to see animals they had to be quiet. We ventured on the snail trail. On the trail we saw butterflies, spider webs, leaves rustling, and lots of birds. Right before you leave the trail there is a cut into the woods. It is a great place to turn over logs and discover more things. Children found pill bugs, ants, and insects we did not know the names of.

We finished our trip with time in the nature play space. It was wonderful seeing all the children play together. Some built forts while others took off their shoes and wiggled their toes into the sand. It was a wonderful day.

~*Kathy Clunis D'Andrea*

Room 107

Last week, Erik’s, Natalia’s and Johnny’s families came in to tell us a little about where they are from and what makes their families unique. Erik’s mom and dad are both from Connecticut and have family in Worcester and Lowell. Erik told us that one thing that he likes about his family is that “They give me warm hugs and lots of love.” His family celebrates birthdays, spring, Harvest, Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving. They love listening to music that include jazz, Disney songs and bluegrass. We were then graced with a beautiful family rendition of *Summertime* by Ella Fitzgerald.

Natalia’s family is from Trinidad and Tobago. We learned that Natalia’s Papa (grandfather) has 14 siblings and after having children of his own, moved to the United States when his daughter (Natalia’s mom) was seven years old. Celebrating their religion and culture/heritage (made up of African, Indian, Amerindian, Chinese, British, French, Spanish and Portuguese influences) is important and comes in different forms. The one people are most familiar with is Carnival. In Trinidad “...thousands of bands come out to enjoy the festivities, the costumes...music... food and...people.” They listen to Calypso and Soca music, which are “rooted in African culture.” Some foods they eat include Roti, Callaloo, Doubles and Channa.

When Johnny’s family came in, we learned about a very fast paced music called Merengue that

“Johnny likes to listen to... at family parties.” In addition, they do a partner dance called Bachata that Johnny likes to dance with his cousins. We were excited to hear that they eat Pastelitos (pastries filled with meats and cheeses) and made connections to similar food from our own cultures. Johnny also has family from Florida and their family celebrates birthdays, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

~Jada Brown
& JoAnn Hawksworth

Room 109

Since last time, four families have come in to share. First Maya's mom came in to tell a story of how she and Maya's father moved across the entire country from Seattle to the East Coast before they got married. They left in an old car with all their belongings. They arrived in a bus with only their clothes and a wedding dress. What a great story told by a wonderful storyteller. Thanks, Ashley.

Kenneth's mom came in to share about her Chinese heritage. She did a beautiful fan dance and taught us how to make paper fans. She also made name cards to help us learn to write our names in Chinese. Thanks, Lei!

Beatrice's mother came in to tell us about her family. She shared a funny poem by English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson about the spring mocking the excited birds. We learned that Bea has ancestors from England. Thank you, Lisa Jeanne!

Theodore's mom also came in to share. We learned a little bit about Theo's Irish culture. She

brought in delicious shortbread to share. She shared with us the Briggs' family Coat of Arms. The children made their own coats of arms with representations about what is important to their family. Recurring themes included love, sharing, pets, mom, and dad.

We are so excited to have more families visit next week!

~Jenny Goldstein

Grades One & Two

Room 204

Some years ago the lower grades began having Exhibitions – a morning in which families could come see their children present a short reflective speech on their year as a learner. Exhibitions are beginning practice for the more formal Recollections done by the 6th graders.

We began answering some questions about our year. Here are some of the Magic Learners' responses:

I learned how to say all the sounds of the letters and I learned how to count up to 289!

Something that is still challenging for me is drawing 3-D circles.

I learned how to jump rope with two ropes.

It was hard doing the Taíno working with clay making the ocean.

I learned how to write on the lines of my journal.

For me it's still challenging to build Legos.

By the time you read this, we will have shared our speeches, so ask your Magic Learner to share their speech with you and what they thought about the

experience!

~Jenerra Williams

Room 205

Coming next week

Room 217

As the end of the year approaches, I am reminded of the many volunteers and interns who have been part of our classroom community. They have each been fundamental members of our classroom. First I'd like to thank Martha, a retired public school teacher, and Jane, a volunteer through Boston Partners in Education. They have volunteered in our classroom one or two times a week during our literacy block, serving as reading buddies, word work reminders, and editors of our writing. They played integral roles in ensuring we completed our community interviews on Centre and South Streets.

Alyssa, Alisha, and Tony joined us through their course work at local universities. They brought insightful questions and patience to our classroom. These student interns helped run math and reading groups; and showcased their talents during project time. Their eagerness to learn about teaching and the Mission Hill Way was contagious.

Finally, I'd like to thank Shelby, a student at the Dover-Sherborn Regional High School, who has spent the last few months of her senior year learning about our classroom community. Her support during our final theme project was essential! The Lightning Dragons were lucky and honored to work with such

talented and thoughtful adults this year. Thank you!

~Emma Fialka-Feldman

Grades Three & Four

Room 207

Here are some views from the Role Model Hawks' classroom.

~Robert Baez



In this photo we are showcasing our Peopling of America: Interview Project (final product).



This photo shows an ongoing project, in which we are learning about the various neighborhoods of Boston.



Here is a picture of our class photo taken last week on picture day.



Collaborating with Ms. Jada's class on an upcoming Friday Share presentation of "Roar" by Katy Perry.

Room 216

We have been having many guest lecturers and learning a lot about why people move, how they move, and the difficult stories of transitioning from one area to another. Thank you again to all the parents who have volunteered their time to give a presentation to us. If there are any other parents who might be interested in sharing their story or a story of others who have migrated, please stop by Room 216. We are definitely interested in learning more about the stories of how and why people move. This week we will continue to have stories told by guest lecturers.

The Clever Cats did an amazing job of interviewing to get stories from other students. Some of the students are immigrants and some are not, but the experience of interviewing was invaluable. The Edison School classrooms were wonderful hosts and the Edison students were excited about being interviewed. We may revisit the school to gain more information.

~Josh Kraus, Elsa Batista,
Selina Ruiz & Melanie Centeno

Grades Five & Six

Room 210

These are student responses to two different writing prompts. One was about one time kids have been surprised, and the other asked which superpower kids would rather have.

I haven't been surprised many times in my life, so the perfect example would be the surprise I got at Friday Share. "One of my Friday Share helpers was wondering if the directors could say a few words about the play," Ayla said, before acts of kindness. Nadia and I shared surprised looks. This had not been planned before hand. When Nadia and I got on stage, we had no idea what to say. We quietly planned for a few seconds while the school quiet down. Then we started. That was not a very big surprise but it was a surprise.

I would rather have the power to fly, though I may seem shy at some points, I have to be seen, for sure! And while it may seem cool not to be seen, you wouldn't feel any different. Based on my personality, I'd rather be above everything, the invisible. Flying would be fun because we don't think of air as something that we can be on. I think that it's like swimming before people knew that you could swim because they are both elements that we could go on. Though being invisible would probably come in handy a lot, it's definitely not as much fun.

~Nakia Keizer

Room 215

Coming next week

Grades Seven & Eight

Room 213

This week, the 8th graders presented their graduation portfolios to a committee of family, teachers, adviser, peer, and community member. Here is a sampling of their math work.

Siobhan: "Do you ever wonder how many people have the same birthday as you? This is what this experiment is about... I learned a lot from this problem. I learned that probability is everywhere. I really liked collecting the data because it made me feel like a little kid again. I learned that a lot of people have birthdays in common, more than I was expecting. Yet no one had my birthday, which makes me feel unique.... Some things that were challenging were when I first got the information, I didn't really know how to use it. It took me a while to find out how to find probability as well. I think once I got the hang of it, it was easy... I think the only few questions I have would be about who made up this problem. Like who decided to do this first, to figure it all out? And the other question I have would be what was the information like when they did the experiment first?"

Jesse: "Math tends to be something you can shape and form in many, many different ways. The form I'm going to be showing is different than usual, so it might be confusing at first. After a while, you will most likely notice how the way works. Let's make linear and

nonlinear functions and equations, into shapes.... One of the functions I used in my project was $f(n) = 3n + 1$. Instead of only a graph, equation, or table, I also drew some shapes to represent this function...(diagrams)... As shown in the image, the shapes are color coded to the function. Each color in the function represents the result of the function shown in the image. The equation for this function would be $y = 3x + 1$. Since we have an equation we can also make a graph and table to represent the function....Overall, this project was a very interesting project. I have never shown a visual representation for a function. I learned a lot."

Please stop by Room 213 to see more of our math projects.

~Ann Ruggiero

Room 214

Coming next week

Hot Topics

Geralyn McLaughlin has been nominated for a BAMMY! The BAMMY is given by the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences. It is a cross-discipline honor that identifies and acknowledges the extraordinary work being done across the entire education field every day. To learn more and to cast a vote, go to: http://www.bammyawards.com/index.php/component/jreviews/bammy-awards/general-academy-awards/childcare-program_c49/

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.

Win Red Sox tickets!

Starting June 2, kids ages 5-17 are invited to enter to win 3 tickets to the Boston Red Sox game on August 24. Read three books, write a brief essay about your favorite, and return your completed entry form to your branch library by 5pm on August 1. www.bpl.org

FREE FUN FRIDAYS!

Enjoy 60 museums and cultural venues open for free on Fridays all summer long! The Franklin Park Zoo, Cape Cod Maritime Museum, MIT Museum, and more will be free Jun 28! For a full schedule visit www.highlandstreet.org/freefunfridays.html

Fair Food!

\$2/bag fruit and produce program at BCYF Tobin Community Center run by Fair Foods. Anyone can buy a bag – no income qualification required. Perfectly good produce that would otherwise be thrown away is donated to Fair Foods and made available to communities across Boston. Wednesdays, from 4:30 - 5:30pm at the BCYF Tobin CC, 1481 Tremont Street, Fair Food will be selling \$2 bags of food. They will be there every other Wednesday. Learn more at www.fairfoods.org

Dance Now!

BP S Summer Intensive Dance Program
(July 7- August 8, 2014)

The BPS Summer Intensive Dance Program, a four hour program for up to 30 students in grades 6-9, to be held mornings at the Timilty Middle School. Under the direction of Artistic Director Mila Thigpen, students of all abilities will be offered a variety of dance technique classes, workshops in team building and personal development, and a final performance. Dance Now! is designed to help students develop self-awareness, flexibility, strength, balance and coordination. Additional activities may include field trips, reading and writing assignments, and group discussions. Faculty from The Celebrity Series will tailor the curriculum to prepare middle school students for a challenging dance experience, all Boston residencies. The BPS program is open to Boston residents free of charge. For further information about the Dance Now! summer programs, please call Robin Baker at 617.598.3225 or email rb@celebrityseries.org.

Mission Hill School's Summer Book Swap

To celebrate summer reading and the end of the school year, we are having a school wide book swap.

At the end of the school year, each class will travel to our temporary school bookstore. *Students will choose books to take with them for the summer.*

Help support this project by **donating any children's and young adult's books** (new or used) to our book swap fair!

Please donate any books by June 20 to either Gina Stefanini (Room 219) or your child's classroom teacher.

Mission Hill School

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