



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- June 1-9: *Grade 8 Portfolios*
- June 10-18: *Grade 7 Portfolios*
- Thursday, June 11, 2015
Governance Board Meeting 5-7:00 pm
- Friday, June 12, 2015
Exhibitions and Recollections
- Wednesday, June 17, 2015
School is in Session!

June 5, 2015

Volume 18, Issue 32

Changes Underway

Dear Mission Hill School Friends, Families, Students and Staff,

Of all the communications I receive from families, frustration with the IEP (Individualized Education Program) process is at the top of the list these days. Right now we don't have a school based person managing our meetings and IEP construction. We have someone from BPS managing the process for us. She also does this for 20 or so other schools. We are not alone in the issues we faced this year with staff transitions and district support is spread across the city. One opportunity the challenge of non-school based staffing and other staffing transitions has presented is a forced examination of the roles in our school and how they match up with student and family needs.

Three changes have been made for next year to address some of this year's pitfalls. The Learning Coach position is changed from a part time to a full time position. The Coordinator of Special Education and Student Support services (person that manages the IEP process—meetings, paperwork, etc) has changed from a half time position to nearly full time. The job description for the CoSESS person involves direct service to students, participation in school events and participation in staff professional development. This position used to be only about IEPs.

What does this mean for our school and your child? It means your child (whether your child has an IEP or not) will have an additional adult in the school thinking about their learning. Your child's teacher will have additional support to think through strategies and/or provide specialized learning opportunities for students. You will have opportunities outside of IEP meetings to talk with and know this new team. You will see them in classrooms and through out the school on a daily basis- no more guessing about who is going to run a meeting and whether that person knows your child and our school. I hope you can feel my excitement about these changes.



It's June. We are filled to the brim with IEP meetings this month. Teachers, related service providers and our meeting manager from BPS are all doing the best they can in response to meeting goals IEP goals and deadlines. Communication has been a bear and I know many of you have been affected by all the scheduling changes. Keep up communication with me and your child's teacher. Let's stick together and make it through June. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

One of the Mission Hill Habits of Work is “Reflection.” This is a habit we begin to cultivate even in our youngest students. In Room 108 we have been reflecting on the school year, on our work and on ourselves. We have been thinking about what makes us feel proud, frustrated and more. We have also been reflecting on this past theme, thinking about freedom and fairness. You will witness some of these reflections when we present next week for the End-of-the-Year Exhibition! This public presentation of our work is the highlight of the year – and is a treasured tradition at MHS. The skills we use will be built upon in coming years for more complex Exhibitions (demonstrations of learning)- including the 6th grade Recollections project and the 7th and 8th grade Portfolios! See you Friday, June 12th at 9:15 AM. Performance begins at 9:40 in our room!

-Geralyn B. McLaughlin

Room 106

“Do you know how to make sauce pois (sos pwa in Haitian Creole)?” I asked Renee. Renee’s eyes got big. “Yes of course I know how to make it. How do you know about sos pwa?” she asked me. I shared with Renee that many years ago I went to Haiti. I went right after the earthquake with Reginald to do relief work. We volunteered in schools and helped nurses, doctors, and translators work together to help patients. I ate sos pwa and I have not forgotten it. Renee and I planned a feast in room 106. Renee brought in hard black beans for the children to see. We made predictions about what the beans would feel after they were

cooked. When they were ready we blended them in a blender. We added parsley and green pepper. We served it over rice. I have never seen the children in this class eat so well. Some even had three servings.

Renee has promised to make it again and the children and I are so grateful. Thank you, Renee for teaching us a new recipe.

-Kathy D’Andrea

Room 107

We enjoyed exploring the Boston Nature Center last Friday. While on our forest scavenger hunt, we tried imagining how slaves felt as they attempted escaping through an unfamiliar forest. We realized immediately how buggy the forest can be, how important having a map is and why the quilt codes and songs were so important to getting them on the correct paths. When we got to a point where we needed to choose which way to go, I said, “We’re at

a crossroad.” Immediately, several students made a connection to the quilt code bearing the same name. We eventually voted to follow the bunny trail. When asked how it felt having to decide where to go, some said:

“Happy because I went there before.”
“A little bit of nervous and scared because I’ve never really been that far away from school or on a crossroad.”
“A little bit nervous because I thought we would not get out.”
“Nervous because I saw a bird and when it tweeted, it scared me.”
“Excited about which way to go.”

-Jada Brown & Jo-Ann Hawkesworth

Room 109

Coming next week!

-Jenny, Meira, Angelina, & Stephanie

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 204

As the year begins to wind down, our minds turn to finishing projects,



Renee making Sos Pwa with students.

culminating themes, final assessments and portfolio presentations. However, in recent weeks, there has been a lot of going back to the beginning of things. I've been meeting with families to discuss strategies to help their children with relationship building and academic practice. The staff has been talking about re-setting ourselves and our outlook on various aspects of the school. Room 204 will soon be doing our own re-setting as today will be Heron's last day with us. Heron has become such an integral part of our community. Her games kept us moving. Her songs and instruments kept us singing. Her thoughtful lessons kept us learning and her care and concern for all of us kept us growing as a community. Heron, as we say goodbye we'd like to go back to the beginning and remember how grateful we all have been that you decided to join us this semester. Good luck in your next adventures and whenever you need a moment to step back and remember the beginning, we hope you'll come and see us.

-Jenerra, Polly, & The Magic Explorers



Jenerra and Heron from the Magic Explorer's Classroom.

Room 205

Red, black, brown...these are the colors students chose to represent struggle for our class Struggle for Justice quilt. Euan said, "black because it's a dark color like being trapped." They chose brown to represent the skin color of African Americans, and red because as Cyrus said, "it's a mad color and people get mad struggling for things that aren't fair." Blue, yellow, and green fabric was chosen to represent justice in our quilt. The students explained yellow as a happy color; they described green as a free color and blue like the sky in many of Faith Ringgold's books. The students have just begun cutting the fabric and sewing the pieces together. We can't wait to sew the squares together and show one way to tell the story of the struggle for justice through the African American experience: through fabric, colors, and symbols.

-Ashleigh L'Heureux

Room 217

During our study of the Civil Rights Movement we have read many wonderful children's books about important activists. The students know the stories of Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, and Martin Luther King Jr.. Equally, I want them to know that the work of these activists came as a direct result of the work of those "unnamed" people in the books -- the thousands of people that participated in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the hundreds of thousands of people that marched to hear Dr. King's I Have a Dream speech, and the many individual children who integrated schools. To help children make this connection, I read the newly published book *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade* about a girl who notices injustices



at her school and finally decides to speak up. Because she speaks up some things begin to change -- a child makes room for someone else on her bench, another child holds the door open for a group of kids. The class quickly made connections between this book and our theme study. "She wanted to change things, just like people changed segregation," Luis said. "Mean things were happening," Jackson added. Milkiyad said, "She saw things that were mean." Lucas said, "She helped change her community."

-Emma Fialka-Feldman

GRADES 3 & 4

Room 207

In room 207 our theme work has been focused on figures from Abolition/the Underground Railroad, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Freedom Movement. The Spectacular 21 have been so motivated to work on their projects about activists and changemakers! Students chose a historical figure to research and write a biographies about. We are in the publishing stages of this process and

many of their beautifully illustrated books are complete. We have also begun to sew the dolls that will accompany the biographies. Students are busy stitching, stuffing, and creating clothing to accompany their figure. We hope you will come to exhibitions on June 12th to see our dolls and hear us read some of the biographies. Some of the people you will hear about are Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Josephine Baker, Fredrick Douglass, and Coretta Scott.

-Kristina Voss & Amina Michel-Lord

Room 216

Room 216 has been busy preparing for Exhibitions. Currently, the students have been working on a play that was inspired by the book, "Stella by Starlight" by Sharon M. Draper.

Here is a preview of the play:

"It was 1932, in the little town of Bumblebee, North Carolina, tucked in the rocky bottom of the Blue Ridge Mountains, miles of stone-clogged farmland and forest all around.

Folks on Stella's side of town worked as maids and cooks, janitors and sharecropping farmers. Every Negro Family in Bumblebee knew the unwritten rules- they had to take care of their own problems and take care of one another. Help from the white community was neither expected nor considered. It was as it always had been." (Stella by Starlight, written by Sharon M. Draper)

Intrigued? Come see the play in room 216 on Friday, June 12th.

-Amanda, Ayla, & Shaina

GRADES 5&6

Room 210

Here are the latest instalments of the our End of the Week Reflections.

Enjoy.

"Something I'm really excited about is field day. It's next next month. And i'm excited about this weekend. There's no school. Something that happened this week is comic book club. We got to read comic books and trade them with our friends."

"Something I got to do this week was that I got to go to Jada's class and played with playdough and exercise" "Something that I enjoyed this week was finishing my 6th grade recollections. I'm looking forward to going to my great grandmother's house and spending time with my family."

"This week we we had a lot of PARCC testing but I guess that's the way it is. We had movement time and I played a lot of football!"

"I had a good time at the House of Blues. It was great and they sang songs about gospel, rap, and rock. And everyone was dancing and it was fun."

"This week our school had its annual music concert. I did steel pan drums,sang with my class and sang with a chorus group. My favorite thing was steel pan drums. We played three songs called Tempest, Dixieland U.S.A. and Under the Sea. I really enjoyed the music concert."

-Nakia, June, & Meron

Room 215

We've practiced almost everyday having differentiated activities to keep our minds healthy, following the suggestions of Dr. Dan Siegel (www.mindplatter.com). As the school year winds down our senses are heightened, emotions are quicker so we are turning more eastward, to mindfulness. During morning circle our customary review of the schedule

now includes building for moments in the day when things might not go the way we want; something unexpected happens; someone gets in our way; we get impatient with ourselves. What will we do? Will we use force or kindness? Anger or gentleness to help others understand our needs? We are trying to slow things down, enjoying breathing, bringing more of ourselves into communion with each other. Try mindfulness in your lives together away from school, build together the repertoires that bring you closer to each other and to the present.

-Abdi, Angela & Carlos

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

I've said it before and I'll say it again: I love portfolios! This week, our eighth graders started presenting their graduation portfolios. Committee after committee marveled at the composure of these young students. Picture yourself, at 13, 14, or 15 years old, sitting at a table with six or eight adults. Then give yourself the task of talking about your schoolwork for over two hours. During that time, you'll field questions, give explanations, and defend your thinking. You might squirm a bit when something that should have been done is incomplete. However, more than anything, you will feel the love, appreciation, and support of the people gathered to listen to you. This is why I love portfolios so much.

As teachers, it is a privilege for us to spend this amount of time with one student and family. Each child is the center of our attention when it is her/his time to present. But portfolio time is not a love-fest. There are clear expectations for work content and

CLASSROOM NEWS

work habits that students need to meet to pass their graduation portfolios. It wouldn't be love if we gave kids an easy pass. We know them well and want the best for and from them.

-Ann Ruggiero & Letta Neely

Room 214

Toward the end of business meeting, somebody mentioned that this is the last week for Electives. I was genuinely surprised, I was not keeping keeping track of time. The six weeks flew by. My mind drifted to my favorite moment from last week. I'm not sure how it started, but at one point there were five of us huddled around the copy of "The Astonishing Spider-Man and Wolverine". were took turns reading, stopping when one of us had a comment or a clarifying question. It was an especially odd chapter. The heroes had to find a way to stop Dr. Doom who had morphed with a planet and hurtling toward earth.

Growing up, what I'd always enjoyed about comic books is that they were a communal activity, my friends swapped them and discussed at length the various nuances of characters superpowers. It was my goal to provide a space at Mission Hill where these conversations can happen. I've had a lot of fun over these few weeks and will miss the time I've spent with the other guys at the Comic Book Club.

-Reginald Toussaint, Carol East-José,
& Emmanuel St. Vil

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

The FOMHS Music Program Campaign Needs Your Support
The Friends of the Mission Hill School volunteer fundraising crew



Luis speaks about his artwork during his Graduation Portfolio.

is still working on the campaign to keep our music program going strong. Please consider a donation at any level, and please share the campaign with friends and family! Hear all about our goals by visiting this web page: bit.ly/MissionHillMusic

Get your Camp Physical!

Don't forget that **summer programs ALL require a medical examination by a licensed physician within 12 months preceding the program.** This is a state requirement for all children attending camp, so book your child's appointment now. Remember, Georgie needs updated copies of physicals as well, so drop a copy in her mailbox after your appointment.

BPS Calendar Update

It's official! There will be school on Bunker Hill Day, Wednesday, June 17th. And the last day of school for all students is now officially Monday, June 29th, which will be an early release day. Friday, June 26th will also be an early release day.

Exhibitions

In order to help families participate in many exhibitions on Friday, June 12, please see the schedule below for start times for grade level presentations:

Kindergarten - 9:40 am

1st & 2nd Grades - 9:55 am

3rd & 4th Grades - 10:10 am

MHS After School Entrepreneurs

Children who attend the After School Program worked with Babson College to become Entrepreneurs once again this year. They put their math and communication skills into practice and had a wonderful time making lemonade AND money. Kids used the Habits of Mind and Habits of Work to formulate and activate their own business plan. They decided the business name and cost, designed t-shirts, tested lemonade recipes. Before opening the stand, children had to figure out how many cups of lemonade one lemon yields; then how many lemons, cups, ice and pounds of sugar to buy. In typical resourceful MH fashion, children got

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

many cups and bags of ice from their families and “borrowed” water from school. Children took on roles as greeters, hawkers, squeezers, shakers and money mavens.

THE HOUSE OF LEMONADE was a two day business located at the 39 bus stop near the tennis courts. Students made an \$85.75 after expenses. They plan to hold an end of the year party for themselves and to donate \$25.00 to “something good”. They are exploring their options. THE HOUSE OF LEMONADE would like to thank families and patrons for their support. THE HOUSE OF LEMONADE would like to send a special huge hug of APPRECIATION to Mr. Kenny who helped us do everything on Thursday and then came back on Friday to do it all over again.

Box Tops

If you have any Box Tops, please turn them in before the end of the school year. And don't forget to collect Box Tops for Education all summer long. You can drop them off at the start of the school year in September.

Steel Pan Try it Out Days

The (FREE) Steel Pan program invites all MHS students (currently) in 4-7th grades to come to Try it Out Day on Tuesday, June 9th. Transportation will be provided from MHS to the Roland Hayes School of Music, by program coordinator, Betsy Caruso. The group will leave MHS at 3:30 for a 4:00-5:15 pm rehearsal. Students may be picked up at Roland Hayes or get a ride back to MHS to be picked up here. Please RSVP to Joni to attend.

Scenes from The House of Lemonade



Ayla Gavins, *Principal*
Deborah Meier, *Founder*

John McDonough, *Interim Superintendent*

Mission Hill K-8 School
A Boston Public Pilot School

WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG

20 Child Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
T 617-635-6384
F 617-635-6419

It's Dinner and a Board Meeting!

It's our last one of the year...



Hello Mission Hill families!
You are and have always been welcome to attend our Board Meetings. Please consider this your official invitation to come out and meet our board members, hear a little about important conversations in education, learn about ways to support our school and hopefully consider being a member in the near future. We consider your presence valuable so both dinner and childcare will be provided. Please **RSVP with**

Joni for childcare at

617-635-6384.

We hope to see you there!

When: June 11, 2015

Where: Art Room (2nd Floor)

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

¡Es comida y una reunión de la junta directiva del consejo de la administracion!

Es nuestro último del año ...

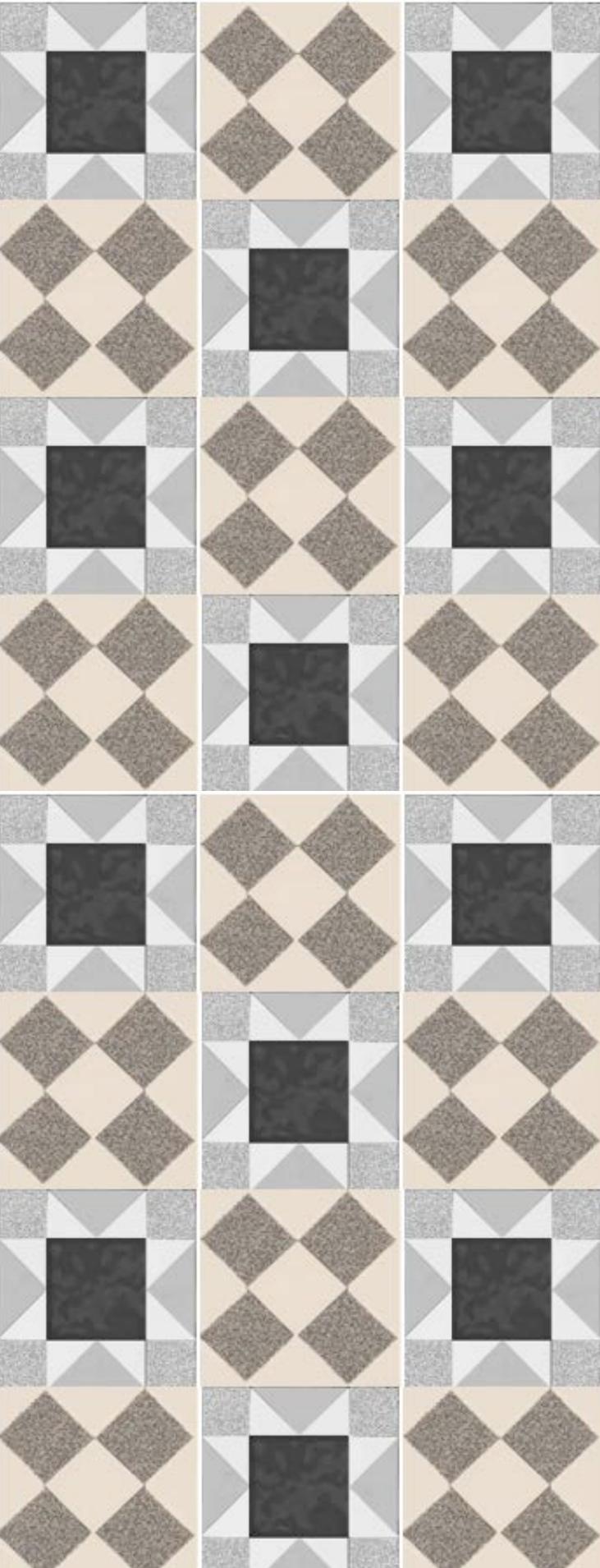


¡Hola familias de Mission Hill!

Es y siempre ha podido asistir a nuestras reuniones de la junta directiva. Por favor piense que esta su invitación oficial sale y encuentra a nuestros miembros del consejo, oye un poco sobre conversaciones importantes en la educación, aprende sobre modos de apoyar nuestra escuela y con esperanza considerar ser un miembro en el futuro próximo. Consideramos su presencia valiosa por tanto se proporcionarán la comida y la puericultura. Por favor **RSVP con Joni para puericultura en 617-635-6384.**

¡Esperamos verle allí

Cuando: El 11 de junio de 2015
Donde: Cuarto de arte (2do piso)
Tiempo: 5:00-7:00 p. m.



K-5 Exhibitions

*It's our last Curriculum Breakfast
for the year!*

*Hello Families!
The school year has quickly
come to an end.
Come celebrate the
accomplishments of our
students and hear about what
they have learned during our
last theme, the African
American Struggle for Justice.*

*It's a **potluck**, so bring a dish
to share with our community.*

Date: June 12, 2015

Time: 9:15-10:15

**Where: K-Quad and
2nd Floor**

See you there!

Exposiciones de K-5

*¡Es nuestro último Desayuno del
Plan de estudios para el año!*

¡Hola familias!

*El año escolar ha venido
rápidamente a un final.*

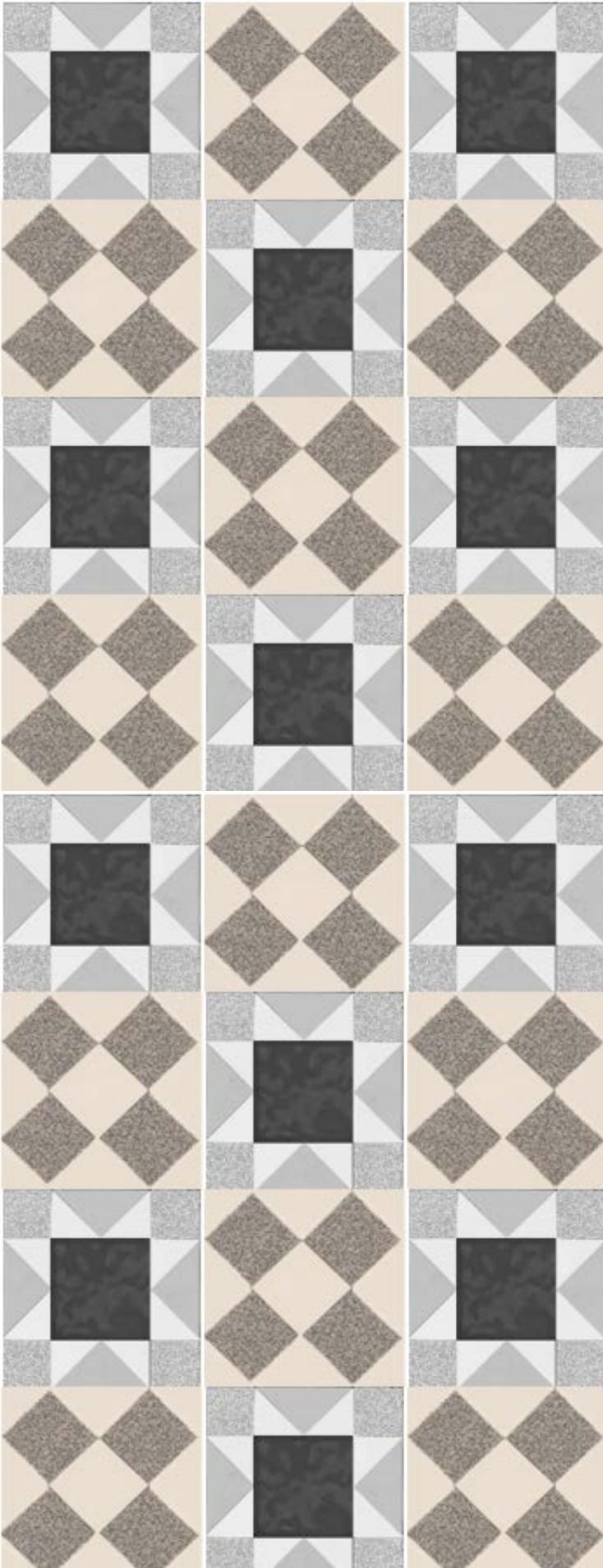
*Venga celebran los logros de
nuestros estudiantes y oyen
sobre lo que han aprendido
durante nuestro último tema, la
Lucha por la justicia
Afroamericana*

*Es una comida, así traiga un
plato para compartir con
nuestra comunidad.*

Fecha: El 12 de junio de
2015

Tiempo: 9:15-10:15
Donde: K-cuatrillizo y
2do piso

¡Nos vemos allí!



Boston Education Justice Alliance

Schools Our Communities Deserve Campaign Launch

All students deserve access to quality public schools – it shouldn't be dependent on your zip code, learning needs, or a lottery!

Join a coalition of parents, students, teachers, community leaders fighting for our public schools.

We Need:

LESS TESTING, MORE LEARNING!

**Full and equitable funding for our schools –
Don't close them!**

**Real Parent, student and community voice and
decision-making power in our schools!**

We believe in fighting for the schools our communities deserve!
Join us to find out more on how to fight back for our public schools!

Thursday, June 11th, 2015 • 4:30-7:00 PM

Madison Park High School, Cardinal Hall, 75 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury



www.bostonedjustice.org

bostonedjustice@gmail.com



@BostonEdJustice

La Alianza para Justicia Educacional de Boston

Lanzamiento de la Campaña:

Las Escuelas Que Nuestras Comunidades Merecen

Todos los estudiantes merecen acceso a escuelas publicas de calidad - no debería depender de su código postal, necesidades de aprendizaje, o una lotería!

Únase a una coalición de padres, estudiantes, maestros, y comunidad luchando por nuestras escuelas publicas.

Necesitamos:

¡Menos pruebas, mas aprendizaje!

Financiación completa y equitativa para nuestras escuelas - ¡No cerrarlas!

Una voz real para padres, estudiantes y comunidad en las decisiones de nuestras escuelas

Acreditamos en pelear por las escuelas que nuestras comunidades merecen.

Únase a nosotros para saber más sobre cómo luchar para nuestras escuelas públicas!

Jueves, 11 de Junio, 2015 • 4:30-7PM

Madison Park High School, Cardinal Hall, 75 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury



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