



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- Friday, March 25, 2016
NO SCHOOL: Good Friday
- Thursday, March 31, 9:15-10:15 am
Ancient China Curriculum Breakfast
- Friday, April 1, 6-9:00 pm
Family Movie Night! (see page 6 & flyer)
- Friday, April 8, 2016
Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day

March 18, 2016

Volume 19, Issue 20

One School, One Story 2016

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

To show our love of a good story and the art of writing, all MHS students are invited to write a story that other students will read. Inspired by the Boston Book Festival, our whole school will read one story. We did this a couple of years ago. A Greek myth written by one of students was the clear favorite among our judges, and was enjoyed by many students and staff. With spring around the corner, it feels like a great time to read a new story. It's time we had our MHS Reads One Story event again.

Calling all student writers! Do you have a short story cooking that would be great for our school to read? Your story could be the one our whole school reads. Maybe this idea will inspire you to write. In 500 to 1,500 words can you share a mystery, or give us some insight into the life of a character, or push us to think deeply about something by introducing a new perspective or humor? The content of stories must be appropriate for an audience of readers aged four and up.

Writing must be submitted to Ayla by April 1, 2016. All authors will be recognized at the April 8th Friday Share. One story will be selected by a committee of story judges to be the MHS story that we will all read.

I'm bubbling over with anticipation about who this year's contributors might be. There are so many true and imaginative stories among. I hope yours is one that we get to read. When we all read the same story, we all get to talk about it and think about it together. Joy awaits!



KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

In Room 108 we have been working hard and having fun while we explore tangrams. Tangrams are a type of puzzle thought to be first used in China during the Song Dynasty. A tangram is made of 7 shapes that do not overlap. Working to solve tangram puzzles, copy/recreate tangram pictures and create original tangram pictures have given the children opportunities to use and develop language, math and problem solving skills. The ability stick with to a challenging task is another skill we are developing.

-Geraldyn McLaughlin & Donna Winder

Room 106

Stay tuned next week!

-Kathy D'Andrea

Room 107

"I liked hearing the kids yelling, "I found a Chinese tree!"

"I liked running and finding the tags in the branches."

"We saw Chinese trees. Their trunks were wide and white and their branches were long."

"When we were collecting nature, I liked finding the big stick. I liked when we got excited when we found so many China trees. My mommy is from Japan and we found a Japan[ese] tree."

"We saw the ducks. They were in the water. We found a big tree."

"On our walk we found sticks and a worm. We saw some white flowers."

Last Friday the Golden Seahorses went on an Arboretum adventure, seeking trees and plants from China. Picking up treasures along the way, our lengthy hike brought us to the

Explorers Garden where finally, the Chinese path was before us. Students erupted in cheers and excitedly ran the path, finding trees and plants from China. They became experts at locating the tags on each tree. It was a beautiful day for a hike and a perfect opportunity for our theme to come alive.

-Jada Brown, Jo-Ann Hawkesworth & Mary Beth Fields

Room 109

As part of our Ancient China Study we are learning about Shadow Puppetry. Shadow puppets were a popular art form in Ancient China. We are very lucky to have a parent who is a puppeteer to help us with this. Rex and Adelaide's mom, Bonnie Duncan, is visiting us once a week over four weeks to teach us about Shadow Puppetry. Initially, the children learned about shadows and experimenting with materials for differing effects. Bonnie also created a Shadow Puppet Theater, in the style of a Han House, for us which the students have been utilizing a lot during project time. Children design and build puppets with paper and sticks and we are working toward putting together a narrative. This provides an opportunity for students to participate in an ancient art form while also learning about narrative, storytelling, and perspective (as they envision what the shadows look like to someone on the other side of the theater.) You may soon see Shadow Puppets performing in the K Quad and at Friday Share.

-Deborah Freeman

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

This week the Tiny City has been



working hard to prepare for their play, *The Magic Paintbrush*, which is coming up on the 31st. Students are working as a community to build the props and scene backdrops during project time. While working to create the backdrop Adam said, "We should add the large wide river for the Emperor and his men to cross." He gathered friends and materials to complete this task. Emile, Beatrice, and Eamon worked and to prepare the prison scene with hard floors and cracked walls. The community is excited and working diligently to put on a great show.

-Jasmine Lee, Student Teacher

Room 212

This week has been short week –with parent conferences and Evacuation Day. It was great to meet with students and their families and discuss how things were going. The children especially enjoyed reading their stories from their writing folders. If you were not able to make your appointment please contact me at

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sbrown@missionhillschool.org or call the Mission Hill School at (617) 635- 6384. Upcoming dates: Curriculum breakfast, March 31st- Flyer will be coming. This Saturday and the next few Saturdays the Connelly Branch Library will be offering free family yoga classes. Classes start at 10:30 am.

-Suzanne Brown

Room 217

Our class has been learning about the philosopher Confucius as part of our study of Ancient China. We have read and reread some of his wisest sayings. Here are some of his sayings, explained by the students of room 217.

“What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.”-Confucius

If you don't want something done to you, don't do it to others. No matter how many kids you have with you, still don't do something bad to the other kid. Because then you and the other person will feel bad. -Julia

If you don't want to be treated mean, don't treat others that way. If you hit someone, and they hit you back, you have no right to say something. -Jackson

If someone does something bad to you at recess, don't treat others that way. Don't do fights. -Cole

“When anger rises, think of the consequences.”-Confucius

If someone's making you get really really mad, and you want to throw a chair something, think about the consequences. Then it's going to be all on you. The teacher wants you to say it to a teacher. -Romeo

It's like when you're getting into a fight with someone, and you're really mad, think about what's going to

happen. You might go to the office, you might get sent home, and you might get in big trouble. -Jackson
Think of the things you're supposed to do. You might get in trouble because you'll get the blame. -Ashton
When someone hits you, don't hit them back. Talk it out. -Gerson

“Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.”-Confucius

Some things are pretty and some people think that it's not so pretty. Say if I like this sweater, and someone doesn't, its ok. They might think something else is pretty. -Farrah
It's like if someone doesn't see something beautiful inside of you. Not everyone sees what's so special about someone else, but that person is still special. -Julia
-Kate Needham

GRADES 3 & 4

Rooms 203

We just finished another round of family conferences. It is always nice to reconnect with families, get and share insights, and celebrate who their children are. We laugh, we question, and sometimes we cry and in the end, we all live with a smile, a hug or both.

Family conferences also mark another point in the year where children are thinking about their growth. Here are some ways students from the DJ Room hope to grow for the remainder of the year.

Work on making work neat and not messy.

Take time to make my work the best - don't rush.

Make more friends.

Listen better.

Start learning cursive.

Have more playdates.

Write more.

Speaking up more.

Practicing math at home.

My goals are to help children meet the bar that I have set for them and begin or continue to raise the bar for themselves. It is to motivate them to be their best selves, academically and socially. It is to help them end the year feeling proud and satisfied with the work they have done. So what are we waiting for? There is still a lot of work ahead of us! Let's get going!
-Jenerra Williams & Mychaela Kelly

Room 204

“Ms. Cleata, look what I can do!”
Maurice cheered as he dove under



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the water. On Tuesday, the Bee Squad went swimming for the first time at Curtis Hall. I had taken the DJ Room to swimming since December, so it was an interesting experience to bring a new group of students to the pool. I noticed so many things about my students as they swam- Micah was doing laps in the deep end, while Noah chose instead to relax and float on his back. Liam, Brian, and Elias had a game of catch. Most of the girls stuck together. Nate and Adler stayed in the shallow end, though they were still involved in games with everyone else. Mekhai was smiling constantly in the pool. Chrisvely was in the zone, swimming independently and loving every minute of it. Jack spent his time collecting as many pool noodles as he could. The Bee Squad loved their first of many swims; I'm sure this will be a fun way to end the school year!

-Danny Flannery, Student Teacher

Room 207

The 3rd and 4th grade team has been meeting with 4th grade girls at lunch in response to incidents this year of "girl drama." The weekly meetings allow teachers to address various topics with the girls in hope of lessening the "girl drama". A recent topic of discussion was "What makes a good friend?" Below is the list that girls in Amanda and my group came up with.

A good friend is caring. If you are hurt they will ask if you are OK and take you to the nurse.

A good friend is collaborative- They help you get learning materials, like markers, that work.

A good friend is someone you are close to. You might know them for a long time.

A good friend is confident.

A good friend is helpful. If you have full hands they will help you carry your things.

A good friend is honest. You can trust them.

A good friend is kind. They share with you.

A good friend is loving. They give hugs

A good friend shares.

A good friend is polite. They shake hands, hold the door for you

A good friend is truthful. They will let a teacher know if they hear that a friend needs help.

We (the girls and teachers as well) are looking forward to our future meetings where we will enjoy each others company as well as tackle other issues that are important to the development of 4th grade girls.

Amina Michel-Lord & Amanda McCarthy

GRADES 5&6

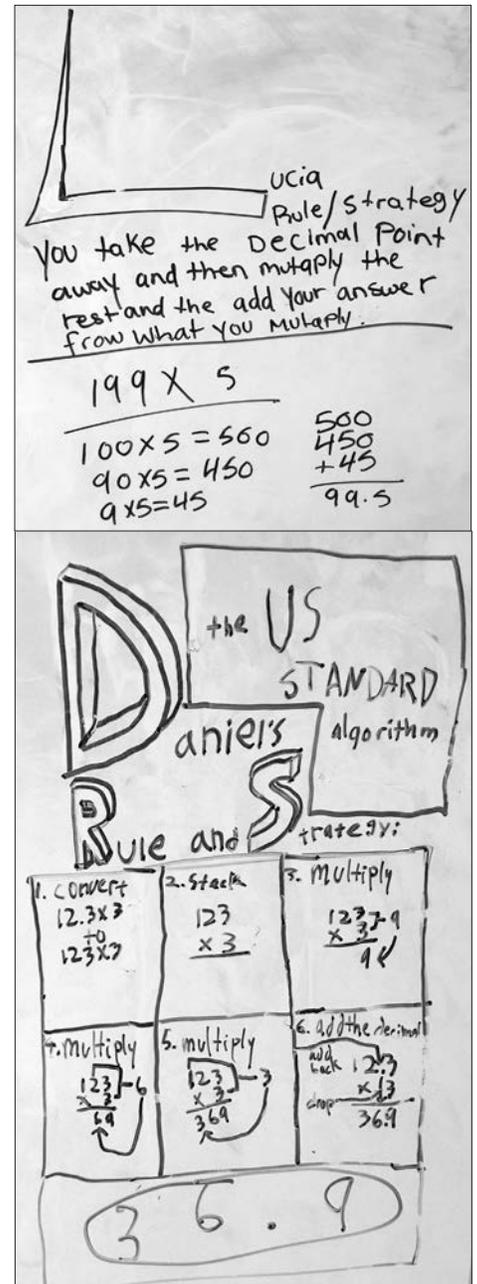
Room 210

Enjoy the images of fifth grade mathematicians working on decimal problems.

-Nakia, Manny, & Elsa

Room 215

One of my students is giving a tour of our room to her family. Here is her favorite place. This is her work which she is proud of, and this is the work of a classmate that inspires her. The whole room and all of our stuff is available to one child, one family. They are conducting an intimate review of work-- this is what assessment means. The vision is awe-inspiring: our resources of time are devoted to making this conversation between a child and family possible.



We welcome the inconveniences. There were so many people who had worked to make Family Conferences happen. Ashleigh sent out a schedule for where the classes will be for the day; colleagues reworked their schedule to be with students; Tiffany and Ayla organized student-helpers who got each student to arrive on time; my students by being open and adaptable supported me so I may

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poke my head into our room, see how things are going, and then join the conversation.

Thanks to each one of you for making Family Conferences intimate and inspiring.

--Abdi

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

Again this year, the 7th and 8th graders are participating in a nine-week curriculum at Urban Improv, an educational theater program for upper elementary and middle school students. According to Urban Improv, "Students will be participating for one hour and fifteen minutes each week with their classes, and will be dealing with such issues as bullying, communication, conflict, peer pressure, prejudice, relationships and responsibility. Students will be learning original music, performing with professional actors/educators, and creating scenes in small groups. Using their imaginations and creativity, students will be exploring challenging, important issues and learning to come up with creative solutions."

When our Urban Improv day arrives, students take a bus to the Reggie Lewis Community Center or Vine Street Community Center. The UI actors introduce the day's theme, usually with song. Then the professional actors begin a scene based on the day's topic. The scene is frozen at a key decision making point; students take turns jumping in to show how they would resolve the problem. Please check in with

your child about the Urban Improv program. You may not have realized how energizing and reflective theater experiences can be!

-Ann Ruggiero & Letta Neely

Room 214

In 7th grade history, we have been examining the triangular slave trade. Slavery is one of the trickiest topics for me to teach. I want students to have a good sense of the horrors of slavery but I don't want them coming away feeling sorry for enslaved people or get fixated with the violence associated with slavery. So, we focus on stories where students are able to put themselves in the shoes of the enslaved and the enslavers.

This year, we are reading excerpts from the autobiographies of Olaudah Equiano and Frederick Douglass. The excerpts feature stories from each of the historical figures youth and are full of descriptive language, which allows students to place themselves in the historical moment. We will also write historical fiction narratives to give students another opportunity to put themselves in the shoes of the people we study.

-Reginald Toussaint

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

News from the Project Room

The Project Room has been a busy place for students of all ages. Working with Lego robotics is always a hit and building with Snap Circuits, a simple electronics kit, is also a popular pastime for many children. We recently received a few knitting looms and are hoping that families might

donate any unused balls of yarn that might be lying around...A number of kids have been hand sewing pillows filled with lavender flowers and playing a nerve-wracking game called Suspend. Stop by and check out the project room. The door is open.

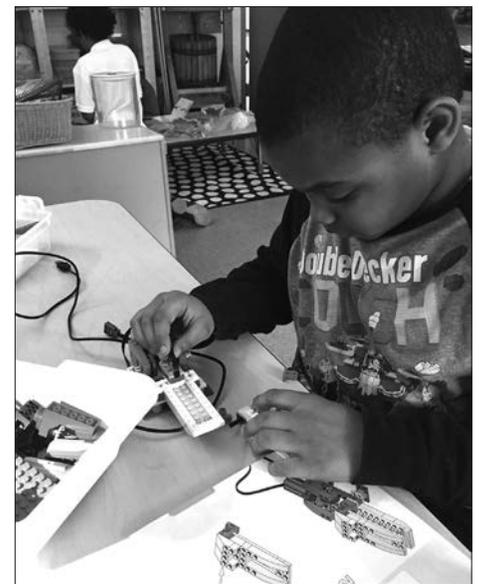
Family Movie Night

Movie Night will be Friday, April 1st from 6-9 in the MHS auditorium.

The main movie will be the DreamWorks feature "Home".

Please plan to help out and/or come to this fun event! We need volunteers to help get food donations, make posters to advertise, set up, operate the AV equipment, work at the event and help clean up.

Tickets will be for sale at the door for those who are able to contribute. Food will be available for sale as well. This has been our biggest fundraiser in the last few years and is also a great night to get together with MHS folks you know and to meet some new people.



Ayla Gavins, *Principal*
Deborah Meier, *Founder*
Tommy Chang, *Superintendent*

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MHS MOVIE NIGHT!

Movie Night will be Friday, April 1st from 6-9 in the MHS auditorium. Come and see some Pixar shorts (appropriate for all ages) and the DreamWorks feature "Home".

Please plan to come to this fun event! Those who are able to contribute can make a \$5 donation per adult and \$3 per child. Food will be available for sale at the event. This is a great night to get together with MHS folks you know and to meet some new people.



MHS NOCHE DE PELÍCULA!

Noche de película será el viernes 1^a abril a partir de 6-9 en el auditorio de MHS. Venir y ver algunas películas cortas de Pixar (apropiado para todas las edades) y la función de DreamWorks "Home".

Por favor haga planes para venir a este evento divertido! Aquellos que son capaces de contribuir puede hacer una donación de \$ 5 por adulto y \$ 3 por niño. Alimentos estará disponible a la venta en el evento. Esta es una gran noche para reunirse con la gente que conoces y MHS a conocer gente nueva.