



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- Monday, May 30, 2016
Memorial Day: NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, June 2, 2016 5-7 pm
Governance Board Meeting (see flyer)
- Friday, June 3, 2016 9:30-10:30 am
K-5 Exhibitions & Grade 6 Recollections
- Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Spring Music Concert! (see flyer)

May 27, 2016

Volume 19, Issue 28

*When I Grow Up**

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

We at Mission Hill believe that the passions children have are valuable and worth following. We try our best to support children as they follow curiosities, develop talents and showcase growth in learning.

During this theme, The World of Work, your children will most likely share with you ideas about what they want to be when they grow up. How seriously will you take their responses? In a meeting about the World of Work theme, Kathy told me that one of her students wanted to be an actress and a lawyer. We often laugh about the answers children give to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" As funny as some answers are, the kids are serious and I often learn something about their interests.

What did you want to be when you were little? I wanted to be a nurse and a cartoonist. When I shared ideas about what I wanted to be with my mother and the other adults in my life, they were entertained by whatever answers I gave, but rarely took me seriously. It was through dramatic play with friends that I tested my future careers. Sometimes I'd be a nurse, other times a teacher or homemaker. I'd discover the high and low points of each profession by testing it out with friends who of course always presented the most extreme situations for me to deal with.

I watch my mother with my daughter now. She feeds my daughter's interests with a seriousness that I never saw growing up. My ten year-old wants to be a clothing designer and, thanks to my mother, already has a portfolio for her drawings and gets occasional counseling about the right moves to make in the field. It feels good to see my mother encourage her to follow her dream this way and I wonder if my mother now realizes something that she missed when I was growing up.

When your children talk to you about a future career help them find out what it takes to be a professional in the field. Encourage them to talk to someone or watch a professional at work. Be a part of motivating your child to follow a passion. Experts in their field often began that way.

Sometimes career exploration or time will change an opinion. I know lots of people who wanted to be doctors or nurses until they found out that blood work was a part of the job. At 50 years of age my mother went to law school and became a lawyer, something she always wanted to do. When I was all grown up she decided it was time to follow her passion. Wherever we are in our paths, thinking about the future together can teach us something about each other.



Dr. Elian takes care of a baby.

* This piece was originally published in the 3/26/04 MHS Newsletter.

KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

Just a reminder that our Exhibition is next Thursday, June 2nd from 9:15 - 10:00 AM in our classroom. Liz, Danae's mom, will contact you about what you can bring for the potluck breakfast. Thanks!

This event is the biggest event of the year for our class - and we are aiming for every child to have someone present from their family. At our Exhibition you will tour Our Tiny Flower Town with your child. Students will also be sharing reflections on the World of Work. Their archive of work from the school year will be available for review by the family.

Keep an eye out for a paper coming home that will have the words we are singing as well as the words your child will be reciting on June 2nd. Practice at home if you can.

FYI...It looks like our documentary filmmakers (Kirk Simon and co) will be filming that day as well - as you know they have been following us throughout the year.

-Geraldyn McLaughlin & Donna Winder

Room 106

It has been decided! Our store name is The Ultimate Seed. We will be open on Thursday, June 16th. The children are very busy getting ready for the day. We have been brainstorming ideas. Children wrote in their journals about what they think we should sell at the store.

Neli wrote, "I think we should sell tomatoes." Many students also wrote about tomatoes. There will be different varieties for sale. JaNiyah wrote, "Seeds." Angelina wrote, "Lettuce." Liam wrote, "We should grow arugula



Ultimate Seed employees create aprons. Their store will open for business on June 16 in room 106.

la because arugula is good for you." We are also working on the advertising for the store. Children are making signs to post as well as honing in on their invitation, which they will announce at Friday Share. The children are also working on aprons, which they will wear while they sell at the store. They designed each of their aprons with things that started as a seed. There are lots of flowers, fruits, and vegetables present.

Get ready to grow. We will be selling seedlings, gloves, worms and more.

-Kathy D'Andrea

Room 107

As we approach the end of Electives (a Mission Hill favorite where students are broken into varied interest groups ranging from physical activity to fine motor challenges) it would be remiss not to thank our organizers Ms. Donna and Dani C. The time has brought the Golden Seahorses such joy. Here are a few highlights students recently shared:

"We made some pudding and ate carrots. It smelled good."
"I did drawing."

"I write my name and made a crocodile."

"I made a scrapbook and I added a lot of details to the front. In two weeks I get to take it home."

"I had so much fun. I made a picture of Duke Ellington."

"I made a swan out of origami."

"I played with Legos and when someone broke my building I didn't even get mad."

"I played outside with Jeremy's brother, Cyrus and Jayden."

"I folded squares."

"I've been drawing, drawing, drawing, drawing... about F40 Ferraris and I played and played..."

"I did jump ropes! We got some water."

"There was a pirate boat and I colored it in some and put a pyramid."

-Jada Brown & Jo-Ann Hawkesworth

Room 109

The Turtles are doing lots of talking, thinking, and collaborating these days. They are thinking and talking a lot about work spaces and places and creating cut paper pictures of work spaces they are interested in (inter-

CLASSROOM NEWS

ested in working in, curious about, know about, etc) and talking about them. They are also creating a “town” mural to go on our wall.

The warm weather has brought many things “found” on the way to school, which has led to interesting discussions at Morning Meeting. Meanwhile, we look forward to June when we have 6 students turning a year older and 1 in July. There is often a lot of talk about that at calendar meeting.

-Deborah

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

For the last few weeks, The Tiny City has had a guest reader join us on some afternoons. Sara, a 4th grader, brings a *Junie B. Jones* book to the class and proudly joins us in our closing circle to read to us. She reads with such enthusiasm, changing her voice when characters speak. She really makes the books come alive for the children and they scootch in closer to Sara’s chair, watching intently, seemingly hanging on to her every word. Sara shared, “I think they would like Junie B because she’s funny and does funny jokes. When I finished the first book everyone was laughing and asking me to come back. So I bring a new Junie B book every week.” It’s wonderful having one of my former students visit us and the class is truly captivated by Sara’s reading, which I hope is also inspiring to them.

-Ashleigh L’Heureux

Room 212

Some welcomed rain has come to help out our thirsty garden. The lettuce and onions are up and growing. This week we will start a mural



Sara from room 207 reads to the Tiny City.

of what we have learned about where our food comes from.

We are also reviewing story problems and thinking about what the problem is asking us to do—addition, subtraction? Then, what equation do we need to write and what strategy do we need to use to solve the problem?

We are continuing to read *My Father’s Dragon* a chapter book as our read aloud. As children read increasingly longer texts it is important they are able to keep track of events while they are reading. We are working on summarizing the last chapter to help us predict what comes next.

-Suzanne Brown

Room 217

This week our candy assembly line got a break from doing one task over and over. Instead, construction paper, glitter, crayons, scissors and glue was laid out for our candy makers to create their own concoctions. Jaiden made a juice flavored candy, shaped like a large blueberry. Cole made a soymilk blueberry and chocolate swirled truffle that is egg, nut, and

dairy-free. Romeo made a minty, chocolate swirl candy with vanilla ice cream inside. Kids were split if they liked making handmade or factory made candy. Both were described as “cool” and “exciting” experiences. Some children found the assembly line boring, while others loved it and keep asking to do more. Some children preferred making their own handmade candy because they enjoyed thinking creatively.

-Kate Needham

GRADES 3 & 4

Rooms 203

“Store bought!” was the enthusiastic reply from every student during our elective last week. Ayla and I are running an elective called Homemade vs. Store Bought. Each Friday we introduce a mystery recipe, the kids guess what it is, we prepare it and do a taste test showdown between our homemade version and the store bought brand. So far we have made Lunchables, hummus, salsa, potato chips and ranch salad dressing. With the exception of salsa that had mixed

reviews, every other dish was a victory for homemade!

Students are learning how to prepare food, are being introduced to new items/products and are getting to know new people as well. It is our hope that they will also learn that fresh food is good food and that cooking is fun and enjoyable...especially with friends! Why don't you take the homemade vs. store bought challenge and see what delicious battles you will win? If you would like any of our recipes you can check in me or Ayla. We'd be happy to share.

Buen Provecho!

-Jenerra Williams

Room 204

I was recently given the opportunity to travel to Phoenix, Arizona to spend three days reflecting on my writing for my prospectus. I spent my time taking a closer look at the areas I have improved in since my last feedback and the areas in which I will need to continue my growth. Feedback is not always welcome but is needed to help us become better people and learners. I often get different responses from my students when conducting writing conferences for our realistic fiction writing. I have one particular student whose first response after any feedback is "Do I have to?" There are also those who would say "I don't get it" or "Why do I have to change it?" The most effective response I can give to my young scholars is, "Do you want to be a better writer or reader?" and of course their response is "Yes!" The purpose of feedback is to get students to reflect on their own work habits and to understand that there is always room for improvement; a draft is never the finished product



Students cooking in the elective Store Bought or Homemade?

but a work in progress. I encourage the Bee Squad to keep at it!

-Cleata Brown

Room 207

Project Time is a beloved time of the day where children are free to explore various activities and projects. A few weeks ago, our staff's professional development meeting, which takes place every tuesday afternoon from 3:45-5:15, topic was Adult Project Time. There was a cooking group that made hummus and bacon jam. Another group worked on a project learning how to turn t-shirts into shoulder bags. There was a group that spent time discussing their passion for history. Lastly, there was a group that explored the Mission Hill School Song Book and they sang various favorite songs sung at Mission Hill.

Much like children in our classes, each adult group busied themselves in work that they enjoyed. Folks who made t-shirt bags shared ideas as they manipulated their individual t-shirts and proudly displayed their

new hand bags. People who sang songs did so with joy as they excitedly reminisced about different songs. The history group chatted enthusiastically as they shared parts of history that intrigue them. The cooking group proudly shared their yummy vittles with everyone.

I enjoyed this time creating with my colleagues and I appreciated having this time set aside to explore activities and projects of my choosing. When was the last time you set time aside to create and explore? Try doing so and see how fulfilling it may make you feel.

Amina & Amanda

GRADES 5&6

Room 210

Next Friday is our sixth grade Recollections presentation. Here are a few samples.

"When I first walked in to MHS it was not to go to school yet, it was to see my big brother do a project performance. I was a toddler and it was fun and I got to meet a lot of teacher so I kind of knew what I was walking into after that day."

"My first time at mission hill school i was scared and my mom put me in after school but i didn't know where to go so i almost left the school and jenerra had to call my mom so my mom can pick me up"

"The first day I came in I was nervous. I did not know what to say. I did not want to go to school that day but I had to. So I sucked it up and went in. Every one else seemed calm and collected but I was petrified inside of my mind"

"As my mom was dropping me off, I walked into school before I went up the stairs I saw everything around

me before I went upstairs. Then I said to myself, "It's just a school, it's not scary. Don't be afraid, be brave!"

"I remember the time when I first set eyes on mission hill school as if it was like yesterday..... My brother and I hand and hand staring at it. My eyes in a trance. My mother behind us. It was huge compared to pre-school. My brother snapped me out of it, and then said "this your school now", I smiled. We took a picture."

-Nakia, Manny, & Elsa

Room 215

It is in the doing of work that we come closer to another worker, become acquainted with how the work is done and, possibly, feel solidarity. So, the FireFlies have chores to do now in Room 215, and each worker has welcomed the chance to make a tangible contribution to our space. Plants have to be watered; fish need to be fed; computers have to be put away; rugs must be swept. Angel and Chantal arrived early on Monday for math tutoring and began cleaning the tables! The FireFlies are beginning to appreciate the invisible work I do in the mornings and afternoons. They are impressed that I spend at least 1 hour each day cleaning after them, which doesn't include the time Maria (our beloved custodian) spends cleaning after me! Last week, I made a passing reference to the invisible, behind-the-scenes work that has come into focus for the FireFlies in our World of Work theme studies. The work that women do, we are learning, has been made invisible, undervalued, underpaid. Simple, daily chores for the FireFlies may help bring us closer to understanding this history and begin the groundwork for solidarity.

-Abdi and Carlos, with the FireFlies



Yeilyvette and Chrisvely working hard at writing.

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

Every Friday afternoon, there is a different presence in Room 213. The 7th and 8th graders head out the door and new learners take their place. It's time for Electives at Mission Hill. Kindergarteners through 5th graders enter and take their seats around a large table. We start with a welcome/get to know you activity, taking turns saying our names accompanied by a beat or clap. We go around the circle

a couple of times, being certain that we can name everyone.

We are the Origami Box Makers and we have developed some impressive skill folding paper to make boxes of different sizes and shapes, with and without covers. As we fold, we observe and note what's happening: square to rectangle to square; triangle, parallelogram, hexagon; symmetry and rotation. Geometry is in our hands!

Our most challenging box required us to interpret this instruction:



Students in the Project Room take apart an old non-working laptop to investigate what is inside.

Pinch the upper corner between your thumb and forefinger and guide the paper so that it meets the two creases made in Step 2.” Many folds later, we arrived at Step 12 and each folder beamed and held the much desired Swan Box. We all now have a collection of boxes ready to fill with small treasures.

-Ann Ruggiero & Letta Neely

Room 214

“Reginald, can we conference?”

“What does this question mean?”

“How do I explain the concept of an assignment”

Students are strewn throughout the room, eyes locked in on laptops. Alex, Ricardo and Dario are in the meeting area. Jullian sits by himself on the circle table, writing an outline for his book comparison. Asmani and Aniya are simultaneously collaborating on their math major piece and their book comparison. Leah and Yamilett also share the table. Alberto sits on the table to the right of them trying to finish an analysis of *A Wrinkle in Time*. Jaylin, Derricka and Ella sit at the tables closest to the door, also working on portfolio assignments.

One by one they come to my desk to conference. This is my 8th portfolio season. I try to give them a sense of how much time will be needed before their assignments are portfolio ready. It’s crunch time. Everything will depend on how much work is completed at home. Ready or not presentations begin next week.

-Reginald Toussaint

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

Governance Board Meeting

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 consider becoming a member in the near future. We consider your presence valuable so both dinner and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP with Tiffany for childcare at 617-635-6384.

When: Thursday, June 2, 2016

Where: Art Room (2nd Floor)

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

Spring Music Concert

Come hear vocal performances from your very own Mission Hill School students in grades K-8. There will also be instrumental performances from the Wind

Ensemble, Strings Program, and Guitar Groups.

When: Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Where: MHS Auditorium

Time: 5-7 PM

The Four B’s

As the weather gets warmer please remember ALL children need to be dressed appropriately at school. Please remember the four B’s- breasts, bellies, backs and bottoms-should all be covered. If you have any questions please talk with your child’s teacher.

New End-of-School-Year Dates!

School will now OPEN on Bunker Hill Day, June 17. J

une 23 and 24 are early dismissal days.

Friday, June 24 is the new LAST DAY of school.

Teacher Appreciation Day



Many thanks to the MHS families for providing us with a beautiful lunch this week!

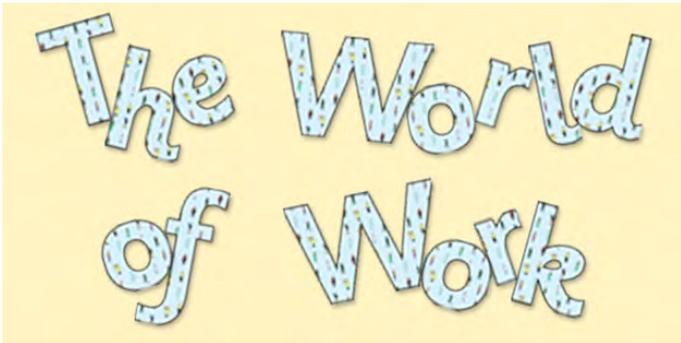
Ayla Gavins, *Principal*
Deborah Meier, *Founder*
Tommy Chang, *Superintendent*

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

K-4 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 World of
Work.*

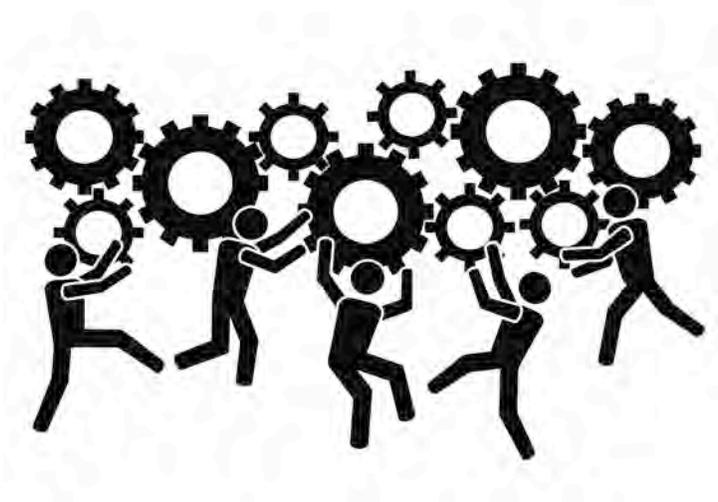
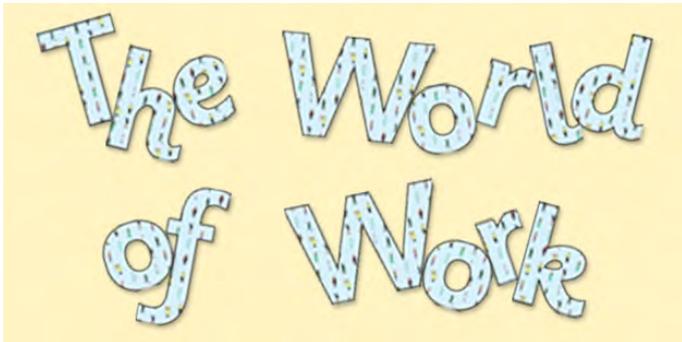
*It's a **potluck**, so bring a dish
to share with our community.*

Date: June 3, 2016

Time: 9:15-10:15

Where: K-Quad and
2nd Floor

See you there!



Exposiciones de K-4

¡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, Mundo de trabajo.

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

Fecha: El 3 de junio de
2016

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

¡Nos vemos allí!

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 Tiffany for childcare at 617-635-6384.**

We hope to see you there!

When: June 2, 2016

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 Tiffany para puericultura**

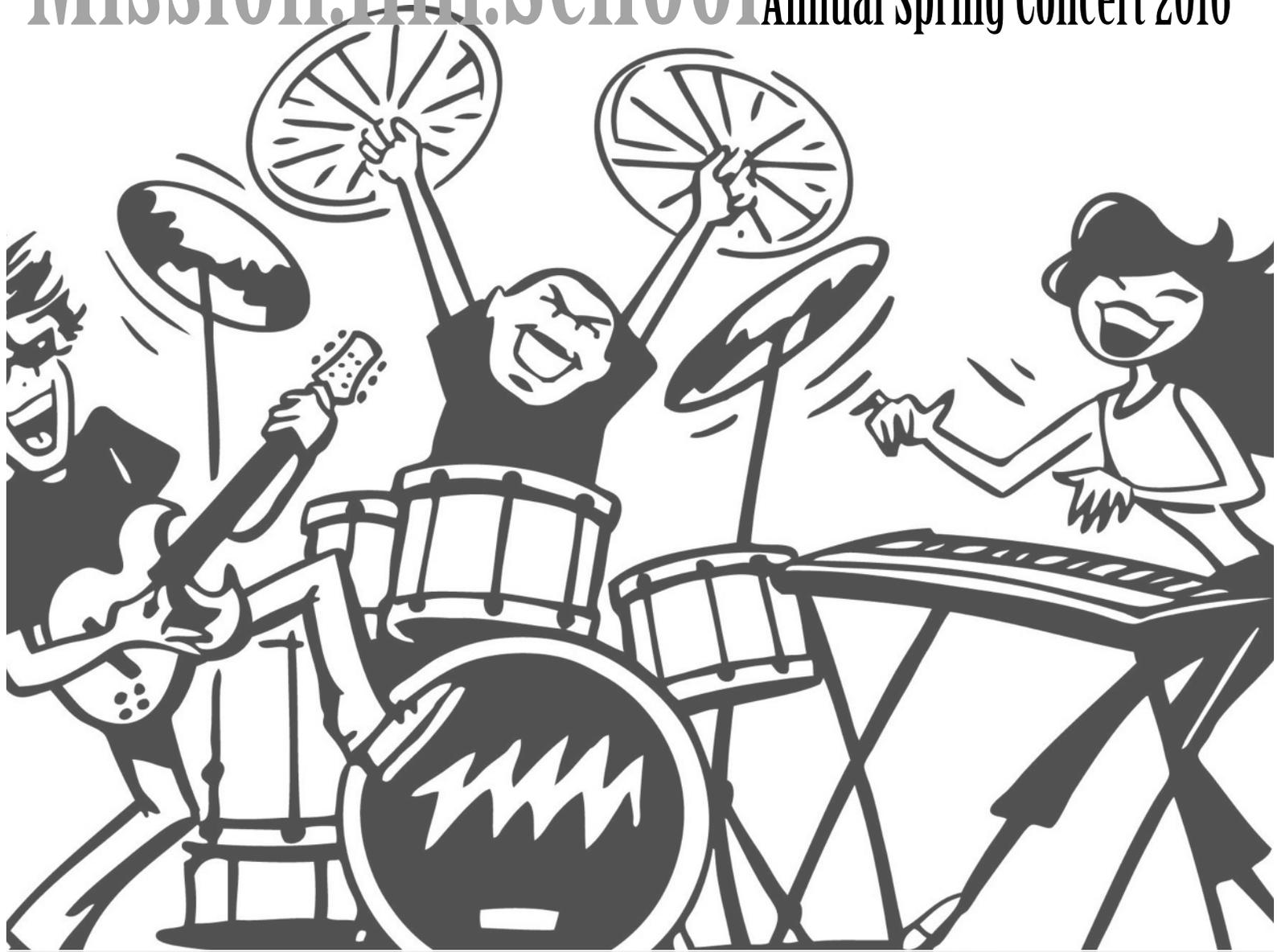
en

617-635-6384.

¡Esperamos verle allí

Cuando: El 2 de junio de 2016
Donde: Cuarto de arte (2do piso)
Tiempo: 5:00-7:00 p. m.

Mission Hill School Annual Spring Concert 2016



FEATURING:

Vocal performances from your very own Mission Hill School students, grades K-8.

Instrumental Performances from the Wind Ensemble, Strings Program, and Guitar Groups.

COME SEE YOUR KIDDOs SHINE!!

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

5-7 PM

in the
MHS Auditorium