



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Picture Day!
- Saturday, May 14, 2016 10am - 1pm
Family Discussion on Race at MHS (see flyer)
- Monday, May 30, 2016
Memorial Day: NO SCHOOL

May 6, 2016

Volume 19, Issue 25

Two Weeks of Wheels

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

For two weeks in April our students were learning lessons while on wheels. Boston Bikes came to MHS April 4 to April 14. During those days students in grades 1 to 6 received instruction on bike safety and bike riding. One class at a time could be seen wearing bike helmets as they prepared for time on the bikes, riding in the school parking lot, or heading down to the bike path. Our students loved the opportunity to learn how to ride (or be a safer rider) regardless of the unpredictable New England weather. A few of our biking days met a cold drizzle, but our students hung in there.

On Friday, April 15 our biking was done, but we jumped on a different kind of wheels. We all went roller skating! Similar to bike riding, this was a new experience for many of our students. The music was pumping, kids danced, skated and watched others go round and round at Chez Vous Roller skating rink. Some of our students fell down every few steps. Others glided across the floor with ease. You can imagine the many in between falling and moving with ease around the rink.

There's something that biking and roller skating gave us beyond the fun. Those experiences included a good dose of healthy risk. Kids and our staff allowed themselves to be vulnerable, accepting the possibility that they might get hurt. A part of healthy risk is accepting that getting hurt is OK. It's believing in oneself that you have the power to get back up, and that there are people around to support you if you need it. If we are true believers that mistakes are the best opportunities for learning than healthy risk is essential.

I was impressed by the tenacity of our students. There are a lot of falls during our time on wheels. So many times students got back up--what a great metaphor for learning. When we fall or get something wrong, we get back up and we try again. Maybe we take a break but we don't quit. It's that kind of tenacity that will take our kids to far places.



K1 student, Vidania, tries out her skates at Chez Vous.

KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the MHS Family Fun Night on Wednesday, May 4th! We had a great time enjoying unplugged and screen-free entertainment... and the rain didn't dampen our spirits! We picnicked on the floor in Room 108 and played games in Room 109. AJ from Abdi's class was even inspired to create an indoor 4-Square game in the K-Quad. We had students from K0 - 6th grade participating - along with their families. It was a fun night to catch up with old friends and meet new friends as well. There has been terrific enthusiasm for Screen-Free Week throughout the school. One mom said, "Screen-Free week is good for our whole family. I think we need more Screen-Free Weeks!" Who else feels the same??? <http://www.screen-free.org>

-Geraldyn & Donna

Room 106

Warlin sat at the snack table. The core of an apple was laid in front of him. Four seeds spread out near by. "I'm going to plant these seeds Kathy," he said. "Ok," I replied. The next day Lola walked up to me and signaled for me to bend down. She whispered in my ear, "Can I plant a seed?" "Yes," I said.

Spring is in the air in our classroom. The children have been seeing signs of spring and are very ready to start planting in our garden. This is also a perfect time to connect with our world of work. We visited the farm school so that we could learn more about where our food comes from. Seeing the farmers has taught us a great deal about the world of work around growing and farming.



Danae plays a game with her brother and mom at the Family Fun evening during Screen-Free Week.

Warlin, Lola, and our field trip have inspired us to think about what we want to study for the world of work. Stay tuned for more details.

-Kathy D'Andrea

Room 107

The Golden Seahorses have finished their exploration of Ancient China. During my take-over week which happened just before the April break, we spent time exploring some different ways to use tea. After learning earlier this year that tea was invented in China, we used three different brewed teas to stain paper, tasted Matcha green tea, read the book *The Tale of Tea Cups* by Rochelle O'Neal Thorpe, made green tea pound cake, and made green tea ice cream! To end the week, we participated in a school-wide field trip to *Chez Vous*. For many of the Golden Seahorses, this was the first time attempting to roller skate. With hard work, determination, and help from the upper

grades, they continued to try until they got the hang of it. What a great experience and fun day had by all!

-Mary Beth Fields, Student Teacher

Room 109

In our room we've been exploring many topics in the World of Work theme. Students are exploring individual interests and working in small groups on shared interests. We are making more lists of places to visit, questions to answer, and books to find. Some big interests: making jewelry, offices, anthropologists, and tall buildings. We are planning a neighborhood walk to visit some workplaces in our community.

In the Art area there is a small group working diligently on making jewelry, daily, from paper. This activity began as, what seemed, a passing interest but has grown into a focused discussion within the World of Work theme. They have begun to wonder about how jewelry is made, who

CLASSROOM NEWS

makes it, where do they make it, and where do they sell it. It seems to be evolving into an interesting study of the arts and who, where, and how people make art and share it with others.

-Deborah

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

With the World of Work theme in full swing, students in the Tiny City have been using their persuasive writing skills to convince others to fund a mock business of their own. Last week, students drafted business plans; ranging from lemonade stands to toy stores with lava floors. This week, after many conversations surrounding what a business can do and sell, as well as the benefits businesses offer to communities, students started to think of how to persuade others to fund their businesses.

“You would be able to visit rell bats at the bat play spase!” wrote Sarah, who plans to create a bat place space, equipped with rides and live bats. Bea, on the other hand, hopes



Sarah and Amber play Othello at the Family Fun night during Screen-Free Week.

to open a bakery one day. “You could get muffins at my bakery. Or a mom and her daughter could get an after-school snack”, she stated in the first draft of her persuasive letter.

It is always both interesting and wonderful to see how general writing skills, such as persuasive writing, can come to life within a thematic unit.

-Sarah Murphy, Student Teacher

Room 212

Our garden has been planted and we are checking on it daily to see if anything is growing. This week we are asking the question, “Where does the food we buy come from?”

We are excited to welcome a visitor from Japan. Ms. Tomoko teaches 6th grade in Japan but is here in Boston to visit and learn about American schools. She is enjoying working with the children and this week helped us make macaroni and cheese. She enjoyed it greatly. As we continue our world of work unit on food I hope we will be able to make some Japanese food.

-Suzanne Brown

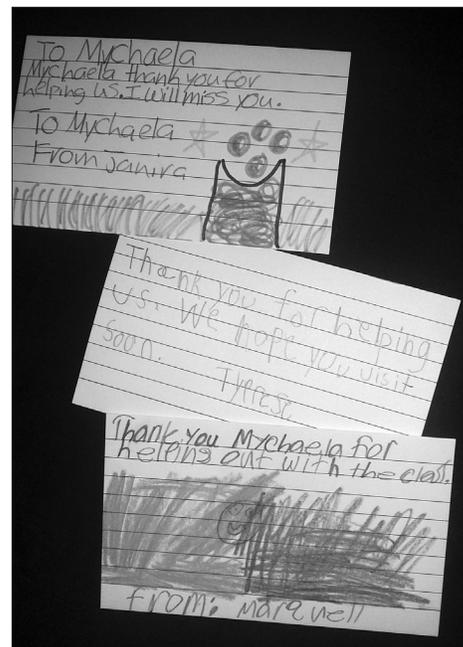
Room 217

What’s going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that? What more can we find? Students in small groups look at two iconic pictures of the mill girls of Lowell. The girls are barefoot and wearing raggedy clothes. They are staring gauntly into the camera.

“She is beautiful, she looks nice. She’s smiling” -Evan

“I see machines behind her. There are white things that look like snow globes. There are spots on the floor that makes me think it’s an old place” -Romeo

“I see a lonely little girl. She looks



Goodbye cards for student teacher Mychaela in the DJ Room.

like she’s in a dungeon” -Gerson

“Maybe it’s a little girl taking a tour of the factory” -Nyla

“She doesn’t have shoes on, it makes me think she’s not rich” -Jackson

“She has stinky feet, they’re black and dirty” -James

In our study of factories, we are learning about the local history of Lowell and the working conditions of children in the cotton mills. We are focusing our World of Work theme around factory-made versus hand-made. Children see themselves in the history of Lowell, while it still feels worlds away.

-Kate Needham

GRADES 3 & 4

Rooms 203

This has been a busy week! Here are three highlights to share:

1. We began the week with PARCC testing. PARCC is our statewide standardized test. Both third and fourth graders began testing by taking the

English Language Arts Comprehension and Composition tests. Every student worked hard and a special snack helped them concentrate and gave them the little boost of confidence and comfort they needed to finish.

2. Both our student teachers, Brianna and Mychaela, are leaving us this week. We have had such a wonderful time with the two of them and they have contributed so much to our community! We gave them each a goodbye book and reminded them that “once a Mission Hiller, always a Mission Hiller”!

3. Lastly, our annual trip to the Farm School was today and we had a blast! More details to come next week!
-Jenerra Williams

Room 204

Throughout the past couple of weeks, the Bee Squad has invested time in planning and developing our coffee house. We have used what we learned from asking questions and making observations on our neighborhood business walks to discuss all the aspects of our business. The Bee Squad spent time thinking about jobs and employee roles, discussed products and recipes, made budgets, created advertisement, and plenty more. We depended on teamwork to go grocery shopping and collect all that we needed to move forward with our baking plans. This hands-on project has led to conversations about entrepreneurship and how we can work together to run a smooth and successful business. We are working hard to address every detail needed to make our business thrive. From settling on the price of a cookie to composing live performances and inviting all of our neighboring classrooms, we are putting our best team

effort forward to actualize our Bee Squad Café!

-Yesenia Reyes, Student Teacher

Room 207

Attention all families: were you able to go to the Bee Squad Cafe? Well, if you haven't the food awesome! If you haven't gone yet, you should go quick! They had cupcakes, cookies and muffins galore. They also had beverages like coffee, ice coffee, tea and iced tea. Here are some reviews from students in our class:

“The food was awesome, the blueberry muffins were the best!”

“Cookies were very good.”

“The blueberry muffins weren't just good, they were the best blueberry muffin I have ever had.”

“Do not talk about the blueberry muffins, they are too yummy to mention!”

“The chocolate cupcake was really good, the sprinkles tasted like candy.”

“It was my favorite cookie!”

“I liked the raspberry lemonade.”

“I loved everything about the cafe and I don't want it to close!”

“My waiter did a really good job.”

“Our table waiter was very polite. He did a perfect job, I gave him a tip.”

“My waiter acted like he was a real waiter. He gave us the information we needed.”

“My waitress was very nice and polite.”

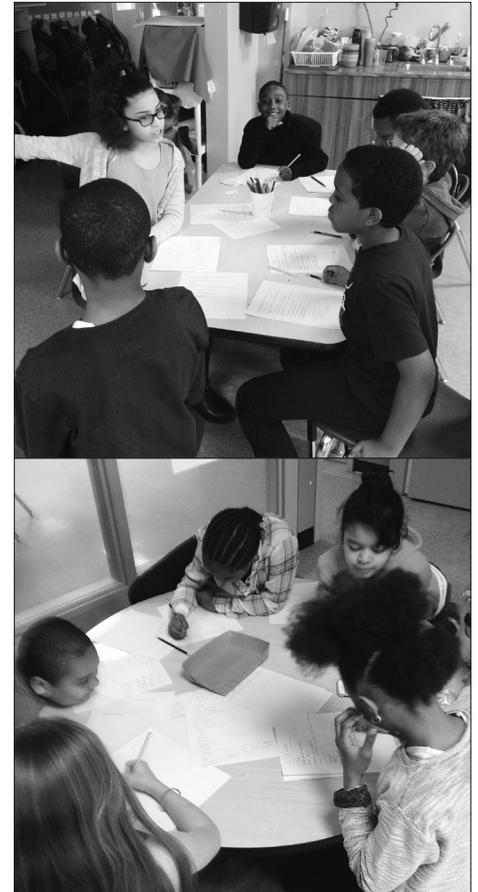
Hope you were able to go.

-Michelle & Room 207

GRADES 5&6

Room 210

We had a moment in math the other day. A few days in fact. It's a mo-



Planning for the Bee Squad Cafe!

ment that all teachers hope for in all subjects, not just math. The 5th graders have had quite a few moments of zen.. While in the throes of learning how to add and subtract fractions, every child everywhere in the room utilizing every resource, were all working in unison. The sonic backdrop of Wu-Tang Clan played by a symphony orchestra filled the room. I was just kind of, there. There to witness it all. Children who prefer to work independently did so, while feeling comfortable enough to ask and receive questions from peers. Others stood in front of the whole class working on the white boards, drawing clocks to use as a guide. Others were laying in the block area with color pencils and paper clocks to differentiate between the the parts

they were adding together. Fractions and circles were spread across the square table, students mixing and matching the prices of thirds, sixths, etc looking to add parts and wholes. Wooden clock models were put into use by those who preferred a physical representation. Students who wanted to find a similar denominator and then simplify did so, while also demonstrating the ability to show their understanding in other ways of finding the answer.

So there I stood not sure what to do, afraid that I might get in the way and mess things up.

-Nakia, Manny, & Elsa

Room 215

What are you planning or doing for Screen-Free Week?

Max: I am going to play with my neighbor outside.

Laylah: I am going to try screen-free week by turning off all my electronics and going outside.

Tandin: I am going to read or practice piano in the time I would be on a screen.

Daniel: I'm going to be with my theater troupe.

Angel: For screen-free week, I'm going to the gym and I'm going to Canobie Lake.

Melissa: Go to Natalya's house and go to softball practice.

Jovanni: I am not doing screen-free week.

Tato: For screen-free week, I'm playing basketball and football.

Andrew: No screens.

Richelle: Play Mancala. Go outside.

Bryan: I'm going to play sports outside.

Elias: I am doing nothing.

Lucia: I might go somewhere with

my uncle, and I'm just doing screen-free week on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

AJ: Screen-free dinner.

Henry: I'm not doing screen-free week.

Natalya: I will be playing softball and going to Melissa's house a lot, and to the mall and to the park.

Sabrina: For two hours on Wednesday, I will not use my phone to text or be on Facebook.

Joel: Having a baseball game.

Nora: I am going to go to my brother's baseball game. I am going to celebrate my birthday.

Joshua: No TV or phones and games on May 4.

Zack: I did 2 days without screen entertainment, instead of video games I read books.

Chantal: I am not doing screen-free week at all.



Many thanks to Nicholas, who assembled a step stool for the Project Room.



Skye is one of the newly-trained MHS Bus Safety Helpers.

Carlos: I'm doing 2 days of screen-free entertainment

Joel (Webb): I will use screens for work ONLY and try to spend an hour outside everyday.

Abdi: Instead of movie night on Friday, I will learn to bake bread using sourdough.

-Abdi & Carlos with the FireFlies

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

This week, the 8th graders gathered to thank the Apprentice Learning program and their host sites for wonderful "first job" experiences. Here are some excerpts from their thank you letters.

Autumn, Fresh Hair: Something that makes your shop so special is that your energy is very friendly and genuine. Another thing is that you have the opportunity to make someone feel very pretty inside and out once they leave your shop. ... A responsibility I learned was that in order to run a business you had to be able to present the shop first, so if there's hair all left everywhere or if all

the magazines are just piled sloppy people won't take you seriously. This is important because without clients, you won't make any money and your business won't be successful.

David, Caramelo: I'm glad I did Apprentice Learning because now I know that when I get a job in the future, I will be a responsible worker. If I finished all my work, then I should ask for more work instead of letting them tell me.

Ronnie, Nazareth Child Care: When I got a chance to hold one of the babies, like my friend Javi, for the first time, he was heavy. It was a happy moment for me... I learned that kids don't like you when they first see you, but when they get used to you, they start to like you more. You have to play with them, feed them, and take care of them.

Gigi summed up what we all feel: Apprentice Learning is an amazing program because not only does it give you working experience, but they teach you how apply to jobs, how to set up resumes, and the ground rules of how to be respectful and helpful at a workplace. Our school is so grateful to have it and it's an amazing opportunity for eighth graders.

-Ann Ruggiero & Letta Neely

Room 214

"Wow! This year went by fast" I've overheard that comment a lot recently. Especially, by the 8th graders who will begin their portfolio presentations in less than a month. For many



Teachers and families from MHS and Margarita Munez Academy participated in the nationwide Walk-In on Wednesday.

students, it's starting to synch in, the end of the school year is almost here. We are preparing for portfolio presentations and students have responded accordingly. Led by the 8th graders, they have been really engaged and maintaining their focus on academic work for long stretches at a time. There have been also been light and silly moments such as DeSean coming up with a special handshake for us for teacher appreciation day. However, what stand out is on several occasions hearing students say, "can we talk about this later? I'm trying to get this work done." There will be some bumps on the road in the next couple of weeks but I know that they'll be okay. They get it, the portfolio process is important. I am really looking forward to the presentations.

-Reginald Toussaint

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

New End-of-School-Year Dates!

School will now OPEN on Bunker Hill Day, June 17. June 23 and 24 are early dismissal days. Friday, June 24 is the new LAST DAY of school.

The Walk-In

Wednesday's Walk-In was a great, fun opportunity that built relationships between our staff and the Margarita Munez staff. Together we stood in solidarity to send a strong message that we believe in public education and will stand together to create schools all of our students deserve. This Walk-In was part of a nationwide event in over 85 cities!

School Picture Day!

School Picture Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Please make sure you received your order envelope from your child's teacher.

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

Mission Hill K-8 School
A Boston Public Pilot School
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Please join members of the Mission Hill School community for another
discussion about race in our community
Saturday, May 14th from 10am - 1pm.

This discussion will be facilitated by Paula Lima Jones, Racial Justice Program Manager of the YMCA Boston. In this discussion, we hope to:

- **Follow up on our conversations** from our first meeting
- Continue to build our comfort around talking about race and **normalize conversations about race**
- Explore our **personal and cultural perceptions** about race
- Discuss specifically how **race plays out** in the MHS community

We hope that you will join us for this important event. All MHS community members are welcome. **Food and childcare will be provided and there will be a Spanish translation.** Please arrive any time between 9:45 and 10:00am; **we will begin promptly at 10am and end 1pm in the MHS Library.** If you need transportation or have any questions please contact Rachel at rachelgo@mindspring.com

Por favor unirse a los miembros de la comunidad de la Mission Hill School para otro

la discusión sobre la raza en nuestra comunidad

el sábado 14 de mayo a partir de 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Esta discusión se verá facilitada por Paula Jones Lima , racial Director del Programa de Justicia de la YMCA de Boston . En esta discusión , esperamos :

- Dar seguimiento a las conversaciones de nuestra primera reunión
- Continuar la construcción de nuestra comodidad alrededor de hablar sobre la raza y normalizar las conversaciones sobre la raza
- Explorar las percepciones personales y culturales sobre la raza
- Discuta específicamente cómo la raza juega a cabo en la comunidad MHS

Esperamos que se unan a nosotros para este importante evento . Todos los miembros de la comunidad MHS son bienvenidos . **Se proporcionarán alimentos y cuidado de niños y habrá una traducción al español . Por favor, llegar a cualquier hora 09:45-10 a.m. ; vamos a empezar puntualmente a las 10 am y 13:00 final en la Biblioteca MHS.** Si necesita transporte o tiene alguna pregunta por favor póngase en contacto con Rachel en rachelgo@mindspring.com.