



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Spring Music Concert! (see flyer)
- Wednesday, June 15, 2016 5:45 pm
8th Grade Art Show
- Friday, June 17, 2016
School in Session (Bunker Hill Day)
- Thursday, June 23, 2016, 10am-12pm
Field Day & Cookout & Early Release at 1:30 pm
- Friday, June 24, 2016
Last Day of School: Early Release 1:30 pm

June 3, 2016

Volume 19, Issue 29

The Nice Folder

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

Teacher Appreciation Day was great. Thank you all for the delicious lunch dishes, the gifts, and for being with the children so our staff could have time together. We felt appreciated.

At a dinner party last weekend I met a guy who works for a software company, selling a product to millions of customers. He said that he only knows that he's doing a good job because people keep buying the product, and that his in-box had thousands, if not millions of complaints. He began to save the compliments and appreciations for his work, storing them in a "nice" folder he created on his computer. At the time of our conversation he had only three emails in the Nice folder.

That led to our thinking about how many e-mails or letters we write to thank service people, people that we know work hard, and/or people who do the jobs we don't want. I always thank good chefs because I don't like cooking, for example. Are we thanking the people that make our lives better?

He reminded me that everyone doesn't complain. Most people are getting on with their lives. It's important to remember that and keep things in perspective. Yes, way easier said than done. Complaints feel huge and we have to work toward keeping the positive comments and content silence alongside the critiques and complaints.



I have talked to teary eyed teachers this year attempting to lift their spirits because a parent or caregiver has sent an insensitive e-mail or made a demeaning comment. Yes, it makes us have tougher skin, but the message gets clouded by emotion. And why hurt the person that is working so hard for your child? Everyone wants to the best for the kids-- even when there is disagreement.

Every year I brace myself when receiving my evaluation. It's a survey and people tend to write things that they have never expressed to me. In the past they have been generally positive, but there is great potential for insensitivity. Because I care so much about the work I do and the community I serve and make efforts to do the best job I can do, criticism hurts when it's not communicated with good stuff too.

So, I ask you to send a note about the good stuff to someone in your life. An end of the school year thank you note to a teacher would be nice.

KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

Electives are a terrific addition to the spring experience at Mission Hill School. For six weeks - on Friday afternoons, students have the opportunity to meet new friends and work with new adults. Adults offer activities of special interest for students to choose from. For our youngest students, it is a chance to branch out of their usual comfort zone and become a part of the bigger fabric of the school. Has your child talked to you about their elective? This Friday was our last elective session and next Friday our Friday Share will be dedicated to electives. Here is a list of where the K0 students went for their elective:

Ayan: Knitting with Suzanne

Emily: Homemade vs. Store bought with Jenerra and Ayla

Ethan and Jack: Mosaic art with Kaila and Chelsea

Kayari: Open Studio in the Art Room with Jeanne

Liam: Legos with Kathy

Hannah: Paper mache with GERALYN Alice, Danae, Elian, Nadre and Najia: Art, music and stories with Deborah
-Geraldyn & Donna

Room 106

For the past couple of weeks the students in The Flying Birds class have been working on exhibitions. Students first started with their self portraits. They used mirrors to look closely at their faces. The children are familiar with the self portrait process as they have drawn them three times already this year. The portraits are a great assessment tool to see how their fine motor skills are improving. It is also a wonderful window into how they see themselves.

We then started the reflection and writing part. I asked students to think about the three themes we studied this year. They then wrote something about each of them. At first students were writing things such as birds are pretty or I like China. We took some pieces and thought about how we could improve them. I asked, "What do you know about birds?" I then got responses such as, "I know penguins can swim, but they can't fly," from Warlin. Yediel said, "Some birds have sharp feet."

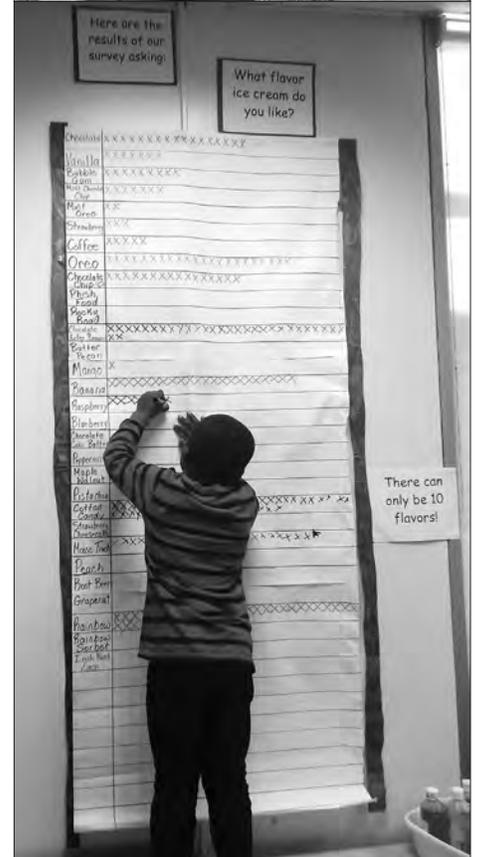
-Kathy D'Andrea

Room 107

"It's time to make the ice cream!"

It's that time of year again! The temperature is finally hot and memories of ice cream shop have resurfaced. While this is an annual event in 107, the ice cream shop has been a natural connection the Golden Seahorses have made to this theme. While this week was filled with creating cardboard dioramas that represent their future dream professions, it was also a week of data collection. Our surveys included "Do you like ice cream?" and "What flavor ice cream do you like?". We found out that only 2 people surveyed in our school did not like ice cream. We then noticed some clear favorites emerging. Those flavors include: chocolate, vanilla, bubble gum, mint chocolate chip, mint oreo, strawberry, coffee, oreo, and chocolate chip cookie dough. After doing a round of surveys the following have emerged the winners: rainbow, strawberry cheesecake, cotton candy, raspberry and peppermint. Now that we have 15 flavors, it's up to our community to vote for the final 10. The ice cream shop will be opened June 13-14, 2016.

-Jada Brown & Jo-Ann Hawkesworth



Ava (above) and Jordan (below) record collected survey data for the Ice Cream Shop.

Room 109

The Turtles are happily chugging along through the last month of school. As we began our June calendar, it was a little bit of shock, for some, to see concretely that the school year is coming to a close in

a few weeks. With a few expressing disappointment that they won't be coming everyday, others excitedly talking about some things they will be doing over the summer, and others expressing both. However, in "kindergarten years", three weeks feels like three months in "adult years" and we still have lots to do and learn before then!

In preparation for Exhibitions, we've been reflecting on the past year, revisiting old projects, and discussing all of our learning. The Turtles have been especially excited to look at projects they made "a long time ago" such as our pumpkin mural, and map of Ancient China. You might see some of these past projects displayed in our classroom, as well as new projects, when you visit for exhibitions.

-Deborah

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

Ripped up newspaper was spread across the floor, duct tape was stuck to children's elbows and thighs, and rubber bands were bouncing around. The classroom was a mess, but there was a quiet hum as children were busy using their hands and working together. We're in the middle of preparing to sell homemade products at a market. The students looked in books and visited some near-by businesses that sell handmade products to get ideas for what to sell. They thought about materials they could easily find or didn't cost a lot of money. As they worked some students commented, "This is taking forever" and "This is fun!" or "Here, I'll help you." We're learning that handmade items can take a long time to make and sometimes don't always turn out how you want it to look, but every-

one is feeling proud of their work! Be on the lookout for the grand opening of The Tiny Makers' Market opening in a couple of weeks!

-Ashleigh L'Heureux

Room 212

Even after our grand exhibition the DJs are still learning about food in our world of work. Next Tuesday we will be walking up the street to our local farmer's market to talk to the farmer. And to find out how other people write recipe books we will be visiting America's Test Kitchen in Brookline for a tour. Students have loved cooking and definitely eating what they have cooked. As they have been reflecting on their favorite moment of the unit I have been impressed with their willingness to try new foods and new techniques for cooking!

-Suzanne Brown

Room 217

June is a time in the school year for reflection. I have been thinking back on the year fondly. As my first year of teaching is winding down, I am real-

izing how much growth I have made this year. There have definitely been growing pains and sleepless nights, but overall teaching at Mission Hill has been a great first year teaching experience. The staff has supported my development and families have offered praise and support through all of the joyful as well as stressful moments.

Our class has been preparing for exhibitions this week. Students have been reflecting on our year together. It is so interesting to hear what students are taking away from their first and second grade years. It has been a year of many changes. First graders made a huge transition up from the kindergarten quad, and second graders got used to a new teacher in their same classroom. Some friends have left. Some assistant teachers have changed. The students are all coming away with new experiences and skills that they are excited to share with families on Friday.

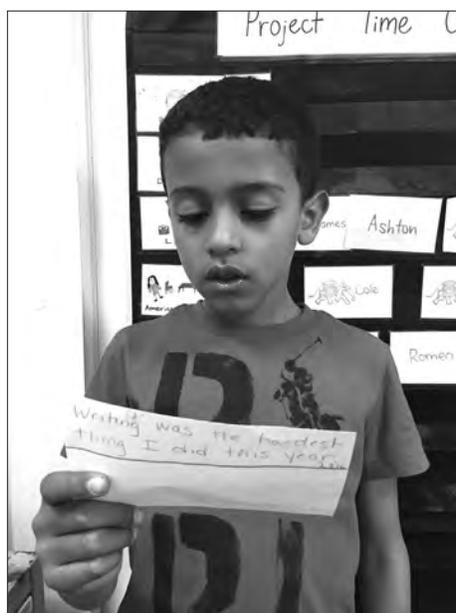
-Kate Needham

GRADES 3 & 4

Rooms 203

Every year in June the whole school is in reflection mode. The fifth and sixth grade classes are finishing up and getting ready to present Recollections - a written reflection using student archives about their time at Mission Hill School thus far. Middle School students are busy getting work ready for portfolio presentations that start this week. K0-4th grade is also getting ready for a presentation of our work this year. Ours is called Exhibitions.

Each community member from the DJ Room answered some questions and presented a speech to their families about the time they spent in our



Hiram practices reading for Exhibitions.

community, the work they did and what lies ahead for next year. Some of the questions they answered were: What work was the most important to you this year? How would your community say you helped them this year? Here are some of their responses.

"I learned to play girl flag football. I learned to make fried rice and to write neater." - Janira

"It's nice to do things that's good and it's ok to make mistakes, and lot of mistakes." - Gianna

"I'm looking forward to learning new things like harder math." - Marquell

There are many things to look forward too even now! Check the newsletter for upcoming events as the school year winds down!

-Jenerra Williams

Room 204

How do I summarize my first full year at Mission Hill in 175 words? Make that 161 words. 157 words. Anyway, back in August I never could have predicted the amount of growth I would experience in just nine months. In my mind, the credit for that growth goes to the amazing teachers I had the pleasure to work with every day. Jenerra is one of the strongest and most loving individuals I've had the good fortune to meet, and it shines through in her teaching. Cleata has given me so much of her confidence and support as I worked to develop my skills and style as a teacher. Amanda and Amina have been incredible role models and are always there for me when I need advice or assistance. I could talk about every member of the staff at Mission Hill and how they impacted my education, but alas, 175 words. The biggest lesson I learned this year



Ahmonyea and Justin prepare to open their class store "Music & More".

is that as important as it is to give my students limits, limits pale in comparison to love. I am so overwhelmingly excited to continue my work at Mission Hill next year as a 1st/2nd grade teacher, and I look forward to my continued learning with the best group of teachers I know.

-Danny Flannery

Room 207

This week, our teacher professional development topic was how to have a successful end to the school year. We looked at the end of the year events such as graduation, field day and the MHS music concert/pizza party. There are so many events to look forward to and most important, a great year to reflect on. Students in room 207 were asked to reflect upon their year. They thought about strengths, challenges, important work, our classroom community and goals for next year. The reflections that student provided were thoughtful, honest. They brought up many emotions for

teachers and students. One student shared, "It is important to reflect about my year because I had so much fun. I love this class and I'm really sad to go, but I'm glad to move to 5th grade." As I start my reflection of the year, I feel proud of the growth we have all made, the challenges we have overcome and the excitement for the work next year.

-Amanda & Amina

GRADES 5&6

Room 210

We celebrated sixth grade Recollections today. More to come next week!
-Nakia, Manny, & Elsa

Room 215

What do the FireFlies dream to be?
Richelle: Case Designer
Jovanni: YouTuber
AJ: Baseball Player
Tandin: Vet/Marine Biologist
Nora: Interior Designer
Lucia: Fashion Designer/Doctor

Elias: Game Designer
Angel: NBA Player
Joshua: Basketball Player
Laylah: Historian
Zack: Video Game Designer
Natalya: Doctor, Police Officer,
Teacher
Chantal: Basketball Player, Movie
Star
Max: Movie Director
Sabrina: Basketball Player
Henry: Pro Ballet Dancer
Tato: Basketball Player and Football
Player
Bryan: Basketball Player
Andrew: YouTuber and Basketball
Player
Joel: Basketball Player
Daniel: Web/Java App Designer
Melissa: Doctor
-Abdi and Carlos, with the FireFlies

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

The 7th and 8th graders are putting the finishing touches on their portfolios and have started their presentations to the portfolio committees. We've had some tears and some smiles, some "I'm not gonna make it" and some "whew, I finished!" The process will continue every day for the next two weeks.

Each portfolio piece is accompanied by a work tag, which serves to provide context for the work and reflection on the process and outcome. Kids identify details of the assignment, choices made, why they selected the piece to share, strengths and areas for improvement, and how

they used the Mission Hill Habits of Mind and Work. It's great to hear kids say, "I really liked this assignment," or "I worked really hard on this and I like the way it came out" or "I didn't think I'd be able to do this but I did."

In the reflection process, kids start to see connections and patterns and passions in themselves as learners. This self-knowledge can lead to growth, but only if the desire to grow is present. We nurture growth even as we hold kids accountable for doing their best work.

-Ann Ruggiero & Letta Neely

Room 214

"You should remember to bring water, you're going to be talking for a long time." As we trickled into the meeting area, Aniya continued to dispense advice to a mix of 7th and 8th graders about their upcoming portfolio presentations. "It's not that bad, just be honest."

The presentations are underway and the mood in the class has shifted yet once again. My students are hyper-focused. Whether they are putting together their posterboard, making index cards or working on their 7th grade Beyond the Classroom assignment, they have shifted into a higher gear.

The best part is seeing how kind they are to each other. Whether it's offering advice or helping to put together a posterboard. They are really supporting each other. They is something powerful about a shared

experience. It's almost as though their unspoken motto of the week is, "we are all in this together."

-Reginald Toussaint

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

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. June 23 and 24 are early dismissal days. Friday, June 24 is the new LAST DAY of school.

Outside the Lines

The last Outside the Lines meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 7th at 9:45 am. It will be held at Fio-re's Bakery (55 South Street, JP).

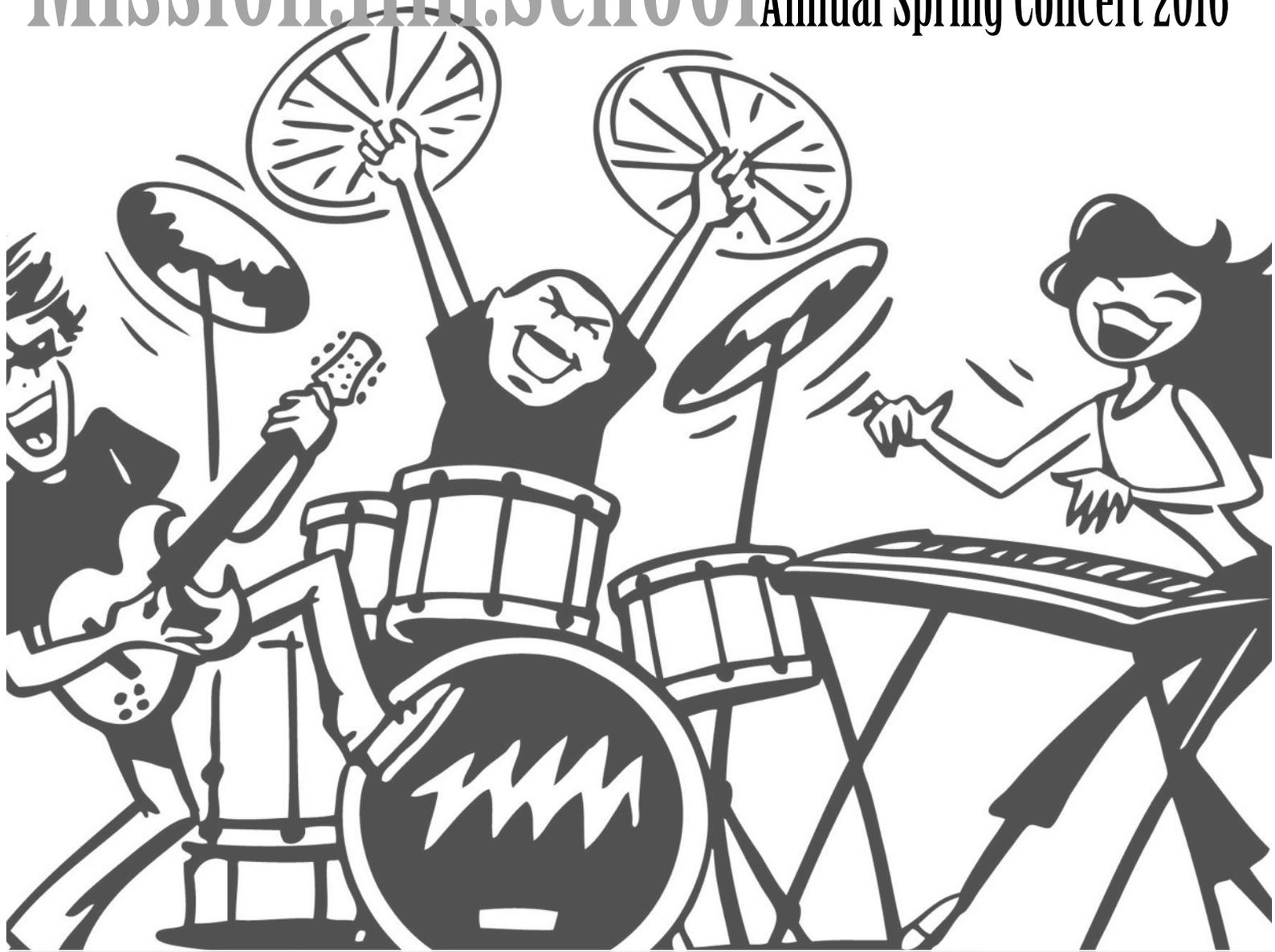
Questions? Contact Amy Fleischer fleischer06@comcast.net.

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

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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