



## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- Thursday, April 6, 5:30-7 pm  
*Family Council Meeting at MHS*
- Friday, April 14, 2017  
*Good Friday: NO SCHOOL*
- April 17-21, 2017  
*April Vacation Week: NO SCHOOL*

March 31, 2017

Volume 20, Issue 22

### *The Business of Spring has Sprung*

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

We are at the end of a busy week and the days ahead will hold just as much activity. This week interviews were held to fill MHS positions, we had our Ancient Greece curriculum breakfast, wrote student reports, prepared students for MCAS, and had a bullying training session for parents/caregivers. The interviews were to fill two positions, middle school Math Teacher and Learning Coach. We have some very strong candidates for both positions and will make our hiring decisions next week. The curriculum breakfast was wonderful as always. Students and families walked from classroom to classroom viewing the work produced schoolwide. There were several performances, handmade artifacts, research papers, myths and games inspired by the study of Ancient Greece. Bravo to all the students and staff who brought this learning alive. We are also putting the final touches on student reports this week. They will be sent home by backpack for students in grades K0 to 4 and by snail mail for students in grades 5 to 8. This year students will take the MCAS test digitally, on computers. This adjustment to a new test and new format requires preparation. Students have been answering MCAS practice questions on the laptops they will use for the test. Last Tuesday night Henry Opoong from the department of Safe and Welcoming Schools, came in to speak with parents/caregivers about bullying. We learned about ways to respond to our children that benefit them most. We enjoyed the session so much that all present agreed that it would be good to invite Henry back in the fall for another session on bullying.



*Zuhri and his mom, Alicia, look at work together during the Ancient Greece curriculum breakfast.*

Next week our preparation for the MCAS test will continue, we will transition into a new theme, there will be a Family Council meeting and we will have a schoolwide field trip. Our next theme is physical science. Students will study energy, motion, balance, force, gravity and a variety of other topics all connected to physical science. I hope to see you on here on Thursday evening, 4/6 at the next Family Council meeting. Dinner and childcare are provided.

Mission Hill School is going to Chez Vous roller skating rink on Friday, 4/7. Our youngest students will head over to the rink first. The rest of us will head over in staggered stages. The cost of this trip is \$4. As always, if the fee is a burden, do not worry. Give what you can. Your child will still participate no matter what your contribution may be.

## KINDERGARTEN

### Room 108

“How many more days?”

“You have to finish your cover!”

“Can you read my story?”

“We are going to read them at the publishing party!”

As this week unfolded, the excitement grew. The students worked hard and eagerly anticipated our publishing party for our books based on *The Lion and The Mouse*. Mira became the expert advisor on how to create your book cover. She was the first to make a cover, and offered to help others. My sons, Zack and CJ stepped in to help laminate the front and back covers. It is a lot of work to publish a book! If you missed our publishing party, our books will be on display so please come by and check them out - and offer some feedback to our proud authors.

-Geralyn and Donna



Students in the Dinosaurs classroom prepare for their book publishing party.

### Room 106

What an amazing week The Butterflies class has had. We have

been spending time reflecting on our learning of Ancient Greece. Almost everyone has finished their documentation panels. Children made three drafts for this project. Their work is up outside our room. Please come by and take a look. Topics include food, the army, animals, clothes, urns, weaving, and the games of Ancient Greece.

Alice dictated to me, “I learned about the olympics.” Bowie opened a book with pictures from Ancient Greece and through a combination of pointing, asking, and remember came up with the following list, “Cheese, squid, olives, drink, and fish.”

The children are really proud of their work. They are excited to share it with families at the curriculum breakfast. They have putting the finishing touches on their performances of *The Lion and the Mouse* by Aesop. They are adding their final pieces to their mosaics and drawing the last strings of their weaving. They are also excited to take home their hard work.

Field trip dates to note : 4/27/17, 5/8/17, 5/18/17, and 5/23/17

-Kathy D'Andrea

### Room 107

The Working Presidents are excited to say that the K-4 Olympics is finally upon us. After exercising these past few weeks, it's finally time for us to see what our stronger bodies can do. All week K-4 has been practicing the movements to Wavin' Flag (our official Olympic song) and as a kickoff to the Olympics, got a chance to showcase our hard work at Friday Share. The events and locations will be as follows (spectator sports have been starred):

Friday 3/31/17 at 11:30- Opening

Ceremonies-Gym

Friday 3/31/17 at 11:30 - \*Chariot Race-Gym

Friday 3/31/17 at 11:45- \*Horse Races-Gym

Friday 3/31/17 at 12:00 - \*Full Armor Foot Races-Gym

Monday 4/3/17 at 11:30- Javelin-Field

Monday 4/3/17 at 12:00- Shot Put-Field

Tuesday 4/4/17 at 11:30 - Discus-Field

Tuesday 4/4/17 at 12:00 - Long Jump-Field

Wednesday 4/5/17 at 11:30- Relay Races-Field

Wednesday 4/5/17 at 12:00- Foot Races-Field

Thursday 4/6/17 at 11:30 – Wrestling -107

Thursday 4/6/17 at 12:00 – Boxing – 107

Friday 4/7/17 at 2:15- Closing Ceremonies - Downtown Area

Think good thoughts for us as we practice good sportsmanship and celebrate this amazing contribution that ancient Greece gave to the world.

-Jada Brown & Kenisha Epps

### Room 109

This week we worked on our play version of the Aesop Fable “The contest between the Sun and the Wind”. The sun and wind have a contest to see who can take a coat off of a man. The sun wins and the “moral” suggests that gentle persuasion is better than force. We worked on background, movement, storyline, and costumes, We discussed the oral tradition and how stories might be changed by the teller. As always, the students amaze me each day: As I



*Ms. Linda, Janee, Yarian, Emma and Xander make the Olympic flag for opening ceremonies*

considered how to be sure everyone had a “part” in a play with such limited characters, the students began talking about the animals that they wanted to “be” in the play. “Animals?”, I thought “what animals?” and, upon looking closer, I saw in the illustrations many animals walking near the man. As fluent readers we may tend to pay more attention to text than to pictures and, by doing so, miss the details. This can be true in other arenas of life where we have fluency. Any good fable has a “moral” so: even the smallest of us can teach the biggest of us.

*-Deborah & Stephanie*

### GRADES 1 & 2

#### Room 205

We have a musical bunch in room 205. During project time, one day last week, a group of kids at the art table spontaneously broke out into song, “I got this feeling inside my bones...” Other times, someone

requests to sing a song at our closing meeting or morning meeting. And I hear quiet humming during some of our rest songs. Singing and listening to music lifts my spirits and makes me feel relaxed, and that seems to be true for many of our students. I sometimes sing when I’m by myself, but there’s something special about singing with others. There’s a feeling of connectedness, and the song can sound even more beautiful with more voices. It’s a busy time of year for us at Mission Hill, but I have been finding moments of relaxation and happiness listening to and singing with the White Wolves.

*-Ashleigh L’Heureux*

#### Room 216

On Thursday we had our second curriculum breakfast of the year, celebrating our students’ work for the Ancient Greece theme. Our walls were decorated with maps of the world and Ancient Greece, drawings students made based on

“The Adventures of Odysseus”, and posters detailing different types of government. Students also displayed artifacts they have made, complete with informational essays about their topic of interest. Though this theme flew by, it was wonderful to see how much our students learned not just about Ancient Greece but about the world we live in. Our students had so much pride when showing their projects to their families, and rightfully so. Many students voiced how much they enjoyed the opportunity to visit other classrooms and see the work of their peers. We are so unbelievably excited to see what our students produce in our final theme of the year: The Science of Cooking!

*-Danny & JoAnn*

#### Room 217

Preparing for a curriculum breakfast is a lot of fun. It brings together all of the experiences the kids of had over the past few months and allows them to see how much they’ve learned. Ancient Greece was a fun theme. I planned curriculum around gods, goddesses, heroes, and myths in hopes that students would be able to connect with them. I lucked out big time, as the class was enthralled by the stories and imagery. Throughout the theme, as we looked into each



*Gabriel and his family at the curriculum breakfast.*

myth and children illustrated what they imagined, retelling and summarizing stories. I had envisioned kids learning the myths, but once I saw their excitement, we channeled it into the published collection of Greek myths that arguably rivals any of the collections we read. They have a humor and honesty that comes with a first and second grade perspective. We had planned for our final project to be a play about one of the stories. Instead, the kids were so excited, that they made a list of all the ones they wanted to act out. They made programs, props, costumes, and planned how they wanted the stage to look. The curriculum breakfast was a time to showcase the collection; a published book, a play, clay artifacts, and art that they created during the study of Ancient Greece.

-Kate Needham

### GRADES 3 & 4

#### Room 203

While out to dinner this weekend, I ran into a Mission Hill alum. She attended Mission Hill many years ago. Now in her mid 20's, working and supporting herself. When we bumped into each other there was a moment of pause, while our brains remembered each other's faces and then our expressions turned to pure surprise and joy! This was followed of course by a hug and expressions of how good it was to see each other. After a brief catch up, she gave me her information and I promised that she would be contacted about our upcoming 20th year celebrations. I left the restaurant feeling satisfied by my meal and my chance encounter with a former student. It reminded me that our time with students is more important than the lessons we

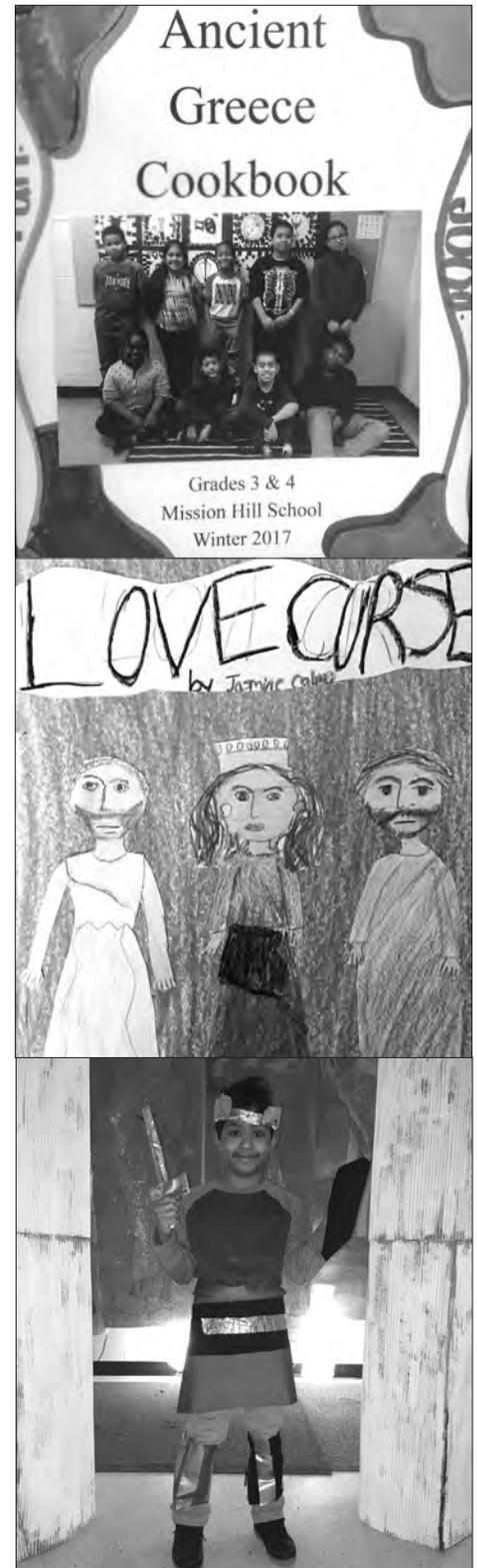
teach, the curriculum we write or the work they produce. The relationships and community we build with them now will last far beyond their time at Mission Hill. It will stay with them for a lifetime. Because of that, we must not tire or settle for less but we must "hold all to the highest standards" as our mission statement says. In the long run, it matters more than we know.

To all our alumni, remember "once a Mission Hiller, always a Mission Hiller"! Spread the word about our 20th Anniversary and contact the school about helping or being included in the events.

-Jenerra Williams

#### Room 204

Our Greek expert group in 204 have been exploring culture and places of Ancient Greece. Students have read, discussed and explored the city-states and designed travel brochures for Athens, Sparta, Crete and Macedonia. We have split up into four focus groups (Olympics, theatre, clothing, and war). Our theater focus group (Anna, Milo, Sophia) has adapted the tragedy of *Antigone*. They assigned roles to their peers and rehearsed for a Theme Breakfast performance. The war focus group (Ashton, Liam, Noah, Maurice, Adam, Adler) studied and designed parts of a hoplite armor to showcase them as costumes for the play. Olympic focus group (Hiram, Peter, Amos) explored the origin of the olympics and designed replicas of the torch and the javelin. Clothing focus group (Maya, Chani) explored, designed and made Greek clothing. Much work and enthusiasm were demonstrated over the course of the past few weeks working in expert groups, gathering information, tak-



Images from the Ancient Greek breakfast in Room 207. Top to bottom: The Ancient Greek Expert group's Cookbook; Jasmine's Greek Myth, Love Curse; and Juel displays his armor in front of the Greek Temple.

ing risks with the different concepts and figuring out the best materials to use in the creation of ancient Greek objects. Feel free to come by room 204 to see some of our creativity.

-Cleata Brown, Mayra Rivera, and Ryan Young

### Room 207

Enjoy our photos from the Ancient Greece curriculum breakfast!

-Amina & Amanda

### GRADES 5&6

### Room 210

Stay tuned next week!

-Nakia Keizer

### Room 215

DragonFlies enjoy presenting to each other. We have instituted our very own class shares on Friday afternoons. It is an open space to share a project of personal value, from home, like a DIY organizer or a Lego robot or anime or photos from a family trip to Cuba. Ask the DragonFlies to create a role-play scene to stop bullying, and they jump at the chance. It comes as no surprise that the 5th graders got rave reviews on their first day at Urban Improv. As an observer, I try to combine pleasure and pedagogy when they are presenting. Who led today? How does the group come together? What habits of mind and work are on display? By whom? Where might we go next? Was that just so cool? Look at their happy faces.

-Abdi, Kat, Carlos and the Fireflies

### GRADES 7&8

### Room 213

Despite five snow days, a Farm School trip, and many student absences due to illness, our Ancient



Simeon's myth from J&J's Genius's



Ashton displays his Greek armor.

Greece theme work came together nicely. In addition to two new hand-made word study games (Root-oggle and Memory/Concentration: Roots

and Meanings), we have a bound class collection of historical vignettes based on interpreting quotes from Greek philosophers.

In response to Heraclitus' statement, "Men who are lovers of wisdom must be inquirers into many things indeed," Caleb wrote: "... They had to think about what he meant. They thought of many ways they could use the word wisdom such as using your brain as a weapon instead of your fists and feet. Wisdom could also mean you're curious and it could also mean you think positively.... At one point, they came to a disagreement about the word wisdom. The other thinks that your brain is the best weapon you have. The other one thinks your brain is a tool to keep yourself in control and not crave power.... So Heraclitus comes in and says, "Calm down. Now, what did you come to ask me?" They said, "We just wanted to ask you about your quote." He said my quote meant men who are lovers of wisdom know how your brain is supposed to be used and you should use it in the right way. The man should not have a power hungry mind. Then he says that is what the quote really meant. The brothers were pretty satisfied with the answer they got from him." Please stop by if you'd like to read more wisdom from the philosophers in Room 213.

-Ann Ruggiero, Elsa Batista & Letta Neely

### Room 214

During a literacy period, Jonathan commented, "I can't believe how fast the year is going." It reminded that a few days earlier Ricardo mentioned that he wished we studied two themes each year as opposed

## CLASSROOM NEWS

---

to three. It is clear that students are starting to have a sense of finality. The school year is almost over, we have gone through two themes and only one left, physical science. We've accomplished a lot but it's there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

It gets complicated because things tend to move fast as the end of the year approaches. With MCAS 2.0 and portfolio presentations things might even feel disjointed. However, the end of the year is also when we get our best work done. It's a chance to put together all the skills we have learned throughout the year.

Students will feel pushed but most importantly, they will feel accomplished.

*-Reginald Toussaint*

## SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

### Music to their Ears

MHS student representatives of the governing board have accomplished something big. We started our journey 2 years ago, when we set out to get music for the 7th and 8th graders. We wanted to let students listen to music independently while working. This was much harder than we anticipated. We went to several board meetings to discuss this topic before getting the final approval. I went to a staff meeting just this past tuesday to get that approval. Now, with a parent's permission, and a student's agreement, students can listen to music through headphones during independent work, which we believe

could help with our concentration and enjoyment. We hope this will provide a better working environment for students.

*-Ali Huda, Grade 8*

### Family Council News

Please join us for the next Family Council meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 6th. Babysitting and dinner will be provided for the meeting. Please RSVP for babysitting:

[familycouncil@missionhillschool.org](mailto:familycouncil@missionhillschool.org)

### MCAS 2.0

Please see the attached flyer for links to online practice tests for MCAS. Questions? Please contact your child's teacher.

---

## Greek Temples, Goddesses and Warriors



*L: An ancient Greek temple in Room 207. R: Artemis (Jasmine), Aphrodite (Jahlimar) and a warrior (Michelle).*

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

Mission Hill K-8 School  
A Boston Public Pilot School  
[WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG)

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



# Family Council Meeting

## April 6, 2017

---

Please join us for the family council meeting!

### Updates

- ♦Creating Structure for Family Council
- ♦Fundraising
- ♦Moving race conversation forward
- ♦Community Building

### Report Outs

- ♦City Wide Rep
- ♦SpedPac Rep
- ♦ Governing Board
- ♦Ayla Gavins, Principal

### Upcoming Events

- ♦Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-5)
- ♦Family Fun Day (May 5-6)
- ♦Spring Music Concert (May 18)

### Discussion Topics/Planning

- ♦Teacher Appreciation
- ♦Afterschool Programming
- ♦Spring Music Concert
- ♦MCAS Testing

---

April 6, 2017  
5:45pm – 7:45 pm

Babysitting and pizza will be provided. Please RSVP for babysitting at:  
[familycouncil@missionhillschool.org](mailto:familycouncil@missionhillschool.org)  
**by April 4**

---

Mission Hill School | 20 Child Street

# **MCAS 2.0 Practice Tests Online**

## **English Language Arts (ELA) Tests (Grades 3-8)**

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/tutorial/practice-tests-ela/>

## **Math Tests (Grades 3-8)**

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/tutorial/practice-tests-math/>

## **Science Tests (Only for grades 5 & 8)**

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/tutorial/practice-tests-science/>

Mission Hill K-8 School  
20 Child St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
March 28, 2017

Dear Parent and Guardians,

This is note from the nurse's office regarding strep throat. We have had two cases of strep diagnosed in the school and want to inform you of the signs and symptoms of strep and when to call the primary care provider for your child.

**Definition:**

Strep throat is a bacterial throat infection that can make your throat feel sore and scratchy. Only a small portion of sore throats are the result of strep throat.

**Symptoms:** In general, signs and symptoms of strep throat include:

- throat pain
- difficulty swallowing
- red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus
- tiny red spots on the soft or hard palate, the area at the back of the roof of the mouth
- swollen, tender lymph glands (nodes) in your neck
- fever
- headache
- rash
- stomachache and sometimes vomiting, especially in younger children
- fatigue

It is possible for you or your child to have many of these signs and symptoms, but not have strep throat. The cause of these signs and symptoms could be a viral infection or some other kind of illness. It is also possible to have the bacteria that can cause strep in your throat without having a sore throat. Some people are carriers of strep, which means they can pass the bacteria on to others, but the bacteria are not currently making them sick.

**Call your doctor or nurse practitioner** if you or your child have any of these signs and symptoms:

- A sore throat accompanied by tender, swollen lymph glands (nodes)
- A sore throat that lasts longer than 48 hours
- A fever higher than 101 degrees F (38.3C) in older children, or any fever lasting longer than 48 hours
- A sore throat accompanied by a rash
- Problems breathing or difficulty swallowing anything, including saliva
- If strep has been diagnosed, a lack of improvement after taking antibiotics for 24 to 48 hours.

If diagnosed with strep throat, your child has to be on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free (without Tylenol or Motrin) for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me 617 635-6384, or [gmarks@missionhillschool.org](mailto:gmarks@missionhillschool.org).

Georgie Marks, PhD, RN, PC