



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- May 15-19
MCAS Math, Grades 3/4 & 7/8
- Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5-6:30 pm
Spring Music Concert at MHS!
- Monday, May 22, 2017
Grades 1/2 to Farm School
- Tuesday, May 23, 2017
Kindergarten to Farm School

May 12, 2017

Volume 20, Issue 26

When?

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

Our telephone has been ringing a lot these days. People are calling with questions about the many events happening this spring. This week we had picture day and began our first Connect 4 Tournament. Here's a list of other events to watch out for.

May 15-26: Grades 3-8 will be taking the MCAS

Wednesday, May 17 from 5:00-6:30pm: Music concert in the MHS auditorium. All students in grades K0 to 6 are expected to participate. More on page six! Permission slip attached.

Thursday, May 18, 4-7:00pm and Friday, May 19, 10:00am-2:00pm: Community Beautification. More on page six!

Monday, May 22: Grades 1&2 to Farm School. Please return permission slips!

Tuesday, May 23: Kindergarten 1&2 to Farm School. Please return permission slips!

Friday, May 26: One School One Story announcements at Friday Share!

Monday, May 29: No School: Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 31: Promotion meetings. If you have a child that needs exceptional consideration in planning for next year, you will have received a letter and possibly a phone call by now. This meeting does not apply to all families.

Thursday June 1, 5:00-7:00pm: Governance Board Meeting. In this final meeting for 2016-17, please join us for reflection and thoughts about next year.

Monday, June 5: Portfolio exhibitions for Grade 8 begin. Artwork will soon fill the hallway and teams of teachers, families, grade 7&8 students, and community members will meet throughout the day, as students present portfolios of their work and defend it to their committees. This is a MHS requirement for moving on to high school.

Friday, June 9: Recollections and Exhibitions. All grade 6 students, families and staff attend the the Recollections ceremony. Students review a collection of their work that spans years and read a written reflection on their time spent learning to the audience. Grade K0-4 students present their work to families and the MHS community through exhibitions. A family member for each student is expected to attend.

Friday, June 9: Deloitte Volunteer Day. Volunteers will be present throughout the building, joining in the celebration of student work at exhibitions, planting in the school yard, and touching up areas with paint.

Monday, June 12: Portfolio exhibitions for Grade 7 begin. Please encourage students as they begin this process!

Thursday, June 15: Grade 8 art show. This event is for middle school students, families, and staff.

Friday, June 23: Moving On ceremony for Grade 8 students. No Friday Share this morning. Our school community will be in the auditorium to acknowledge and celebrate our 8th graders moving on to high school.

Monday, June 26: Student vs Staff Basketball Game. The whole school comes together to cheer while the MHS staff plays our middle school students in a game of basketball.

Tuesday, June 27: Field Day! This half-day of fun and games is open to family attendance and participation. Early release at 1:30pm.

Wednesday, June 28: Last Day of School. Early release at 1:30pm. We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer!

KINDERGARTEN

Room 108

"It's motion!" Parker exclaimed as he experimented with our "Paint Ball" activity. The students work in pairs or trios to manipulate the large bin - moving the sides up and down, back and forth to roll different types of balls through paint. The balls leave interesting trails of paint on the white paper - creating a collaborative art and science experience. Mira explained, "I was rolling the big bucket around. It made the ball roll. It got all covered with paint. It was hard because sometimes the ball wouldn't roll because it was too bumpy." Sabina reflected, "The balls rolled and the paint made the paper look really beautiful. It was hard because Marissa made the balls come out on the floor. She shook the container so hard the balls came out." We are also working on a list of motion words such as: roll, jump, hop, skip, gallop, dance and twirl. What motion words can you think of at home?

-Geraldyn and Donna

Room 106

The Butterflies class continues to tackle challenges. The children had to build a structure out of Duplo tubes. Rule: The structure has to touch a bookshelf. Goal: The ball has to roll and touch the door. Children built many different kinds of structures. They tested them as they went. Many children were able to get the ball to the middle of the rug. Students observed and gave comments as they watched others experiment. The children even experimented with different surfaces. They noticed that the ball went farther on the floor than on the rug. Simeon said, "The rug is slowing down the ball." Stu-



K0 students experiment with rolling balls and paint to create a masterpiece!

dents then brought blocks and layed them over the rug. The ball made it further down the rug when it rolled over the blocks. Children then made walls out of blocks, which prevented the ball from going back onto the rug and slowing down. Joziana built

her tube structure tall. The ball had a long way to travel. She incorporated many of the things that her fellow students had added. She added height after visiting Science in the Park at the Museum of Science. They have four ramps of different styles and you can time how fast the balls travel. Children studied the different incline planes and how they affected the travel of the balls.

We will continue to share our learning about rolling friction and how building a structure can change the way a ball travels.

-Kathy D'Andrea

Room 107

This week the Working Presidents learned that there are three states of matter. To solidify this idea, we began learning a song that describes the properties of solids, liquids and gasses. At times throughout the day students will sporadically break out singing: Solid, liquid and gas, the three states of matter, they all have mass! Solid liquid and gas, they all have mass!

Throughout the week students got the opportunity to read about and explore matter in its different states. We had an exciting art room time with Jeanne where students created spin art. By dripping liquid paint onto spinners, they watched as the paint moved busily across the paper creating beautiful designs. We then spoke about and compared activities that could or could not be done with solids and liquids. In addition, we explored gas through breathing deeply (filling our lungs with air) as well blowing bubbles (filling films of soap with air).

As I read the book, What's the Matter in Mr. Whiskers' Room?, Tyrell spo-

radically called out, “That’s matter!” It was clear that he was making the connection that everything around us is matter. As we have been classifying different objects in our classroom and our surroundings as solid matter, liquid matter or gaseous matter, we asked our students to think about whether there was anything that could change its state from a solid to a liquid and then to a gas. What do you think?

-Jada Brown & Kenisha Epps

Room 109

As part of our physical science study of construction and design we are beginning to think about making designs and plans for the space just outside of our classroom door. We use this space daily to enter and leave our classroom for recess and trips. When the weather is warm enough we keep the door open to have indoor/outdoor project time. (we take out books, clipboards, and other materials). So we have begun to think of how to make this space more beautiful and useful. We are beginning by brainstorming ideas for the whole space and thinking of designs for the garden space. We’ll create a garden design and share it with a parent who is coming to do some garden workshopping with us. This will tie in with our puppet show field trip last week to see *The Doubtful Sprout*. We will think about designing a garden and outdoor space that is good for learning and play and along the way do some construction while learning about the science of design.

-Deborah & Stephanie

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

“All of us are watchers—of television,

of time clocks, of traffic on the freeway-but few are observers. Everyone is looking, not many are seeing.” This quote from Peter M. Leschak resonated with me during Screen Free Week. It made me wonder What is the difference between watching and observing? I tried to intentionally slow down during screen free week and think about what it means for me to observe. I spent time in the arboretum observing. I observed my dog play with his toys. I tried to step back in the classroom more and observe to see things that I may other times miss in a busy classroom environment. I noticed that I felt more relaxed and more joyful. I also tried to notice when I would start to get busy again and tried to remind myself to slow down. It made me think of our mindfulness practices we have been doing all year long in the classroom. To me, Screen Free Week was about more than just not watching TV. How did you participate in Screen Free Week? How did you feel? What did you notice about yourself?

-Ashleigh L’Heureux

Room 216

Back in January I wrote about our class’ Map of the World, to which we add the names of countries after reading about them in our “World News” morning activity. Four months later, we are well on our way to our goal of learning about every country in the world! We currently have 96 countries on our map, and we have found other ways to learn about them besides World News. Last week Josie’s mom came in to share some pictures from India, a story, and a snack! Danny also shared a book he got while in Europe about different European monuments.



Making magnetic slime in room 217!

Josie, Ava, and Moxie were so excited to learn that a visitor to the classroom had family from Sri Lanka, and after asking questions about the country and finding it on the map, we were able to label it as well. If you have travelled internationally or lived outside of the United States and would like to share more about the world with us, please come by Room 216!

-Danny & JoAnn

Room 217

What happens when you mix liquid starch, black iron oxide, and Elmer’s glue? Magnetic slime! Students stirred and stirred the black sticky liquid until it started to form to-

gether into thick slime. Once it was congealing together, students could start mixing it with their hands. First and second graders love opportunities to get messy. “The slime worked, a magnet could stick to it, but it wasn’t that strong. It was really sticky. It could attract some of the magnets in our class like the magnet wands and clips from the whiteboard” said Julia. “It was very messy. I liked it, it was so gooey,” said Romeo. “It was cool, it was sticking to the magnets,” said Jordan. “It sticks to the magnets, you can feel the magnet pull it over. I think it sticks to all of our magnets,” said Yediel. “It stuck to lots of different toys and metal. It was so messy though!” said Mia. They are practicing doing experiments and documenting in their science notebooks.

-Kate Needham

GRADES 3 & 4

Room 203

For the past couple of weeks, J & J’s Geniuses have been exploring our spring theme: The Science of Cooking! We first asked ourselves: where exactly is the science in cooking? We began to answer this question by talking about food as matter and how matter can come in three different states—solids, liquids, and gases. We then did some experiments to see exactly how particles interact within these three states and how they react when heat is applied to them. This week, we focused on how to solve problems when cooking. For example, what do you do when your cookie dough is too sticky or when your food is undercooked? The Geniuses began using their problem solving skills by doing a few cooking challenges. One of these challenges asked them to make eggs look like shaving cream. They also had a chance to



Map of the World in room 216.

look at preserving food by pickling their own carrots! We’re so excited to continue exploring science in cooking next week!

-Morgan Millon, Student Teacher

Room 204

Our Kites and Bubbles electives group kickoff was a splash! Alexander shared that bubbles have the colors of a rainbow. Romeo added his scientific thoughts on bubbles needing force from blowing air to get them going up! Madison shared that we could mix water with soap and make bubbles. We talked about the different kind of soaps that we could use to make bubbles, dish soap, hand soap, detergent and so forth. We found some dish soap and hand soap and decided to see which one would make more bubbles. We gather our

ingredients and set forth to make our bubbles! It was exciting to mix the different soaps with water—students were so involved mixing, blowing bubbles with straws to compare mixtures. At first students said the the dishwashing liquid would make more bubbles than the hand soap, but by the end of mixing and blowing, the group was divided between the dish liquid and the hand soap. Next time we will try mixing both soaps with water to see if we get even more bubbles!

-Cleata & Mayra

Room 207

I always enjoy teaching in themes, but teaching science is one of my favorites. It is one of my favorites because it is naturally hands on and students are constantly questioning



Making bubbles!

the world around us. For the first week of our theme, the word of the week was force. We defined force, illustrated it, had many discussions about it and participated in hands on activities. Then the Be Kind Work Hard Squad was faced with challenges. The challenges were met with excitement and energy. They were assigned specific materials and a task. One challenge was to paint without using your hands. Challenge clue: create a structure and use force to swing the paint to create a design. The materials provided were two chairs, a broom, string, cups, paint and water. Students collaborated as a group to create potential designs, come up with predictions and implement them to complete the challenge. Throughout theme work students would ask, “what if,” or “how about?”. Every failed attempt was followed up with questions and redesign. By the end of the week, each team met the challenge and interacted with force.

-Amanda & Amina

GRADES 5&6

Room 210

Stay tuned next week!

-Nakia

Room 215

On Monday, Ayla, Samantha and Beth Balliro, MassArt professor of art and education, participated in a conversation with two professors -- one is the executive dean of Tsinghua University education school, and the other a consultant for the Beijing school and Peking University who is working on China’s “Future Schools” project. We covered many topics, the central theme being the partnerships that public colleges and schools can create to expand and deepen the work on student-centered, project-based learning. In China, high-stakes standardized testing is not preparing students to participate in a global, diverse, post-industrial world. To develop the economies of the future, Chinese students need an education that values collaboration, empathy and diversity. Mission Hill School’s distinctive democratic culture and pedagogy appealed to our visitors, who were in town for a conference on future schools at Harvard. They were eager to hear descriptions and examples of how our values are practiced daily, and how these values stay with graduates many years later. I suggested a data-point of significance: the number of former students who have chosen careers as civic workers, especially in education. Is it possible that an MHS education produces people who commit their futures to democratic work in public schools? As Boston insists on seeing Mission Hill School through a narrow metric of test scores, it is gratifying that Beijing can envision its future through our practices.

-Abdi, Kat, Carlos and the Fireflies

GRADES 7&8

Room 213

Last week’s letter explained our latest project, This I Believe essays. These excerpts show what the students in Room 213 believe:

I believe you should choose your friends carefully.... I believe the lesson is to always be patient and everything will turn out great.... I believe you should fight for what you believe in.... I believe I can be Anything I want in life.... I believe that what goes around, comes back around.... I believe that you shouldn’t judge people before you get to know them.... I believe violence shouldn’t be a good thing to do.... I believe that I could learn from the adults in my life because most or all of them have been through the same experience and know about what I am talking about.... I believe that we can connect with others around us.... I believe that everything happens for a reason.... I believe you should always speak up because you never know what you could do for somebody or something.... I believe if you put your mind to something you really want, you can succeed in getting it.... I fought once in my whole life and it didn’t feel good. I learned don’t fight no matter what. I believe this makes the world a better place.

-Ann Ruggiero, Elsa Batista & Letta Neely

Room 214

This year, I am hosting “The Comic Book Club” again during electives. There are many familiar faces in the group. Daniel and Zack are back for the third year in a row. It’s really cool to get to read comics and talk about our favorite superheroes. There are also some new members of the club

CLASSROOM NEWS

like Keysha and Jack.

Last week, at our first meeting, I was struck by how quickly the time flew. This year's group are hardcore readers. In years past, students have been talkative. Whether it was sharing an interesting dialogue with a friend or a really cool scene in a book, there was a constant buzz in the room. However, there were moments last week when you could hear a pin drop. We were all lost in our books. It's really great that people across a wide age group enjoy comic books.
-Reginald Toussaint

SCHOOLWIDE NEWS

Spring Music Concert

Next Wednesday, 5/17, is the Mission Hill music concert from 5pm-6:30pm in the school auditorium. As a reminder, all students perform songs they've practiced in music class with the wonderful Billy Buss! Children from the Strings program, Wind Ensemble and Guitar groups will perform also. Please try to provide your child with white or silver tops and black bottoms for the concert. This year, Family Council is providing teachers with additional childcare help from MHS community members. After school children will still go to after school, but childcare is also being provided in the classroom until the 5pm concert. We need about 8 volunteers to help in the classroom from 3:30-5pm. Feeding kids pizza (\$3 donation) that will be provided and getting kids ready for the concert are the main responsibilities.

ities.

If you're able to help in a classroom from 3:30-5 please contact Ari Montgomery at arijoy@gmail.com or 352.214.5692.

Community Beautification

Please join us for two days of service and community to make our school a more beautiful place. We will be repainting and rejuvenating the front entrance, along with other fun service projects for both families and students.

Thursday, May 18, 4-7pm

Friday, May 19, 10am-2pm

Questions or comments? Email ssencermura@missionhillschool.org

One School, One Story

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 the one story, which will be judged by a diverse panel of readers, young and old. Stay tuned for the results, on May 26 at Friday Share. All writers will be acknowledged, with special acknowledgment given to the author(s) of the story we will all read.

Mission Get Down!

Please come out for a night of music to support MHS! The evening will feature Billy Buss Trio, the Teachers' Choir, and Louder Than Milk! Light refreshments will be served and drink tickets will be available for purchase. All proceeds go to support the Mission Hill School.

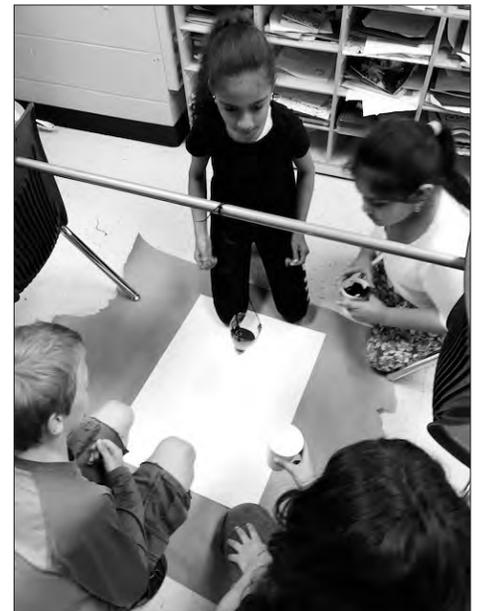
Date: Fri, June 23, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM EDT

Location: Spontaneous Celebrations
45 Danforth Street
Boston, MA 02130

Amazon Smile for FOMHS

Did you know that MHS has a non-profit organization that was created to help raise funds for the school? Friends of the Mission Hill School (FOMHS) was by Valerie Madden (mother of seventh grader, Henry), to support the work of the school. Recently FOMHS became an official recipient of the Amazon Smile program. If you order from Amazon with FOMHS as your home page, the school will receive a small percentage of the proceeds. Simply set this page as your Amazon Home Page: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1300745> and order away!



Students in room 207 take on a challenge of creating a hands-free painting.

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

Mission Hill K-8 School
A Boston Public Pilot School
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Mission Hill School Annual Spring Concert 2017



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, May 17th

5 - 6:30 PM

in the
MHS Auditorium

**Students should wear Black, White or Silver

Mission.Hill.School

Concierto Anual de Primavera 2017



OFRECE:

Interpretaciones vocales de sus propios estudiantes de la Escuela Mission Hill, los grados K-8.

Actuaciones instrumentales del Conjunto de Viento, Programa de Cuerdas, Guitarra y Grupos.

Miércoles, el 17 de Mayo

a las 5-6.30 PM

en el
Teatro de MHS

Venga a ver sus hijos brillar!!

**Por Favor, Los niños deben usar ropa blanca, negra o plateada