

#### IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Monday, November 12

NO SCHOOL: Veterans Day (observed)

Thursday, November 15, 6:00pm-7:30pm Family Council Meeting

Saturday, November 17, 9:00am-1:00pm Citywide School Showcase

November 09, 2018 Volume 22, Issue 09

#### **International Connections**

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

Over the past few weeks our school community welcomed four groups of visitors from the Netherlands. For ten years or so we've had repeat visits organized by Rikie van Blijswijk, an educational spokesperson and advocate

for collaborative learning from Holland. Some of our teachers will go to Holland to visit schools, to learn from teachers there, and share ideas this spring.

Progressive and democratic schooling are global ideas. Similar to the reasons that you may have chosen Mission Hill School (child-centered ways, project-based learning, focus on learning from mistakes, etc), there are families around the world that seek such a school. There are people resisting traditional schooling in their home countries overseas. I've become very friendly with Rikie van Blijswijk from Holland and Minoru Sawada from Japan. Both are working to build a more progressive movement grounded in the Coalition of Essential School's 10 Principles (see Hot Topics for more info about CES).



Mr. Sawada has been visiting Mission Hill School and studying our work with children for more than 10 years. Our work together began at the Coalition of Essential School's Annual Conference. November 15-25 I will be in Japan speaking at three universities about inclusion and democratic leadership. This kind of international exchange of learning and networking strengthens the global effort for more child-centered and inclusive education.

People from Japan and the Netherlands are not the only visitors you'll see in our school building. Ayanna organizes a monthly professional learning day that brings in visitors from all over the United States. Visitors come to observe what we do and to participate in discussion groups about what they saw. We will have more visitors this year than usual. With different groups coming from the Netherlands and hosting a school visit organized by an upcoming conference in Boston you may see lots of new faces in our hallways, in our classrooms, and gathered in our school library for discussion.

Hosting visitors enriches our school. As Amina said to our visitors the other day, "The questions that our visitors ask cause us all to reflect". When we respond to a question asked, we get to hear each other's different responses. Listening pushes our thinking. The discussions with visitors are also a way for new staff members to learn about our school and its history. If you happen to come to the school over the coming weeks and you notice that clusters of people are speaking Dutch or walking through the building with a guide, I hope you will give them a friendly and warm greeting.

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

#### Room 106 Kathy, Liana & June

Our room looked (and smelled) like a true cooking school last Wednesday! First, the class wanted to make a new version of the applesauce they had created the day before, adding new ingredients like lemon juice. While that was bubbling away in a pot, another group worked with Kathy to mix dough for bread from a recipe they had suggested to find on the internet. Mira taught everyone how to knead. They talked together about how it felt like they were kneading forever!

As the dough was set aside to rise, a new group gathered together to make a quick bread version of pumpkin muffins. As they mixed, they discussed batter and the differences between batter and dough.

At the end of the day, there was a veritable smorgasbord of delicious things to taste.

Everyone smeared butter on fresh, warm bread and gobbled up muffins with a side of applesauce. The classroom felt cozy and smelled delicious. The conversations were rich, engaging and filled with lots of new language and cooking concepts.

-Liana

#### Room 107 Jada & Manny

We previously witnessed a solid change into a liquid-like state and wondered about a liquid changing to a solid. Many of our students had the same idea, "Put it in the freezer!" So, about a week ago we decided to test this idea. With a little juice, paper cups and some popsicle sticks, our experiment was on its way. One student suggested that we put one outside. Once done, one group brought our containers to the freezer and the other found a safe space outside. We then made our hypotheses about each experiment. When we came back on Monday to check our hypotheses we found that the freezer experiments froze solid! Unfortunately, the experiment outside did not. I informed the class that by the end of the day the original outside experiment had flipped over. I made another one for them and placed it in one of our flower pots to ensure that it could not flip again. With the rain that fell and the warm temperatures that weekend, it just could not freeze. However, for the ones that did, everyone had a blast enjoying their icy treat.

-Jada

### Room 108 Geralyn & Donna

"Can we turn the big lights off?"
"Can we turn the big lights on?"

In a democratic classroom students are empowered to use their voice, advocate for their ideas, and participate in shared decision making. In our classroom students help decide many things throughout each day. We might take a poll and collect some data: "Do you want cinnamon in your applesauce?"; "Should we walk to the park today?" Looking at the cinnamon data, we knew we had to make a big bowl with cinnamon and a small bowl without. If a student or teacher wants to change the lighting in the room, they can make the suggestion and see if anyone opposes. The big lights can be helpful for our chemistry work, and the low lighting can be soothing when someone is stressed, nervous or feeling upset. We have found that some days we begin with low lighting, then have the "big lights on" for some part of the morning. At lunch, rest and quiet work we have various types of low lighting. Together we decide what is best.

-Geralyn

#### Room 109 Katie & Mary

After a weekend of "Nor'easter" rains, the river in the kindergarten play yard flooded! The children were delighted to find knee-deep waters pooled in the trench. Puddles for splashing and mixing surrounded the yard, and brightly colored leaves made

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#### **CLASSROOM NEWS**

the perfect ingredients in these muddy mixtures.

Our learning coach, Leila, and I were struck by the novelty in the children's play that day. The landscape that had lent itself to superheros and hide and seek had changed with the addition of water. Children waded, carried bowlfuls of water to the water cascade, experimented with floating and sinking toy trucks, and played out storm stories.

A group created a "stinky potion."

Marissa: And the dirt is turning to mud. Cuz dirt and water makes mud.

Allie: We're making stinky

potion.

Gio: Stinky! Stinky! Marissa: Only if we put some

stinky things in it. Oh no, my

stick broke.

Max: I wanna help! I'm gonna mix with this! (Adding leaves) Marissa: Then stir, stir, stir. Allie: You gotta rip it up!

-Katie

#### **GRADES1&2**

#### Room 205 Ashleigh & Alana

How are chemistry and art connected? How can we use chemistry to create change? How is paint made? What is paint made out of? This fall our class



Students from 109 playing with water!

has been exploring these questions as we looked closely at paint. We have explored paint through three different states of matter, creating art with paint in a solid, liquid, and gas state. We have also conducted science experiments and gone through the scientific method as we explored what happens when we mix paint with other substances. Mixing different colors together to create new colors has also been exciting. We feel very lucky to have an artist and painter with us every Thursday from Mass Art. Chelsea is an expert that we can reach out to and help us understand the different properties of paint. Last week, during Think Outside Thursday we made our own mud paint! Next, students will begin a process of trying to make their own paint by combining different substances and making changes to their mixtures until they create the desired consistency of paint they want.

-Ashleigh

#### Room 216 Danny & Felicia

"Can you help me read this?"
"I don't know what to do."
"Which folder do we put this
in?"

Last week at our House meeting with teachers from across grades in the school, we talked about our math instructional focus and how we

can help students develop stronger math habits. It quickly became clear that the conversation was not just about mathematical thinking but about developing students' independence with their work. The next day we dove right in, removing all of the assistance we'd been giving with math work and instead offering tools and mini-lessons so that The Dragons could solve problems on their own. The first fifteen minutes were not easy; there were frequent pleas for help, follow-up questions, even some tears. What happened next was something special: students were talking far more with each other about their math. Not only that, but they were teaching each other different strategies and running the mini-lessons themselves! The Dragons also showed more work than we've seen so far this year, including drawings and written explanations to how they solved a problem. Even though it was a big shift for all of us, in the long run we hope this change in our math structure will create more

independent mathematicians in our classroom.

-Danny

#### Room 217 Kate & Kat

Our chemistry study of paint and color is so exciting. Kids are learning all about the color wheel, color mixing, and enjoying some bright and colorful chemistry projects. Because of the season change. our eyes have been focused in on the changing leaves. We see it every year but don't know why the leaves change color. We have been wondering about it in room 217. Here is what we know so far: Green leaves make a kind of sugar to help trees grow. It's made from water and light and a part of the air called carbon dioxide. This is called photosynthesis. Chemicals in the leaves cause them to be different colors in the fall. Chlorophyll makes leaves green. Xanthophyll makes leaves yellow. Carotene makes leaves orange. Anthocyanin makes leaves red and purple. Tannin eventually makes all of the leaves brown as they fall on the ground. If you know about why leaves change color please come teach us more!

-Kate

#### GRADES3&4

#### Room 203 Jenerra & Mayra

What's in a name? In my opinion, a lot! A name can define what something is. A name can determine your response to something and what you think of that thing. A name can solicit a number of emotions. It can make you feel great, embarrassed, sad, confused, proud. A name is important in many ways! At Mission Hill we have a long standing tradition of naming our classroom communities. The procedure can be as simple as taking suggestions and voting to doing research, writing persuasive speeches and creating projects on your favorite name.

This week Room 203 began our naming process. There was no shortage of ideas! Here are a few: The Ninjas, The Kind Kids, and The Creative Crusaders. I asked each student to submit a name. I then asked them to do a little research on their name to provide evidence for why it was a good fit for our classroom community. We then presented our evidence to each other and voted down to just 2 names. Those people again stated why they felt this was the best name for our class and we had our final vote! Our next job will be to create a class logo to go along with our name. We will reveal our new name and logo next week! Stay tuned!

#### Room 207 Amanda & Amina

At the beginning of the year
Amanda and I spend a lot of time
building and establishing a
caring community. We take time
to make sure each member of
our classroom feels welcomed
and safe. As she prepares to
move into a new house and go to
a new school, last Friday we said
goodbye to Milan, who has been
in our room since 3rd grade. At
the end of the day her friends
offered the following heartfelt
sentiments-

I hope you make new friends. I hope people treat you like you treat them.

I will miss going to school with you.

I will miss how you treat me. You are kind, caring, helpful and a good leader.

I will miss you because you were constantly kind to me.

I hope you have a great time at your new school.

I hope we can keep in touch because we are good friends. I hope you learn much more stuff.

I will miss your funniness. I will miss you being my friend.

We are all sad to see Milan go and wish her well and we reminded her, "Once a Mission Hiller, ALWAYS a Mission Hiller!"

-Amina

-Jenerra

#### Room 212 Cleata & Ayan

The Panthers had a fun filled trip to the Museum of Science. The students were very excited not only to visit, but also to participate in the many experiments the museum had to offer. When asked what his favorite moment was. Jack Ozro said, "When I was on the nail bed. It felt comfy on the nail bed and it also felt cool." Nathaniel said. "My favorite moment was weighing things and looking closely at the testing tubes." Madison said, "My favorite moment was when we saw a show about super cold water. It was so cold that the water and air froze." Another favorite class experiment was Life Under a Microscope. The students got a chance to take a closer look at samples of water from the Charles River. Overall all we had an amazing time exploring all the fun activities the museum had to offer.

-Ayan

#### **GRADES 5 & 6**

#### Room 210 Nakia & Kendall

No news, check back next week!

### Room 215 Abdi & Courtney M.

This week's newsletter is written by Noah. He responded to a news article on plastics, based on Indy





Jack Ozro and Jeremy doing chemistry experiments during their trip to the Museum of Science!

Kids Newspaper article, "The Last Straw."

Ever wondered about plastic? Ever wondered how BAD it is for the environment? Believe it or not it's one of the most dangerous things for animals. They eat this stuff thinking it's food and get really sick and shorten their lifespan by fifty percent! Everyday people dispose of almost 500 million plastic straws in *just* the U.S. Think of how much plastic is thrown away everyday all over the WORLD! That's a lot! Lucky many people all over the world are working to fix. What can you

do to reduce how many plastic straws you use?

-Noah

#### **GRADES7&8**

#### Room 213 Jenna & Natel

This week we are starting our "Choose Your Own Experiment" projects in Chemistry that will be exhibited at the Chemistry Curriculum Breakfast in November. Students have excitedly began the first stage of this project: researching a chemistry experiment that they would like to try on their own. To date, students have worked on experiments in class that I have designed to teach a particular concept; this is the first time that they get to look into a concept that appeals to them and guide their learning process. So far, we have a variety of project proposals that include creating "Elephant Toothpaste", blowing up a balloon through a chemical reaction involving flour, salt and vinegar, building a lava lamp and "growing" crystals, among many others. However, this project requires more than just finding a cool experiment; students will need to research and write about the chemistry behind the experiments, document all of their work and present their findings to their peers and the greater school community. I am looking forward to witnessing the evolution of this work and

seeing students truly tap into their inner scientist.

-Jenna

#### Room 214 Reginald & Frances

Michelle and Chani were visiting 214.

Last week, we learned about the news and other information on the internet to help us get better at figuring out who is telling the truth.. Reginald taught to use the acronym C.R.A.A.P when looking

at information online. The C stands for currency which means how recent is the information. The R in stands for reliability which means what kind of information is included in the resource. The A stands for authority which means who is the creator or author. The other A stands for accuracy, which means is the information correct. The P stands for purpose which stands for the goal or reason the document was created.

The reason why that's our favorite part of the week and why it's important is because it's funny and it helps us remember those words. The words help us understand what news is and then read the article to decide whether it's true or false facts. We will use this information when browsing the internet, especially Youtube and other places that has a lot of raw information.

-Reginald

### **Hot Topics!**

# The Coalition of Essential Schools: Common Principles



- Learning to use one's mind well
- Less is more: depth over coverage
- Goals apply to all students
- Personalization
- Student-as-worker, teacher as coach
- Demonstration of mastery
- A tone of decency and trust
- Commitment to the entire school
- Resources dedicated to teaching and learning
- Democracy and equity

For more information on the Coalition of Essential Schools visit: <a href="http://essentialschools.org/about-ces/">http://essentialschools.org/about-ces/</a>

### MHS Weekly Math Challenge

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How can you put the numbers 1-5 in the boxes so

that the sum of the column is the same as the sum of the row ?

Submit your answer at the top of stairwell b or solve it with your child(ren) and they can submit it at the top of stairwell b.

Ayla Gavins, Principal

Deborah Meier, Founder

Laura Perille, Interim Superintendent

Mission Hill K-8 School

A Boston Public Pilot School

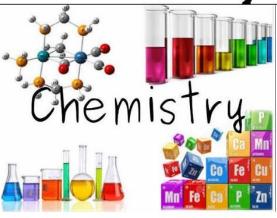
WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG

20 Child Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 T 617-365-6384 F 617-635-6419





Chemistry



# Fall Curriculum Breakfast

Hello Mission Hill Families! Come hear about and see what we have been learning about over the past few months.

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

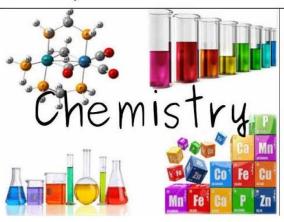
thermochemistry
theoretical chemistry industrial chemistry forensics
physical chemistry analytical chemistry
biochemistry polymer chemistry
medical chemistry pharmacy
electrochemistry inorganic chemistry
food chemistry
spectroscopy organic chemistry

When: November 21, 2018

Where: K-Quad and 2nd Floor

Time: 9:15-10:15 See you there!

# Química



# Desayuno de Currículo de Otoño

¡Hola familias de Misión Hill! Venga a escuchar y ver lo que hemos estado aprendiendo en los últimos meses.

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

thermochemistry
theoretical chemistry industrial chemistry forensics
physical chemistry analytical chemistry
medical chemistry pharmacy
electrochemistry inorganic chemistry
food chemistry
spectroscopy organic chemistry

Cuando: El 21 de noviembre del 2018

Donde: K-cuatrillizo y 2do piso

**Tiempo**: 9:15-10:15

iLos veremos allí!



### **Real Talk Conversations:**

# Special Ed in BPS + Parent2Parent Planning

Join the BTU, SPED Advocate Partner organizations, and parent/family leaders for an open conversation on Special Education in BPS today.

What are some struggles to achieve true equity in SPED today? How can families and educators advocate together?

Resources from advocate partner organizations to navigate the SPED system!

We will also use this time to help inform our workshops and program planning for our annual Parent2Parent conference!

Join us!

**Date: Tuesday, November 27th** 

Time: 4:30-7PM

Location: Boston Teachers Union (180 Mt. Vernon St., 02125)

RSVPs greatly appreciated at btu.org/realtalk

Childcare and Light Dinner Provided.
Spanish Interpretation present, other
languages upon request. E-mail Jonathan at
<u>jrodrigues@btu.org</u> for questions and
requests!



Dec 8

#### **STEM Conference**

This hands-on conference is designed for parents and children to learn about the amazing world of science, technology, engineering, and math and the many ways we are affected by it in our daily lives and the careers associated with it.

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Northeastern University Curry Student Center 360 Huntington Ave, Boston

Mar 16

#### Parent Leadership Conference

This highly engaging conference is geared toward parent leaders wanting to take their leadership skills and family engagement efforts to the next level.

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Bruce C Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street, Roxbury

May 4

#### **Spring Learning Conference**

This session will include a plethora of topics from supporting your child at home, to BPS district policy and advocacy on the school level.

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Northeastern University
Curry Student Center
360 Huntington Ave, Boston

# Fall catalog coming soon!

For more information, please contact Parent University at 617-635-9747 or visit our website at http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/parentuniversity



# SATURDAY NOV 17 9AM-1PM

Boston City Hall
1 City Hall Square
Boston

MBTA: Government Center, Haymarket, State Street

### **EXPLORE YOUR BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPTIONS**

Meet with Headmasters, Teachers, and Specialists from all BPS schools
Discover which schools require a special application
Learn about each school's academic and extracurricular programs

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bostonpublicschools.org/register 617-635-9010