



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Thursday, January 17, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Family Council Meeting

Friday, January 18, Time-TBD
MHS Geography Bee

Saturday, January 19, 9:00am-2:00pm
Boston Debate League- Tournament 4 (Suffolk University)

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: NO SCHOOL

January 11, 2019

Volume 22, Issue 14

Geography Lessons

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

This month Mission Hill School is having a geography bee. Students will be asked questions about places in our city, our state, our country, and the world in levels that increase in difficulty, similar to a spelling bee. The winner of our geography bee will be entered into the state competition. The procedures for the school based and state geography bees are created by National Geographic.

With the necessary lessons for real life and our geography bee in mind, I looked online for ways to prepare our students to learn more about the people and places in the world. I found a great blog by a teacher named Larry Ferraza. He included information from other teachers in his blog about teaching geography. I thought you might be interested in some of these activities that you can do with your child(ren) to help them be more geographically knowledgeable.

One teacher, Kelly Young, suggested that students look at information about a place before finding its location. *"A data set that consists of 15-25 data pieces per country--population, population density, birth rate, death rate, fertility rate, average income, life expectancy, number of universities, literacy rate, military spending, number of hospitals, etc."* can lead students to finding ways that places are alike, or different or trends among particular countries. This can give their locations meaning. She also suggests read alouds/think alouds and photos. *"This begins with finding great writing. There are so many great story books that describe all regions of our globe, writing that "puts you in the setting", visualizing the sights, smells, sounds and feel of a locale. Use high quality photos of a city, region, country to create a slideshow to accompany read alouds"*.

Elisabeth Johnson who teaches Geography as well as Government and Economics for ELL students suggests using student musical interest to explore the world. *"Use free internet radio to give students an idea of the music that is popular in an area of the world. Most internet radio websites have features to request music by genre or a popular artist to help you create a station for that area of the world. Have students close their eyes and listen closely to the music, what do they hear? Is the music the fast-paced, heavy drum beat music of Bollywood, or is it the slow tranquil guitar of the Bossa Nova music popular in Brazil? As you move to new areas of the world have students compare the similarities and differences of the music from different areas of the globe"*.

In addition to those ideas, remember to use maps that already exist around you with your children. The T map is a great way for students to learn and apply map use and navigation skills.

Happy navigating and learning!

Ayla Gavins

KINDERGARTEN

Room 106

Kathy, Liana & June

The Peregrine Falcons class have been exploring life today and life long ago along the Nile river. I asked the children, "What would you like to learn about the ancient civilizations of the Nile?" Here are some thoughts they shared.

McKenna: I want to learn about where they lived.

Selma: I want to learn about Ancient Nubia - The people.

Jo Jo: I want to learn about what country they live in.

Manny: I want to learn how they got food and how they protected themselves in war.

Melina: I want to learn about how many people there is in Egypt.

Jayden: I want to learn about how they were living. Everyday life.

Walter: I want to learn how they cook fish.

Wyatt: I want to learn about how they make fire. How do they cook with the fire?

Mira: Does The Nile River go through Nubia?

Elijah: How did they dig up sculptures in Egypt?

Benjamin: I want to learn how do they find food?

Xander: Cars - How did get around?

Emerson: I want to learn about the statues.

Perse: I want to learn about the sarcophaguses.

Asa: How did they make fire?

Room 107

Jada & Manny

"I have camouflage pajamas."

The weeks before the break was filled with excitement and joy for the Dragon Kitties. We began with Dress Like A Book Character Day. We counted down the days on our calendar and when it was finally here, they came dressed as Laura Engel, firemen, police officers, Ninjabread Man, Cinderella, T-Rex, Spiderman, train conductors and an American Airline pilot. The following Monday we visited the book fair. As we walked through the doors, they were elated by the selection. At one point a student picked up so many books, he could barely hold them.

Next came Pajama Day! Throughout the week students sporadically giggled and talked about what they would be wearing. We began the day with Friday share where we saw the whole school in their pajamas! Per tradition, when we got back to our room we started our party. Students set the table and helped make our chocolate chip pancake breakfast, complete with our favorite cereals. A dance party on the meeting rug followed and we then took our

celebration outside to the playground.

Welcome back everyone! Now on to Nubia!

-Jada

Room 108

Geralyn & Donna

"I'm excited about the Circus School."

"I'm angry that my mom can't stay for Friday Share."

"I'm happy because we have trikes."

Understanding your own feelings and the feelings of others is a big part of our work in K0. Young children have strong feelings (just like older children and adults), and these feelings can be hard to understand. When you can name the feeling, it can make a strong feeling easier to deal with. We have talked about feeling jealous, frustrated, lonely, proud, embarrassed and nervous (just to name a few). One of our favorite books on feelings is *Llama Llama Mad at Mama*. This week via email we sent home some of the visuals that help our students identify and understand emotions. We are also beginning to learn about the Zones of Regulation. More about that next week. We encourage you to use visuals and story books to talk about feelings with your child at home.

-Geralyn

Room 109

Katie & Mary

In mid December, the Rainbow Butterflies ventured to the Museum of Fine Arts to see the exhibits on The Ancient World. Our first visit to the MFA focused on *life* in Nubia and Egypt 4,000 years ago. Children were asked "what do you see?" They sat near a large statue and shared:

"His hand is on his leg" William
"He is sitting down" Abe
"I saw a crown and a necklace" Didi
"A pharaoh" Jayna
"They dig up the pharaoh" Emani
"They picked up the pharaoh" Marissa
"I saw the big, big, huge mummy" Gio
"I saw hieroglyphics" Theo
"I saw how they put it together and there's some cracks." Max
"I saw a craft. That it is made out of clay." Miles

This week, we will visit the MFA again. This time we will consider what it means to be a researcher. Children will select questions and get some information about their questions. In February, our third visit will include a focus on what it was like when someone died in Nubia and Egypt 4,000 years ago.

-Katie

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 205

Ashleigh & Alana

We recently read our first chapter book during read aloud.

The class enjoyed it so much they wanted to recommend the book for you to read. Here is their review of the book: "If you love funny books, you should read *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume. Judy Blume is a really funny author. In it has a family of four. There is a mom and a dad and a brother that's nine and a little brother. The boys in the family are named Fudge and Peter, and in the story a lot of problems happen between them. The brother is the main character and a lot of the problems are caused by him. It is funny - Fudge is so funny. In the book they have a flower eating kid. There's a funny part where Fudge thought he was a bird and he fell down and broke his top two teeth. But that's just the beginning, you should read to find out more!"

-Ashleigh

Room 216

Danny & Felicia

With a new year, the Dragons have been talking a lot about what will be new to them in this half of the school year. Twelve of our eighteen students were first graders in Room 216, so they knew that instead of puzzles on Wednesday mornings we would be reading and writing about new places, this year called "World News". There was much excitement about our new theme, "Kingdoms of the Nile", starting soon. Students also knew there would be new

'blocks' for Quiet Work Time, as we adjust what students do during their literacy time based on their growth and current needs. There was some apprehension that "math will get harder", but we talked about how that's to be expected as they are getting older and building their math minds. Keeping in mind the changes that will come in our work, we also acknowledged that many things will stay the same, such as the kindness that we treat each other with and the fun that we will have together. We look forward to all of the new learning and continued enjoyment which will come over our next six months with the Dragons!

-Danny

Room 217

Kate & Stephanie

To start our Egypt theme we asked our class what they knew and what they wondered about Egypt. Here is what they knew: "At night the statue's eyes close, in the day it opens" -Alyssa, "It's really hot" - Parker, "When people die they are put in a tome and buried" - Vidania, "They make pyramids" - Airlie, "They have mummies" - Alyssa. Here is what they wondered: "Is the afterworld real?" - Daniela, "Is the army of the dead real?" - James, "Is Ancient Egypt the one one with an after life?" - Airlie, "Does it snow?" - Parker, "Do they lie down in tombs?" -

Vidania, "Do they have an Easter bunny?" - Alice, "Do they have a flag?" - Vania, "What happens at night?" - Alyssa, "What holidays do they celebrate?" - Parker.

-Kate

GRADES 3 & 4

Room 203

Jenerra & Mayra

Happy New Year! Feliz Año Nuevo! A new year usually brings thoughts of what will be new, different, better. My thoughts as we begin the second half of our year are not totally centered on what will be new, but what has been. Time off always allows me to reflect on how truly grateful I am for the MHS community and how it has allowed me to grow. Grateful that we are a community that honors the voices, gifts, and talents of everyone. Grateful that through our ups and downs, we continue to stand as a strong community, with a strong vision.

Though there are many things going on in the world that are still not the way we want them to be, we must remember how fortunate we are. We are the Mission Hill School community and we are fortunate to have this place, this space and each other. We must remember that a new year brings the opportunity to continue sharing with each other in kindness, honesty and love.

-Jenerra

Room 207

Amanda & Amina

The Lively Learning Squad loves the Junie B. Jones series! Most recently we read Junie B. Jones One Man Band. The passage below inspired us to write our own endings to the cliff hanger.

Sheldon froze very stiff.
He stood there like a statue.
And he wouldn't even budge.
Then--all of a sudden--*CRASH!*
He dropped his cymbals.
And he ran across the
playground as fast as a
speedboat!
One of the teachers ran after
him. But Sheldon zoomed
faster and faster.
Then he ran behind the swing
sets.
And he circled around the
monkey bars.
And he kept on running till he
was all the way behind the
school.
And what do you know?
Sheldon never came back.

Students answered a writing prompt, "What happened to Sheldon?!" Stay tuned to to next week to read some of the conclusions!

-Amanda

Room 212

Cleata & Ayan

The Panthers are very excited to put the finishing touches on their personal narratives. Every student has written a draft of their narrative and is now in the process of revising and editing their piece. Some are typing their

second draft. Jeremy shared that this is his proudest writing so far because, "I got to remember the time I spent with my aunt." Madison and Raymond were very excited about sharing their writing with the entire school even though they were very nervous. After they read their stories, they shared that they loved how the audience was very respectful and made them less nervous. We are now in the revision and second reader stage of the personal narrative. Neli shared that she enjoyed having a second reader because, "They can help me fix things I missed." We are so excited to see the growth in their writing and to see each student eager to help others correct their work.

-Ayan

GRADES 5 & 6

Room 210

Nakia & Kat

Something i'm really excited about is...

- "The weekend because I can play some more Fortnite."
- "I'm excited that season 7 came out on fortnite and I might get the battle pass. So there is skins, dances, stickers. It has like a really cool skin when you hit their 100 and there is like different stages for a character."
- "Something that I am excited about is that i am going to put up my tree this weekend and i get to hang out with my mom and i also like to get in the

Christmas spirit. one other reason why i am excited about is that i have to hang out with my big sister. not my real big sister the program but those are some of the reasons i am excited.

Something that went well this week was...

- “something I really liked this week was doing the coding. At first I was going to do the Animate your Name site but it was really glitchy so I decided to do Dance Party...great decision. After I watched the intro video I got crackin'. I could choose different songs like Hey Ya and Take on Me. The only problem was the dancers couldn't really dance. One of the moose was doing the cringiest floss every, his arm were swinging like a blanket at the beach on a windy day. Anyway, I highly recommend Dance Party!”
 - “I had so many choices to be happy.”
- Next week im going to try to...***
- “Get better on math and earn back my M&B.”

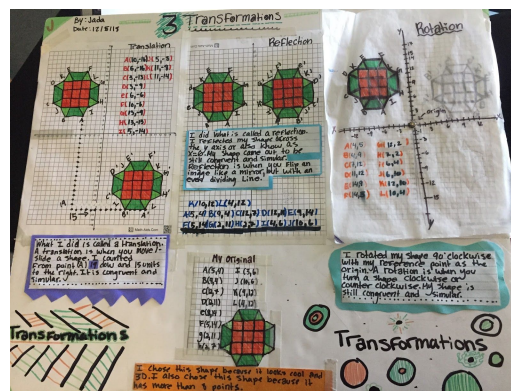
Room 215

Abdi & Courtney M.

“My new beginnings is to improve on things I didn’t do so good last year.” “I want teachers to complain less about me to my Mom.” “I want to make new friends.” “I want to turn a blank page and put things that I am proud of on it.” “I want to get ready for 7th grade.” “I am not going to sweat the small stuff. I want to be present more.” I am a

big fan of beginning the new year with resolutions - even if there are more made than kept! We must affirm the sense of possibility that is in all of us at this time of year. In Room 215, we will focus on building character, exploring and naming different character traits and nurturing those qualities that inspire others. My resolution is to declutter, and to hold on to things that make me happy by adding value to my life. Share your resolution/s with your child. They may not remember what you say, but your efforts at self renewal will stay with them always.

-Abdi



Picture of a completed project from 213

GRADES 7 & 8

Room 213

Jenna & Natel

Before the break, 8th graders completed my favorite project of the year- their Geometric Transformations Project! Each student created an original design and then transformed their designs through reflections

(flipping the figure), dilations (enlarging or reducing the figure), translations (moving the figure) and rotations (turning the figure). They also wrote descriptions of their transformations and wrote informational essays explaining all of the content and how to complete the project. The projects turned out beautifully and exhibited students’ math skills while giving them a chance to show off their creative sides.

Room 214

Reginald & Frances

We are starting our study of Ancient Egypt with the Nile River. We learned about the river from a variety of sources, including a textbook and a documentary. It’s a good place to start because the river is amazing and it allows us to cover a lot different topics. The topics we touched on this week included geography, topography, agriculture and cardinal directions. However, what amazed students the most is just the sheer size of the river (and Africa). The 7th grade class could not get over the fact that the Nile River is longer than 4,000 miles, longer than the United States is wide. Next, we are going to create maps of the river and the surrounding areas. The ultimate goal will be to create a detailed map of the Nile in the green wing. Stay tuned.

-Reginald

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

Technology Survey!

The purpose of this survey is to get a general idea of student/family technology use outside of school.

This information will be used to review our school-wide technology guidelines and to see what kinds of training our students/families want in regards to technology. Thank you for your participation!

Visit:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Bs8n89lclPBBEjlu1>

-OR-

See the printed version on the back of this page.

Support MHS!

In case you missed it... Friends of Mission Hill School needs your help! Friends of Mission Hill School supports the school community by

raising money for supplies, class trips, activities, materials, transportation, and other items that are not covered by our budget.

Farm School, library books, circus school, mindfulness and yoga, sports, and Spanish language activities are all items that are currently on our 'wish list'.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online at <http://mp.gg/cocm6>

Please share this link with family and friends. Your donation of any amount is much appreciated - thank you!

Fun Activity For The Entire Family

Looking for an activity to do with your family in 2019 that is both fun and educational?

How about building a blog?

With a blog, your children can experiment and learn new digital skills in a stress-free environment that feels like a game.

The memories you form together will last a lifetime, and the understanding of the internet your children develop will give them a major advantage as they get older.

If this sounds interesting to you, we recommend joining a program called The Family Blogging Challenge (www.FamilyBloggingChallenge.com).

It's free to join and shows you what to do to start a blog. Most importantly, the challenge is designed to keep your children entertained and having fun.

Ayla Gavins, Principal

Deborah Meier, Founder

Laura Perille, Interim Superintendent

Mission Hill K-8 School

A Boston Public Pilot School

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TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to get a general idea of student/family technology use outside of school. This information will be used to review our school-wide technology guidelines and to see what kinds of training our students/families want in regards to technology. Thank you for your participation!

Parent Name:

Student Name:

Teacher:

1. Do you have concerns about your child's use of technology outside of school?

2. Does your child have access to (check all that apply):

Cell Phone (not smart phone)

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Smart Phone (with internet)

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Tablet (iPad, Kindle Fire, Samsung Galaxy, etc...)

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Laptop Computer

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Desktop Computer

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Video Game Console (for use with TV)

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Handheld Gaming System

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

Television in Bedroom

☐ *With parental supervision*

☐ *Unlimited access*

3. Would you attend a Family Night at MHS to discuss appropriate and safe technology use (across all age groups)?

☐ *Yes*

☐ *No*

☐ *Maybe*