



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Thursday, January 31
NAEP Testing (Grades 4 & 8)

Saturday, February 2, 9:00am - 2:00pm
Boston Debate League: Tournament 5

Monday, February 4 - Wednesday, February 6
Jenna's Class (grades 7 & 8) at Farm School

Wednesday, February 6 - Friday, February 8
Reginald's Class (grades 7 & 8) at Farm School

January 25, 2019

Volume 22, Issue 16

Adding Voices

Dear Mission Hill School friends, families, students, and staff,

Our school newsletter has always had a variety of contributors in addition to the more predictable writers. Special contributors have come and gone, typically adding their voice when there's an announcement to make. What has remained constant is that the classroom teams write a column and I write a cover letter each week.



We love our school newsletter and see ways to improve it. It allows us to follow the events that happen within each classroom group. However, there are even more stories to be told and more information to be shared. The adults that work with your children go beyond the classroom based teams.

This week is our trial run for a monthly edition of our school newsletter that includes the voices that are heard less often in our school newsletter. These are the voices of our arts teachers, learning coaches, physical education teacher, nurse and families. These are the voices of others that have great impact on the teaching, student learning, culture, and climate at our school. I'm so excited that you will have an opportunity to hear from them more regularly if this trial run goes well. You're welcome to write me at agavins@missionhillschool.org or to Ayanna at alord@missionhillschool.org to share your feedback about this edition.

Sincerely,

Ayla Gavins

APPRENTICE LEARNING

Apprentice Learning is a non-profit organization based in Jamaica Plain. The program was launched out of Mission Hill as its first school. For our Apprenticeship Program, we work with six different schools (including MHS) within BPS: Rafael Hernández, Boston Teacher's Union Pilot, Jackson Mann, Gardener Pilot, and Dearborn STEM Academy.

We work with the 8th graders teaching a professional skills class in which the students learn professional jargon and etiquette. In class, they are also given room to understand their interests, passions, and skills. This class meets once a week for 6 weeks. After class, the kids go out to local businesses and organizations ranging from beauty salons to architecture firms. The students complete a 6-week *Apprenticeship* which meets for 2 hours during the school day, one time per week.

Many people think that 8th grade is a bit early to start, but our vision is that the earlier kids get to experience the working world and see themselves forming connections and fitting into it, the more successful they can be.

Our students at Apprentice Learning in the fall!

*Photos below submitted by
Apprentice Learning!*



FAMILY COUNCIL

Did you know that all families (parents and/or guardians) of students enrolled at Mission Hill School are members of the Mission Hill School Family Council (MHSFC)?

The main goal of the MHSFC is to contribute to a supportive school learning community where school staff and families partner to enhance the educational development of our children. We do this in a number of ways: from planning Teacher Appreciation week and school beautification days, as well as by helping to organize the book fair and movie nights.

We hold an open meeting every month. If you have not joined us for one of our meetings, this is our personal invitation for you to join us at our upcoming meeting on February 13th from 5:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Childcare and a pizza dinner is always provided.

We do understand that some families are unable to make the evening meetings. We are hoping to engage more families and would love to hear from you around what you need in order to attend a meeting. Is it transportation, a different location, a meeting on the weekend? We are open to all ideas in order to ensure that we are supporting and engaging all of of the Mission Hill School

community. Please email all ideas to familycouncil@missionhillschool.org.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we also have a google group where we can share with each other. If you are not already a part of our Mission Hill School Family google group, click here to join <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/mission-hill-school-family-council>.

We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting!

- Alicia McKinney, Antonio Ocampo-Guzman, Sylvie Dijian & Brandy Joaquim

Family Council Executive Team

FRIENDS OF MHS

"What do you need?"

I was working at the bake sale and took a break to see if anyone had left cookies in the office. On my way up, I saw a student having a tough day. He was sprawled on the floor, crying and pounding his fists on the tiles. Ayla was kneeling next to him. I hurried by, wanting to give them privacy.

When I returned down this hallway several minutes later the child was still there, his head in Ayla's lap. Miss Mayra was asking if he wanted some



Photo (above) submitted by MHS Family Council!

water; Kendall was by his side patting his back. Ayla asked him "What do you need?"

The child who was in pain wasn't being 'disciplined', or yelled at, or isolated. He was being asked what he needed to get through this hard moment. And he was being given the tools and support to figure it out.

In our democratic society, everyone has different needs, and it is everyone's responsibility to make sure that they are met. As difficult and messy as this can be in practice, it is a gift that every child deserves.

*-Rachel Goldsmith,
mt Adam (5th) & Emily (1st)*

THEATRE

Theatre classes this year have been in a state of experimentation. Rather than seeing the entire school once per week in two-and-a-half days (last year's schedule), Paul has been seeing 5/6 and 7/8 classes twice per week. Also during Term One, a K-0 theatre class met once per week, and two Theatre Production classes—comprised of elective K-5 students—also met twice per week! In Term Two, 5/6 classes continue to rehearse two separate plays; 7/8 classes are working on filming and editing Public Service Announcements (PSA's); and regular theatre classes have commenced for certain K-5 classes. Confusing? Not when you're livin' it!

Paul would like to invite MHS families to get involved! We need help with costumes, props, scenery construction and painting, and stage assistants for the two 5/6 plays, which will go up in the spring. One of the plays is titled, TOYWORLD (working title), and was written by Paul and MHS students last year. This humorous play centers around the concept of candy being used as a vehicle to take over society. EMPEROR STUMP'S NEW CLOTHES is a thinly veiled political satire based on the familiar story, "The Emperor's

New Clothes.” Please send an email to Paul at
VOICES OF MHS

psedgwick@missionhillsschool.org to express your interest in helping out with the productions, and we will organize a meeting to discuss details and to create a production plan. Thank You!

-Paul

NURSE

This is the time of year when many students come to the nurse not feeling well. They usually say that they have the flu. But, do they? Flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. They may have similar symptoms which can make them hard to distinguish between. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the symptoms of flu can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue (tiredness). Cold symptoms are usually milder than the symptoms of the flu. Colds usually do not result in serious health problems, but the flu can lead to pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.

If you know your child has the flu or you suspect it, keep them home and seek medical care if

needed. If you think your child has a cold and is able to come to school please remember to:

1. Check their temperature – if it is over 100 degrees they have to be home for 24 hour with no fever, and no medication to bring it down to under 100 degrees.

2. If they have any vomiting, and/or diarrhea they have to be home for 24 hours without symptoms.

3. If your child has asthma, send in a rescue inhaler to school (colds and flu both can cause coughing and increase in asthma symptoms). If they have a bad cough, and asthma symptoms, maybe they should be seen by their health care provider.

How to prevent illness? The two best ways to control the spread of flu and colds are to wash your hands frequently and cover your cough. If your child has symptoms and is not feeling well, they should not be coming to school and exposing others to the germs. Let them stay home, rest, drink fluids, monitor their temperature and any other symptoms that are of concern. If you think it is the flu, contact your medical provider for guidance.

Below is the Cold Versus Flu Chart from the CDC (centers for disease control and prevention) so you can look and see if you have a cold or do you have the flu?

-Nurse Georgie

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

We'd like to introduce ourselves and what we do as occupational therapists (OTs) at MHS. You may see inflated seat cushions, slant boards, lap weights or fidget tools in classrooms. These and other OT tools are there to help students improve handwriting, spatial understanding for math, be organized, or stay focused and learning ready. Our job is primarily to support students on IEPs. Our strategies can be helpful to many other students too, so we offer them to be used in MHS classroom and families in general.

We like to work in classrooms, right there while students as are learning and working. We sometimes pull students out for more focused work. Some students benefit from using the SPOT (speech-OT) room, which is set up for specialized movement activities that build body in space awareness, motor coordination, motor planning and sequencing. Twice a year we invite all MH

students to the SPOT room.
Everyone looks forward to
VOICES OF MHS

Friends to SPOT and it's
always fun.

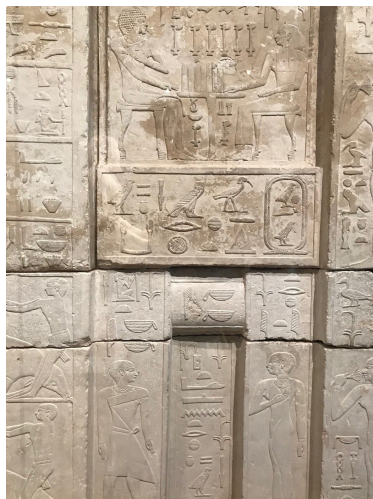
-Marion & Jackie

SPEECH THERAPY

Many of you know who I am, but for those of you who do not; I am the speech-language pathologist at the Mission Hill School! I have been part of this amazing community for the past three years. During my time here, I have had the great pleasure to work with students in the different grades and classrooms who have communication challenges in areas such as: speech production/articulation, fluency, literacy, ability to express themselves effectively, follow directions and complete tasks, social interactions and more. I have been working with students, either in their classrooms, or in pull-out groups in order to address those challenges, and to teach students different strategies they can use to help them become more independent and efficient when in the school setting. In addition, I have the pleasure of working closely with all the professionals (teachers, learning coaches, occupational therapist, physical therapist, psychologist, etc.) working in our school to ensure that our students are receiving all the support they need in order to be successful!

-Alexia Salata,
Speech-Language Pathologist

*Photos (below) were submitted by
the Art Department!*



ART

Collaboration, Creativity and
Cartouches

Meg and I have been in a job share since September. We each have half of the week and overlap on Wednesdays. It's been great to collaborate with each other and contemplate our school community and our work with children. We are truly fortunate. We have an amazing art room, plentiful supplies, and the freedom to create curriculum through theme. Our school has provided an opportunity for an art educator to be an academic and full participant in the mission and vision of our school. Meg and I meet at lunch on Wednesdays. We debrief our morning with students and plan ahead or change our direction according to our experiences during our art classes. We always have a plan and prepare each project with close attention to detail.

Over the winter break, we took a trip to the MFA to look at the art and artifacts of Egypt and Nubia. This was to prepare us for our most recent theme "Kingdoms of the Nile". We noted the collection was weighted more on the Egyptian side of history with Nubian artifacts not as present. This is a relevant part of the historical story involving recurring themes

of inequity and marginalization throughout history.

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We decided to have students first focus on looking at and making Egyptian hieroglyphs in journals and on cartouches. We will compare this symbolic language with the Ancient Nubian meroitic language. We have many projects planned and are excited by all the possibilities this theme can bring for learning and discovery through the arts.

As we continue to unearth history, we want to share the story of an ancient civilization by accurately honoring the people, their story and their contributions to human history.

-Jeanne & Meg

LEARNING COACH-JOEL

Choice within a Theme

Choice is an important aspect of one's buy-in and motivation, so I have been seeking to keep this closer to the forefront of my teaching. Our current theme "Civilizations of the Nile", offers a new opportunity to give students a chance to take the driver's seat of their learning. While, of course in my ESL class, I expect each student to practice and improve upon their reading, writing, listening and speaking, I know that there are many ways to accomplish this. Once students become familiar with the lay of the land in

regards to possible areas of study of Ancient Nubia and Ancient Egypt, then I will have them to determine and explain why they want to become an expert in their chosen area. Students will also have a say in their learning experiences and products used to demonstrate learning. I invite you to come to room 219 during our next curriculum breakfast to see how they have chosen to move forward.

-Joel

LEARNING COACH- KATHY B.

In the fall I wrote about GoalBook, a tool teachers use to write goals to provide Students with Special Needs strategies they can use to access curriculum. This month, I'm writing about a standardized test called ACCESS. This test is given to students who speak English as Another Language



or live in a family where other languages are spoken. These

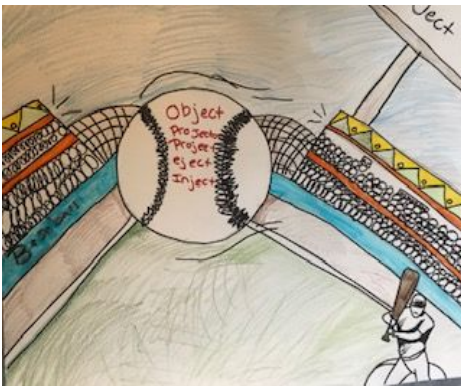
Photo submitted by Leila!

So much fun in the mud!

students are called English Learners (ELs) or English as a Second Language (ESL) Learners. Upon entering the school system, ELs are assessed and assigned an English Development Level (ELD). Every January, learners with an ELD level are given the ACCESS test in the content areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Social Language.

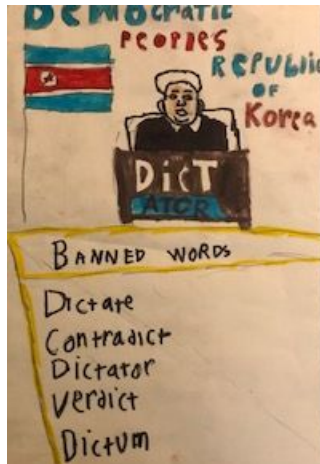
The standards and test for each ELD level are set by a consortium called WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment). Benchmarks range from 1 (beginning English Learner) to Level 5, after which students exit out of an ESL program and/or ESL support. The results are used by ESL teachers to teach academic concepts with methods that support ELs. At MHS, Learning Coaches do this work along with the Classroom Teachers because we are certified in ESL, as well as, Special Education. Until recently, ESL was not a certification that most General Education teachers had which is why we work with ELs at MHS in their classrooms and in small groups. **(Part 1)**

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happening across the school. On a recent Wednesday, I tracked student interactions as I moved from class to class.

In Room 108, Sarah takes off her snowsuit all by herself! Benjie is working at a table. August stops by. "Can I play, too?" Next, in Room 106, Xander and Jayden are ready to illustrate their poems. We read a classic from Maurice Sendak's *Chicken Soup with Rice*. "I'm making slippery ice," Xander proclaims. In Room 107, I take two guided reading groups every day, and Gi'o knows it's his turn. He rushes out to the table in the hallway and eagerly picks up his book. In Room 109, Didi, Marissa, and Abe are ready for guided reading. We play a matching game with tricky words, then find the same words in our book. Before I know it, it's outside time. We're all disappointed that yesterday's ice has melted, but kindergarteners are ready to get to work with the new mud!



-Leila, Learning Coach

LEARNING COACH-VANESSA

This year Kathy B. and I have embarked upon a vocabulary/word study journey with the 7th and 8th graders. Every Thursday afternoon we are working with them to improve their knowledge of words and their parts. A common question when we began was, "Why are we doing this?" My response is that once you understand the parts of words and know the meaning of common roots, prefixes, and suffixes it grows your ability to comprehend unfamiliar words exponentially. We began the most recent unit with the students learning what roots, prefixes, and suffixes are through a hip hop song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOJrjNR7ZZM>). Once they became familiar with how roots, prefixes, and suffixes can



change word meanings through various activities, they created a card game for which the objective is to create as many words as possible from the
Photos submitted by Vanessa!

deck of word part cards. The current unit is drawing to a close, so students have been working on a final unit poster project. Each partner group was given a root or prefix. They then had to decide on a drawing that would represent the meaning of their given root or prefix. The poster also includes the meaning of the assigned word part and five words that include the assigned word part. Check out some of the student work products below.

-Vanessa

Mission Hill K-8 School

A Boston Public Pilot School

WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG

Ayla Gavins, Principal

Deborah Meier, Founder

HOT TOPICS!

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!



Puppet Show for Mission Hill School!

Sunday, Feb. 3rd @ 1pm
Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station Street, Brookline

Join us **Sunday, February 3rd at 1pm** for a puppet show written and performed by Bonnie Duncan/Milstein (MHS parent) as a fundraiser for Mission Hill School!

The show, "Go Home Tiny Monster", is appropriate for **all ages** and will be performed at the Puppet Showplace Theater at **32 Station Street in Brookline Village**.

For tickets, go to <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1000526> and choose the February 3rd, 1pm show and apply the promo code **'MHSFRIENDS'**. You will then see the option for free tickets. Order tickets and you will have an opportunity to donate to MHS at the show!

If you can't attend, you can still make a donation to Mission Hill School at <http://mp.gg/cocm6>



Espectáculo de marionetas para Mission Hill School!

Domingo, 3 de febrero
a las 1pm

**Puppet Showplace Theater 32 Station
Street, Brookline**

¡Únase a nosotros el domingo 3 de febrero a la 1 pm para un espectáculo de títeres escrito y realizado por Bonnie Duncan / Milstein (madre de alumno de MHS) como recaudador de fondos para la escuela Mission Hill!

El espectáculo, "Go Home Tiny Monster", es apropiado para todas las edades y se realizará en el 'Puppet Showplace Theater' en 32 Station Street en Brookline Village.

Para boletos, vaya a <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1000526> y elija el programa del 3 de febrero a la 1pm y aplique el código de promoción "MHSFRIENDS". A continuación, verá la opción de entradas gratuitas. ¡Ordene boletos y tendrá la oportunidad de donar a MHS en el show!

Si no puede asistir, aún puede hacer una donación a la escuela Mission Hill en <http://mp.gg/cocm6>



Impact of the Federal Government Shutdown on SNAP Benefits: What You Need to Know

⇒ Instead of getting SNAP in February, you will get it early – between January 17 & 20th.

In Massachusetts, households get SNAP (food stamps) between the 1st and 14th of each month. If you get SNAP on your EBT card early, you do NOT need to call the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) unless you have a question or need to tell them something about your case.

⇒ DTA will NOT be issuing SNAP again in February.

If you get SNAP on your EBT card early, you will not get SNAP again in February. Keep this in mind when you are making decisions about buying food. SNAP will stay on your card until you decide to use it!

⇒ If DTA needs paperwork to approve your SNAP or keep your SNAP case open, get it to DTA as quickly as possible.

Due to the shutdown and directions from the federal government, it is important that you send DTA missing paperwork as quickly as possible. The fastest ways to get paperwork to DTA are:

- Upload documents on DTAConnect.com
- Take a picture on your smartphone and send through the DTA Connect app
- Go to a local DTA office

⇒ If you do not get SNAP on your EBT card between January 17 and 20th or you have questions for DTA, call 1-877-382-2363. There may be long wait times.

More Information

- The shutdown has NO impact on SNAP eligibility rules or on DTA's issuance of cash assistance benefits.
- Retailers will continue to accept SNAP during the shutdown.
- If the shutdown continues through February, we do not yet know what will happen to SNAP in March.
- When the shutdown ends, SNAP will go back to normal.

- For up to date information from DTA on the shutdown and its impact on SNAP, go to: [Mass.gov/DTA](https://www.mass.gov/dta)
- For help with food resources in your community, call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333



Codman Square
Health Center



TAX CLINICS

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Wellness & Fitness Center, 450 Washington Street, Dorchester

January 26 - Mid-April



HOURS



MONDAYS

4PM to 8PM

TUESDAYS

4PM to 8PM

SATURDAYS

9AM to 1PM



Visit our website:
www.codman.org