



## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Monday, May 27  
**NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day**

**Tuesday, May 28, 11:00am**  
**Restorative Justice Circle for Students**

Thursday, May 30, 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
**Governance Board Meeting**

Friday, May 31, 8:00am  
**Restorative Justice Circle for Families**

Friday, May 31, 6:00pm  
**Nakia's Class Play**

May 24, 2019

Volume 22, Issue 29

### Ending on a Musical Note

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

One of my favorite things to do near the end of the school year is to look back at all of the wonderful things that have happened and the challenges we've learned from. What have we learned? Looking back on the school year I'm sure we all have different stories to tell, but here are some things we participated in as a school community.



In late summer you found out who your child's teacher would be. In September some of you joined us for the meet and greet potluck. You met new friends, and saw old friends or familiar faces. Families came in for Listening Conferences and grades 5&6 went to Farm School. Our first school wide chemistry theme began. Listening conferences continued in October. Then we had lots and lots of

visitors from the Netherlands. November brought us the Teacher Powered Schools Conference where many of our staff attended workshops or presented. A few MHS parents joined us there for a workshop.

This winter the Book Fair, Dress Like a Book Character Day and Pajama Day all happened in December. In January our Kingdoms of the Nile study began and we held our first Geography Bee. Families filled our school during February family conferences. Grades 7&8 went to the Farm School and the MHS debate team had a tournament. MHS staff traveled to Denver, CO and to Jackson, MS for conferences. The BSO musicians played at MHS for the first of four sessions with us. In March a Bertucci's fundraiser and Mix it Up week brought us together in different ways.

In the spring report cards were sent home in April. After a week of vacation with mostly sunny days we hosted progressive educators from across the country, participated in Screen Free Week and Family Games Night. May was full of gifts. We had Teacher Appreciation Week, picture day and a wonderful music concert! The Mission Hill Get Down was a great time for a great cause. June has sharing, celebration and fun in store. Exhibitions, Recollections, graduation, Field Day and more farm school are ahead. The final report card of the year will come home or be mailed home on June 17.



Earlier this year musicians from the BSO performed for our students and taught them about the instruments they play. About half of our school went to see the BSO at Symphony Hall. Our theme this spring naturally connected to songs. Our students singing could be heard just about any time of day if you walked through the school. This week the music concert brought it all home. Our next two Friday Shares, the last ones of the year, will be musical in different ways. I love that we are ending a good year on a musical note.

*Ayla Gavins*



## KINDERGARTEN

### Room 106

#### Kathy, Liana & June

Poetry has been of interest to the the students in room 106. We have been learning poems all year long. The children became even more passionate when we started to learn about Phillis Wheatley and Maya Angelou. We also read *Dave the Potter* by Laban Carrick-Hill, the story of David Drake, an enslaved African American who wrote poems in the pottery he made.

As a class we started to experiment with rhyming. The children each wrote a finishing rhyming verse to the song *Down by the Bay*. That got them excited to write more. The class wrote a poem about Ayla. That poem reminded us that not all poems have to rhyme. We made a list of topics we could write about. The list was long. The children each wrote their own poems. Here are two samples.

#### Football

By Benjamin

I know how to play football.  
I know how to play football.



Photos submitted by room 108

I super know how to play  
football.

What's A Sport?  
By Wyatt

#### Sport

#### Sport

What's a sport?

A sport is a game.

A sport is a competition.

A sport is fun.

-Kathy

### Room 107

#### Jada & Manny

Stepping into the shoes of others is a skill, a habit of mind that helps guide our practice at Mission Hill. It also happens to be the mission of KidsInDeed, an organization that worked with our classroom around empathy for the larger portion of our school year. In fact, it's also the basis on which our study of the African American Struggle for Justice stands. If we cannot recognize/empathize with the pain/struggles/injustice against others, our world is destined to stay in a state of perpetual stagnation that elevates some and denigrates others. However, empathy is a progressive agent that changes the world.

Our community always has families dealing with loss, sickness and the many challenges that life brings. Will, one of our Dragon Kitties

has been in the hospital for several weeks now. When our community heard he was there, numerous classrooms took the time to make him cards to brighten his days there. Students from the upper grades have come to ask about how he is doing and ask to be kept informed. As small as the gesture was, our empathy helped to change Will's world in those moments. It was amazing to see our community embody the idea that when one of us hurts, we all hurt.

*-Jada*

### Room 108

#### Geralyn & Donna

"It's snowing flowers!" exclaimed Jaylah. We had

ventured into our schoolyard orchard, and the apple blossoms were gently floating in the breeze. Some children collected pink apple blossoms from the blanket that covered the grass, while others gravitated to the dandelions that had gone to seed. Alysha called these white seed puffs, "Dandy-fliers" as she and her

friends blew the dandelion seeds into the air. Soon, we will be able to observe the tiny apples beginning to grow. Each spring, no matter what our schoolwide theme is, the K0 students spend time observing and delighting in the seasonal changes. Violets, daffodils, tulips, and the amazing bleeding hearts have inspired our wonder. What seasonal changes have you noticed? Take some time with your child to appreciate and talk about what you are noticing.

And as a reminder, we will see you Friday, June 7th for our Exhibition 9:15 - 10:00 am!

*-Geralyn*

### Room 109

#### Katie & Nelly

The baby frogs have arrived and are swimming and growing! Our elective group has met four times, and the children are enjoying researching these incredible amphibians. Last week, one child told us that amphibians shed their skin - they even shed their eyelids. While reading we learned that adult frogs have two sets of eyelids, one that works as goggles to protect their eyes while they swim and one that allows frogs to blink. We learned that adult frogs have eyes on top of their heads so they don't have to turn their necks to see their prey. The children noticed that adult frogs have larger hind legs than front legs.

These hind legs help frogs to be great jumpers, they decided.

While observing our tadpoles, the children noticed that the tadpoles were changing colors. They're now lighter brown with some pink or red near their mouths. Maybe it's blood, they



*Photo submitted by room 205*



hypothesized. We weighed the

## CLASSROOM NEWS

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tadpoles and calculated their average weight. On average, they've gained three tenths of an ounce in ten days. We can't wait to continue watching these tiny creatures metamorphosize!

-Katie

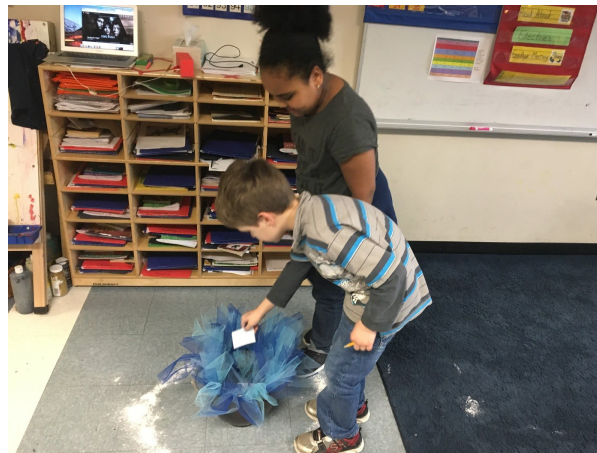
## GRADES 1 & 2

### Room 205

#### Ashleigh & Alana

Last week, during Think Outside Thursday, the Cocoa Kids took a mindful walk in the Arboretum. We walked silently on different paths. On each path we focused on one of our senses. First, we used our sense of hearing. At the end of each path, students shared what they observed. Some students heard rocks crunching under feet, different types of bird calls, leaves rustling, and water flowing. On another path we used our sense of smell. We could notice the smell of lilacs and fresh cut grass. We also used our sense of sight and our sense of touch. At the end of the mindful walk we found an awesome natural part of the Arboretum and the class

decided to have recess there instead of back at school. Students lifted logs and found worms and insects. Some students climbed to the top of hills and ran down as fast as they could. Others found walking sticks and arranged logs to create pretend play spaces. It was a perfect day!



-Ashleigh

*Photos submitted by room 216*

### Room 216

#### Danny & Felicia

"Danny, I didn't know Harry Potter was going to be this fun!" Josiah exclaimed at the end of last week's electives.

Our Harry Potter elective is in full swing, and we ended last class with a game of Quidditch. The rain didn't dampen our spirits as Chasers tried to score with the Quaffle while the Seekers raced around the field looking for the Snitch. We

have also made prank toys in the style of Weasley's Wizard Wheezes, learned how to properly cast spells like "Reducto" and "Levicorpus", and tried some really gross flavors of Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans! Our Triwizard Champions this year are Rex (Horned Serpent House), Lola (Pukwudgie House), Emeric (Thunderbird House), and Majadi (Wampus House). With two tasks down and one to go, it's the closest competition we've ever had! Only 4 points separate the first place team from

the last place team! Next week we will have the final task, and we look forward to seeing

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**CLASSROOM NEWS**

which house will win the 3rd Annual

Triwizard  
Tournament! Stay  
tuned!

*-Danny and Sarah*

**Room 217**  
**Kate & Stephanie**  
Original Poem by  
Eloise Greenfield,  
adapted by  
Jeremiah

By Myself  
When I'm by myself  
And I close my eyes  
I'm a tagger  
I'm a dancer  
I'm a Celtic  
I'm a whatever I want to be  
An anything I care to be  
And when I open my eyes  
What I care to be  
Is me

## **GRADES 3 & 4**

**Room 203**  
**Jenerra & Mayra**  
No news. Check back next  
week!

**Room 207**  
**Amanda & Amina**  
40 years ago a second grader  
joined her school's chorus.  
Since then she has sung on big



stages with the Boston Opera  
Company as a child and  
behind Mariah Carey as an

*Photo submitted by room 212*

adult and even at Fenway  
Park. She has sung in  
countless small/medium  
venues including at her  
church weekly. She has  
traveled the world to various  
locations in the US as well as  
internationally including  
Jamaica, Barbados and South  
Africa. This summer she will  
spend 10 days touring and  
signing in Italy!

This Wednesday we held our  
annual Spring Music Concert.  
What a wonderful musical  
time we had. For many  
students it was merely a fun  
time to sing a few songs with  
their classmates in front of  
their family members.  
However, maybe a spark has

been lit for  
someone. Maybe in  
40 years they too  
will look back and  
remember the  
awesome musical  
experiences they  
had this year that  
led them to a  
lifetime of joyfully  
musical expression

for themselves as well as  
countless others. Time will  
tell.

*-Amina*

**Room 212**  
**Cleata & Ayan**

Recently the Panthers visited  
the African American Meeting  
House in Boston and walked  
the Black Heritage Trail. We  
began our tour in the room of  
the Abiel Smith School, the  
first school in Boston for  
African American children.  
We discussed and responded  
to the question, "What are the  
characteristics of a strong and  
resilient community?" We  
then took to the trails. Our  
first stop was the monument  
of the 54th Regiment from  
1863, the first official all black  
infantry of the North led by  
Robert Gould Shaw. We were



inspired to think even more about what makes a strong and resilient community after our arrival at the Lewis

## CLASSROOM NEWS

built for escaped slaves and standing in the hall of the Freedom House helped us to somewhat visualize the struggle for justice and equality for all.

-Cleata

## GRADES 5 & 6

### Room 210

**Nakia & Kat**

No news. Check back next week!

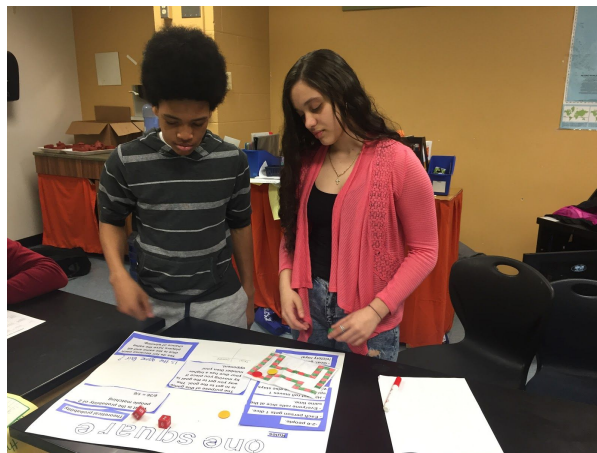
### Room 215

**Abdi & Courtney M.**

We were very fortunate to have a conversation with Professor Terrance Roberts, of the Little Rock Nine, Thursday, May 9th. He left leaving us inspired to take control of our education by becoming "CEOs of our learning". Jaiden S. took his words to heart writing, "Dr. Roberts is a very smart man and I can see why he was one of the little Rock Nine. I learned some good stuff from him like how not to say 'like' or 'ummmm' when I'm speaking. He also taught me that if someone shouts out 'Hey stupid' or etc. not to look

Hayden House. We reflected on how brave and sacrificing Lewis Hayden was as an escaped slave who hid

runaway slaves and protected them from slave catchers. The walk through the a tunnel



have to look that way." Noah reflected "Professor Roberts was different than I expected. When he was talking about his experience he was very positive and happy which I found amazing. He REALLY knew how to crack a joke." Students were able to ask all the questions they had created based on our reading, writing and theme discussions. Thank you to Jenna, Vanessa and Facing History for bringing him to our school.

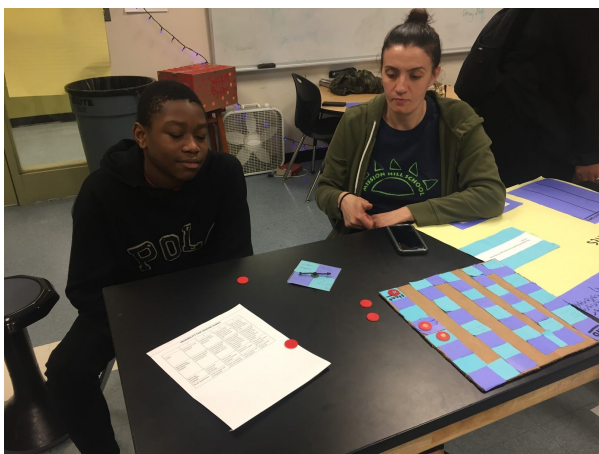
-Kathy B.

## GRADES 7 & 8

### Room 213

**Jenna & Natel**

7th graders demonstrated their understanding of probability through the creation of their own "carnival-style" probability game. They were tasked with creating a game, writing clear instructions and calculating and comparing the theoretical and experimental probability of winning their games. Enjoy photos of students and



that's because if you know that's not your name then you're good and you don't

Photos submitted by room 213

teachers playing each other's games.

*-Jenna*

**Reginald & Frances**

No news. Check back next week!

**Room 214**

## **SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS**

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### **Please consider supporting a MHS Family!**

On May 9th one of our Mission Hill School families was displaced due to a fire. If you are interested in helping out this family of 5, please consider dropping off a gift card to Target or Stop and Shop. You can drop off the gift card in our main office.

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### **Restorative Justice Circle**

An opportunity to share your thoughts about the transition of leadership that is happening at MHS.

### **Please consider joining us**

#### **Student's Restorative Justice Circle:**

Tuesday, May 28 at 11:00am

#### **Families Restorative Justice Circle:**

Friday, May 31 at 8:00am

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**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**



# It's Dinner and a Board Meeting!



**It's our last meeting of the year!**

Hello Mission Hill families!  
You are and have always been welcome to attend our Board Meetings. Please consider this your official invitation to come out and meet our board members, hear a little about important conversations in education, learn about ways to support our school and hopefully consider being a member in the near future. We consider your presence valuable so both dinner and childcare will be provided. Please

**RSVP for childcare at  
617-635-6384.**

We hope to see you there!

When: May 30, 2019  
Where: Art Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

# ¡Es comida y una reunion de la junta directiva!



## ¡Es nuestra última reunión del año!

¡Hola familias de Mission Hill!

Ustedes siempre son bienvenidos a asistir a nuestras reuniones de la junta directiva. Por

favor tengan en mente que esta es su invitación oficial para que conozca a nuestros miembros del consejo, escuchar

conversaciones importantes de la educación, aprenda sobre modos de apoyar nuestra escuela y considere ser un miembro del consejo en el futuro. Consideramos su

presencia valiosa, por lo tanto, se proporcionarán comida y cuidado de niño. Por

favor

**RSVP para el cuidado de niño al**

**617-635-6384.**

¡Esperamos verle allí

Cuando: El 30 de mayo del 2019  
Donde: Cuarto de arte (2do piso)  
Hora: 5:00-7:00 p.m.



# YOUTH UNSCRIPTED

*Limited spots!  
Join soon!*

Youth Unscripted is an after-school program for Boston-area high school students who are interested in a welcoming space where young people can share their experiences, practice leadership skills and use creativity for social change.

As a Youth Unscripted participant, you will explore identity and community through interactive theater games and conversation around social issues like racism, gender identity and mental health - all led by professional actors-educators.

At the end of the program, with their help, you will create and perform your own original theater piece centered on a topic relevant to your life.

## Why join? Here's what students love about Youth Unscripted...

"safe space to express myself"    "the creativity"    "the realness of the topics"  
"the acting & improv"    "opening up & making new friends"    "the creativity"  
"the way I could instantly be myself"    "drove me to want to make change"

### WHEN IS YOUTH UNSCRIPTED?

Thursdays, 4:00-5:30pm from mid-October to early-April & a week of rehearsals leading up to the final performance

### DO I NEED THEATER EXPERIENCE?

No, we will teach you basic performance skills. You just bring your experiences, ideas and a willingness to try new things.

### DO WE GET PAID?

Yes, participants receive a stipend

### WHEN DO WE GET PAID?

Since the stipend is based on attendance & participation, you get paid on the last day of the program in the spring

### HOW DO I JOIN OR LEARN MORE?

[rehearsalforlife.org/youthunscripted](http://rehearsalforlife.org/youthunscripted)



Rehearsal for Life is a Boston-based non-profit that supports social-emotional learning (SEL) development through creativity, dialogue, and performance. Its programs include Youth Unscripted, Re:Action Assemblies, Urban Improv, and Freelance Players. For more information visit our website: [rehearsalforlife.org](http://rehearsalforlife.org)





#DONTJUDGE

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**THURSDAY  
MAY 30  
5:00PM**

REGGIE LEWIS CENTER  
DANCE STUDIO  
1350 TREMONT STREET  
ROXBURY

**FREE  
PERFORMANCE!**



**BIT.LY/YUDONTJUDGE**



RESERVE A SEAT,  
SPACE IS LIMITED!

**PRESENTED BY:**



YOUTH UNSCRIPTED

[rehearsalforlife.org](http://rehearsalforlife.org)

Supported in part by:

