



## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Friday, June 7 (Time depends on classroom)  
*Exhibitions and Recollections*

Friday, June 14, 10:00am  
*8th Grade Moving On Ceremony*

Tuesday, June 18 & Wednesday, June 19  
*EARLY DISMISSAL: 1:30pm*

May 31, 2019

Volume 22, Issue 30

## The Year Ahead

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

Our hiring for the next school year is usually complete by now. You'd hear the new names coming on board and the names of staff members moving on to new places. This spring is a bit different. Our recommended new leadership team, Jenerra and Geralyn, still have an interview with the superintendent before being officially hired for the position. Depending on the outcome of their interviews, existing staff members or new hires may fill those positions.

There are some members of our staff that will be working in other places. We will miss them dearly. Each one has contributed so much to our school whether they were with us for one year or 15 years.

- Liana Cosgrove joined Kathy and June this year as part of the Peregrine Falcon team. Liana's Spirit of generosity, joy, and vigilance regarding racial equity is infectious. She taught us all well in the short time that she worked with us. We will miss her as she seeks a kindergarten teaching position.
- Our wonderful theater teacher, Paul Sedgwick, brought more than just theater to Mission Hill. He is a musician, builder, world traveler, and an incredible resource in general. We will always remember the history of the banjo that he shared with us and the student productions that grew from his vision of theatre at MHS.
- We've always known her as Kate Needham our loved first and second grade teacher. Kate Hughes, is her new name now that she has gotten married. Kate is moving to Vermont but will surely stay in touch. She has become a true friend to so many here in the Mission Hill Community.
- Reginald Toussaint will pursue his dream of teaching high school level history. Mission Hill graduates that come back to find him and to let him know how they are doing hopefully won't have too far to go to find his new classroom.

- Mary Brown enjoys being a paraprofessional and being helpful to others. She will continue to do this important work at the Kilmer lower school.
- Mayra Rivera also enjoys being a paraprofessional and would like a shorter commute. Myra will continue her work a bit closer to home at the Adams School.
- Courtney Bruno has been helpful to so many families. Courtney has been an amazing connector between the needs that people have and the services that can assist them.

Thank you all for the amazing contributions you have made to our school community. I hope you know how special you are and how grateful we are for your impact. Of course, once a Mission Hiller, always a Mission Hiller.

These teams are subject to change, but here's our most up-to-date information about who you can expect to see next year:

- Donna, Katie, Courtney M, Jada, Manny, Kathy, June, and a new hire on the kindergarten team
- Ashleigh, Alana, Danny, Felicia, Stephanie on grade 1&2 team
- Amanda, Amina, Cleata, Ayan, Kat, and a new hire on the grade 3&4 team
- Nakia, Abdi, Frances, and new hire on the grade 5&6 team
- Jenna, Natel, Kathy B., and Ayanna on the grade 7&8 team
- Jeanne, Meg, Cara and Adalberto on the arts team
- Joel, Vanessa, Kathleen, and Leila on the Learning Coach team
- Jenerra and Geralyn on the leadership team (if all goes well)

Our school is in great hands. We are so fortunate for that. Your hands are included when I think about who is holding our school. I am so grateful to our Family Council and its leadership along with our student leaders. I hope the positive spirit, action-oriented energy, inclusion, and thoughtful planning continues. You all hold this special place. Carry it with kind words and hands. Be good to each other with determination to be your best selves and to bring out the best in others.

Much love to you all.  
Signing off,

*Ayla Gavins*

### Friends to SPOT

Twice a year we invite all MH students to experience movement activities in the motor/SPOT room. The room has a suspension system for swings, therapy balls, mini trampolines, balance boards and beams, large crash pillows and more. We are having Friends to SPOT sessions over the next couple of weeks during which small groups of students from each classroom come for activities that challenge their body in space awareness, coordination, balance, eye-hand coordination, and ability to work cooperatively with peers. We plan obstacle courses, motor games and other movement activities at the skill level for each grade band. The highlights of this obstacle course for 5th and 6th graders included walking across a suspended bolster and walking on a balance beam and rocking boards without dropping a beanbag from their heads. They then had to coordinate with each other sitting on the swinging bolster as two of them propelled it with ropes and the third balanced without holding on anything. During both activities students had to maintain a green zone (calm and under control) behavior.

*-Marion*

### Learning Coach, Leila

At the beginning of every spring, as the end of school creeps into



view, I always start worrying. I had so many great things I wanted to teach this year! How will it all get done by June? Looking outside at the buds on the trees and the first hints of green, there always seems to be so much to do in so little time.

And then the weeks start flying by. Before I know it, it's the end of May. With only a few weeks remaining in the school year, I begin evaluating the progress students have made since the fall. A fresh smile spreads across my face. Reading levels have launched forward seemingly overnight. Math challenges that

used to spark tears are now being embraced with excitement. Kids who used to hate picking up a pencil now can't stop writing! As spring edges toward summer, the flowers are out, the trees are full, and Mission Hill students have blossomed.

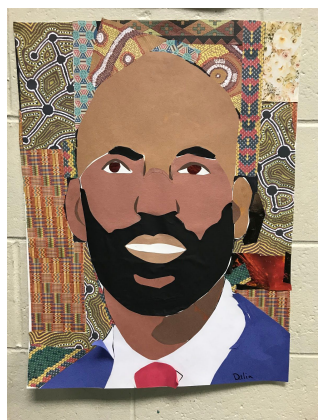
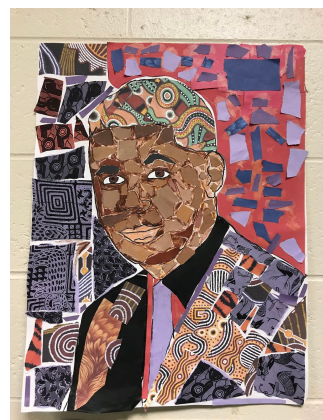
*-Leila*

### Tots, Trikes and Soccer

On Fridays I have been doing a trikes and soccer elective with K Quad students. My whole teaching career has been with middle school students so teaching such young students, like those in K Quad, has always been a bit of an unknown to me. The Friday elective time with them has been exhilarating, exhausting, and eye-opening all at once. It has been a pleasure to watch the kids strengthen their soccer skills and improve their mechanics on the trikes as each week passes. Additionally, putting students' names to faces I see in the cafeteria all the time has been a gift. I love seeing the kids in the middle of the week and having them tell me how excited they are for Friday's elective. I must admit that I was a bit nervous about doing this elective because it is far out of my comfort zone at school, but I am really enjoying it. Now if it would stop raining almost every Friday so we can ride trikes and play soccer outdoors, then it would be perfect!

*-Vanessa*



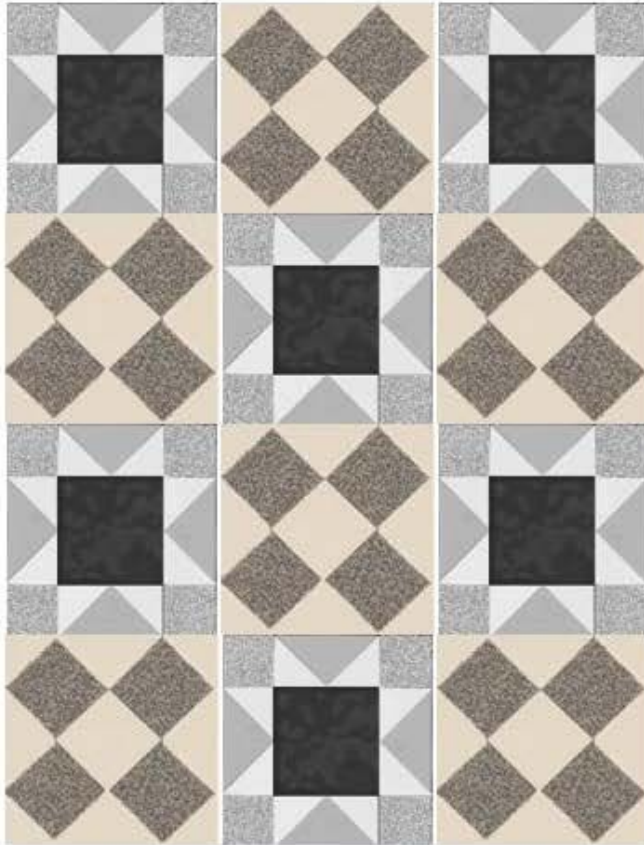


Ayla Gavins, Principal  
Deborah Meier, Founder  
Laura Perille, Interim Superintendent

Mission Hill K-8 School  
A Boston Public Pilot School  
[WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG)

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## K-4 Exhibitions

*It's our last Curriculum Breakfast  
for the year!*

*Hello Families!  
The school year has quickly  
come to an end.*

*Come celebrate the  
accomplishments of our  
students and hear about  
what they have learned  
during our last theme, the  
African American Struggle  
for Justice.*

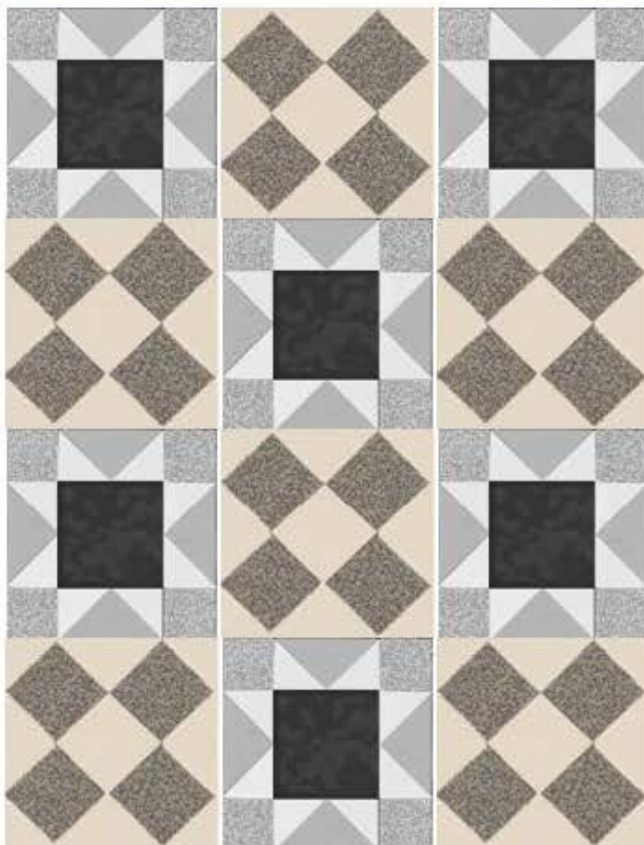
*It's a potluck, so bring a  
dish to share with our  
community.*

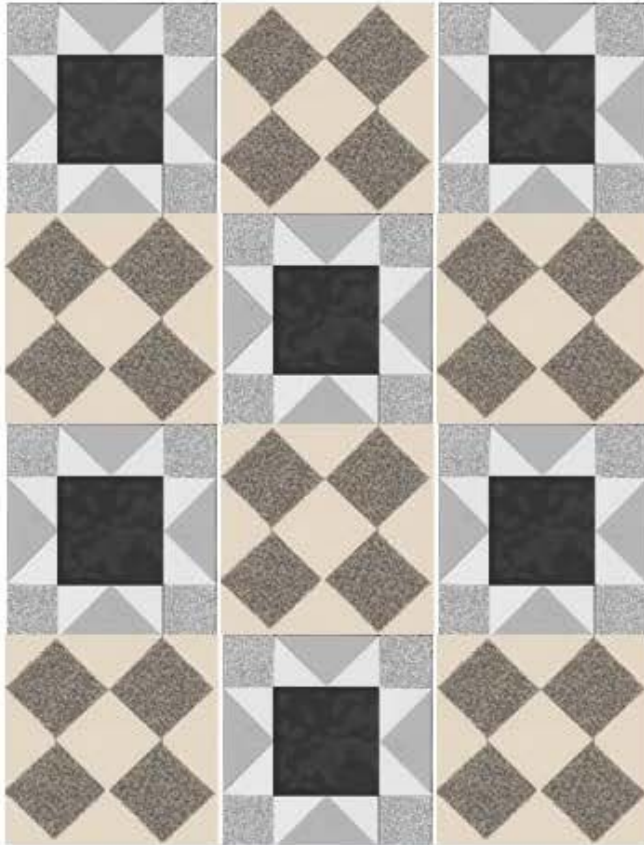
**Date:** June 7, 2019

**Time:** 9:15-10:15

**Where:** K-Quad and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor

*See you there!*





## Exposiciones de K-4

*¡Es nuestro último Desayuno del  
Plan de estudios para el año!*

*¡Hola familias!  
El año escolar ha venido  
rápidamente a un final.  
Venga celebran los logros de  
nuestros estudiantes y oyen  
sobre lo que han aprendido  
durante nuestro último  
tema, la Lucha por la justicia  
Afroamericana*

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

Fecha: El 7 de junio de  
2019

Tiempo: 9:15-10:15

Donde: K-cuadrillizo y 2do  
piso

*¡Nos vemos allí!*