



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Monday, September 16th
**Before School Program and
Imagine That! (after school) begin**

Thursday, September 19th, 5:30-7pm
**Back to School Night
(see flier for details)**

Thursday, September 26th, 5:00-7pm
**Governance Board Meeting
All invited to attend**

Beginning Friday, September 20th the weekly newsletter will be sent home through the email address you provided on your emergency form. If you have not turned in an emergency form for this school year, please contact the office to request a new packet. 617-635-6384.

September 6, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 1

What is your 'why'?

Last week the Mission Hill School staff came together at The Farm School in Athol, MA for our annual August retreat. As always, The Farm School was the perfect place to deepen our relationships and begin our collective work for the year. Having spent many summer days in leadership institutes at the district level, Jenerra and I thought a great deal about the reasons which compel us to do this work. What draws us in and inspires us to keep going? In this week's newsletter you will find our "why," a snapshot into who we are as educators, leaders and people...



Jenerra Williams:

I'm a people person. I always have been. Although when I was a little girl, I was shy and reserved. It wasn't until high school and college that I really began to understand how much I enjoy interacting with others, especially young people. My original plan was to become a school psychologist, but for some reason, as I began that journey it just didn't feel right. I didn't want my first interactions with children to be from a deficit mindset. It wasn't until I started working with college students that something became clear to me – I had a gift for relationships, especially with young people. A gift that allowed me to see them fully and to share myself fully. A gift that allowed me to both teach and learn from them, in the most poignant and wonderful ways. Then I found Mission Hill, where relationships are appreciated and nurtured.

Relationships are the foundation for so many things: inclusion, belonging, empathy, understanding, collaboration, equity, confidence, resiliency and joy. This is the lens through which I see my new role as a Co-Teacher Leader. I'm looking forward to nurturing both existing and new relationships to come.

Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin:

Growing up the fourth of nine children, I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a teacher. I had only been reading a short time myself when I spent the summer teaching my younger brother to read. Born with developmental delays and communication challenges, it took quite a few years for Rich to learn to read and write, but that first summer my love for teaching had been ignited.

As we grew up, I watched my mother advocate tirelessly for my brother. She told me stories of how doctors and other “experts” at first told her she was worrying too much, and that he would be fine, only to then blame her “poor parenting” for his failure to thrive. We moved from Boston to New York the summer I was eight. That fall seven of us went to the neighborhood school we could walk to, while Rich was bussed across town to a school where none of his siblings were. That is when I started to become aware of how powerful it is when institutions and their leaders work in partnership with families, and how destructive it can be when that partnership is not present.

Fighting in partnership with families for equitable education and dignity for all was part of the fabric of our family growing up. I bring that mindset to my leadership work at Mission Hill School.



Moments from the MHS Staff Retreat at The Farm School (left to right)

1. The 3rd/4th grade team present their Earth and Space Science curriculum for review.
2. We shared delicious farm-to-table meals prepared for us by The Farm School staff.
3. Group juggle warm up!



People and Places 2019-2020

Room	Staff Members
Cafeteria	Before School: Jane Bolt, Director and Tianna Bohannon
019	City-Wide Playgroup: Silvia Rodriguez
106	Grades K1 & K2: Kathy D'Andrea & June Meyers
107	Grades K1 & K2: Jada Brown & Manny St. Vil
108	Grade K0: Liana Cosgrove, Quela Jules, Donna Winder & Sarah Kaney
109	Grades K1 & K2: Katie Deguglielmo & Courtney Megin
001	Music: Cara Campanelli
002	Music: Cara Campanelli
005	
006	Counseling: Alyssa Alvarado
125-A	Nurse: Georgie Marks
201	Library
202	Main Office: Jenera Williams, Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin, Yolaina Ellis
203	Grades 5 & 6: Saadia Coleman & Frances Pearce
204	MHS FUSE Lab
205	Grades 5 & 6: Nakia Keizer & David Warren
206 & 225	Sensory Integration, Occupational Therapy and Speech: Marion Sitomer, Alexia Salata, Jacqueline Pirie
207	Grades 3 & 4: Amanda McCarthy & Amina Michel-Lord
208	Apprentice Learning & Project Room
209	MHS Archive Room
210	Grades 1 & 2: Ashleigh L'Heureux, Alana Workman & Stephanie Batista
211	Art Room: Jeanne Rachko & Meg Walker
212	Grades 3 & 4: Cleata Brown & Ayan Osman
213	Grades 7 & 8: Jenna Hadley Goss and Courtney DeCarlo
214	Grades 7 & 8: Kathy Brucker & Ayanna Lord
215	Grades 3 & 4: Leila Parks & Katherine Chavez

216	Grades 1 & 2: Danny Flannery & Felicia Haynes
217	Student Support Room
218	Counseling: The Home for Little Wanderers
219	Learning Coach: Joel Webb, Vanessa Allaway, Priyadarshini Kumar, Sarah Kaney (substitute for Kathleen McCarthy)
220	"Fish Bowl" Meeting Room
222	SLP: Lourdes Ramos-Heinrichs BPS (speech-language pathologist)
223	Teacher Resource Room
224	COSE Coordinator: Kathleen McCarthy

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

Drop-Off and Pick Up

For everyone's safety and security, please be sure to use the Carolina Avenue entrance for all drop-off and pick-ups. The Child Street entrance is solely for the use of the Margarita Muñiz Academy. We thank you for your help with establishing and maintaining this routine.

Family Council

All adults who are part of the Mission Hill School community are part of Family Council. Family Council plans, hosts and attends events that support our network of families and the school. Family Council members act as organizers, supporters, leaders, learners, teachers and collaborators in a variety of ways. Please come to the monthly events. The October meeting will be held October 16th at 5:45-7pm. Everyone's perspective matters!

All families are automatically added to our Google group which includes you in emails and our events calendar to stay on top of upcoming events. Watch for emails from our executive team and feel free to reach out at any time at familycouncil@missionhillschool.org.

Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin and
Jenerra Williams, Co-Teacher Leaders
Deborah Meier, Founder
Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent

Mission Hill K-8 School
A Boston Public Pilot School
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It's Back to School Night!

Hello Mission Hill Families!

Come meet members of our staff, your child's teacher and find out more about what's in store for your child this year. (curriculum, schedule, etc.)

This event will be a conversation between adults, please RSVP for limited childcare at 617-635-6384. This is not a potluck, light refreshments will be provided. ☺

When: Thursday, Sep. 19, 2019 **Time:** 5:30- 7:00pm

Schedule:

5:30-6:00pm K0-K2 Families meet in K-Quad

6:00-6:15-Everyone meets in downtown area

6:15-7:00- Grade 1-8 families meet on 2nd floor in classrooms

Arts will be available for drop-in



See you there!

Es la noche de la regresa a la escuela

¡Hola familias de Mission Hill!

Ven a conocer los miembros de nuestro personal, el maestro de su hijo y saber más acerca de lo que está reservado para su hijo este año.(plan de estudios, horario, etc.)



Como este evento será una conversación entre adultos, por favor RSVP para ciudad de niños al 617-635-6384. Esto no es una fiesta de traje, pero el refrigerio ligero se proporcionará. ☺

Cuando: El 19 de septiembre de 2019

Tiempo: 5:30 - 7:00pm

Horario:

5:30-6:00 familias K0-K2 se reúnen en K-Quad

6:00-6:15 Todos se reúne en el centro de la escuela

6:15-7:00- familias de grades 1-8 se reúnen en las aylas el segundo piso

*Los Artes estarán disponibles para



¡Le ver allí!