



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Friday, October 18 & 25th, 9:45-10:15am
Friday Share (open to all)

Wednesday, October 30, 6:00-7:00pm
**Friends of Mission Hill School Meeting
(open to all)**

October 18, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 7

Relationships Matter

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

These past few weeks, I've been reflecting a lot on relationships and how essential they are for all of us and how foundational they are for our students' success. The relationships we establish, nurture and maintain within our school community should be one of our top priorities...as staff, students and family members. Relationships are the glue that keeps our community together. Sometimes though, when the days are long and the work is too much, we forget this. I wrote these words to help me remember, so I share them with you now.

Connection.

It is something we all desire, dare I say need.

It is creating a spark, planting a seed.

It is the beginning of something bigger,

Something larger than you and I.

It is the beginning of relationship.

Relationship.

It's how we are connected.

It's the things that bring us together.

It's how we deal with one another.

How we listen, learn and understand.

It's how we hear, teach and lend a hand.

It's how we celebrate the good moments we have

And how we process the harder ones as they pass.

It is the beginning of trust.

Trust.

It is a gift that relationships give.

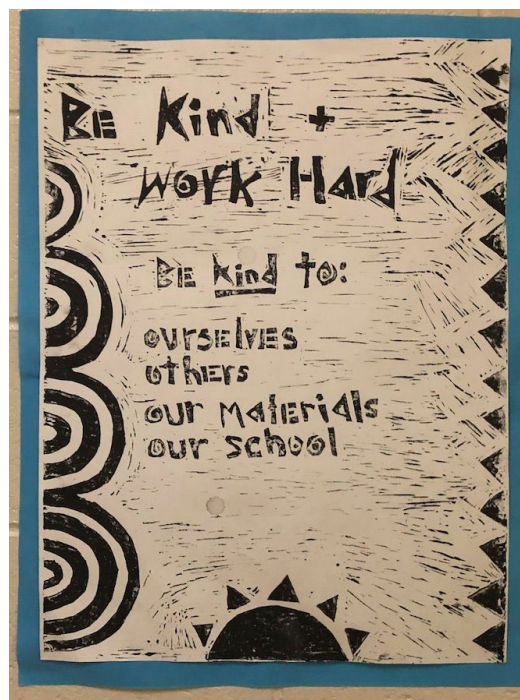
It holds them together.

If used well, it pushes them forward.

Trust leads us to be vulnerable but also approachable.

It allows the doors of communication to be open

And beckons us to walk through.



It fosters honesty and truth.
It helps us to be our best selves...for each other.

I challenge you to establish a relationship where there is none, nurture a relationship that is new, take care of one that is strained or work on repairing one that is broken...because relationships matter.

Jenerra Williams



**About Me Hands
3rd and 4th Grade**

KINDERGARTEN

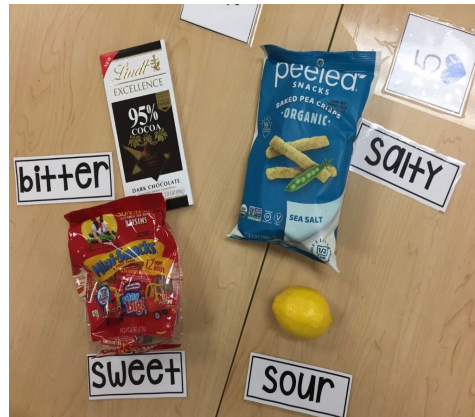
K0 Room 108

Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sarah

Students in **Room 108** are officially “The Burgers”! Last week the vote for a class name came to a close tie between “The Chickens” and “The Burgers” and so The Burgers were born. Prior to voting day students had practice with polls in many different forms. When The Burgers excitedly arrive at school each morning, part of their routine is to answer the “Question of the Day” such as “Are you wearing red today?” or “Do you like spaghetti?” They answer by putting their picture in the “Yes” or “No” column. After that they then move on to the Feelings Chart and move their picture to the emotion that best fits their mood. Students enjoy seeing the visual representation of the amount of friends who identify themselves as happy, angry, tired, anxious or sad. Another way The Burgers experience data collection is through taste testing with Liana. While exploring their 5 senses, students recorded their taste test results ranging from sweet and salty, sour and bitter. Additionally it is so fun to compare weather predictions with Quéla and track the weather throughout the week with the K0 team. There are so many ways we are experiencing data collection in our class. All in

all it's safe to say the Burgers are on a roll!

-Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sara



K1/K2 Room 106

Kathy & June

Melina, a student in my class, shared a story with me. She said, “Kathy, I told my family that I want to have home lunch because in the cafeteria there is a lot of waste with plastic spoons, plastic forks, and plastic knives. I want to protect the environment.” I asked her to share her story at the morning meeting. So many children in the class were inspired by her story that they too wanted to do more to conserve.

We had a discussion about the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Ailey and Walter came upstairs to ask what people thought reuse meant. Ayanna shared, “To use over, and over, and over again.” We even had a discussion about prefixes as some people we asked broke down the meaning to say that “re” means again.

This conversation has prompted our work in our study of Earth Science. Children are thinking of ideas on how they can do their part. Right after Melina’s conversation with the class, we decided not to use disposable spoons with breakfast. We will be working on how we can take utensils with us to lunch as well.

-Kathy & June

K1/K2 Room 107

Jada & Manny

After listing things that are a part of this Earth, we began talking about the difference between living and nonliving things. We asked students, “*What is a living thing?*” A few of them said:

“Whales are living things. They breathe. Humans are living things. Humans and animals are living things.”

We then asked, “*How do we know a living thing is a living thing?*”

They thought about it and said:

“They breathe. Their eyes move. They move. They do work. They roll. They blink. They look.”

We then asked, “*What do living things need to survive?*”

After a student listed animals as living things, we decided to take a trip to the Franklin Park Zoo to help us answer the question. By the end of our trip we noticed that in every animal habitat we

visited we saw containers for food or water.

-Jada Brown and Emmanuel St. Vil

K1/K2 Room 109

Katie & Courtney M.

109 has been working on telling stories using Vivian Paley's Storytelling & Story Acting. In this approach, a child tells a story to an adult who writes the story. The class then reads the story, chooses children to be actors, and acts out the story. It's generally one of the most joyful moments in the school day, and has many ways of bringing children together to build community. This week, two children told us they wanted to tell a story together. Never having experienced this before, we decided to try it out! Their story is below.

"Once upon a time, there was Noah and William. They were doggies. And all they did was play together. Friends. There was toys. The different toys in their house. And they slept in the same bedroom. The same bunk bed. And they saw Spiderman swinging in the roof, you can't see him. Spiderman is a superhero and he can get villians by shooting spiderwebs. And The End."

-Story by William and Noah,
article by Katie

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 210

Ashleigh, Alana & Stephanie

Wondering About Water - as our class begins to narrow in on our

focus for this theme, we began by sharing something we think we already know about water and some things we are wondering about water. Here are our wonders that we will explore in the coming weeks...

Jonathan: Do we have to drink water to be healthy?

Manny: How does water get filtered?

Sabina: How does water make whirlpools?

Isaiah: How does water make hurricanes?

Yeuri: Why does water make ice?

Perse: Why does water turn on top of waves?

Xander: How does water move continents?

Alice: How does water dry up?

Darwin: Why are there waves in the ocean?

Alessandra: Is water healthy for you?

Hannah: How does water hydrate you?

Azaiah: Why is water wet?

Rowan: Why do we drink water?

Kaleena: Why does water come from the sky?

Benjamin: How does water overflow?

Asa: What is water?

Jayden: Is there water under tornados?

Danae: What is in water?

Didi: Why is water so cold?

Kayari: Where does water come from?

Olivia: Why does it make waves?

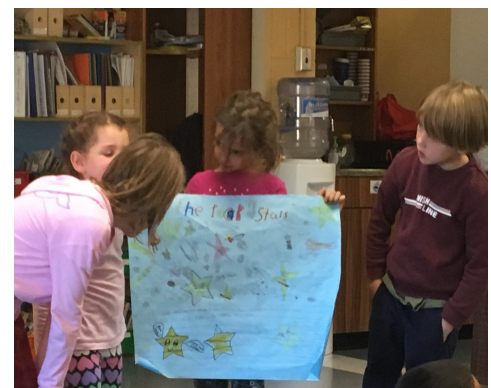
Room 216

Danny, Felicia & Destiny

This week we chose our class name for the year! First we put ideas for names on the board,

from "The Minerals" to "The Asteroids" to "The Earth Kids." There were plenty of Earth and Space Science themed names! We then crossed out names which were not relevant to our classroom (sorry, Jackson Storm and Team Pokémon!) and voted to narrow down the list to six names. Students then worked in groups at Project Time to create posters and presentations for their group's name, while thinking about the question "How can you get people who aren't planning to vote for your class name to change their mind?" Daniela thought she should "Make the poster really colorful", Anish wanted to "look at how other people are decorating their posters, and do some of that in ours", and Elian said "We could do a dance to the new Lil Nas X song." After sharing posters, the whole class voted until a majority selected one name. Team Earth was a very close second, but our new class name is The Rock Stars! Come visit The Rock Stars in Room 216!

-Danny, Felicia, and Destiny



GRADES 3 & 4

Room 207

Amanda & Amina

Listening conferences are one of my favorite school-wide routines at the Mission Hill School. It is a time when each individual student leads a conversation with their family and teachers. While teachers are asking questions, students are doing most of the talking and sharing. I have learned so much about every student and their family. I learned that students, who are in our community, have many talents outside of school. Some of those talents include rock climbing, horseback riding, creating comic books and art making. It is exciting to know that students are taking the initiative to learn outside of school.

Every conference excited me more as I realized what a well rounded and talented group of students make up our community. Miss Amina and I can't wait to continue to learn more!

-Amanda & Amina

Room 212

Cleata & Ayan

Mission Hill has a long history of including students' voices in support of democracy in our mission statement. Students have the opportunity to be agents of change and help to make decisions that support a

strong and positive learning community. This week a student from Room 212 wrote an invitation to join the "Friendship Bracelets and More" club. Please read and share with your students, friends or families:

Hello, my name is Freyja. Me and my friend Neli are starting a friendship bracelet club. We will be using gimp, string and yarn. For the stitches, we will be doing box stitch, Chinese staircase, zipper stitch, braid, swirl and candy stripe. We will also do finger knitting. Sign up sheets are in the office. We will start on Friday, October 18th and every Friday from 1:10 to 1:30 in the library. If you have any questions, see Freyja and Neli in Room 212.

-Freyja

4th grade student

Room 215

Leila & Kat

In 215, we are thinking about how best to represent our community. During our morning meeting on Tuesday, we brainstormed our greatest strengths as a class. Before we knew it, we had quite a list: dancing, friendship, eating, fixing our mistakes, kindness, kind words, listening, fun, giggles, working out and exercising, drawing, sports, writing, reading, patience, math (especially multiplication and division), energy, and awesomeness. What an incredible class, right? Now comes the hard part. Based on our strengths, we are beginning to think about class names that could represent us for the year. Each student will brainstorm 1-3

names, explain what they mean, and provide a convincing argument for why we should use them. What do you think? Is there an outstanding name that encompasses all of these amazing qualities? If you have any insight, please talk to a third or fourth grade student from 215.

-Leila & Kat

GRADES 5 & 6

Room 203

Ms. Coleman & Frances

We've had great experiences with Room 203 and "Changing Shadows". The objective for students is to see that people, birds, buildings, balls, and flagpoles have shadows on sunny days. That's because opaque objects block sunlight. A shadow is a dark area behind an opaque object. Room 203 had the chance to see their shadow and object move after tracing their bodies or poll that reflected on the ground.

Students were so excited to see the changes of their shadows and learn how the time of day changes the format. For example, if you are in North America, you need to be facing south to see shadows and when you are facing south, you need to be facing north to see shadows. -Saadia Coleman and Frances Pearce

Room 205

Nakia & David

Farm work, chores, several snack times, ample free time, options,

mind/body, classroom and meeting. All this and more work seamlessly while at the The Farm School for our overnight trips. Even more impressive is that much of this runs fairly independently. There are many, many impressive things about the magic of the farm, however I am always amazed by the infrastructure they have in place to allow children to be successful

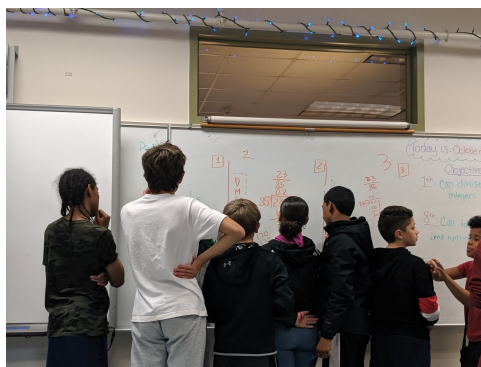
- Nakia.



Room 213

Jenna & Courtney D.

"I hate long division! 'I'm terrible at long division!" "Anything but division!" These were the groans that I heard when I told my small math group we were going to practice converting fractions into decimals by using long division. Long division is one of the math concepts that fill many middle schoolers (and adults) with dread but is an essential skill for a lot of middle school math. After reviewing the concept with my math group, we then spent the next two periods having "long division relay races." Students worked together to solve problems, each student taking a turn to record the next step. While there were many moments of frustration, there was also a lot of healthy competition and shouts over how to round decimals, mentally multiply two digit numbers and excitement when the team was awarded a point. Hopefully with a little more practice, we will soon hear "Long division isn't so hard after all!" -Jenna & Courtney D.



Room 214

Kathy B. & Ayanna

Last Thursday, we had the pleasure of hosting BAA staff and students during their community service day. Mr. Gregory Groover, music teacher, opened the circle with a poem by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

"Just A Minute"

*I've only just a minute, Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give an account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute,
But eternity is in it.*

This poem speaks a powerful truth. Taking personal responsibility for actions and learning is an ongoing conversation we've had with our students. It is part of our instructional focus for students to become more independent learners. The circle ended with 8th graders expressing their concerns about high school. BAA students reassured them for high school but once they arrived, their worries were alleviated. We are grateful for the time they spent with us.

GRADES 7 & 8

From the Superintendent

Superintendent Brenda Cassellius Community Tour School Parent Council Meetings

Dear Parent Council Parents:

You are invited to join Superintendent Brenda Cassellius on her community engagement tour to ask questions and raise concerns about your school community. She will be in your neighborhood to learn more about the concerns specific to your communities.

In order to ensure that we hear from as many school communities as possible, we ask that you pre-submit questions using this link:

[SPCs Community Questions](#). There will be a limited number of opportunities to ask additional questions at the meetings.

Please share with other Parent Council members and join us at one of the following meetings, or at one of the neighborhood town halls.

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius Community Tour

SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

East Boston & Charlestown
Thursday, September 12
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Charlestown High School
240 Medford Street, Charlestown

Mattapan & Hyde Park
Wednesday, September 18
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Mattapan Community Health Center
1575 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan

Allston-Brighton
Thursday, October 3
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Jackson Mann School
40 Armington St, Allston

Citywide Parent Council
Tuesday, November 5
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Bruce C. Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, Roxbury

Dorchester & Roxbury
Thursday, November 7
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Perkins BCYF Community Center
155 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester

Jamaica Plain, Roslindale & West Roxbury
Tuesday, November 12
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Roslindale BCYF Community Center
6 Cummins Highway, Roslindale

Citywide High Schools
Wednesday, November 13
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Bruce C. Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, Roxbury

Please visit our website to confirm dates and locations:
www.bostonpublicschools.org/communitytour



Dr. Brenda Cassellius toured Mission Hill School on Tuesday, October 8th.

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
WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG

20 Child Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(Carolina Avenue entrance)
T 617-635-6384
F 617-635-6419