



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Monday, November 11

No School

Thursday, November 14, 5:45pm-7:30pm

Family Council Meeting (open to all)

Saturday, November 16

Boston Debate League Tournament 2

John W McCormack Middle School

Wednesday, November 27

Earth and Space Science Curriculum Breakfast

9:15am - 10:15am

*Early Dismissal at 1:00

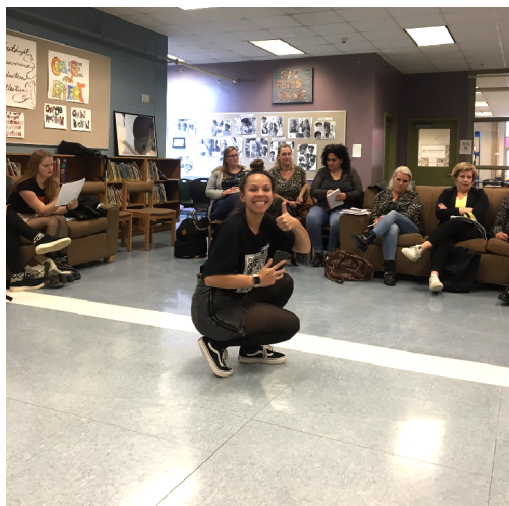
November 8, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 10

Extended Family

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

Last week and the week before, our annual visitors from the Netherlands arrived. As usual, they spent time talking with staff and students and visiting classrooms. They make this annual journey to learn more about Mission Hill School and progressive education, to glean ideas and inspiration for the work they are doing to change education in Holland. This relationship is long standing. Almost two decades ago, Heidi Lynne (a former founding teacher), Kathy Clunis and myself traveled to Holland to learn about their education system and share about Mission Hill. I have returned two more times since, and Amanda traveled there two years ago to do the same. We cherish the exchange with our visitors and they have become part of our extended family.



As is their tradition, one group shared feedback with us. This time their feedback was unique, as they videotaped it for us to have later. One by one they went around the circle and shared their thoughts about what they had seen, heard and felt.

Their comments are below:

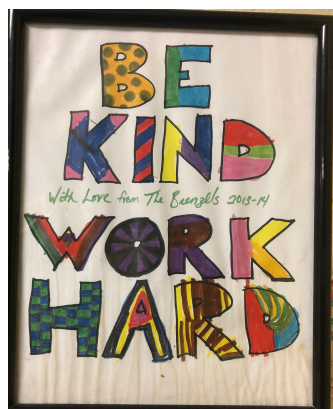
- *I saw trust and affection for them to do the question that you asked them.*
- *I find you a very professional, educated family.*
- *Your school is a school to my heart because listening to the children is the most important thing and I saw that.*
- *You can be proud of how you really teach the children to learn.*
- *I think your classroom don't feel like a classroom, but they feel like a warm home.*
- *I feel you are very welcomed and I like the ambience here at school.*
- *My first thought about the school and what I take back to the Netherlands is the way that your work could accelerate my students to learn more about themselves about being nice being kind. It's such a warm environment here.*
- *There was a 7 year old girl. Then she takes my hand and says, "Let me show you what I'm doing," and she was so proud of what she was doing. I think my students need to say that also.*

~ continued

- *I think you can be very proud about the teachers and the way you work together and you know everything from the little ones to the older ones and it's very beautiful to see.*
- *I want to thank you because you were very open and very helpful.*
- *I saw inclusion - full inclusion - and I don't see kids with special needs...*
- *You see something positive in everyone and everything. Its great.*
- *I was with 5 year olds. I saw children they can be themselves and when I leave here in Boston I share with them this school.*
- *I really like the ambience here.*
- *I see a tremendously amount of respect to each other.*
- *I love how you not only teach your children about growth mindset, but also have your own growth mindset and you really want to learn and keep on being better and you want your children to do that as well.*
- *I think there is a good vibe here and that is the base for the children to learn, I think that's the most important thing for children to learn.*
- *I think it's calm and peaceful and I really like to see that the teacher take the time to solve a problem with a child, so step by step.*
- *Again, when I'm at the school I see such a warm and loving environment for children and I think this is really the base for development and I have very trust that you will succeed in your plans and your goals.*
- *There are some kids with a challenge at the school and I see a team working with them making connection and respect and when they are doing which is not good there is no shouting but explaining and telling them what to do else. Keep going. Good job.*
- *I saw a beautiful environment with teachers that see and hear every child to come to good education so they learn how to learn and to react in the environment and culture.*
- *I really liked that the children are being challenged to think about a new subject in really different ways - on paper, on big collages, what is earth, what is a living being. If the child thinks other ways then the teacher doesn't say, "Oh no you're wrong." The teacher says, "Prove it to me. Prove you're right." That's nice.*
- *I am emotional because I feel that the things we've seen today, all people should see. I am also a little bit proud that I can work with these people seeing it. So, all the love.*

We felt the love indeed and look forward to their return.

Jenerra Williams



KINDERGARTEN

K0 Room 108

Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sarah

On the playground, Rowan fell and started crying. It's not unusual for a student of any age to fall outside, but what happened next was very unusual. Every single student in our class stopped their play and went over to Rowan. They surrounded him, their faces painted with equal parts concern and fascination. Some hugged him, some rubbed his back and others just waited until he stopped crying.

Three-year-olds are so interesting. They have recently grown out of the self-centered toddler stage and are beginning to develop empathy and community. When Anais became frozen with fear at the top of the stairs, Raevonii walked back up and guided her down. When Lorenzo struggled with his coat, Deusthcaelha helped him pull it on.

Ethan is a student who joined us just a few weeks ago. He speaks mostly Cantonese so he hasn't said much yet - he's mostly watching. Last Friday, after stacking a bunch of blocks in a pile, he put his hands out presentation-style and said proudly, "I TOWER." Kai gasped and clapped loudly for him. Pure joy.

-Liana, Donna, Quéla, Sarah

K1/K2 Room 106

Kathy & June

What do you think the word **saxicolous** means?

I posed this question to The Cats in room 106. Here is what they thought.

Forest: When you fall down and get a cut.

Jayden: Ants

Melina: When you are sick.

Jaelle: When you are sick and your mom says, "Come."

Jayna: I think it means books.

Griffin: I think it means it is a dinosaur that lives under water.

Selma: I think it is a constellation.

Walter: When a cat bites you and it is healthy and you get sick.

Esa: When you burn your finger at home.

Ailey: When a poisonous snake bites you.

Ezra: I don't know.

Jo Jo: I think it is a unicorn.

Leora: A lollipop.

Ceajae: I don't know.

Xander: I think it is when a train is coming down the track and a squirrel runs on the track. The train stops and the squirrel gets on the train.

How can we figure out what it means?

Ask Siri, ask Alexa, go on a field trip to a museum and ask, ask you mom, ask you dad, ask a friend, go apple picking, I don't know, ride a unicorn, ask yourself, write a book.

-Kathy & June

K1/K2 Room 107

Jada & Manny

With the idea that a seed is a promise of a living thing, we planted our own sugar snap pea seeds. After a few weeks passed, we took another look and noticed:

Raven: It (soil) is dry. I feel it and it is dry. We maybe put too much water.

Jonathan. I saw some little pebble things. It's so dry (soil) that it's sticking to each other and it's making dirt balls.

August: The soil looks like it wants something to drink so it can grow a flower.

Clearly what we were doing was not working so we brainstormed some ways to help our plants grow. Josue said, "The soil is dry because of the light. The light is bright so it makes it dry." This prompted us to turn off/on the plant light daily. Maeve said, "It is dry because we aren't watering it." We then made it a job to water our plants. Come by and see if what we did is working.

-Jada Brown and
Emmanuel St. Vil

K1/K2 Room 109

Katie & Courtney M.

This week we visited the New England Aquarium thanks to a grant Kathy received that funded our visit! Almost as exciting as the aquarium itself was the adventure on the MBTA to get

there! Our students were delighted about riding the Orange Line *and* the Blue Line to get from Mission Hill School to the New England Aquarium. On the T, an interesting thing happened.

A child found a discarded Metro Newspaper. With delight they opened it up and started reading! Soon others wanted to read too! They separated the pages, including the advertisements inside and shared the joy of reading the newspaper with their friends! Even at these early stages of literacy, this interaction with environmental print reminded me of the importance of modeling for children how literacy helps us in our daily life. Throughout the day children read the maps of the MBTA, signs in the T station, exhibit labels in the Aquarium, and descriptions near their favorite fish to gain information. It was a pleasure to see the children so motivated to interact with print!

-Katie



GRADES 1 & 2

Room 210

Ashleigh, Alana & Stephanie

This week Cocoa Kindness took a trip to the Waterworks Museum. We reviewed the water cycle, got a tour of the water system, learned about tools used to clean water, and played a fun game about how UV rays can kill germs in water. Here are some of our reflections.

Rowan: My favorite part was seeing the pipes. They were really cool!

Olivia: I liked playing the tag game. We got to run around.

Isaiah: I liked going downstairs. I was listening to the museum teacher.

Manny: We learned about how water works.

Perse: I loved what I had for lunch.

Sabina: My favorite part was going underground - under the machines.

Asa: I liked the tag game. There were lights to tag people with. Kaleena: My favorite part was playing the game.



Room 216

Danny, Felicia, Destiny & Yuliza

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting individuals who were visiting from the Netherlands. We also took a trip to Franklin Park where the Rock Stars were able to test ways to see how

rocks move from one location to another. They were also finding areas of significant change in landforms over time. We checked out the root wedging, weathering, erosion and deposition on hills and in streams.

During Project Time this Monday the Rock Stars have been learning about windbreaks. The Rock Stars had to take their time to build a sturdy structure which could keep the wind from getting in while making sure the structure was light enough so it's cost effective. Danny gave clear instructions that the Rock Stars could use cheap and light material that kept the (sand) hill intact. The Rock Stars used snap cubes, Legos, clay, blocks, pattern blocks and more. The end result was a tie between Anish, Ethan, and Yaniel's group and Airlie, Daniela, and Emerson's group for the strongest and most cost effective structure. Stay tuned as students work next week to design buildings which are resistant to natural disasters!

-Felicia



GRADES 3 & 4

Room 207

Amanda & Amina

Webster's dictionary defines the word "pace" as 1. rate of movement. 2. rate of progress. The word pace has been on my mind lately. In regards to SoleTrain, the running program here at Mission Hill, we are training to pace ourselves when running, especially over a long distance. At our recent 5K many students sprinted for short periods of time not thinking about the 5 kilometers we needed to cover to complete the entire race. It is really hard to sustain a continuous run when you have used up ALL your energy in a very short period of time. The goal is to train our bodies to find just the right speed to run for an extended period of time.

We have also been thinking about how students pace themselves while working especially during assessments. At Mission Hill students often have large chunks of time to work on projects and assignments. However, there are times when students have a

specified amount of time to complete work. How do we help them make the adjustment? In our room we have been thinking about this and providing times for students to practice.

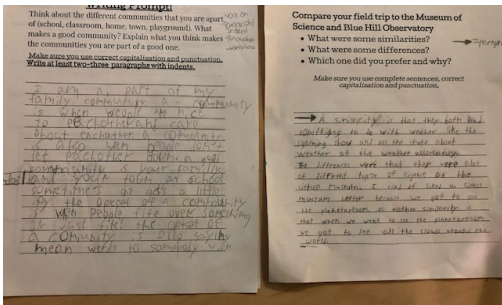
-Amina & Amanda

Room 212

Cleata & Ayan

Writing is one of my favorite kinds of academic work and so as a class the Black Warriors work hard at their writing. We know that writing is a process; a piece of writing is never finished after one try! Students are in different places as writers; some are working on mechanics, while others are working on structure or idea development. This week as we were writing a reflection about our last two field trips, a fourth grader who can write well was rushing, so his handwriting was not reflecting his best penmanship. After encouraging him and of course reminding him that he should give his best effort, he revised his work and presented a better version. This became a teaching moment for the whole class who were reminded that in third and fourth grade we should be working on using our best handwriting. As the year goes by we we will continue our work on writing using paragraphs, appropriate grammar, the writing process, traits of good writing and of course correct spelling!

-Cleata Brown and Ayan Osman
(see photos on page 6)



Photos from Room 212

Room 215 Leila & Kat

We debated our class name for weeks, utilizing all five Habits of Mind in favor of and in opposition to different name choices:

- **Relevance:** Students explained how their name choices represented our class's strengths.
- **Evidence:** Students listed reasons why their names were the best match for our class.
- **Viewpoint:** How would people with brown eyes feel if we called ourselves the Blue-Eyed Wolves?
- **Connections:** There were already classes called the Ninjas and Evolve last year, so the Evolvers or Justice Ninjas don't

represent how unique we are.

- **Conjecture:** If we hadn't eliminated the G'Mauree Kids class name, G'Mauree might feel weird about that later in the year. What about other kids?

In the end, we finally came to a consensus. I am proud to introduce you to the official name of Room 215: The Wonders.

Merriam-Webster lists six definitions for the word *wonder*—everything from “a cause of astonishment or admiration” to “something awesomely mysterious or new to one’s experience.” What better way to describe our *wonderful* class?

GRADES 5 & 6

Room 203

Ms. Coleman & Frances

Room 203 has been writing a two-page essay to express thoughts about their experience at the Farm School. Here are some of their thoughts:

Jack - I like being around an animal and experiencing the difference between city life and country life.

Moxie - It was super fun and super exciting because it was my first time experiencing the sleepover.

Majadi - My favorite at Farm School was the animals, the garden art and the food.

Darrius - I liked when we fed the pigs and they go crazy for the food.

Beatrice - I liked doing the chores, even though they were quite exhausting.

Adam - My experience at the farm was filled with amazement. I learned how to milk a cow!

James - I liked playing with the goats and cats.

Jaiden - Something I learned from Farm School is how to milk a cow.

Jayden G. - I like cooking in the kitchen. Now I know how to cook.

Geneva - I liked when I read to the kittens, Hopper and Cyrus.

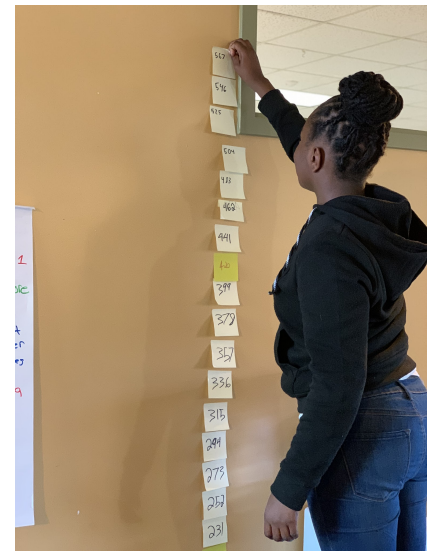
Juel - My experience at the farm was how to milk a cow and I have a good time.

Ashton - It was a fun and tasty experience.

-Ms. Coleman and Mrs. Frances

Room 205

Nakia & David



The 5th grade math class used “multiple towers” to solve division problems.

-Nakia & David

GRADES 7 & 8

Room 213

Jenna & Courtney D.

In 7th and 8th grade we have been studying the natural processes that have changed and that are currently changing the Earth. We have learned about the theory of continental drift, plate tectonics, and weathering and erosion and investigated these ideas through conducting experiments. These experiments have been especially interesting to our middle schoolers as they have involved one of their favorite things: food! In order to understand the different types of plate boundaries created when tectonic plates interact, we used graham crackers to represent oceanic plates and marshmallows to represent continental plates. With these items, we saw how divergent, convergent and transform

boundaries are created! Next, we modeled the difference between weathering and erosion by observing the impact dropping water has on a Skittle; the water caused the outer shell of the Skittle to break apart (aka weathering) and then washed a puddle of the color away (aka erosion). So far, this theme has been very teacher-driven but we are excited to be entering the next phases of the theme in which students are developing a research question that they want to answer about earth or space science and creating a project that seeks to answer that question. Stay tuned for updates on these exciting projects!

Room 214

Kathy B. & Ayanna

In Humanities, students answer a writing prompt every day. Last week our prompt was inspired by 8th grader and governing board member, Zuhri, who wrote

a letter to the Superintendent on the front cover of the MHS Newsletter, Oct. 25, 2019. I asked students to write what they'd tell the Superintendent if they could talk to her. The following excerpts are from their journals:

Peter: ".....we get to talk about our lives and how we're feeling every day.....teachers have lots of patience."

Kimberly: "...we learn and have fun at the same time and our teachers give us a lot of chances to make up stuff."

Camila: ".....if there's a problem they try to keep you safe and resolve the problem."

Rafael: ".....all the different electives we have and they are all fun."

Arianny: "...my growths and strengths as a learner...about our projects, about portfolio and how long and tiring the presentations are."

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

Book Fair Coming Soon!! December 2nd-6th

Please mark your calendar for special event right after the Thanksgiving Break. We will have our annual book fair in partnership with Porter Square Books. This independent book store has worked with MHS staff to bring high-quality books at a reasonable price. Many books will be priced \$5.00 or under. On Thursday, December 5th the book fair will be open until 6pm (a full schedule for the week is coming soon). If you would like to volunteer, please email Meg Walker at mwalker@missionhillschool.org, or leave her a message at 617-635-6384.

ISO Graphic Designer

The MHS Governing Board public relations sub-committee is looking for a graphic designer somewhere in our community who would be interested in volunteering some time. If that is you, please contact Geralyn at geralyn@missionhillschool.org or call the school at 617-635-6384. Thanks!

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to McCormack + Scanlon Real Estate who kindly donated \$415 to the Mission Hill School Library. The money is being to be used for our book cataloguing subscription.

#TEACHER-POWERED and #STUDENT-CENTERED

On Wednesday, November 7th, Teacher-Powered Schools Ambassadors Danny Flannery (MHS) and Taryn Snyder (BTU School) hosted a Teacher-Powered Schools Eat & Greet at Mission Hill School. Teachers from Boston Day and Evening Academy, The BTU School and Mission Hill met to share resources and ideas, ask questions, and build community. We were joined by Betsy Drinan, who is one of the original Lead Teachers at the BTU School and is the current treasurer of the Boston Teachers Union.



Engagement Tour with Dr. Cassellius

Here are the last few community meetings on the Engagement Tour with Dr. Cassellius:

Jamaica Plain, Roslindale & West Roxbury: Tuesday, November 12th from 6-7:30 at Roslindale BCYF Community Center, [6 Cummins Highway, Roslindale](#)

Dorchester & South Boston Community Meeting: Thursday, November 14th from 6-8 PM at CASH/BAA, [11 Charles St, Dorchester](#)

Roxbury & South End Community Meeting: Thursday, November 21st, from 6-8 PM at Dearborn STEM Academy, [36 Winthrop St Roxbury](#)

Jamaica Plain, Roslindale & West Roxbury Community Meeting: Monday, November 25th from 6-8 PM at English High School, [144 McBride St, Jamaica Plain](#)

Dorchester Community Meeting: Tuesday, December 3rd from 6-8 PM at the Henderson Upper School, [18 Croftland Ave, Dorchester](#)

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



PLEASE JOIN THE FAMILY COUNCIL
Thursday, November 14, 2019
Mission Hill School Library
5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION
Mission Hill School and Progressive Education

What is Progressive Ed?
What does teacher-led mean?
What are our habits of mind?
What is our commitment to social justice?
How do we measure success?
How do we address discipline?
What's the deal with our holiday policy?
How can I support my child in school and home?

Come with your
questions and let's
continue the
conversation!

*Childcare and dinner will be provided. The Family Council operates on a limited budget and want to ensure we have sufficient food and childcare for all. Please RSVP by emailing the familycouncil@missionhillschool.org by November 11th.



POR FAVOR ÚNASE AL CONSEJO FAMILIAR

14 de Noviembre de 2019

Biblioteca de la escuela Mission Hill

5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

CONTINUANDO LA CONVERSACIÓN **Mission Hill School y Educación Progresiva**

¿Qué es la educación progresiva?

¿Qué significa dirigido por un maestro?

¿Cuáles son nuestros hábitos mentales?

¿Cuál es nuestro compromiso con la justicia
social?

¿Cómo medimos el éxito?

¿Cómo abordamos la disciplina?

¿Cuál es el trato con nuestra política de días festivos?

¿Cómo puedo soportar a mis hijos en la escuela y en
casa?

¡Ven con tus
preguntas y
continuemos la
conversación!

*Se proporcionará cuidado de niños y cena. El Consejo de Familia opera con un presupuesto limitado y quiere garantizar que tengamos suficientes alimentos y cuidado de niños para todos. Confirme su asistencia enviando un correo electrónico a familycouncil@missionhillschool.org antes del 11 de Noviembre.

Earth and Space Science

Ciencias de la tierra y el espacio

Fall Curriculum Breakfast
Desayuno de Currículo de Otoño



Hello Mission Hill Families!

Come hear about and see what we have been learning about over the past few months.

¡Hola familias de Misión Hill!

Venga a escuchar y ver lo que hemos estado aprendiendo en los últimos meses.

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

Por favor, traiga un plato para compartir con nuestra comunidad.



When: November 27, 2019
Where: K-Quad and 2nd Floor
Time: 9:15-10:15
See you there!

Cuando: El 27 de noviembre del 2019
Donde: K-cuatrillizo y 2do piso
Hora: 9:15-10:15
¡Los veremos allí!