



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Wednesday, November 27
**Earth and Space Science Curriculum Breakfast
and Book Swap!**
9:15am - 10:15am
Early Dismissal at 1:00pm

December 2nd-6th
Book Fair

Thursday, December 5th
Family Council Meeting - time at the Book Fair!
5:45-7:30 pm. (open to all)

November 22, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 12

Earth and Space Science: The Connections are Flowing

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

This fall we have been exploring Earth and Space Science for the first time as a whole school, as a part of the expansion of our science theme studies. Early this year, we staff worked together to think about how we can best develop students' conceptual understandings through this new theme: How does scientific writing look across the school? What about the Scientific Method? How can we connect Earth and Space Science to other disciplines? Though our theme studies vary by class and by grade, all have common elements which flow across the school.

In Room 106 we chose to do a deep dive into rocks. We learned *The Story of Sand*, which taught us the interconnectedness of rocks and water systems. Some rocks travel from rivers to the ocean, so we went to the aquarium to learn more about these two bodies of water. There we discovered that some animals eat rocks for digestion or use rocks as tools. On an outing, we found lichen growing on rocks, which led to us learning about saxicolous living things. At a family conference, Leora wanted to learn about space, so we went to the planetarium and learned a lot about stars. We also learned that meteors are rocks in space, which brought us full circle, back to our original focus.

In Room 216 we have been learning about all types of land, from pebbles to mountains. Students have been learning outdoors, climbing Peter's Hill at the arboretum and finding cases of root wedging in Franklin Park. We've built models, designed experiments, and created presentations to share what we've learned. There's plenty of singing happening too: "Let it rock! The rock cycle!" Similar to Kathy's class, we felt that "full circle" moment when working on our final projects connected to deforestation, students realized that this topic is connected to many topics throughout our theme: the environment, erosion, windbreaks, natural disasters, and more!

When students visit another classroom or chat with a friend on the bus, those connections continue to flow. Students from Room 210 chat with 3rd and 4th graders about the water cycle as kindergartners excitedly look at middle schoolers' solar system models. You're sure to hear plenty of "Oh yeah, I know that!" and "That's like what we did!" at the curriculum breakfast next week.

As you come to the breakfast, we hope you see interactive, real-world, place-based, hands-on work. We hope you see joy and pride in learning. We hope children will be showing their work through exhibition to capture that they have internalized their learning. As you explore, here are some questions to consider and ask your child: "How was this made?" "How do you feel about the work?" "How does this connect to everything else you've learned about?" We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday morning and connecting around our Earth and Space Science theme.

Kathy Clunis D'Andrea and Danny Flannery

Art Room 211

Meg & Jeanne

The Art of Ancient China



traditional forms of Chinese art such as ink painting and calligraphy. I was also able to visit historical sites, rich with beautiful architecture and surface decorations as well as visit the National Art Museum of China where I saw both ancient and contemporary works of art.

I can't wait to share all of the amazing art I saw and made this past summer with our students.
-Meg

I have collected artifacts and have my tried and true projects I've developed overtime.

The art of calligraphy, hanging and hand scrolls, fans of all shapes and sizes, lanterns, dragons, Chinese opera masks, just to mention a few!

I am looking forward to Meg's inspiration this time around while we collaborate to bring the art of our Ancient China theme to life throughout our school.

-Jeanne

With our first curriculum breakfast of the year around the corner, our Earth and Space Science theme is coming to a close. With its end comes the beginning of our Long Ago and Far Away theme. This year, students will be focusing on Ancient China.

This is an exciting transition in the art room. I have been awaiting this theme for months, largely due to the amazing experience I was able to have this past summer. Through the Fund for Teachers program, three of my fellow MHS educators and myself were able to travel to Beijing, China last July. We were there to gain information on China's rich history and culture and bring that information back to MHS. While in China, I was able to gather first hand information on



I, too, am excited as I enter into my fifth time experiencing the Ancient China theme with MHS students and our community. I am always struck by the new insights and deepening of knowledge that happens with having exposure to a theme over many times.

School Nurse, Georgie Marks Ringworm Alert

There have been a few cases of ringworm seen in the school this month. Ringworm is caused by a fungus which lives and spreads on the top layer of skin and on the hair. It is contagious and is spread by skin-to-skin contact with a person or animal that has it. It can also be spread when you share things like towels, clothing, or sports gear.

Ringworm often makes a pattern in the shape of a ring, but not always. Sometimes it is just a red, itchy rash. Your health care provider will be able to evaluate the skin and recommend treatment creams. Children can be at school with ringworm, but it needs to be covered well so that it does not spread to others.

Please contact the school nurse if you have any additional questions or concerns.

-Nurse Georgie

Occupational Therapy

Marion Sitomer

MHS incorporates a [Universal Design for Learning](#) (UDL) approach into our learning environments, teaching and learning. UDL is an educational framework that makes a wide range of opportunities and tools available so diverse learners have what they need to succeed. This school year Alexia our speech-language pathologist and I have been helping selected students learn to use Google Slides to complete assignments. This technology allows students to type as much or little as they are able and select images to express what they have learned. They are improving their typing and learning how to navigate the technology as well as deepening their understanding of the curriculum. As they build these skills their ability to complete assignments and confidence grows. Their faces show pride in their accomplishments. Here is a slide from a Google Slide book about the book the Long Walk to Water.

-Marion, OT

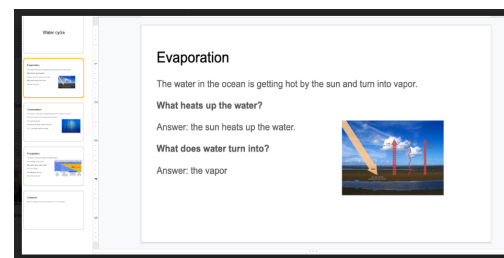


Speech Therapy

Alexia Salata

During our speech-language sessions students are given strategies and accommodations appropriate for their needs/skills, to help them better access the curriculum and be more successful. Some students greatly benefit from technology, especially when asked to present material they have learned on a given topic. Marion (occupational therapist) and I have been collaborating on helping students successfully incorporate these academic tools into their schoolwork. One easy tool for students to illustrate their work in a meaningful manner is through Google Slides. Students are not only able to formulate sentences to express the information they have learned, but they can also use pictures meaningful to them on each topic. Over the last month, elementary and middle school students learned about the Water Cycle and its different stages. Later, students had a chance to display their knowledge both in text and pictures; 5th-8th graders created Google Slides to do so. In addition, students were asked to answer questions on this topic. Helping students to showcase their knowledge through different means is very important and can be highly motivating.

-Alexia



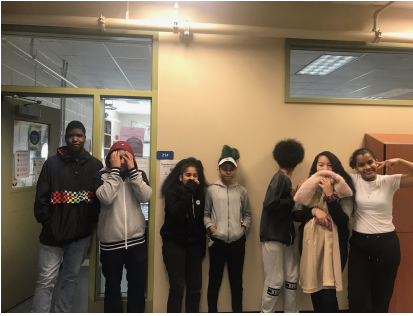
Learning Coach

Vanessa Allaway

I love middle schoolers. This is my 14th year of teaching and for every year of my teaching career, I have spent all, or at least the majority, of my instructional day with this age group. They are an often misunderstood group of people, but if we all think back, we remember what a confusing time it can be. Therefore, this month my column is a brief list of some of the many reasons I continue to choose to work with them.

1. They are much more capable of change than many adults are.
2. Middle schoolers are a very forgiving group of people.
3. They make me laugh on a regular basis.
4. I would know nothing about pop culture today, if not for them.
5. They keep it real. You always know where you stand with them.

On the next page are a couple pictures of a few of the many wonderful middle schoolers we have here at MHS:



Photos from Vanessa

Learning Coach Joel Webb

Giving and receiving feedback is part of the job of educators at Mission Hill. The power of feedback is well established and we all need it to grow. When one of my groups was struggling behaviorally this year, I remembered that daily progress reports had worked for some of my students in the past. I didn't want to single out any students and I thought they could all potentially benefit, so I decided to give each one of them a report after every class. The form is simple. On a scale of 1 to 5, it asks about what were our particular difficulties; if they

respected their classmates, themselves, the materials, completed daily work and participated. If students choose to share their report, it's up to them. Initially, I thought this might cause them to be blasé about the process, but I've been blown away by how much they still care as well as the positive effects on students' behavior and, in turn, learning. Next, I'd like to move students into the evaluation role. Giving and receiving feedback at Mission Hill isn't only for educators after all.

-Joel

Music Cara Campanelli

Let's take a look at what's been happening with music at MHS....

K0 has been keeping the beat with different instruments as well as by tapping on different parts of their bodies or marching their feet to the beat of the music. It's more difficult than it sounds!

K1 - 4th grade has been experimenting with the different ways in which vibrations cause sound. We've observed what happens when we pluck a rubber band on a hot cocoa tin, felt the wood of a ukulele vibrate to make a sound, and watched Legos jump and bounce off of a snare drum when we hit it. We've also learned a catchy song called--you guessed it--*The Vibration Song!*

5-6th grade has moved on to a creative composition experiment. We brainstormed vocabulary words we associate with space, and then expressed those words through brief compositions on classroom instruments.

7-8th grade has begun a different angle on our science unit, by utilizing our Chromebook technology to compose through Soundtrap, an online platform that allows students to layer beats, piano, voice, recorded instruments, and loops.

Finally, our students did an incredible job at our recent Music Friday Share. We had soloists Noah and Jayden S. perform their parody projects, Amanda and Amina's class demonstrated the Rockin' Robin clapping game, Michelle and Kimberly performed a self-choreographed dance, and Maurice shared a beat he's working on. We also had an exciting visit from two of our Muniz neighbors: two high school students joined us for a brief performance on their saxophones. I can't wait to see even more of our students' creativity over the next few months!

-Cara



Note from the editor:

To clarify, there are no unlawful or missing reptiles in the school. Room 215 is hoping to acquire a class pet. Can you help? They have a tank already, and all the necessary equipment.

From Our Former Principal, Ayla Gavins

Hello Mission Hill Friends,

I've heard wonderful things about the work you are doing this school year.

I miss you, and I look forward to visiting MHS next week during the curriculum breakfast.

Many of you have asked about what I'm doing now. This fall I began working at the Farm School, one of Mission Hill's long standing partners. I am there on Thursdays and Fridays. If your trip to the Farm School is scheduled on a Thursday or Friday I'll be sure to join you during chores, meals or your closing meeting.

When I'm not at the farm, I am helping people become more resilient and more receptive through yoga. I also help a few different organizations such as the Progressive Educators Network and the Circus School. I read, exercise and make things, too. This fall I knitted mittens and scarves. Maybe I'll come in for a knitting session, book group, or yoga some time :)

See you next week!

Ayla

Early Dismissal on November 27th - 1:00 PM

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, all Boston Public Schools will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 27th, 2019. Students will be dismissed two and a half hours before the school's regularly scheduled dismissal time. Students with approved alternative PM drop-offs will be dropped off at these bus stops. If the student's alternative program is closed that day, families must make arrangements for the child(ren) to be picked up from the alternate location. Transportation will not be taking such students to their home stop, as changes like this can cause ripple effects across the system, leading to potential delays in service and increasing the risk of a student left at an incorrect stop.

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

Please mark your calendar for a 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 from 5-7:30 PM (during the Family Council Meeting). For sure it will be open Tuesday - Friday at 9 am-11 am. If you would like to volunteer, please email Meg Walker at mwalker@missionhillschool.org, or leave her a message at 617-635-6384. Thanks to those who have already volunteered!

MHS SWAG!

The first go around of MHS Swag is here! To order online, click this link: [MHS SWAG](https://www.customink.com/g/nsp0-00c1-s52e)
<https://www.customink.com/g/nsp0-00c1-s52e>
FYI - you can make orders until December 3. This will guarantee delivery by Thursday, December 19. Hybrid shipping is set up which means orders can be shipped here for free (by December 19) or individuals can choose to pay for shipping and get their items shipped wherever they want with a delivery date of approximately 2 weeks from when their order is placed. If for some reason you prefer to not place your order online, there are order forms in the office.
Happy shopping!



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

You can find this newsletter, and an archive of past newsletters, on our website at <http://www.missionhillschool.org/resources/newsletter/>.

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!

mission Hill School

BOOK Fair

December
2nd-6th



open until
6PM on
Thursday,
December 5th



made possible with help from PORTER SQUARE BOOKS

mission Hill School

Feria de libro

Diciembre
2 hasta el 6



Abierto hasta
la 6PM
Diciembre 5



Hecho posible por la ayuda de PORTER SQUARE BOOKS



PLEASE JOIN THE FAMILY COUNCIL

Thursday, December 5, 2019
Mission Hill School Library
5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

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 December 2nd

****Childcare will feature bookmark making****
Families will also have a chance to visit the Book Fair!





POR FAVOR ÚNASE AL CONSEJO FAMILIAR

Jueves 5 de diciembre de 2019
Biblioteca de la escuela Mission Hill
5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

*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 2 de diciembre

Las familias también tendrán la oportunidad de visitar la Feria del Libro!





MHS Consejo de Familias

Intercambio de Libros

Miércoles 27 de noviembre

¡Te invitamos a encontrar excelentes libros nuevos en el desayuno curricular!

¿Tienes algún libro con el que hayas terminado? ¡Llévalos al canje para que otros amigos puedan disfrutarlos! (No necesita traer un libro para llevar uno).

Habrà una mesa en el K-Quad y una arriba en la biblioteca de la escuela.



MHS Family Council

BOOK SWAP

Wednesday November 27

We invite you to find great new-to-you books at the curriculum breakfast!

Do you have any books at home that you are done with? Bring those to the swap so other friends can enjoy them! (You do not need to bring a book to take one).

There will be a table in the K-Quad and one upstairs in the school library.

