



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Friday, December 13th, 9:15-10:15am
Pajama Day/Family Reading Morning/Friday Share
Open to All

Friday, December 20
Trimester 1 Report Cards Sent Home
Last day of school before break begins

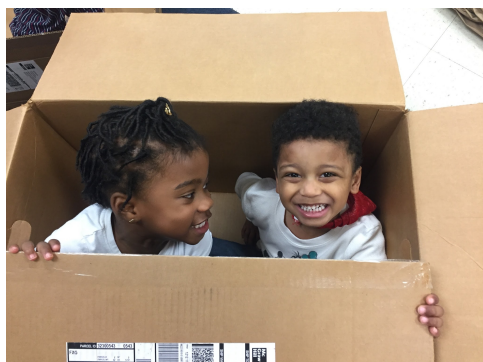
December 6, 2019

Volume 23, Issue 13

Playing “Inside the Box”

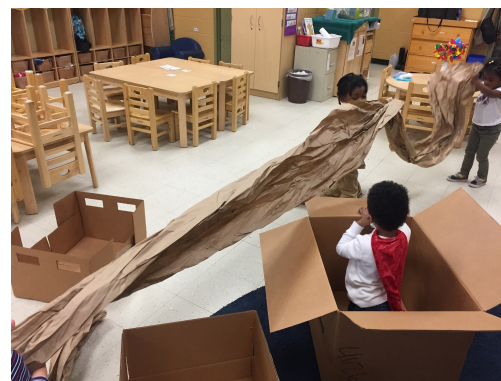
Dear Mission Hill School Friends, Families, Students and Staff,

Last week, we were thrilled to receive some new math materials from Boston Public Schools. They arrived in two very large, sturdy boxes with packing material tucked in them. We could have recycled the boxes but instead we “playcycled” them. Right after our Curriculum Breakfast, there were just a few students left before dismissal and they were looking for something to do. We brought the boxes and packing material out and placed them in our large rug area.



Initially, the students were hesitant to touch them because they looked so “official.” But when we told them the boxes were for playing, they literally dove right in! They quickly discovered that two children could fit together in the bigger box and one child could fit in the little one. They squealed with joy when we closed the flaps up over them and they were in the dark. The large box became a house and the small one was a car. They stretched the packing material across the classroom and marveled about how long it was. All in all, they played pretend with those boxes for more than 30 minutes and were disappointed when it was time to leave.

For many, it’s “toy buying” season. This is just a reminder that you don’t always need to pay a lot of money for expensive electronic gadgets that do the work of play for a child. Many times, open-ended, imaginative play is more powerful, fun and natural than anything you can find on a shelf at a toy store. Research has demonstrated over and over again that interacting with screens has a very different effect on children’s brain development than building, imagining, interacting and problem solving. Did you ever build a fort in your home when you were a kid? Ever use the rolls from wrapping paper as a telescope or a sword? Look around your home. Is there anything that can be “playcycled” and end up as a new opportunity for your child to play?



Liana Cosgrove
Room 108 ~ K0

KINDERGARTEN

K0 Room 108

Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sarah

See this week's cover for news from K0!



K1/K2 Room 106

Kathy & June

For the last two weeks Room 106 has been traveling to the Circus School. It has become an important part of our week. We take a short walk to Washington Street and the school is just around the corner. Each week we learn, develop, and expand our skills. We need to listen and watch. We then take the challenge by trying the task. We have been getting very familiar with their silks. The silks are long silk fabrics that span from the high ceiling to the floor. The children wrap their arms around them and try to support their body weight. It is a

wonder to see the children grow each week. We are very appreciative of this opportunity and grateful to be so close to this treasure.

- Kathy & June

K1/K2 Room 107

Jada & Manny

A few weeks ago we learned that the sun is a star and that it is never a good idea to stare directly at it. After reading some books about the sun and drawing on our Planetarium experience, we decided to ask the Snow Cat Bumblebee Tummies what they thought they knew about the sun. Here is what they had to say:

August: The sun is big and makes stuff grow.

Giuliany: Sun is rainbows.

Alysha: The sun is yellow.

Jonathan: You can die if you go on the sun. People draw the sun with the sunbeams.

Maeve: The sun is extra hot.

Josue: The sun is made out of gas and all the planets orbit it.

Will: I know that it's red, orange and yellow. It has planets orbiting around it. The sun is a star. The sun is a circle. It has clouds near it.

Gio: The planets made the sun. The sun is awesome.

-Jada Brown and
Emmanuel St. Vil

K1/K2 Room 109

Katie & Courtney M.

The Rainbow Elephants are very happy to be back at school after

the holiday break! Last week, we began to explore fossils! We read many stories about different types of fossils and how they can be formed. Peter was so excited about this, that he shared a dinosaur book with us from home that connected to this topic! Leading up to our curriculum breakfast, we worked so hard at creating a classroom weather book to share with families and friends. Each student created their own page in our book. Many students were very thoughtful about what they wanted to share. We thought back to when we visited the Blue Hills Weather Station and created pictures of our experience. Other students wrote about our rain gauge that we frequently check in our back garden area! We felt so proud to create this book as a community. We look forward to our next curriculum breakfast, stay tuned for what we will share!

- Courtney & Katie

GRADES 1 & 2

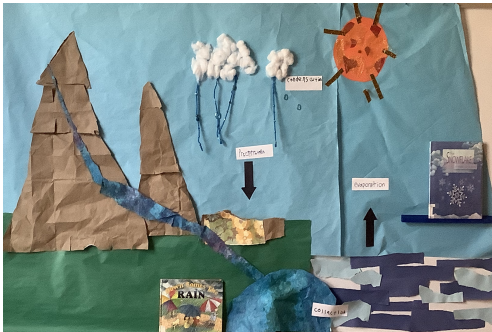
Room 210

Miss Amy, Alana & Stephanie

Dear Coco Kindness Families, We have had an exciting week in room 210. We worked really hard for the Curriculum Breakfast. It was a success. Students sang a water cycle song, created a beautiful mural and shared posters about pollution in our oceans. We welcomed Miss Amy to our classroom. We

welcomed a new student named Myla. We also welcomed Miss Ashleigh's baby girl, Elliana. So much excitement in such a short time!

-Alana Stephanie & Miss Amy



Room 216

Danny, Felicia, Destiny & Yuliza

This may have been our favorite curriculum breakfast ever. The Rock Stars worked very hard throughout this theme and completed many meaningful projects, so it was only a matter of preparing them to show all that they know. In the days before the breakfast, students practiced presenting and giving each other feedback. We teachers pushed the class to go beyond sharing what they (and their families) could see, and talk more about how the work was produced and the scientific concepts behind it. Though they were nervous on Tuesday afternoon, there was also so much excitement in the air. On Wednesday morning, our students carried themselves with so much confidence as they walked around and showed their work to their families. The Rock Stars *knew* that they were ready. One family shared with me afterward, "I had no idea he knew so much about earth science, but he just kept sharing

more and more information."

Most schools do not teach science and social studies through themes like we do, so it was very important to us to show how much students can learn when we dive deep into one field of study. We look forward to welcoming families back for our next curriculum breakfast at the end of our winter theme, Ancient China!

-Danny and Felicia



GRADES 3 & 4

Room 207

Amanda & Amina

I often say to our students that our job is not only to teach them to read, write, do math, science etc., but also to help them learn how to be their very best selves.

Recently, Amanda and I had a conversation with a family member about their student's behavior challenge. We explained the behavior that we had been seeing and detailed our plan for helping that student understand why their behavior is hurtful to others. The family member seemed remorseful that we had to take time to help their child work through understanding the effects of their behavior on others. It was important for Amanda and I to help the family member understand that we see the work of changing behaviors to be as important as teaching kids to be their best at academics. After all, what good is a marvelous mathematician if they can't see someone else's perspective? What good is a serious scientist if they can't work with others? What good is a creative writer if they can only think about themselves? We aim to help each of our students be their most confident at the academics portion of their school experience as well as work towards becoming their best selves.

- Amina Michel-Lord and Amanda McCarthy

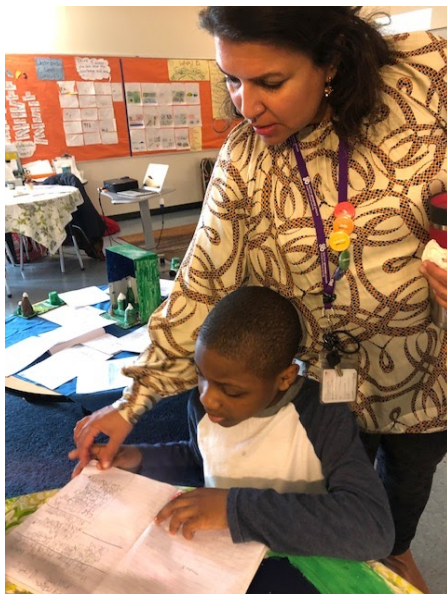
Room 212

Cleata & Ayan

Our recent curriculum breakfast was one of the best! The Black Warriors of room 212 collaborated in planning and putting on a wonderful showcase of their Earth Science theme work for their families and visitors. Students made

classroom posters, invitations, welcome posters and even a program of what was in store for the hour. Students used what they knew about writing paragraphs and using transition words to produce an informational piece about their research on the water cycle, watersheds and landforms. They included their hamburger paragraph drafts in their presentation as well as a second draft. Students displayed work-in-progress models of landforms and watersheds that they planned and designed with partners. There was so much delight during their shared time with families and visitors. New families left smiling and proclaiming how wonderful it was to see students so involved in their work. The Black Warriors completed their showcase with a dramatization of different movements of water around the earth. We are excited for the next breakfast in March!

-Cleata Brown and Ayan Osman



Room 215

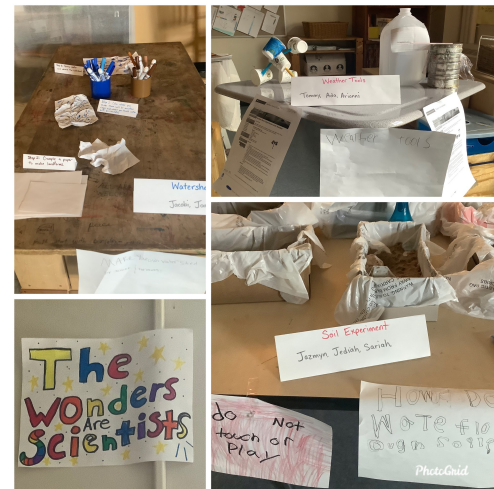
Leila & Kat

When things need to get done, the Wonders get to work! Last week Room 215 was humming as students prepared for the curriculum breakfast. They added items to a to-do list in the front of the room, then zoomed off to tackle their tasks. Rugs needed vacuuming. Experiments needed to be set up. Where would we move our lizard tank? What about signs for the stations?

Wren decided to get a piece of paper and make a map. With at least 6 students adding their ideas, the map soon moved onto a whiteboard, allowing for easier editing. The soil and watershed stations should be near the sink in order to access water. The topography station should be on the tall rectangular table, showcasing the maps clearly. Students dashed off across the room, moving furniture and materials over and over again.

Suddenly, Yolaina's voice chimed over the intercom. It was the end of the day! After a few finishing touches, everyone packed up to go home. When families arrived on Wednesday morning, the Wonders were ready.

- Leila & Kat



GRADES 5 & 6

Room 203

Ms. Coleman & Frances

Mission Hill Students in Room 203 went to the Museum of Science on Monday, November 18th. Each student had to explore several sections of the museum and answer questions that pertained to dinosaurs and fossils. Students learned about the evidence of fossils that were collected to tell an amazing story of animal adaptation, the Solar System and Scale (weight). One of the greatest things students enjoyed was Live Animal Presentation. They observed the live animals and considered the characteristics and adaptations that help them live in their environment. Students were also introduced to Chinese culture and science via the stars and the moon. They learned that they can see the same types of stars in China, the only difference being what the stars are named.

- Saadia Coleman and Frances Pearce



Room 205

Nakia & David

Here is the latest entry from our End of the Week Reflection. Enjoy.

Something I'm really excited about is...

"Something I'm really excited about is going to a AMC lodge. I hope there will be snow so that we can have a snowball fight. At the place we are going there are a few caves in the playground that we can use for forts."

"I'm excited for me to get my own computer and change my back round and typing and using i'm

exited because i love using computers."

Something that went well this week was...

"Something that went well this week was. I took the Isee test and I felt like it went well. It felt easy for me so I was happy about that. And i got it done so i feel good about that. It was long but it felt short."

"Reading as I finished a 1-3 books in a series."

"Something that went well this week was the ISEE test. It went well for me because I had an image in my head of this super hard thing but when it finally happened it wasn't as hard as I thought."

"Doc Wayne"

"Art class, I finished my Hawaiian monk seal!"

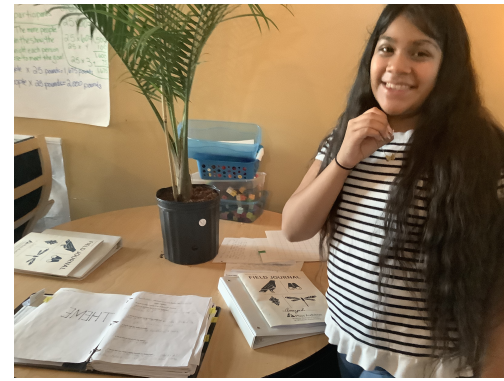
I would feel more comfortable if...

"we could have more reading time."

"I would feel more comfortable if I could take a break when i need on and talk to a teacher when i need to."

"if my pants did not split in p.e."

*"we could have a longer lunch."
- Nakia, David, Love Us*



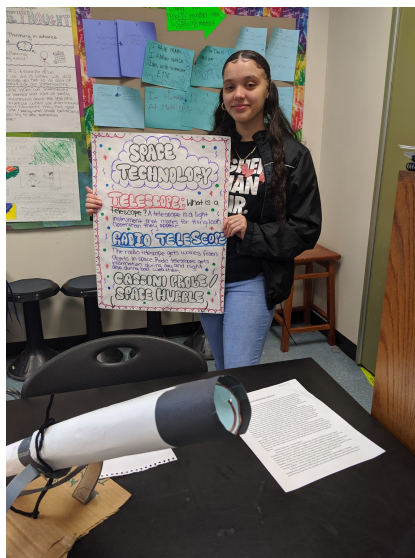
GRADES 7 & 8

Room 213

Jenna & Courtney D.

The 7th and 8th grade curriculum breakfast was a big success! Students presented projects that they completed this trimester including their "Phases of the Moon Models", their "Selling a Planet" project and their "Inquiry Research" project. While many students were nervous to share their work, they were also excited for the MHS community to see their work and ask them questions. The "Inquiry Research" projects were the most interesting to view as students were tasked with developing their own inquiry question, researching their questions and demonstrating their learning through the completion of research paper, visual presentation, model and oral presentation. For some students, this was the first time going through an independent research process in which, in addition to researching facts, they needed to assess the reliability of web sources and cite their sources throughout their paper. While this task seemed daunting at the

beginning, many students rose to the challenge and were very proud of the work they accomplished. We hope to continue to build on this success in the next theme, Ancient China!



Room 214

Kathy B. & Ayanna

For 20 years, Mission Hill School students have participated in the Rehearsal for Life, formally Urban Improv. This non-profit uses improvisation to strengthen social and emotional (SEL) skills and help students deal creatively with real life challenges through dialogue and performance. It has been an amazing experience to chaperone our 8th grade students (some who have been participating in this program for 5 years now) as they complete their last year of programming.

Every Friday, students indulge in meaningful improv and conversation around topics that are very relevant to their lives – peer pressure, home life, drugs, teen pregnancy, homophobia, systems of oppression and so much more! It is especially inspiring to see students who are typically shy, take center stage.

On behalf of the MHS class of 2020, thank you to Urban Improv staff, Tory, Jeff, Veronica and Anna who have made this a wonderful 9-week experience. Up next, MHS 4th graders and 7th graders are looking forward to their Rehearsal for Life experience!

-Ayanna Lord



Wee the People Event on January 11th



JAN
11

Little Voices, Big Change: What is Racism?

Public · Hosted by Wee the People and Codman Square
Branch of the Boston Public Library

🕒 Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 11 AM – 12:30 PM

📍 Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library

Kids notice a LOT -- including skin color. They sense that it matters, and they have questions about how and why. Join Wee The People for a workshop that asks a question many parents struggle to answer: What Is Racism? Together we will explore how racism isn't just one thing, but a system with many parts working together. Through activities, kids will learn how they can help topple these systems. Best for kids 5 and up.

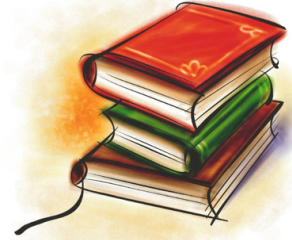
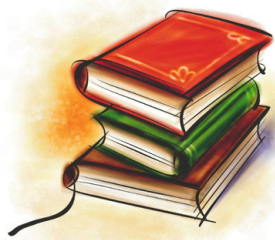
Little Voices, Big Change is presented by Wee The People, a Boston-based social justice project for kids, parents, and educators.

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

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



It's Family Reading Morning
...and Pajama Day!

¡Es la Mañana de Lectura
Familia
...y Día de Pijamas!

Come join us and begin your day reading in your pajamas! Whether you bring your favorite book or snuggle up with one from our collections, we look forward to sharing this special time with you! If your child attends the before school program, reading will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. If your child arrives at 9:15, reading will happen in classrooms. Please consider joining us for this event as well as our weekly Friday Share beginning at 9:40 a.m. in the auditorium.

¡Acompáñanos y comienza tu día leyendo en tus pijamas! Puedes traer tu libro favorito o puedes usar uno de nuestras colecciones. Queremos compartir este tiempo especial contigo. Si su hija/o participa en el programa antes de la escuela, la lectura comenzará a las 8:00 am en la cafetería. Si su hija/o llega a las 9:15, la lectura será en los salones. Por favor, considere acompañarnos en este evento, y también nuestro *Friday Share* semanal, que comienza a las 9:40 am, en el auditorio.

When: December 13, 2019
Where: Cafeteria and Classrooms
Time: 8:00-9:30

Cuando: El 13 de diciembre del 2019
Donde: Cafetería y Salones
Hora: 8:00-9:30



Can you think of a better way to start your day?
Existe otra manera mejor para comenzar tu día?