



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

February 17th - February 21st
February Recess

February 29th
Paint Night Fundraiser
St John's Church, 7pm(adults only)

March 2 & March 3rd
Family Conferences

February 14, 2020

Volume 23, Issue 21

Family Conferences

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

As a parent of two high-schoolers, I have had to adjust to the traditional ten-minute model of parent-teacher conferences. It feels odd to speed through conversations that skim the surface of what my child is learning and needing. Coming from the student-led model of family conferences at Mission Hill, I especially miss that my child is not at the table.

There are three parts to the Mission Hill School student-led family conference. These conferences take 45 minutes to an hour. The student has an opportunity to share their work and lead a tour of the classroom. The family has an opportunity to sit with their student and teacher to review where we are in the year, determine what goals have been met, decide what adjustments need to be made, and set goals together for the remainder of the year. Habits of Mind should be a significant part of this conference and help lead the conversation:

Evidence: What does the student work tell us about next steps?

Viewpoint: How do the family/student/teachers' views differ and align? What can we learn from each other that can impact learning and help the student succeed?

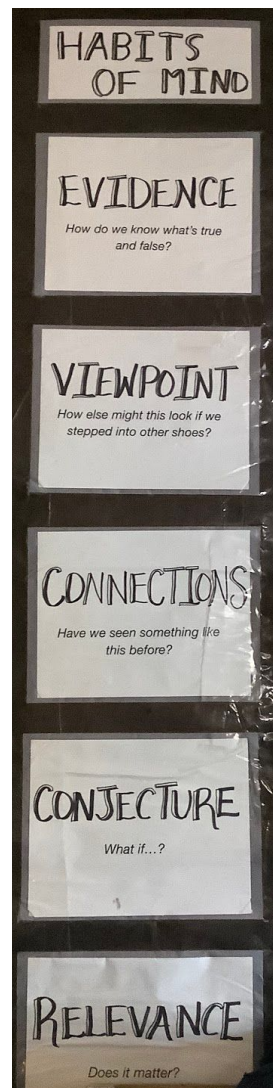
Connections: Are there patterns that the family can see or connections they can share about a student's previous schoolwork or life outside of school?

Conjecture: What if the team adjusts goals/strategies?

Relevance: What factors are impacting learning? Why is this important?

This year, because Jenerra and I are attending the Standards Institute in Orlando February 10th-14th, we've moved the conference dates to early March. Most of our Family Conferences will be held on March 2nd and March 3rd. Some classrooms have included additional dates. Please be sure to check with your classroom teacher about when your conference is. You will also notice that the newsletter is shorter this week, due to the Standards Institute. Please see the attached letter from Georgie Marks, our school nurse.

Wishing all a safe and healthy February Recess!



Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin

Dear Parents/Guardians,

February, 2020

This letter is to inform you there are children in our school with **severe peanut/tree nut allergies**. Any exposure to peanuts/tree nuts, through contact or ingestion, can cause a *life threatening reaction* requiring emergency medical treatment. *Strict avoidance of peanut/nut products* is the only way to prevent a life threatening allergic reaction. We are asking for your assistance in providing these students with a safe learning environment.

To reduce the risk of exposure, the school will be peanut/nut aware. Please do not send any peanut or nut containing products for your child to eat during snack time or lunch in the classroom. If your child has eaten peanut or nut products before coming to school, please be sure your child's hands have been thoroughly washed prior to entering school.

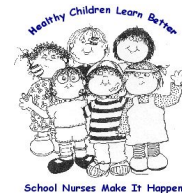
This includes all tree nuts such as: almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, chestnuts, filberts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios and walnuts. While we appreciate that this may feel like an inconvenience, please think how grateful you would be if it were your own child's health and safety others were taking into consideration.

Please help us promote a safe learning environment by reviewing the following with your child:

1. Hand Washing - Wash hands with soap and water before and after eating peanut/nut products before school.
2. Food Sharing - Students should not share or trade any food with friends to help prevent accidental ingestion - in case the food contains nut products.
3. Reporting - Tell your teacher if you realize that you have mistakenly brought in products that may contain any of the above listed foods.
4. Understanding - Be accepting of children who cannot eat or touch certain foods. Try sunbutter (made from sunflower seeds), tahini (made with sesame seeds) or hummus (made from chickpeas) for safe alternatives.
5. Serious - Food allergies are serious! Do not make jokes or tease anyone with a food allergy.
6. Helpful - Ask what your friend is allergic to and help them avoid it. Get help immediately if a friend with a food allergy becomes ill! Get an adult right away!

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Georgie Marks, PhD, APRN, AC
617 635-6384



(please sign and return this bottom portion)

I have read and understand the peanut/nut safe classroom procedures. I agree to do my part in keeping the classroom peanut and nut safe.

Child's name: _____ Classroom Teacher(s): _____

Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

AMAZON Smiles for Friends of Mission Hill School

When you shop on Amazon, please use smile.amazon.com and choose "Friends of Mission Hill School Inc." as your charity. A portion of what you spend will go to our school!

Painting Night

Saturday, February 29th from 7-9PM at St. John's Church 1 Roanoke Avenue, Jamaica Plain. Join your friends from Mission Hill School for a night of guided painting. We will create original compositions with instruction from two MHS parents/art teachers.

Tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/90972438011
Or email: fomhs@missionhillschool.org



Survey Reminder ~ Please Participate

Parents/guardians: Please complete the parent/guardian survey (sent via email and available in hard copy at MHS front desk in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole). It should take only about 10 minutes to complete the 14 multiple choice questions, along with optional comment boxes. This survey is part of the 2019-2020 co-teacher leader evaluation process, as required by Mission Hill School by-laws and by Boston Public Schools. The survey was created by Mission Hill School community members serving on the evaluation committee: we very much appreciate your time and input into the evaluation process. Please note the survey is designed to be anonymous: your email address is NOT attached to responses. Thank you for participating!

Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin and
Jenerra Williams, Co-Teacher Leaders

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Deborah Meier, Founder
Ayla Gavins, Former Principal
Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent



Mission Hill K-8 School
A Boston Public Pilot School

WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG

This newsletter, and an archive of past newsletters, is on our website.



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F 617-635-6419



Dot House Health
ASTHMA SWIM PROGRAM
For kids with Asthma ages 8-12 years old



Who: Asthma swimmers of all levels

When: **Saturday March 7th, 2020**

Where: **DotHouse Health Pool**

1353 Dorchester Avenue

Dorchester MA. , 02122

Cost: **FREE! FREE!! FREE!!! FREE!!!!**

(Sign up today!!!)

To register or for more information
please contact Dirk @ DotHouse
Health pool at 617-740-2234 or send
an email to

asthmaswimprogram@gmail.com

**Mandatory Parent Orientation on
February 29th, 2020 @ 10 am!!!**

This program starts **March 7th, 2020** and will run for 10 weeks on
Saturdays from 9am-12pm.

Included in this exciting program will be:

- Asthma education
- Swim lessons with a certified lifeguard instructor
- Improved asthma management skills and confidence
- **Free American Red cross First Aid/CPR/AED course for parents!!!!**
- Lots of fun, Fun, FUN!!!

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

★ This program is made possible by the generosity of Boston Children's Hospital in collaboration with DotHouse Health Pool



Boston Children's Hospital
Until every child is well™

