



## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Thursday, March 12, 5:00 -7:30pm  
**Family Council Meeting (open to all)**

Friday, March 13  
**Friday Share (open to all)**

Friday, March 20, 9:45-10:15am  
**Friday Share (open to all)**

Thursday, March 27, 5:00-7:00pm  
**Governance Board Meeting (open to all)**

March 6, 2020

Volume 23, Issue 23

### Be Encouraged

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

There is a particular time every week that Geralyn and I look forward to. What time is that, you ask? No, it's not Friday! The time I'm referring to is mail time. Once a week we wait with anticipation for one specific piece of mail - a card of encouragement.

Since September, we have received a card from Ayla, our former principal, every week. Yes, you read it correctly - EVERY week. Her cards are sometimes hand made, sometimes purchased but what is always constant is that inside each one is a wonderful note of encouragement. When Ayla left Mission Hill many years ago to pursue her first administrative position at another school, I sent her a quote of encouragement each week. She later shared with me how pivotal those notes were in helping her make it through that first year, as a school leader and as a person. Little did I know then, that I was paying it forward for Geralyn and me.



Our cards of encouragement arrive like clockwork each week and we usually save them for the end of the day to read before we go home. Each card is aesthetically beautiful in its own way and that alone is a pick me up. We all know that art can be magical in that sense. Then we open the card and begin to read her words. They are always simple and to the point, while simultaneously being intuitive, profound and encouraging. Each card comes at *exactly* the right moment. We both know that this divine intervention. Each card speaks so deeply to us as leaders and as people. We always smile when we read them. Sometimes we cry. And after each card is read, we are changed. Our viewpoint is widened. Our hearts are lightened. Our strengths are remembered. We are encouraged.

Giving encouragement to someone else is so very underrated. There is a saying from an unknown source that states, "A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success." It is a practice that if developed and formed as a habit, can affect people and places deeply. Giving encouragement can completely change a person's confidence, a team's morale or an organization's outlook. When was the last time you were encouraged by someone? How did it make you feel? How did it change you? Reflect on these questions and ask yourself, "When was the last time I encouraged someone?" There is no time like the present.

All the cards we have received, from Ayla and others, are hanging on our wall of encouragement in the office.  
Stop by and read them if you like and be encouraged!

*Jenerra*

*Williams*

## CLASSROOM NEWS

---

### KINDERGARTEN

#### K0 Room 108

##### **Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sarah**

For weeks now, the Burgers have been preparing for our presentation for Friday Share this week. We are going to be presenting the story of The Great Race, which is the legend of the Chinese zodiac calendar. They know the story well. They've been using model animals, finger puppets, shadow puppets and dramatic play to act it out over and over again. Each child chose the character they wanted to represent and they have been wearing capes and practicing the timing of the story, as well as the dialogue. Many of them have even memorized the order of the animals as they crossed the river. They have selected props and helped design the set. When someone forgets their cue, their friends help to remind them. We are all very excited about our presentation on Friday!  
- The 108 Burger Team



#### K1/K2 Room 106

##### **Kathy & June**

In The Cats class we have been learning about the the first Great Wall of China, built during the time of Emperor Qin Shihuang (259 - 210 BC). To help us learn we have been reading books with lots of information. *The Emperor Who Built The Great Wall* by Jillian Lin, *The Great Wall of China* by Leonardo Everett Fisher, and *Yi Min; Materials Engineering and the Great Wall of China* from the Children's Museum are just a couple we have been exploring.

We learned that the emperor's name at birth was Ying Zheng. We learned about inventions and materials that helped build the wall. "The wall was built entirely of stones, soil, sand, and clay." This was a great connection to our earth science study from the

fall. To help build the wall the wheelbarrow was a new technology that helped. - *Yi Min; Materials Engineering and the Great Wall of China*.

During our study we heard the word forced a lot. We learned that people were forced to build the wall and many people died during the process. It gave us an opportunity to think about what life was like if you were not not an emperor.

#### K1/K2 Room 107

##### **Jada & Manny**

Over the past few weeks the Snow Cat Bumblebee Tummies have been using various yoga positions and breathing techniques to help us regulate our bodies in various moments of emotional change. We have done poses that include: Tree, Triangle, Ragdoll, Shooting Stars, Kite, Downward Dog, Cat Cow, Mountain and Child's to just name a few. Happy Baby and Lion's pose are currently the class favorites.

In connection, we read a book about careful/measured movement called Tai Chi for Kids by Stuart Alve Olson. We learned one story about the origin of Tai

Chi which included a nature revering Chinese monk named Three Peaks Chang. His observations of animal movements prompted him to create eight different exercises he later named Tai Chi. Our students studied the motions drawn in the book for each animal and with some help from Dr. Paul Lam's *Tai Chi 4 Kidz* video, we were able to put some of those moves into a small routine that we shared at Friday Share.

-Jada Brown and Emmanuel St. Vil

## **K1/K2 Room 109**

### **Katie & Courtney M.**

"The gym is closed today for voting," I told the kids last week. Almost every child raised a hand.

"My whole family is voting for Bernie Sanders!"

"My Papa votes for Donald Trump."

"I watched the debate and Elizabeth Warren *crushed* Michael Bloomberg!"

"Wait a minute. In Ancient China there was a wall and Donald Trump wants to build a wall!"

"I want to vote for Barack Obama."

"Well you can't vote for Obama, he's already been president. And anyways my parents are voting for that person you just talked about. Her name is Elizabeth."

"My Nana lives in Vermont and she's voting for Elizabeth Warren because she doesn't

think Vermont is as good so she's not voting for Bernie Sanders." "What you're saying is hurting my feelings because my Aunties live in Vermont and you're saying their life isn't as good."

I was stunned. These kids hear us. Political consciousness is alive and well for our youngest learners. They are absorbing so much more from conversations they hear at home than I would have ever guessed. Here's what I asked them:

*Did Elizabeth Warren "crush" Michael Bloomberg with her hands? Why do you think we teach you to use your words? Was Donald Trump's idea to build a wall a brand new idea? Why do you think we teach you about history? Why do you think we teach you about what life is like all around the globe? Can you imagine living in Ancient China? Are there some things that might have been better about living in Ancient China than living in Boston today? Are there some things that might be better about living in Boston than in Ancient China?*

## **GRADES 1 & 2**

### **Room 210**

#### **Amy, Alana & Stephanie**

Cocoa Kindness went to the Puppet Showplace Theater and loved it! We learned how to perform a good shadow puppet show for the upcoming Ancient China Curriculum Breakfast. We saw "Lisa the Wise," which is about a young girl who goes on

adventures that teach her how strong and brave she is. Here are some of our favorite bits:

Asa, Manny, Jonathan, Yeuri and Hannah: The house with the chicken legs (especially doing the ballerina leap)

Olivia, Perse, Sabina, Benjamin, Alessandra and Rowan: The ghost singing the song "Baba Yaga, Goo Goo Gah Gah"

Danae, Darwin and Xander: Going backstage and seeing how Sarah made the ghost; seeing how Sarah made the step-mom turn into a monster, and seeing how Sarah did everything at one time with her hands, feet and head.

Kaleena, Azaiah and Kayari: The bus ride because we liked our buddies and we liked not having to walk.

Isaiah: The puzzles and games there

Myla: The heroine singing "Fold, fold, fold, fold, fold!" and "Wash, wash, wash, wash, wash!"

Alice: Everything, everything was fun.

Didi: The story was very good.

What an inspiring and memorable trip for our class. We're excited to perform our stories for you soon!

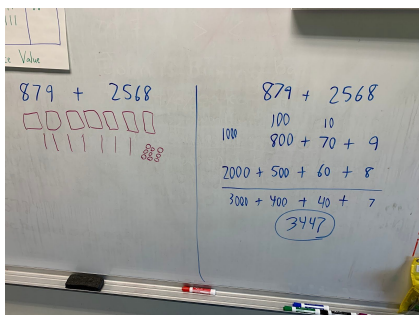
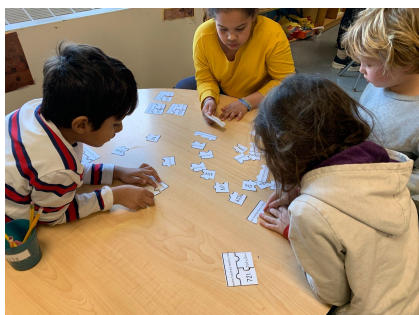
### **Room 216**

#### **Danny, Felicia & Usra**

"OK, Danae, you're going to solve the problem with place value symbols, and Mr. Danny is going to use expanded form. Let's see who finishes first. On your mark, get set, go!" Last Friday, the 1st

and 2nd grade classes started their fourth round of Passport Math groups. Passport Math is a 45 minute intervention session where students work in small groups on a set of explicit skills which will help them tackle more challenging problems in their general math class. In this round, Ms. Usra and Mr. Danny are co-teaching a group on expanded form. Expanded form allows students to solve equations with numbers in the thousands and ten thousands more efficiently by splitting numbers up by their place value. After Danae and Mr. Danny raced to solve the problem, Xander shared, "Danae had so many symbols to draw, so expanded form was way faster." We are so excited for all of the new problems our students will be able to access by learning more about expanded form over the next five weeks!

-Danny Flannery, Felicia Haynes, and Usra Ahmed



## GRADES 3 & 4

### Room 207

#### Amina & Ms. Hernandez

Prior to the vacation, our class shared at Friday Share. We shared a poem that we read and memorized, acknowledging Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the Black Lives Matter in Schools Week. When talking about why the poem was important, students said, "We learned a poem about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This poem is connected to Black Lives Matter Week because it is important to learn about black lives. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. protested for fairness for black people.

Fairness happened but still, even now, things can be unfair. The Black Lives Matter Movement is still working to make things fair."

As adults we may think that conversations about race are hard to have with each other, nevertheless with 8, 9 and 10 year olds. I wholeheartedly disagree! Through our rich conversation, it is evident that our students understand that things have changed since the days of Martin Luther King, Jr. AND there is much work still to be done. They are ready for the work. Are you?

-Amina Michel-Lord and Evelin Hernandez

### Room 212

#### Cleata & Ayan

Writing has become a favorite activity in our classroom. The

Black Warriors have been using writing in a variety of situations. They use writing to give an account of incidents they have seen or experienced. They use writing to describe their feelings and they use writing to explain what they read. Earlier this year we discussed and wrote personal narratives (stories about personal experiences). This semester we are working on folktales. During a writing activity, the Black Warriors were instructed to create a setting and character using descriptive detail that would keep their story vivid and interesting. Students are aware that writing is a work in progress for us in room 212.

Recently, Emeric got really excited about his folktale as he shared it with his dad during a family conference. His dad even got excited about the title of Emeric's folktale, "The Slave Who Conquered Egypt." Here is an excerpt from Emeric's folktale:

"Once upon a time on a hot sunny day in Egypt, a slave was cutting limestone when he decided something. His name was Ahmed. Ahmed was wearing a dirty Shendyt and a dirty bandana. Ahmed was a slave who was assigned to cutting, pulling and placing limestone on a pyramid."

Emeric contributed to this newsletter.

-Cleata, Emeric (Black Warrior)





## Room 215 Leila & Kat

Last week the Wonders had a special opportunity to visit the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. We toured the museum's incredible Chinese art collection, looking at everything from pottery to wallpaper to sculptures. My group spent a long time examining "Carved elephant tusk and stand." We were impressed by the intricate little trees, people, and dragon that artist Hoaching carved directly into the large piece of ivory in about 1839. The highlight of the trip had to be the Yin Yu Tang house, brought to Massachusetts from China's southeastern Huizhou region, which was home to generations of the Huang family for more than two hundred years (until 1982). The house looks almost exactly as it did when the Huang family lived there, complete with two fish pools! In case you were wondering, yes, we did name a fish. Jade Dragon Fish seems to be bringing continued luck to Yin Yu Tang.



## GRADES 5 & 6

### Room 203 Ms. Coleman & Frances

The "Mad Skills" experienced a great parent conference session this week. Parents were engaged in their children's educational process. Most of the students had a great time showing their work and projects that were designed for the Ancient China Theme. Several students shared their experience of the family conference day.

Brenden: I thought by giving my mother all the educational experience I had experienced was wonderful; because it gives me the opportunity to share something that may never have been mentioned at home.

Beatrice: I thought it was fun to show my mom the house I had made. I wanted to read to my mother before my time was up showing her my classwork and projects I design and built, so I read Tennyson to her.

Antonio: I am happy to show my mother how much I have improved in my classwork, she was excited to see that I can type full paragraphs. Also, my mother was really excited that she can do work on the laptop with me. A program called Brain genie.

Moxie mentioned that she thought the parents meeting was good. "I was happy to show my parents that I have done a lot of work. It is great to show them what I am doing right now in class.

Jaiden: I felt that my mom thinks I am smart and was amazed at how much work I have done these past few months. She was happy to hear that I read over five books and wrote reports about them.

### Room 205 Nakia & David

Here are a few End of the Week Reflections from Love-Us.

### Something I am really excited about is...

"Me, my 2 of my brothers are going bowling after drum lessons and pizza at a restaurant!"

"I wanna leave right now I'm so excited!"

**Something that went well this week was...**

"playing nitro type and going to recess and playing basketball"

"Something that went well this week was ELA. This went well because I am enjoying reading Dragonwings. I think that it is really interesting reading from the point of view of someone that came to the U.S. from another country. It's cool to see what they think of things here because I am so used to the things here that I don't really think about the things that may appear strange and different to people who are not used to them."

"One thing that went well this week was working on and finishing Playlist 7, which I felt really great about."

**I would feel more comfortable if...**

"i didn't fight because it was bad"

"I had more help."

**One thing I wish went better was...**

"the first draft of my essay in the first MCAS practice packet I wish this went better because I fell that if I had just thought about it for a bit longer I would have came up with a great idea for the rest of my essay."

**Next week I am going to try to...**

"i am going to try and go to math class and listen to my teachers"

**Something I learned this week was...**

"mcas practice"

**GRADES 7 & 8**

**Room 213**

**Jenna & Courtney D.**

Teachers can sometimes get into the mindset that it is too difficult to make changes in the middle of the year and that they just need to get through the rest of the year and try again in the fall. I have never agreed with this sentiment and believe that all of us, as humans, should try to make changes whenever something in our lives is not working. With this in mind, the 7th and 8th grade teaching team decided that it was time to "reset" our expectations, routines, and our consequence and reward system. We enlisted students' help and have gotten some interesting feedback. We agreed to start using "ClassDojo", an online tool. This can help us pay more attention to the positive behaviors (which we see more frequently but often ignore) rather than negative behaviors (which we see less often yet focus more attention towards). This is helping students create their own incentives. So far, we have a lot of buy in and some fun opportunities coming up. Students are excited to earn points to use towards free time,

choice time and some field trips out of the building. Hopefully, through the use of this system, we will all be able to enjoy our time together more and therefore make more social and academic progress throughout the rest of the school year.

**Room 214**

**Kathy B. & Ayanna**

"Old McDonald had a farm..." began with two students singing and then spread through the bus as we turned into the road for Farm School. From those who've annually visited Farm School since kindergarten to those who visited for the first time, the magic never disappears. We hope you enjoy these pictures as much as we enjoyed our trip last month.





## SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

---

### Safety Update

We want to make sure all families understand that students leaving before the end of the day must be signed out at the main office by an authorized adult. **Please note that no student will be released before the end of the school day unless an authorized adult has signed the student out at the office.** Also, we understand that active play is an important part of our school. We have safe spaces for active play (running, kicking and throwing balls, riding trikes, etc) in our gymnasium as well as outside. The cafeteria and the “Downtown” area near the Muniz Academy Office will be off limits for active play. For the safety of all students we will no longer be playing dodgeball, or bombardment, or any game where students are targeting each other.

### Spring Fundraising Update

Thanks to all who have supported Friends of Mission Hill School in our fundraising work so far this year. We had an especially busy week with two bake sales – one for early voting and one for the democratic primary election – and a Painting Night. We earned a total of \$2,647 on the bake sales, including having our most profitable sale ever on primary day! Our success was a direct result of so many people baking, working the table, buying treats, and helping in other ways. At Painting Night, participants created original abstract compositions, getting in touch with our inner artists while enjoying drinks and meeting new some community members. At all the events, we shared great conversation with people new to MHS, people who have been here for years, and everyone in between, raising awareness and generating goodwill for our school community. Mark your calendars for ‘Mission Get Down 4’ on June 13<sup>th</sup>!

### Hiring Committee

To help with the hiring process for positions next school year, we need two members from our family community to join the hiring committee. We would love your input on candidates being considered and would also like to add some diversity to our hiring committee! If interested, please contact Corinne Ng (Governing Board Co-Chair and MHS Parent) at 857-891-7800 or [corinnekl\\_n@hotmail.com](mailto:corinnekl_n@hotmail.com) of your interest. Starting March 11th resumes for open positions will be in the office and all are welcome to review and advise the hiring committee.





Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin and  
Jenerra Williams, Co-Teacher Leaders

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

Mission Hill K-8 School  
A Boston Public Pilot School

[WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.MISSIONHILLSCHOOL.ORG)

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

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



## HOUSING SEARCH AND TENANT'S RIGHTS WORKSHOP

OUR WORKSHOP WILL SHOW  
YOU THE STEPS TO SEARCH  
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
AND ALSO INFORM YOU OF  
YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

MARCH 14, 2020 | 10AM  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY- Connolly (JP)  
433 CENTRE ST., BOSTON, MA 02130  
Registration is not necessary  
Call (617) 635-0615 for questions

MARCH 23, 2020 | 6:30-8:00PM  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY- East Boston  
365 BREMEN ST., BOSTON, MA 02128  
Registration is not necessary  
Call (617) 635-0615 for questions

April 2, 2020 | 5:00-7:00PM  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY- Grove Hall  
41 GENEVA AVE., BOSTON, MA 02121  
Registration is not necessary  
Call (617) 635-0615 for questions

MAY 28, 2020 | 5:00-7:00PM  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY-Uphams Corner  
500 COLUMBIA RD., BOSTON, MA 02125  
Registration is not necessary  
Call (617) 635-0615 for questions



### Spring 2020 Regional Workshops For Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



The Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will be convening workshops this spring throughout Massachusetts. Each workshop is approximately three hours long. A guest speaker will present at each workshop on a topic important to relative caregivers. Each presentation will be followed by an information panel, which includes representatives from agencies who work with grandparents raising grandchildren such as DTA, DCF, ~~MassHealth~~, WIC, Elder Services, and more. Local community support providers will also be present.

**\*\*Light refreshments will be provided\*\***

**Registration is required!**

## MATTAPAN

**MARCH 27, 2020  
9:30 AM- 12:30 PM**

**Location:**  
The Mattapan Public Library  
1350 Blue Hill Avenue  
Boston, Ma. 02126

**Topic:**  
The Impact of Parental Substance Use on Children

**To register please  
contact the Commission:**

[Colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us](mailto:Colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us)

For the entire statewide schedule, please visit [www.massgrg.com](http://www.massgrg.com)





# REGÍSTRESE PARA EL PROGRAMA STEM DE VERANO GRATIS

**MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY**



**Program Dates:** Julio 6th - Julio 31st  
**Hours:** M- F; 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Ages:** 9 - 13 years old

**Ubicación:** Mildred Ave Middle School (\*Sujeto a cambios)

**Plazo de solicitud:** Abril 30th, 2020

**Cost:** Gratis!

**Los estudiantes inscritos en el programa serán:**

- Aprenda sobre ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, arte, matemáticas (STEAM) y aprendizaje de servicio.
- Enciende su imaginación.
- Ir en excursiones (museo de la ciencia y más!
- Use la influencia positiva de los compañeros para promover un ambiente educativo saludable, solidario y respetuoso.

**Espacio Limitado: Enlístate Ahora. Contacto Mothers for Justice and Equality (617)516-8086 or email para [jlee@mothersforjusticeandequality.org](mailto:jlee@mothersforjusticeandequality.org)**