



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Monday, May 25, No School
Memorial Day

Thursday, May 28, 5:00-7:00pm
Virtual Governance Board Meeting (open to all)

Every Friday 10am-11am
**Zoom Coffee Hour with Jeneralyn
for caregivers**

Every Wednesday 12-12:30pm
**Zoom Lunch with Jeneralyn
for students**

May 22, 2020

Volume 23, Issue 32

Special Edition: Student Voices!

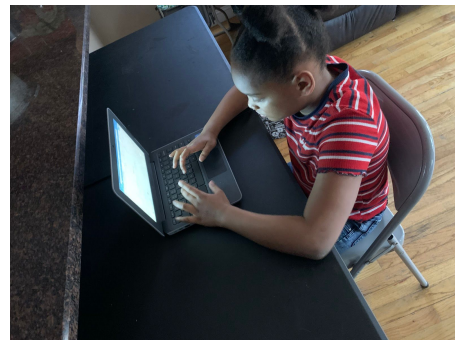
Dear Mission Hill School Friends, Families, Students and Staff,

This week we are taking a break from hearing from the adults - and are featuring student voices from K0 through 8th grade. As you will see, each classroom took a little different spin on student voices. We hope you enjoy this special edition of our weekly newsletter.

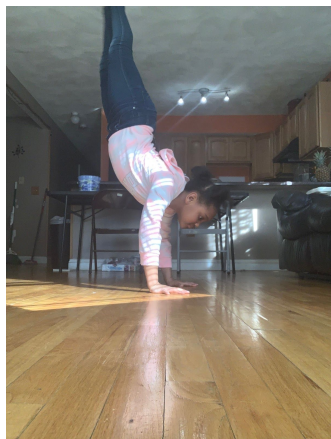
MHS Newsletter: Student Edition

By Harmony B.

Being a kid is not easy during this time, mostly with Covid-19. Covid-19 has been making it hard to learn. Recently kids have been doing online classes. Sometimes it can be stressful on parents and kids. In 3rd and 4th grade Mr. Eric has been giving us yoga classes to set our minds to relax. Meg and Cara have open studios for art and music. Our school community is available to help us.



We are all stressed about Covid-19, so sit down and relax. Take two deep breaths and then go have some fun with your family. Here is a fun game you can play. It's called Twister and if you don't have the game it is alright because I have the perfect solution for you. All you need is a long sheet that is 5 to 8 feet. Next grab some tape and make rows and columns. Then you need the colors green, yellow, blue, and red. Try to make circles in those colors with paint, but if you don't have paint then you can use markers. Have someone tell you which foot or hand to put on which color. For example, put your left foot on blue. Now go have some fun!



There is no need to worry as long as you have your family. Keep washing your hands for 20 seconds, you will be alright. So be safe because we are all in this together.

Be safe,
Harmony
Grade 4

KINDERGARTEN

K0 Room 108

Quéla, Liana, Donna & Sarah

Over the past few weeks The K0 team has come to observe how each student has adjusted to Social Distance Learning. Some children log on and off of Zoom comfortably and with ease, while others have a harder time saying goodbye when Zoom meetings are over. Here are some thoughts from The K0 Burgers on the question: "Do you like learning from home? Why? Or Why not?"

Students who answered yes...

Enjoy being at home with household gadgets such as the "Deebot". (Robotic vacuums are very cool!)

Say my teachers make it fun.

Enjoy Happy Numbers on Clever- especially the T-Rex.

Enjoy learning new things and getting strong everyday with daily exercise on Zoom (and eating steak to get strong!).

Like to "do small letters, ABCD, and numbers, I make letters".

Play I Spy on Zoom and bring siblings to school.

Play with trains, cars, Thomas, and eat Elmo cookies!

Students who answered no...

Miss the relationships built at school with friends and teachers.

Saying "SCHOOL! I miss school but my school got cancelled"

And shared, "I'm really shy."

In early childhood one of our main tasks as teachers is to help students navigate through transitions, typically between activities and physical spaces within the school. Now we find ourselves helping students transition into a new way of life. Their reaction to social distance learning is a result of the new routines that have been implemented to support them. The encouragement we receive from students and their families inspire us to keep doing what we are doing for The Burgers each day.



K1/K2 Room 106

Kathy & June

The following story was written collectively by the children in Room 106:

Once upon a time there was a huge blob of putty named Ditto. Ditto had a best friend unicorn. The unicorn's name was Violet. Then Ryan came along. Then a fairy came. It made a fairy house that it could go in. There was a mom that made five children and they lived in a mansion. Then there was a horse coming. They

were all friends so they decided to play with the ball. Then Dorothy came along and Luna and Baba and the whole puffin family came along with Dorothy. There was a problem with Ditto and the ball. Ditto got crushed. All the friends had to put him back together again. The puffins had to use their beaks and wings to help. They all found a way to play without getting hurt. And they all lived happily ever after. The End.

K1/K2 Room 107

Jada & Manny

During one of our classroom Zooms, Gio asked to stay online to practice writing a sentence that he created. He dictated and we wrote this together:

I like to play with everybody. We did a little reading practice and then took a field trip... a virtual one! We visited the San Diego Zoo from links on our classroom calendar and saw live video feed of the penguins and the baboons. "Where's that water coming from? What's he [penguin] doing?" "Woah! Did you see that Ms. Jada?! I saw one [baboon] run! He just jumped off of there!" We counted the baboons and wondered about what they were doing. After more observation, Gio commented that the baboons walked like tigers. While visiting the panda exhibit, we observed it eating, guessed the food and spoke about where pandas live. Gio connected the panda to

China which gave him an idea. "When we get back to school, we should make our class look like China! We should decorate it and eat Chinese food and wear Chinese clothes. I think the kids would really like that." While Gio has made it clear that he does not like remote learning because he "misses his friends", small moments like this make being apart a bit more bearable.



K1/K2 Room 109

Katie & Courtney M.

We asked the children "What is learning at home?" Here is what they told us:

Wylie: Learning to read!

Noah: Learning how to read.

Mies: Learning about different countries.

Lauren: Learning more and more math. And I'm doing a workbook with a fire truck.

Abe: Learning to read again.

We've almost read all the books!

Noah: Learning how to rock climb.

Mimi: It's fun! My sister says it's fun and I like her ideas.

Noah: Practice my martial arts.

GRADES 1 & 2

Room 210

Amy, Alana & Stephanie

Hi! My name is Danae and I want to tell you a little bit of how distancing is for me and my friends in Cocoa Kindness.

I miss some things: I want to see my friends. I want to be in our classroom. I want to be able to play at playgrounds but we can't do that.

At least we get to be with family and we can enjoy the time we spend with them:

Playing a board game. Talking or doing a painting with them.

Having fun with them and being grateful for them.

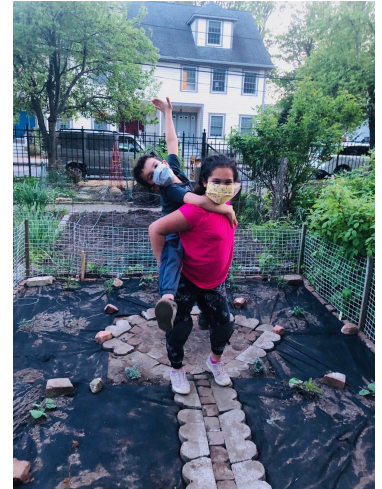
If you ever miss someone, ask if you can call them. You can email them or make something that reminds you of them. Be creative with it.

If you're ever bored, you can read a book, exercise, have a little dance party, draw, play a game. Have fun and do what makes you happy.

Want to do some more school work? You could do an experiment and write about it. You could read, write or ask someone to make some math equations for you. Think about stuff you liked learning and doing with your class.

How are you doing it?

- Danae, 2nd grader

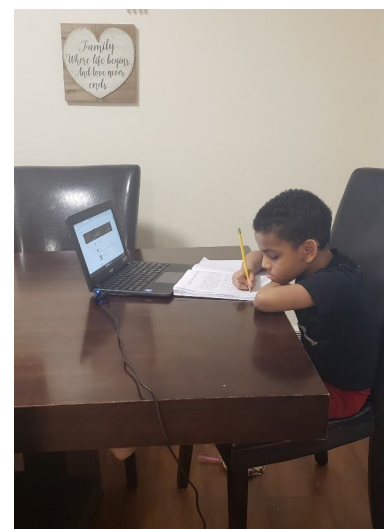


Room 216

Danny, & Felicia

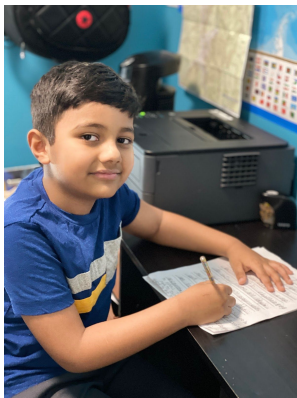
Learning at home has been a lot more easy lately . I miss my friends. I'm looking forward to seeing my friends. I like online classes. It has been a lot more easy because I could still see my friends. And I miss going to school a little bit. The math has been a little harder. Sometimes I miss playing with my friends. I'm looking forward to playing with my friends. And I also miss some of the teachers.

- Yaniel, 2nd grader



I like being at school more than home. Sometimes I like home more than school. I like having fun in school because I get to play with my friends in the yard. I like home because I get to spend time with my mom and dad and my brother. It's challenging to stay home all day. I am sad I can't play with my friends. I miss the work that we did at school. I am looking forward to reading and more. I am learning to use the Chromebook and to type fast. I am looking forward to summer.

-Anish, 2nd grader



GRADES 3 & 4

Room 207

Amina & Ms. Hernandez

Students are doing a lot of cool things while being physically away from school. Many are writing stories, letters and emails to family and friends. Some have gone hiking to various places in our city/state, while others are exploring their neighborhoods with their families. Several are exploring things they can make on the computer. With the help of his

father, [Abel created this cute movie](#). Enjoy!



Room 212

Cleata & Ayan

In connection with the spring theme "The World of Work", students were asked to respond to the following prompt: What is one job that you think is very important today? Why? Here is a response from Naki:

I think that doctors and nurses are important because they risk getting sick to help people, they don't know who might have the virus until tested. They can end up getting their own family sick. Doctors and nurses are important because everyday something happens to people and we need their help. They don't know any of these people and are helpful because of how many people are sick now and that is why I think doctors are important right now.

- Naki, 3rd grader



Room 215

Leila & Kat

See this week's cover letter written by Harmony from Room 215!

GRADES 5 & 6

Room 203 &

Ms. Coleman & Frances

This period, for me, has been very enjoyable. It is fun because at home we have a large quantity of very interesting books and many art supplies. I also learned to knit just for fun. I am in the process of knitting a scarf, which I am knitting using as many crazy colors as possible. The yarn gets tangled often, which makes it kind of tricky.

I also started an Audible subscription, but they only let you get one audiobook every month. This is really annoying because there are many books that I would like to buy that I cannot buy because of credits. They only send you one credit every month, and so far I have *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, *The Lost Hero*, and *The Mark Of Athena* as audiobooks.

- Beatrice, 6th grader



Room 205

Nakia & David

In my opinion going from regular school to phase one, to phase two has been hard to adjust to. First, we were getting work from our teachers *and* BPS because everyone was still adjusting, but we only had actual zoom classes every once in a while. Now in phase two, we are able to see our class every day multiple times and be able to talk with people about the work and any confusion. It was really helpful after how it had been before. If there was something you didn't understand about an assignment, you could just ask your teacher like you would if

we were physically in school. Also, when we went into phase two, we began having art, music, and PE classes on zoom. That was also helpful for the same reason. The harder thing is that I have to remember my entire schedule for the week so I don't miss classes. I still like how phase two is going more than how phase one went though. I like that there is more structure in the work you do, and I like seeing the people in my class.

- Kaia, 5th grader



GRADES 7 & 8

Room 213 & Room 214

Jenna, Kathy B, Ayanna & Courtney D

padlet

7 & 8th advice for Mission Hill Students

DONT TRY TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!!!!

Don't do anything that a good kid would not do

advice on keeping your sanity.

try to not lose your mind.

Justin advice for kids on middle school 101

if a teacher is arguing with them just listen to what they say and leave and if they keep talking just walk away and go to class if they follow you just listen to them and they will go away it's like a nightmare.

another one of Justin's advice 101

if you feel stressed listen to music it helps you from going crazy on someone or yourself

DO YOUR WORK

ADVICE FOR GETTING WORK DONE

DONT BE DUMB LIKE ME

Advice for doing work

Do it!!

ADVICE FOR GETTING WORK DONE

BE DIFFERENT

Advice for getting work done

Don't get distracted and focus a lot on the work

ADVICE FOR GETTING WORK DONE

DONT BE LAZY

The Best 7th Grade Advice

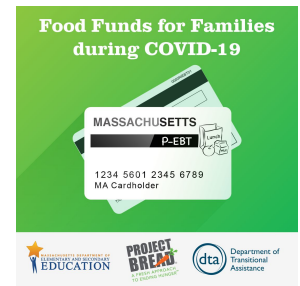
Hello all who seek advice! You have arrived at the right place. Some advice for being in 7th grade is preparing for harder work. Not just harder but MORE work. Now, this statement may seem like a lot. But you can't forget the people around you to help. There are teachers to help, but they're not always free, having the most work to do out of all of us. Students are there to help as well. There are many resources to help you in 7th grade. But no one can make you use them. It's up to you to help yourself sometimes. 7th grade is quite a ways away for some of you. For others it's right around the corner. It can be a very stressful time. But if you can manage your work and time, there will be times of great fun!

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

P-EBT Cards for All BPS Families

Beginning this month, every BPS family will receive financial assistance for food due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are available under a new federal program called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT. Families will receive \$5.70 each eligible child each day for every day school is closed due to the pandemic, which comes to \$28.50 a week.

If you do not currently have an EBT card, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail. Each enrolled BPS child in the household will receive a unique P-EBT card. If you currently have an EBT card, funds will be added to your account. The money can be used to buy food items at stores where SNAP benefits (food stamps) are accepted (look for signs that say, "We accept EBT here"). Click [here](#) for more information or email. The card is valid for one year.



FAMILY TRAININGS	
MAY	JUNE
Wednesday, May 20th 4pm - 5pm Promoting Healthy Technology Habits at Home	Monday, June 1st 1pm - 2pm Guide to Balancing Work, Family, and Household Responsibilities During Times of Change <i>In partnership with MHS Assessments</i>
Thursday, May 21st 1pm - 2:30pm Resources for Multilingual Families español, krio, ASL, português	Wednesday, June 3rd 1pm - 1:30pm Parenting Tips During Quarantine <i>In partnership with Boston Children's Hospital</i>
Tuesday, May 26th 1pm - 2:30pm Resources for Multilingual Families العربية and 中文	Thursday, June 4th 2pm - 3pm Play is Essential <i>In partnership with Life is Good Playmakers</i>
Thursday, May 28th 12:30pm - 2pm Resources for Multilingual Families af Soomaali, kreyòl ayisyen, and 哈越	
6pm - 7pm Understanding Social Emotional Learning to Support Your Child	

Family Training Series: Supporting our Students during COVID

BPS Behavioral Health Services has launched a Family Training Series. "While schools are closed due to the pandemic, we know that families are working tirelessly to support and educate their students at home. In an effort to provide them with helpful tips and resources, Boston Public Schools has partnered with a number of community experts to provide brief trainings on everything from parenting tips to healthy technology habits."

[Click here for more information.](#) These training sessions are free, but you do have to register.

Free Mindfulness App

Inner Explorer is now offering free access to their new mindfulness app for kids and families. Eric Fishman (student teacher in Cleata's class) has used their school-based program before, and believes that Inner Explorer creates accessible, thoughtful materials. https://innerexplorer.org/compass/family_onboarding

Reduce Stress



Support from Alyssa Alvarado, our School Psychologist

Alyssa Alvarado, our school psychologist, is available to any of our students that are having a difficult time during the school closure. In addition to support for the students, she is able to consult with parents regarding their child's behavior or mental health. If you are interested in support please contact her via email at aarpino@bostonpublicschools.org or Google voice: 781-613-3292.



Help Hotline is Open!

There is a BPS hotline where you can get many answers to your questions related to the coronavirus school closure. The hotline is 617-635-8837. You can also check out <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/coronavirus> for a ton of resources available to you on the BPS coronavirus website. You can report a damaged Chromebook, find the latest list of food distribution (school-based and citywide) locations, and access the latest information related to coronavirus and school closure at <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/coronavirus>.

Mission Hill School Garden Update

We are happy to be planting and maintaining the new garden beds at Mission Hill School, though it is hard not to be gardening with your students this spring as we had planned! Farmer Dani will be making a video update to share with you when she visits the garden every other week. Here is the video made on Dani's first visit.

[Mission Hill garden update May](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=20&v=4VH2ij7ZeZc&feature=emb_logo

All the best,
Caitie

Caitie Dwyer-Huppert | Education & Programs Manager
Green City Growers



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

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



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