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 Onderwerp: MHS Newsletter- 10.26.18  
 Datum: 26.10.2018 21:53:31 (+0200)

October 26, 2018

Volume 22, Issue 7



## Important Dates and Reminders

Thursday, November 1, 6:00pm-7:30pm  
**Friends of Mission Hill School Meeting**

Tuesday, November 6, 7:00am-8:00pm  
**MHS Bake Sale, during the Election**

Thursday, November 8, 5:00pm-5:30pm  
**Governance Board Meeting: Voting on leadership**

## Climate Survey Results

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

Last year our school community participated in the climate survey given by the school department. The survey results are valuable information that contribute to our goal setting, celebration and school improvement. What do these results say to you?

*School Year 2017-2018 results based on a response scale of 1-5. Student response rate 71%*

Component	Year	School	District
Sense of belonging	2017-2018	3.4	3.4
Emotional safety	2017-2018	3.1	3.4
Teacher interest in students	2017-2018	3.5	3.4
Academic challenge	2017-2018	3.7	3.9
Physical safety	2017-2018	3.7	3.8
Valuing of learning	2017-2018	3.6	3.7

*School Year 2017-2018 results based on a response scale of 1-5. Teacher response rate 89%*

Component	Year	School	District
Teacher collaboration	2017-2018	4.1	3.6
Community engagement	2017-2018	3.5	3.3
Cultural responsiveness	2017-2018	4.2	3.9

Professional community	2017-2018	4.0	3.6
Access/quality resources	2017-2018	3.2	2.9

School Year 2017-2018 results based on a response scale of 1-4. Family response rate 49%

Component	Year	School	District
Perception of teacher effectiveness/performance	2017-2018	3.2	3.2
Safe and welcoming environment	2017-2018	3.3	3.3
Parent participation in school	2017-2018	2.6	2.3
Overall perception of school	2017-2018	3.2	3.3

## Kindergarten News

### Kathy, June & Liana Room 106



On Friday, our class joined other classes on an apple picking trip. We loaded ourselves onto the buses and traveled over an hour to Shelburne Farm. The farm staff took us on a hay ride out to the orchard, where we filled our bags with plump, crunchy apples. As I watched our students running amongst the trees, shrieking with delight and showing their apples to friends, I was overcome with gratitude about being able to teach in such a special school. Many schools these days are forced to rush through curriculum, hurrying on to page 85 (even if the students didn't understand page 84). Mission Hill School creates purposeful learning experiences that deepen students' learning, strengthen their social connections and extend their thinking. Some of our students had never picked apples before that day. They have a new understanding about how

### Jada & Manny Room 107

Last week was busy with great experiences. The first was a visit to the New England Aquarium. Our students screeched with excitement as they gazed in wonder at the amazing creatures. They were fully entertained by a set of spunky stingrays who sporadically came to the edge of the tank and splashed them. In reflecting on our trip, some students said:

*I liked the...*

...seals, the penguins and the octopus. -Arel, Rowan, Ebi, Joy, Eddy  
...the sharks. - Josue  
...stingrays. -Bilal

We then took our annual trip to Shelburne Farms in Stow MA. Singing our Farmer Brown song as we neared the farm, when we finally pulled in our students were elated. In time we climbed into a tractor for our hayride and once amongst the trees, our students picked apples to their hearts delight. At a moment's glance, students were filling bags, reaching for apples and taking bites out of the giant ones they held. Others figured

### Geralyn & Donna Room 108



Experiments with water Part 2

On another occasion we were determined to find out 'Does water always get absorbed?' This time our instruments used were pitchers of water, eye droppers, wax paper and construction paper. We used the eye droppers to squeeze water onto construction paper. We quickly saw that the construction paper turned darker as it absorbed the drops of water. We then squeezed the water from our droppers onto wax paper. The water formed in droplets on the wax paper. When we tried to smash the droplets by our hands into the wax paper they would

### Katie & Mary Room 109



Last week we released our butterflies. The children wished them well on their journey to Mexico. They wondered if our butterflies would see the butterflies from Ms. Deborah's room last year. They puzzled over the butterflies' first experience in the outside world. They watched as the sun hit the butterflies' wings and the butterflies took flight.

Saying goodbye is important for children. It helps them transition and can relieve anxiety. Every day we sing a goodbye song. It's a repeat-after-me song, and each line is sung twice. There are some pretty great motions that we made up to go with it. Ask your favorite 109-er (s) to sing it with you next time you part. The words are below so you can sing along.

Bye bye butterfly.  
Be sweet parakeet.

their produce makes it into stores and they didn't learn it from a worksheet. They learned it through a meaningful, hands-on experience supported by families and a school that takes the time to make learning come alive.

-Liana

emptying their filled bags onto the ground would ensure them space for picking more. A treat of delicious apple cider donuts was the perfect end to our day.

-Jada

divide into smaller droplets. We saw that we could slide the droplets right off the wax paper. They did not get absorbed into the wax paper. On another day, we tried a similar experiment with paper towels. Since that day, our K0 students often ask to re-try the water dropping on wax paper. They especially like trying this with red, blue and yellow colored water. What surfaces can be explored by your scientists around the home?

Swish swish jellyfish  
Give a hug ladybug.  
  
Take care polar bear.  
See you soon raccoon.  
So long king kong.  
Bye bye firefly.

See you later alligator.  
In a while crocodile.  
Don't be slow.  
Gotta go.  
Out the door.  
There's no more,  
Dinosaur!  
Bye bye!

-Katie

-Donna

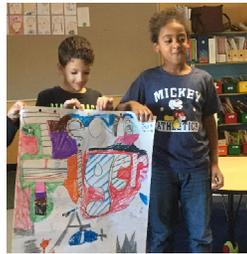
## First & Second Grade News

### Ashleigh & Alana Room 205



More than just a stuffed animal...these fluffy brown bears in our classroom are sources of comfort, motivation, creativity, imagination, and self-expression. For some people they might wonder "Why do first and second graders walk around their classroom carrying teddy bears?" After reading *Bears, Bears, Everywhere Supporting Children's Emotional Health in the Classroom* by Lesley Koplou the first and second grade team decided to include bears as part of our social/emotional work with students. Each child selects their own bear and personalizes their bear with clothing and accessories. Then they create stories and lives around their bears. We also use them to role play social scenarios. Here are some of the students' reflections about our bears. Emma shared, "They are cute and you can make them costumes. My bear can help me when I'm mad because sometimes I can talk to my bear when I'm mad and tell my bear

### Danny & Felicia Room 216



Last week we picked our class name, and it was the closest vote we've ever had. We had to do three revotes because no class name got a majority! We believe this shows how strong all of the options were, as well as how effectively our groups presented their names. Here are some samples of students' speeches:

"People share stories of dragons from long ago, they still do. Also they breathe fire, that's pretty cool." - Isaac

"A galaxy is like a mixture and we're a mixture of all different talents." - Jazmyn

"I think silver and gold are shiny so you should vote for Silver and Gold." - Tommy

"Unicorns are strong and they are unique and powerful." - Violet

"I think you should vote for Team Tigers because some people like tigers, like Tommy does. Also if some people saw our class name they might be like 'Aw man, I want to be in that class!'" - Misael

### Kate & Kat Room 217

Up until last week we called ourselves "Room 217", "Kat's Class", "Kate's Class", or "Kate and Kat's Class". It was time to have a class name. I introduced the idea of a class name to the students at Morning Meeting, our daily gathering that happens at 9:40 on our round blue rug. The name had to fit the whole group, not just one student's idea that a few of their friends liked. It needed to be creative and not copy a movie, TV show or video game's name or characters. It could not be a famous thing or person that was not a member of our class. We talked about how to help ourselves and others feel good if our idea or favorite choice wasn't chosen. Students had amazing ideas! *The Mathematicians, The Scientists, The Pals, The Shooting Stars, The Kat's Meow, The Chipmunks...* We started voting for our name. We went around the circle to vote a few times and gradually eliminated ideas that weren't as popular. In the end we had two final choices: *The Pals* and *The Shooting Stars*. It was an even split between the two so I opened up a third option: *The Shooting Star Pals*. It one in a landslide!

-Kate

what's going on and my bear can try to help me." Xander shared, "My bear helps me by reading to me." Shona shared, "She helps me when I'm sad. She can cast spells and make me happy." Stop by room 205 to meet some of our teddy bears!

-Ashleigh

After four vote tallies, with a close vote of 11-7, our new class name is The Dragons! Come stop by Room 216 to spend time with The Dragons and see our awesome banner above the door!

-Danny

## Third & Fourth Grade News

### Jenerra & Mayra Room 203

It was a beautiful fall day in New England. The sun was shining and there was a slight autumn breeze. The excitement was palpable as the kids boarded the tractor for our hayride to the orchard. Hundreds of trees stood tall, showing off their beautiful red and golden apples. Our annual apple picking trip at Shelburne Farm was, as always, full of joy, smiles and a wonderful sense of community. Here are our favorite parts of the day:

Natalia - picking apples and apple cider donuts  
 Arianni - enjoying the day  
 Levi - apple cider donuts  
 Soley - everything  
 Kaia - seeing the goats  
 Darby - eating the donuts  
 Wren - when I was eating my apple  
 G'kharee - we got to pick the apples  
 Gabriel - donuts!  
 Fabian - the donuts  
 Antonio - apple picking and the hayride  
 Geneva - helping my friends stuff their bags with apples  
 Nelly - the hayride  
 Jenerra - making my students happy!

### Amanda & Amina Room 207

We are lucky to be able to use the city of Boston and beyond as an extension of our classroom. On Tuesday we went to the New England Aquarium where we learned about penguins, seals and other marine life. Highlights of this trip included seeing an octopus, touching hermit crabs and other tide pool creatures. We were also able to touch stingrays! We found Myrtle the turtle in the giant tank as we watched the divers do a feeding.

Friday was a beautiful day to venture out on our annual apple picking trip. On the ride to Shelburne Farm, friends chatted happily as they played Travel BINGO, a game that encourages players to observe things they see out the window during the ride. When we arrived to the orchard, a great time was had by all. We visited the goats and llamas, rode the hay ride, picked YUMMY apples and had a picnic lunch.

Check back here in the coming weeks to see where else we have extended our learning and new things we have discovered.

-Amina

### Cleata & Ayan Room 212



Some students enjoy reading fiction while others enjoy a good nonfiction picture book. In room 212, the Panthers enjoy reading different genres of fiction as their just right books (books within their comprehension level). During our theme exploration we read a lot of nonfiction texts which can be above reading comprehension due to content language. We recently got more explicit about using reading comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading nonfiction texts. In our discussions we agreed that we can make predictions about a text before reading, we stop during reading to ask questions about a part of the reading that we are confused or unsure about, then we reread or read on to clarify. At the end of reading we then summarize the main idea. This practice has helped us to slow down and dive deeper into reading informational texts. We have been able to get the most out what we read, gaining the content knowledge of our Science theme while doing exploratory chemistry projects to make connections to what we read. Some topics we have read about are States of Matter and Chemical vs. Physical Reactions.

-Cleata

## Fifth, Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Grade News

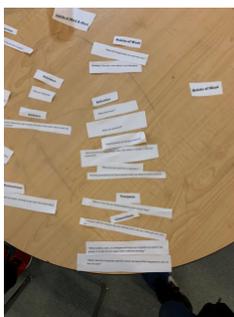
Nakia & Kendall  
Room 210

Abdi & Courtney  
Room 215

Jenna & Natel  
Room 213

Reginald & Frances  
Room 214

### Grades 5 & 6



Students from room 210 putting together a puzzle of quotes to match Mission Hill Habits of Mind and Habits of Work

### Grades 5 & 6

This past week we started to explore the chemical and physical properties of matter and investigated how temperature affects the movement of molecules in water. We did this experiment to compare hot, cold, and room temperature water with tea bags. We had many different initial hypothesis, but hot water was the fastest! We have been working on a Cause and Effect- "A Time When.." writing prompt and next week we will start to create our own version of "A Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series! At the end of our week we were introduced to our Chrome Books! We were first assigned to choose an image of our interest to project on our computers homepage. We also conducted 2 rounds of Restorative Justice Circles: we are learning to listen closely to how our actions can make others feel unsafe. Listening Conferences are wrapping up; goals are getting set for the year. Please contact Abdi to schedule your meeting.

-Abdi

### Grades 7 & 8

Density is a science concept that comes up in many science courses and a concept that we are beginning to unpack in 7th and 8th grade chemistry. It is a rich concept that connects science and math in a deep way, leaving students unsure if they are completing a science task or a math task. We began our exploration by completing a lab in which we examined cubes made up of different materials (wood, steel, copper, etc.) that all had the same volume but different masses. We found the mass of each cube by weighing it on a triple beam balance and then calculated its density. We discovered that mass and volume both impact an object's density, leading to the formula,  $d=m/v$  (density=mass divided by volume). We will continue exploring and deepening our understanding of density through labs this week.

-Jenna

### Grades 7 & 8

Each Monday, students get a new article. The article is usually connected to the theme and/or our whole class book, *The Golden Compass*. It is often from the website Newsela, in order provide at least three reading levels. Students self-select which reading level they will read. The assignment has three parts: Annotating, short responses and a quiz.

It's taken a while but the 7th graders are finally getting the hang of it. I collect the articles every Friday. Until this week, the large majority of students had not completed the article by Friday morning. More concerning, many students who claimed, "I'm done with it" earlier in the week turned in incomplete assignments.

There was a shift this past week, almost all the 7th graders completed the assignment by the time I collected it. It's unclear whether it was the topic of the article or whether or not students finally got the hang of it. I'll replicate the same steps as last week. Mainly, provide daily reminders and a few minutes each day to work on it in class. The next goal, for each student to complete the assignment *thoughtfully*.

-Reginald

## School-wide News

### MHS DEBATE TEAM

Congratulations to the Mission Hill Debaters!

Adler, Amishai, Dakyla, Ella, Eva, Jhayden F. ,Nate, and Sophia, competed in our first debate tournament this past Saturday.

Congratulation to Amishai,

### MHS Weekly Math Challenge

Every week, there is a new math challenge posted in the hallway at the top of stairwell B. This weeks math challenge is posted below.

The question is: "a bat and ball cost one dollar and ten cents. The bat costs one dollar more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?"

### MHS Bake Sale

The Friend of Mission Hill will be hosting a bake sale on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6th from 7:00am to 8:00pm while the polls are open.

If you would like to volunteer to staff the table or to bake some goods, please contact Rachel Goldsmith at [rachelgo@mindspring.com](mailto:rachelgo@mindspring.com)

who won 1st place speaker  
and 3rd place team in the  
JV division!

Congratulations to Ella, who  
won 6th place speaker and  
2nd place team in the  
novice division!



=\$1.10



## Fliers & Attachments

**\*Special Board Meeting\***



A formal board vote will take place regarding a new leadership structure at Mission Hill School.

Come find out more.

Where: MHS Library

When: November 8, 2018

Time: 5:00- 5:30

**\* Reunión especial de la junta directiva\***



Se llevará a cabo una votación formal de la junta con respecto a una nueva estructura de liderazgo en la escuela Mission Hill.

Ven a descubrir más.

Donde: Biblioteca MHS

Cuándo: 8 de noviembre de 2018.

Hora: 5:00- 5:30



**SATURDAY  
NOV 17  
9AM-1PM**

Boston City Hall  
1 City Hall Square  
Boston

MBTA: Government Center, Haymarket,  
State Street

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**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Attend an information session to learn more about our program.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES**

- Day and evening sessions
- Parent and Child activities
- Adult Career Pathways (ACP)
- Academic advising
- Adult basic education classes
- Online Learning

**INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION SESSIONS**

**MORNING SESSIONS**

BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 11:30 AM

- Wednesday, November 14, 2018
- Wednesday, December 5, 2018
- Wednesday, January 9, 2019

**EVENING SESSIONS**

BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 5:00 PM

- Wednesday, November 7, 2018
- Wednesday, December 12, 2018
- Wednesday, January 16, 2019

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY, BUT PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME.**

We are located at the Madison Park Complex, Building 1 - on the plaza behind the flagpoles; use the double green doors on the right to enter. Ring the doorbell and come up the stairs to the 4th floor.



For more information, please contact us at 617-635-9300



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**Ayla Gavins, Principal**  
Deborah Meier, Founder  
Laura Perille, Interim Superintendent

**Mission Hill K-8 School**  
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