

THE LP BULLETIN

NOTES, QUOTES, AND LOST COATS

The LP Bulletin #27
March 9th, 2017

UPCOMING LP EVENTS

Monday, 13th March - Lunch Week Begins for Grades 2, 4, and 6
Tuesday, 14th March - Girl Scouts
Thursday, 16th March - 3rd Grade to Hale House
Friday, 17th March - 1st Grade Special Friends - 8:05- 9:30
Tuesday, 21st March - Science Club
Wednesday, 22nd March - 5th Grade to Otis House
Thursday, 23rd March - 2nd Grade Play
Friday, 24th March - Early Dismissal - 12:15 (Professional Development)
Tuesday, 28th March - 6th Grade Keyboard Recital. 6th Grade Parent Meeting. Girl Scouts.
Wednesday, 29th March - 6th Grade to Lowell Mills
Thursday, 30th March - 1st Grade Play
Friday, 31st March - Stuffed Animal Day. 6th Grade IRS. LP Auction

HEADLINES

Our International Women's Day 'Teach-In'

It was, as expected, a sensational day. The children responded, across the board, with excitement and engagement. Yes, of course, any change in routine will create an enthusiastic blip, but yesterday's enthusiasm sustained itself from the beginning of the day to the grand climax--the procession out the door carrying their 'protest-like signs' with facts they had learned or proclamations ranging from "I love my mom" and "Mix up the toys" (popular among Kindergartners) to "Close the Wage Gap Now" (popular among our older children).

When I wrote about the day's program in last week's Bulletin we didn't have a movie selected. From several possibilities we chose *The Queen of Katwe*, a recent Disney release based on the true story about a young girl in Uganda, Phiona Mutesi, who is born into poverty and further constrained by bias against girls and women, but who, nonetheless, achieves international fame and some fortune through her extraordinary skills at chess. It was the perfect film for the broader themes of the day, and for a school also wanting to promote chess playing, and particularly among girls who tend to fall away from chess as they get older. We finished up the film today at All School Meeting.

Several parents have shared directly with me some observations about the

CURRENT 'HABIT OF THE HEAD, THE HEART, AND THE HAND'

Wonder

WORD OF THE WEEK

Emancipate
Suffrage
Vacate
Accumulate
Kerfuffle
Demonstrate
Farewell
Affirm
Curtail
Advocate
Flourish
Compromise
Apply
Concede
Responsibility
Indulge
Predicament
Dawdle
Germinate
Tarnish
Flounder
Maneuver
Artifact
Prompt

ATTACHMENTS

[March 2017 Calendar](#)

[After School Changes Form](#)

[March Goals Calendar](#)

day. Among them, one wrote that, "Lots more seeds of social justice were planted in all of those amazing little minds yesterday!" Another wrote that his child "shared . . . at dinner that in preschool, her friend told her that her favorite color couldn't be blue because that's a boy color. 'Today I learned that he's wrong,' she said. 'Blue can be my favorite color, because it is. And boys can like pink and purple.' And she went on to say that there's no such thing as 'girls toys' and 'boys toys,' and that 'kids can play with any toys that they want to play with.' This went on and on, and she told us that she can't wait to be a chess champion some day."

All around the school, teachers were hearing similar comments. Minds opening up, attitudes shifting, and resolve strengthening to push back against gender related bias and gender based inequities. Good work was happening everywhere.

A school day such as yesterday--one that departs dramatically from well-established routines--requires, of course, an immense effort associated with planning, research, the collection of materials, and the preparation of lesson plans. Many members of the faculty contributed to that process, but there are three whose names I wish to mention once again: Ms. Barcay, Ms. Farbo, and Ms. Cesarz. Their contributions to this wonderful day were extraordinary and we owe them our gratitude.

Some Related Resources /Links:

The school has been very actively purchasing books the last couple of years (using Read-a-Thon funds) and many of those books have been selected because they present images of strong girls. Here is a list of recent purchases that we used during our Women's International Day Celebration:

Women's Day Bibliography

- * Annie's Plaid Shirt by Stacy Davids
- * Not Every Princess by Jeffrey Bone and Lisa Bone
- * Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio
- * Masal Yousafzai by Karen Leggett Abouraya
- * A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara
- * Rad American Women A-Z by Kate Schatz
- * Ladies of Liberty by Cokie Roberts
- * Ada Lovelace by Diane Stanley
- * Friends of Freedom by Suzanne Slade
- * Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
- * The First Step-How One Girl Put Segregation on Trail by Susan Goodman
- * What is the Big Deal About First Ladies by Ruby Shamir and Matt Faulkner
- * Hillary Rodham Clinton by Michelle Markel
- * Malala-Activist for Girls' Education by Raphaelle Frier
- * Rosa's Bus-The Ride to Civil Rights by Jo S. Kittinger
- * The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
- * Remembering the Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates
- * Princess Grace by Mary Hoffman
- * Phoebe and Digger by Tricia Springstubb
- * The Daring Book for Girls by Andrea Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz
- * Brave Girl by Michelle Markel

And here are some links that Ms. Cesarz recommends parents might want to explore:

WHAT'S DUE?

1st Grade Special Friends
Information

GIRL SCOUTS SCHEDULE

March 14th
March 28th
April 11th
April 25th
May 9th
May 23rd
June 6th



Pictures from Wednesday's
International Women's Day
"teach-in"!



<https://seejane.org>

<http://banbossy.com>

<http://nwhp.org>

<https://ala-publishing.informz.net>

March

As you may have as well, I've been noticing the stirrings of spring: the witch hazel in the Public Garden, an early harbinger, is two weeks in bloom; snow drops are up and flowering; and this morning I saw the purple edges of a crocus blossom that will be open tomorrow morning, I imagine. I hear, too, the song birds once again--the robins and cardinals most recently, singing newly, indeed, 'lustily.' Spring is unfolding.

I've never before thought of March as the month when the pace around here, also, begins to accelerate, but suddenly, it's feeling like we're in a prelude to April, May and June. A lot is happening: As I mentioned last week, planning for **International Women's Day** diverted my attention from March as **Goal's Month**, but now we have that underway--the Goal's Month calendars went home yesterday. This week the sixth graders started the two week **Lunch Week Program**, a large effort characterized by innumerable details (e.g, who gets the sandwich with lettuce, or the one without mayo, or who gets the main course instead, etc.). The first **Special Friends Day** is on **Friday, March 17th**, for special friends of First Graders (**REMINDER: Forms are due tomorrow, March 10th**). And, meanwhile, the first and second graders are preparing for their plays, the sixth graders for their keyboard recital (which, **REMINDER**, is followed by the D.C. parent meeting), and, of course, the Parent Auction Committee is frantically busy preparing for the Auction on the 31st--the same day as our traditional Stuffed Animal Day.

We used to have a reading series with a unit called "Hang on to your Hats." I think that time is upon us.

Faculty Update

Early this year I announced the sad-for-us departure of Ms. Michalow from our faculty. Ms. Michalow will be getting married this July (a happy event for sure!) and moving to Rhode Island. That news caused us to begin the search for her replacement, and many strong resumes came through the transom. This week I reached a decision and I am immensely pleased to announce the appointment of Mikah Farbo, currently in our Internship Program, to be the school's next Fifth Grade Teacher.

Ms. Farbo, who was raised in a family of five children in Lancaster County, PA, graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2015 and Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2016. She entered our Internship Program this fall, teaching with Ms. Barcay in third grade. Ms. Farbo is now teaching with Mr. Gerstenlauer in Sixth Grade.

As a general rule, we do not hire Interns directly from the program---unless they have finished or are doing their Master's work and are truly exceptional. Ms. Farbo clearly fits both of those categories--as did former LP Interns Ms. Ream (our second grade teacher for seven years before she left last year after having a baby) as well as Ms. Royal and Ms. Barcay. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Farbo on her appointment to the school's Head Teaching Faculty beginning in the fall of 2017.

Word of the Week:

Emancipate - to set free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions.
Free from slavery.

Quote of the Week

"Unconscious bias is not the same as conscious discrimination. I'm not saying that in all of you, there's a secret sexist or racist or ageist lurking within, waiting to get out. That's not what I'm saying. We all have our biases. They're the filters through which we see the world around us. I'm not accusing anyone, bias is not an accusation. Rather, it's something that has to be identified, acknowledged and mitigated against. Bias can be about race, it can be about gender. It can also be about class, education, disability. The fact is, we all have biases against what's different, what's different to our social norms.

The thing is, if we want to live in a world where the circumstances of your birth do not dictate your future and where equal opportunity is ubiquitous, then each and every one of us has a role to play in making sure unconscious bias does not determine our lives."

Yasmin Abdel-Magied.

Ted Talk - What does my headscarf mean to you?

This is an excerpt from a fourteen minute clip we showed the children on Wednesday.

http://www.ted.com/talks/yassmin_abdel_magied_what_does_my_headscarf_mean_to_you/transcript?language=en

Michael.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Olive M.O'Day Born on March 3rd.

Olive M. O'Day, the second child of our Kindergarten Assistant, Liliana, was born last Friday 03/03/17 at 9:45 PM. Ms. O'Day's summation of this happy event: "Life is beautiful!!!"

ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

Color Wheel Papier Mache

Continuing their study of the color wheel, the first graders noticed that the color wheel is divided into different categories: primary, secondary, warm, and cool colors. With this in mind, they observed colorful underwater creatures and drew them realistically using different color combinations. They then chose a color or color category to represent in the background through the technique of papier mache.



Cian O'Flaherty, First Grade

Mixed-Media Bird House

This project built upon the students' experiences with color theory and observation. The children examined images of birds found in New England and used their observations to create a realistic depiction of it in crayon. On a separate piece of paper, they drew a house for their bird and mixed tempera paints to achieve colors not found in the tube. We reviewed the basics of color theory and the students created primary and tertiary colors using the mixing process. They then collaged their birds onto the birdhouse.



Natu Yesehak, Second Grade

Dara Scully-Inspired Narratives

This project is a continuation of the Fifth Grade study of Greek mythology and story-telling through visual images. The students were introduced to the contemporary artist, Dara Scully, and examined her use of superimposed images to represent a narrative. The students created stories or myths about her work, and brainstormed narratives they could tell through their own artwork. The students used photography and a mixed-media process to relate a story in their compositions. Can you tell what their artwork is about?



Laurie Guiteau, Fifth Grade

Linocut Prints

For this project, the students reviewed the concept of visual texture and relief printing. They examined the detailed work of contemporary artist Steve Prince, and noticed that he uses a linocut printmaking process to depict intricate, highly textured images.

To create their linocuts, the students did several sketches showing visual texture and transferred their completed chosen sketch to a piece of linoleum. They then carved the image using various carving tools, and used a brayer and printmaking ink to print their piece multiple times.



Pia Franken, Sixth Grade

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