



# THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Dec. 8, 2017

## A Busy Week in Sixth Grade



Was it really just Monday night we were at Barnes and Noble? It has been that kind of week; non-stop action and a lot of learning. We kicked off our winter expedition with an exploration of identity and had the kids ask each other three, deceptively simple questions: “Who are you? Who do people think you are? Who do you pretend to be?” As we seek to develop empathy and understand other perspectives, we need to have a handle on knowing ourselves and what has shaped us to become the people we are (and are on track to becoming). Students journaled ideas following the activity that we will revisit during the expedition.



We explored identity through a text set that included a poem, informational text, and a short story to see how events informed how literary characters are defined. Students also got to practice their tech savvy by submitting their work through Google Classroom and explore coding with Khan Academy. In the arts, we learned how to tune guitars with the iPads and are moving along in our ability to read music and play notes on the guitar. In the visual arts, we are exploring clay as a way to reflect who we are and what stories our identities tell others.

In math we are still working on division of fractions and being able to defend our work through other representations of our answers. Although we met with some stiff resistance to tape diagrams, many students saw the value (and ease!) of using them. We will have an assessment just before break on this concept. Next week we will jump into multiplication and division of decimals (and sixth-graders will come to appreciate the joy of place value and the order graph paper can bring to math work!).



We also have some big news to share next week – Four Cities crews and destinations! We will also explain a bit more about our year long endeavor around Bridges and Barriers and some of the other projects we have lined up for the kids.

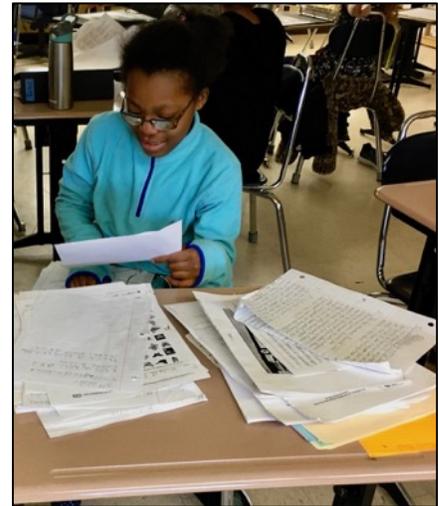
## Thank You, Families!

Sixth-grade is definitely a different place but we wouldn't have it any other way. We are only able to carry out the amazing work and offer such unique opportunities because of our dedicated families. Thank you for your support of your child by attending conferences, reading and replying to the weekly reflection, volunteering for fund raising activities, being open to our concerns (and sharing yours!), and feeding these growing bodies and brains with yummy snacks. We were overwhelmed by how many of you were willing to be Four Cities chaperons and thank you for your thoughtful applications. As our year progresses, there will be additional roles parents can play, from supporting local field work to interviewing experts about Rochester's revitalization efforts. A special shout out to Michelle Justice, our room parent, and Wendi Farkas, our fundraising chair, for helping relieve some of the pressure of getting word out to you about events and activities. We are grateful!

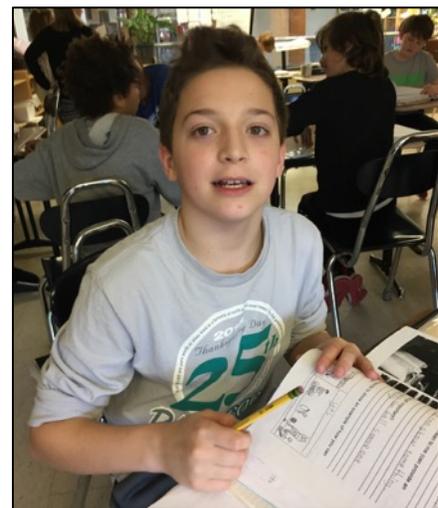


- ✓ **Tech Time** - Internet safety a concern for you? Us, too. We will be sharing links to Common Sense Media's "Anywhere" Digital Citizenship games for middle school as well as Google's Interland games and Be Internet Awesome guidelines.
- ✓ **Field Study of Service-** Heading to Foodlink on Friday, 12/15, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 pm.
- ✓ **Winter Gear** - A fleece won't cut it next week. Winter coats, hats and gloves, please!
- ✓ **Rochester Youth Climate Leaders** - Sustainability focused youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend our next meeting, Saturday, 12/16, 6:00 - 7:00 pm at GCCS 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom!

## And It Begins!



Giggles and guffaws ensued as sixth-graders looked through their portfolio binders and walked back in time to curate their work in preparation for Passage Reflections, which will start next month. We winnowed some of the worksheets out and focused on student reflection, successive drafts, and work that had feedback to help them demonstrate growth over time. You may wish to cull through the work that came home before it hits the recycle bin, just in case there is something that needs to be saved. After winter recess, we will begin in earnest on our first written reflections. Look for an invitation to our parent orientation to Passage, to be held in mid-January. We will also discuss preparations for the Four Cities trip at that time.



Your Sixth Grade Team

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