



# THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

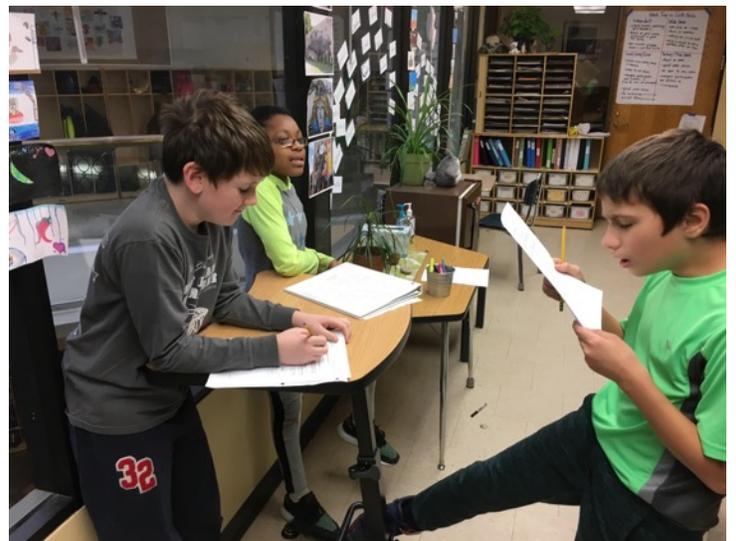
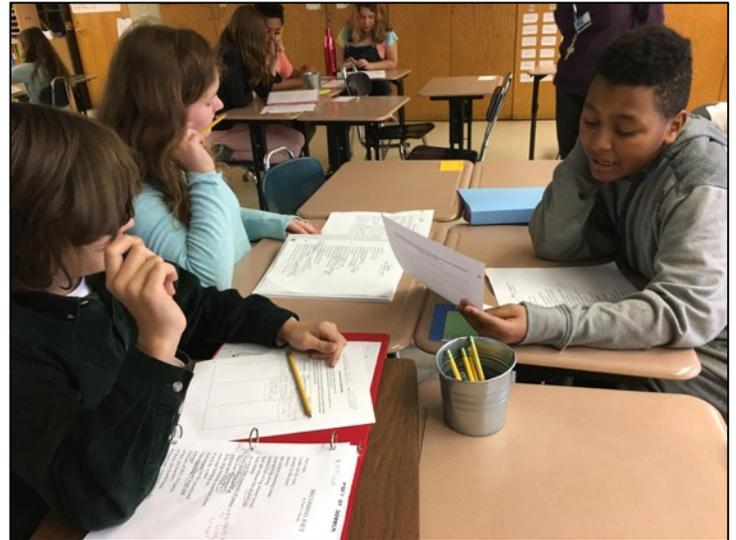
Dec. 15, 2017

## Understanding Poetry

We're getting our feet wet this month by exploring poetry around our theme of identity. This week we read and discussed a poem titled "Becoming Joey" by Paul Gorski. Through this poem, we were able to understand how writers develop identity in subtle ways, sometimes with a single word.

Sixth-graders conducted close reads of the text, looking at the word, sentence and stanza level of the poem to better understand meaning, both literal and inferential. Students brilliantly used evidence within the poem to support their inferences around ethnicity and class then worked in triads to help solidify their comprehension of the poem and support their understanding of the character's identity. These skills will be important as we begin book club next month and students will be responsible for developing their own understanding of our common text, The Crossover by Kwame Alexander.

Identity will be a large part of our writing this expedition, too, and we are excited to be working with Writers and Books and developing a monologue workshop with acclaimed storyteller and writer Almeta Whitis. Students will have the good fortune to work with her in four workshop sessions to help develop narratives of themselves and what it means to be an adolescent growing up in Rochester in 2018. We can't wait to share this work with you at exhibition.



## EL Education's Better World Project Awarded to GCCS



We are excited to share the news that the Class of 2018's learning expedition, "Whose Renaissance is it, Rochester?" was selected as one of 18 projects nationally to be part of EL Education's Better World project. Our examination of Rochester's downtown renewal paired with visits to the four quadrants of the city to learn about economic development will help us understand how cities reinvent themselves and how communities need to make sure all members benefit from the renaissance beyond the downtown core. Our Four Cities trip will help us better understand the success stories and setbacks other cities had. Stay tuned for one final announcement about our project after break!

## Service & Compassion

Our class had the privilege of learning about hunger in the Rochester region by participating in two hours of service learning at Foodlink. Volunteer Coordinator, Randy Boula, introduced our class to the necessity of the food bank program, gave us a tour of the facility, and had us sort four pallets of donated food and personal hygiene items provided by local grocery stores. Our class made short work of the boxes of donated food, collaborating in small crews to make the work go faster. Foodlink is always looking for volunteers and students were invited back to continue their efforts (but they'll need adult supervision). Working with friends makes this worthy work go faster. You can register online at [Foodlink's website](#).



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Recess Reminder** - Change of shoes are good, boots are better; jackets are good, coats are better; hoodies are good, hats (and gloves!) are better. Some sixth-graders still resist changing for recess (even in the cold and snow). Our solution? You forfeit playing and are blacktop bound.
- ✓ **Applebee's Fundraiser!** - Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 10:00am at Pittsford Plaza location. All students are expected to participate.
- ✓ **Math Test** - Students have a math test, Tuesday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. We will review on Monday - they should review for HW, too!
- ✓ **Have an enjoyable Winter Break!** - School will be in recess from Dec. 21, 2017 through Jan. 3, 2018. Kids will be back on Thursday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be jumping in to Passage Reflections the week we get back (yes, it's beginning that soon!). Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2018!



Your Sixth Grade Team

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