



THE ROOST REPORTER



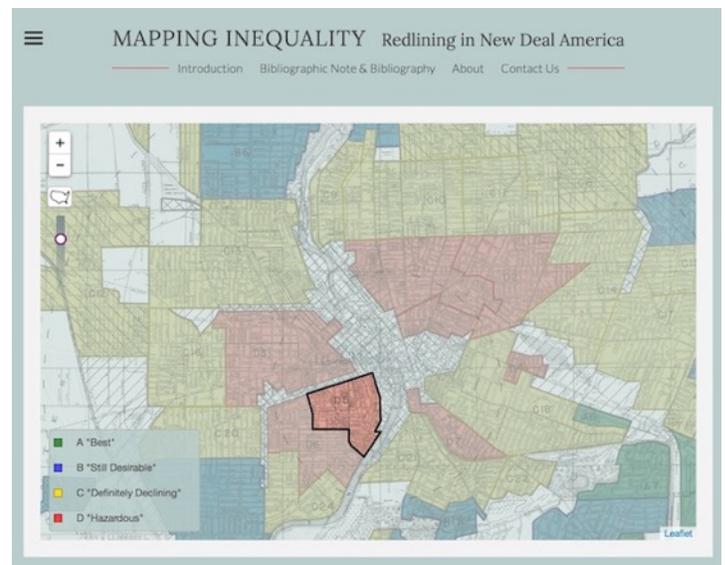
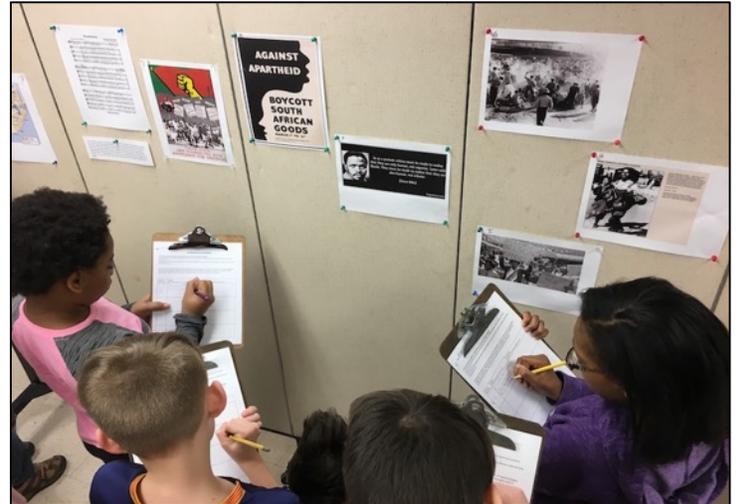
The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Feb. 9, 2018

Making Connections

This week we worked hard to cement our learning over the course of the winter expedition, examining how our study of identity and race connected to Apartheid South Africa and Redlining in Rochester. Students were quick to see the connections of institutional and systemic racism and how understanding the past help us make sense of the present (and, hopefully, change the future!). We were grateful to have Russ Nordquist come in and share his reflections on life in South Africa. Our work with unpacking redlining (the insidious practice of fiscal discrimination against whole neighborhoods based on who lives there) helped us begin to understand why racial segregation exists – some of it through policies but also through choice.

This upcoming week we will examine the ACT Rochester “Hard Facts” report to look more closely at the intersection of race, class, and equity. Soon we will be visiting neighborhoods across Rochester’s four quadrants to get a better appreciation of our city’s needs. There is a lot of good work happening in Rochester to tear down barriers and we are looking forward to meeting some of the people and organizations that are building bridges. Do you know bridge builders in our community? Please pass along their contact information – we’d love to chat with them!



Study Hall in Sixth Grade



Part of the shift from elementary to middle school is the concept of study hall. It doesn’t replace Morning Choice every day during our week, but we are expecting sixth graders to make more independent and academic choices as they enter school. Study Hall is a chance to work on long-term projects (passage reflections, math menus, spelling packets), check in with a teacher about HW, practice guitar (20 minutes/ week!), or practice keyboarding skills on Typing Club or math skills at Khan Academy. “I didn’t have time” is a well-worn excuse; by providing 60 minutes per week of additional work time, students should be staying caught up.

What *Actually* Happens in 6th Grade

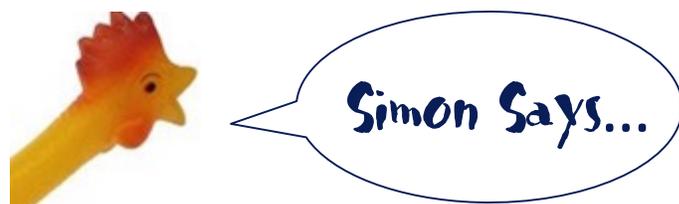
Welcome back once again. This week, I've got the scoop on a sixth grade perspective on Portfolio. On Monday, we had to write a six paragraph essay (oh my gosh!) about race. It was in preparation for Portfolio, I think, but who knows what goes through those teacher's heads. This Friday, we will have started our first essay, Reflecting on Rochester. I can tell you now, I am so scared.

We have mixed emotions about passage in our class. Some people are excited, others are nervous, and some, like myself, are scared to leave this school. Even though we will eventually have to face the idea of leaving our beloved school, we can enjoy being here for now.

Abby Tyler
Classroom Journalist

Building Musical Bridges

A great big thank you to parent Rick Rynski and the Bureau Cats for an R&B filled evening in support of our Four Cities trip! We are grateful to all of our families who have stepped up to support funding this amazing opportunity. A few final events remain – watch emails and backpacks for announcements!



- ✓ Yes, there has been an uptick in HW in recent weeks. Some of this is in service to increasing student stamina in writing and learning to manage long-term tasks. If it becomes a stressor in your home, please get in touch with us.
- ✓ Exhibition Night is Wednesday, March 7th, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Eisenhart Auditorium.
- ✓ Flu and norovirus are nasty – please keep your child home if unplanned bodily fluids and fevers are part of your reality. We will greet your child with open arms once they are over the ick!

There's Still Time!



Did you miss the chance for your Student Led Conference? Please let us know when you are able to reschedule and we will try to arrange a mutually agreeable time. SLCs are an opportunity for students to share their goals and outcomes – and a requirement. If you are unable to come in, your child will share with you at home and with a staff member at school. Accountability matters!

Your Sixth Grade Team

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