



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Mar. 2, 2018

Art as Change Agent



We kicked off our work with Shawn Dunwoody this week and he is truly inspirational. As part of our Better World Project, we will be creating murals with Shawn in four neighborhoods different from our own. He described his creative process and shared some past work and school collaborations, such as the [Fruit Belt Project](#), where he worked with a crew to re-discover sustainability within the Josana Neighborhood (side note: a GCCS Alum was part of his crew!). His work, as many of you know, is a part of the Rochester landscape and we are excited to partner with other local schools to make good things happen.

We started by coming up with a crew name and while the process was a fun and raucous one, democracy prevailed and we are the **Believers** (yes, we even have our own hashtag - #ROCbelievers). Sixth graders tried their hand with some basic graphic design and we will develop our ideas a little more each time we work with Shawn. After our Four Cities trip, we will be visiting schools and neighborhoods across the city to build bridges and better understand what they appreciate about their neighborhood and what they want others to know.



Our mural work with Shawn will also be echoed in our Four Cities trip as we speak with muralists and community members about the impact art has had on neighborhood identity. We will share that story with our stakeholders and community friends when we get back.



In Physical Expedition news, our class rocked capoeira at Community Circle last week and the kids have a greater appreciation of how identity and sport overlap. As we move into the spring expedition, we will be exploring how wellness - physical and emotional - is addressed in the neighborhoods we will be working with. Rochester has a wealth of fitness resources, but how accessible are they to folks beyond the downtown core? We will be working with local experts and organizations to better understand the need for wellness equity as much as we need housing and development equity.

Last Call for Fundraising

Students have the option of participating in a walk-a-thon or crafts and treats sales at Exhibition Nights next week to help chip away at that final payment for the Four Cities trip. Paid off? Those final fundraising funds can be turned into souvenir money for your student! Forms for the walk-a-thon went home last week; students can collect pledges per step, per day or a lump sum for their efforts. Crafts and tasty baked goods can be sold during exhibition nights next week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). If you are interested in participating, you'll need to coordinate with [Wendi Farkas](#) (who's done an amazing job finding ways to help fund our Four Cities trip - thank you Wendi!!!).



- ✓ **Exhibition** - We'll be starting promptly at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 7th. We will have a quick parent meeting to discuss Four Cities immediately following exhibition.
- ✓ **The snow is back!** - Send in the snow gear for recess next week. So much for shorts and t-shirts!
- ✓ **Passage Work** - Students need to continue working on the research portion of their Reflecting on Rochester piece. First draft due 3/16.

The Power of Youth Voice

The recent news out of Florida has shown that students *can* make a difference. From gun control to clean drinking water to climate change, youth are not afraid to use their voices to rally for causes that matter most to them (it might be said youth have *never* been afraid to spark social change, as civil rights, anti-war and anti-apartheid movements were spearheaded mostly by youth!). [In a recent article](#), EL Education's Ron Berger said of teens and adolescents, "This is a time in their lives when justice matters, more than any other time." As part of our expedition and Four Cities work, we will be meeting with youth organizations to learn how to listen to the needs of the community, create a message, and deliver it. We are excited to be working locally with Shawn Dunwoody and Teen Empowerment to help our students explore activism and social justice and connect it to our work in Rochester's four quadrants.



Your Sixth Grade Team

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