

# SIXTH GRADE NEWS

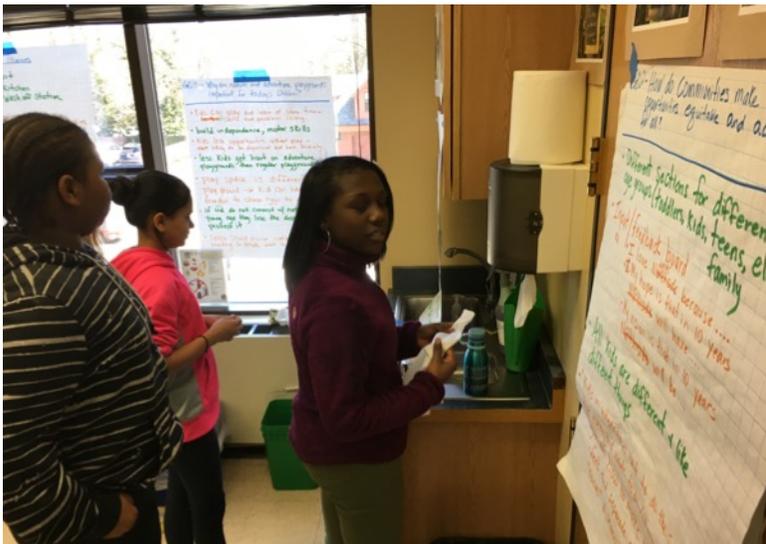
## Four Cities Reflection

March 24, 2017

In spite of Winter Storm Stella, our crews learned a lot about playground design, nature and adventure play spaces, and access and equity during our recent Four Cities trips to New York/ Philly, Raleigh/ Durham, Baltimore/ DC, and Houston.

We are grateful to the dozens of experts from around the country who met with our students, shared their expertise, and invited our sixth-graders to think outside of the box when it comes to play. A few highlights from the trip included an extended exploration of Hideaway Woods at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC (especially the Treehouse Village), meetings with Tiny WPA and Smith Playground in Philadelphia, PA, exploring the Parrish School's DIY Adventure Playground in Houston, TX, and visiting KaBoom!'s offices in Washington, DC.

We spent several days debriefing the trip, analyzing common themes and big ideas, and looking at how we can incorporate some of the ideas we saw and learned about into our own nature play space for Cumming Nature Center. Students synthesized some key ideas that we will share with Nate when we return to visit CNC in the next two weeks. It's full speed ahead in getting to know our space, learning what features will work there, and proposing a site plan. The real-world learning from our Four Cities trip will feed directly into the real-world product and service our students are creating.



## Portfolio Updates

The calendar has not been kind to sixth graders in terms of portfolio deadlines. We have a lot of lost ground to make up but only so much of it can be made up at school. We have adjusted deadlines for our portfolio entries and are providing DAILY time for students to work on their written reflections, but work will also need to be done at home. We began "Myself as a Writer" this week and along with "Myself as a Mathematician" and "Myself as an Artist," these pieces require evidence to support their statements. We have been echoing all year to save work samples, use your portfolio binder, have families keep a work folder at home, so when these reflections need to be drafted, work is accessible. We are providing digital feedback via Google Docs and old-fashioned "red pen on paper" feedback as well. But in order to get feedback, students have to submit work. The last day to submit final drafts is due Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Passing scores on the oral and written portions of portfolio are required for participation in all passage activities.

## Chromebooks Roll Out Next Week

We are looking forward to presenting students with their own laptops to use while at school. We have opted to purchase Lenovo Chromebooks, which provide fast access to our Google Classroom suite of applications. However, students and their families will need to review the school Internet Use Agreement and sign a Chromebook permission slip before they are allowed to use the new technology. It is important to reiterate that sixth grade laptops are school property and student e-mail accounts are a privilege. Misuse of either can result in consequences ranging in suspension of laptop privileges to suspension from school.

Students will be allowed to use them at school only; they will not be permitted to go home. However, they can access their gccschool.org accounts from any internet-capable device to do work. Look for the permission slip in backpack mail early next week.

## Community Circle w/ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade!



Join us next Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> as sixth grade leads Community Circle, sharing their work in capoeira, breakdance and hip hop from the winter expedition. There will be opportunities for audience participation so bring along your sweet pop and lock or old school moves to showcase!



## Don't forget!

- ✓ **Recess attire** - Mud season is upon us. Please send in an extra pair of shoes or boots.
- ✓ **Snack Alert** - We are out of snack. If you can help out, we'd appreciate it, especially if you haven't sent something in recently.
- ✓ **Service Hours** - Students are required to complete ten hours of community service before the end of May. While we have some class-based opportunities coming up, students will need to seek opportunities outside of school as well. Make sure your student has his/her service hours log sheet to track hours!
- ✓ **NYS ELA Testing** - State testing begins next Tuesday. Tests are untimed and will take place over three days. If your child is not participating, we require a letter from you by Monday indicating your child is "opting out."

Your Sixth Grade Team

Chris Dolgos: [cdolgos@gccschool.org](mailto:cdolgos@gccschool.org), Alexis Stubbe: [astubbe@gccschool.org](mailto:astubbe@gccschool.org), Barb Schild: [bschild@gccschool.org](mailto:bschild@gccschool.org)