

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Mar. 30, 2018

Four Cities Success!

Another Four Cities trip is in the books and the experts agree – the kids knocked it out of the park. We heard time and time again, from experts at meetings, muralists in studios and on the street, even the hotel folks complimented the students on the professional way they carried themselves. The kids asked tough questions, took pages and pages of notes, and came back ready to make change in Rochester. In all four cities we heard about the challenge gentrification poses to urban renewal and how cities can confront the policies of the past that marginalized communities of color.

We heard from muralists and artists about the power of paint and we had the opportunity to see dozens of murals that reflected the spirit of the community. We learned about community groups that are working to restore their neighborhoods, businesses that are re-energizing their cities, and we met with individuals from all walks of life to learn what successes and challenges their cities still face. Thank you again, families, for your support leading up to this amazing trip, to our parent chaperons, and of course, to the GCCS Class of 2018, who are ready to take the lessons of the Four Cities trip and apply them to Rochester's renaissance.



#ROCBelievers Step Out



We had our first meet up with our community partners this week as we visited with students from School #45 in the city's NE quadrant. We listened as they shared their concerns about their neighborhood and we also visited Mr. Rasheed at Passaro's Mini Market and spoke with customers about what they notice about the community and hope for the future. Shawn Dunwoody helped us understand the importance of "line of sight" when developing a mural, being able to see the work from multiple angles and perspectives. We are looking forward to our next community visit after break, this time to School #12 to learn more about the SE quadrant.



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Passage Work** - We will continue to work on our "reflecting on Rochester" piece through the month of April as well as start our other written reflections. Students should continue to research and write around their research questions and be ready for a peer critique session after break.
- ✓ **Service!** - As spring approaches, service opportunities become a bit more plentiful: Erie Canal Clean Sweep at Schoen Place 4/21, 9:00 a.m.; and ROC City Clean Sweep, 5/5, 9:00 a.m. Remember, students need to participate in ten hours of service toward their passage requirement.
- ✓ **NYS Testing approaches** - We are taking a little class time to review test taking strategies and how to satisfy the requirements of prompts. The ELA exam will be April 12 and 13, with math following in early May. If your child is not participating in state testing, we will need a letter from parents indicating as such.
- ✓ **Enjoy Your Spring Break** - see everyone back at school, Monday, April 9th.

Community Circle News



Following our morning with Shawn he popped up again at Community Circle, where he shared with the school community the work he is doing with our sixth graders. The audience learned about the mural project, the places we are working, and the element "Be." We are looking forward to getting the GCCS community involved in one of painting projects and will be sharing news about that event later in April.

Just a reminder to families who attend Community Circle, please refrain from side conversations during our time together and be present. Students who sit with parents should continue to participate - not play or be entertained with digital devices. Thank you!

Your Sixth Grade Team

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