

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Oct.19, 2018

The Value of Feedback



There are several opportunities built into our instructional day where kids practice giving and receiving feedback. It might be around an academic task, a particular skill, or a social interaction. The important thing is what we do with that feedback. Feedback should be timely, specific, and kind. It is meant to move a student forward and develop mastery of learning targets. Being willing to accept feedback means putting forth effort to improve and having a growth mindset. Our weekly reflections are one type of feedback - self-reflection. Thanks in advance for reading and signing our first one!

Meeting Kids Where They Are

Several parents have reached out to us to share their disappointment in NYS test results. We hear you. For what it is worth, the 5th grade test was difficult and districts across the state saw a dip in scores at this grade level. That may not be so comforting if your child is one of those who did not pass. The NYS test is just one data point we look at when planning curriculum (and as it is released so late, its value as a planning tool is diminished). We also use iReady evaluations and classroom tasks to get a better sense of where kids are. We will be launching intervention groups this week to help accelerate or re-teach students who may need a little extra support. This will be in the area of reading comprehension and you will receive an email if your child is slated to be in one of these groups. We will keep you updated on progress and as this is a team approach, we appreciate in advance your willingness to support the additional home learning students will need to complete.



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Google access** - Your child's GCCS Google account is accessible from home; they can also access Khan Academy and Typing Club with their login credentials.
- ✓ **Recess Reminder** - It's getting chilly and kids are complaining about being cold at recess. We go out unless it is raining hard or feels like less than 12 degrees F. Remind your child to bring a hat or jacket. Shorts season is slipping away!
- ✓ **Weekly Reflections**- Please sign and have your 6th grader return this on Monday morning. Feel free to leave comments for us or your child on the reverse.
- ✓ **Four Cities** - Please be sure to submit your child's intent to travel form and \$50 deposit by Wednesday, October 24th. Chaperone applications are also due this day. Look for an email early this week with the dates of travel (destinations will be announced next week!).

These Kids Can Dance!



It was a high energy Community Circle last week as our 6th graders joined fourth grade in leading our African drumming and dancing presentation. The students had worked with Baba Khalid and Michelle Whit to learn the KuKu drum and dance patterns from Guinea (in West Africa). We are grateful that guest artists can be a part of our instructional program and the students soaked up their expertise.

Sixth grade will be presenting at Community Circle on Wednesday, Nov. 7th as we share what it means to be the Guardians of the character trait Initiative.

Your Sixth Grade Team

Chris Dolgos: cdolgos@gccschool.org, Alexis Stubbe: astubbe@gccschool.org, Melissa Jones: mjones@gccschool.org