



THE ROOST REPORTER



The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Sep. 8, 2017

Expedition Revealed: Bridges and Barriers

Sixth graders beat the streets of Rochester this week, looking closely for evidence of things that make our community great and things that might get in the way of being all we can be. From public art to the public market, small businesses, community gardens, and transportation, our class covered 3 ½ miles to better understand the bridges and barriers in Rochester. We unpacked our notices and wonderings, shared how some of these bridges and barriers have shaped our own life, and will spend the rest of our year learning how to build bridges in our community and tear down the barriers that divide us.

We started this work by looking at common themes from the Rochester 3-2-1 summer projects. Sixth graders latched on to a few big ideas – poverty, educational inequality, companies that give back to the community, people who want to make a difference. We then made some connections to Seedfolks, our summer reading task, to see how people used the garden to literally and metaphorically tear down the barriers and build bridges between people.

On Friday, we had the amazing opportunity to share our focus topic with GCCS alumni who were visiting in support of an EL Education video production about our school's sixth grade capstone projects. Capstone projects are the end-of-year final products our sixth graders create in service of the work we have done. These can be written reports and formal presentations, design plans, or policy recommendations. We heard from Eric Quitter and Emma Marshall from the GCCS Class of 2006 how their big project, re-watering the old Erie Canal downtown, inspired them to see their city in a different light. We are excited that the Class of 2018 had the chance to share their ideas, too (the video EL Education made will be shared at the National Conference in Chicago, IL, next month!).

We will keep you updated on our learning, our ideas, and our efforts to tear down the barriers in Rochester and build bridges across the community.



Bridges & Barriers Experts?

Do you know folks in our community (city or county) that are making a difference? We are looking to partner with local experts and better understand some of the issues the Rochester region is facing. We have some great contacts already but know that GCCS families are often a great networking resource! Shoot us an email if you have a lead or would like to help us out.

Growing a Math Mindset

"I'm just not a math person." "Oh, I don't do math." "Isn't that what calculators are for?" Surprisingly, or maybe not, these are things ADULTS say when speaking about math. And it's pure nonsense. Earlier this week we explored the role a growth mindset has in math and why grappling with problems is the best way to build the capacity to do math. We kicked off math with our annual Grit 'N' Grapple Day, posing a series of mathematical brainteasers to our sixth-graders to better understand how being uncomfortable, not knowing the answer, and failure helps build grit (the ability to stick with it!) and grapple (the ability to persevere when stuck). Check in with your student about which task was most difficult and how they persevered.

Next up, we are collecting data on ourselves to try and understand what the "typical" 6th grader at GCCS is like. Our work with data will be integral to our work later in the expedition. Stay tuned!



- ✓ **Snacks** - We could use some extra snacks for our retreat. These are generally for the bus only - maybe some fresh fruit, granola bars, etc. Please bring them Tuesday morning when you drop your sixth grader off!
- ✓ **Curriculum Night** - We are looking forward to sharing the year ahead on Tuesday, Sept. 26th, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ **Book Orders** - Our first [Scholastic book order](#) is due on Monday, 9/11. You can order directly online or by returning the paper slip and payment to school.
- ✓ **NO School** - No school for kids on Monday, Sept. 18th.



Composting has resumed at GCCS! Sixth graders had their annual compost ambassador training this week and although it is not a glamorous job (as Charlie's face can attest), it is a necessary one. We are grateful we are able to compost at GCCS and are eager to expand our efforts to make Genesee green.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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