



# THE ROOST REPORTER



*The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade*

*Sep. 22, 2017*

## Class of 2018 Dives into Leadership Retreat



The wash is done, kids (and teachers) have caught up on their sleep, and a subtle but perceptible shift has occurred in the classroom; our sixth graders are becoming leaders! Our adventures in the Adirondacks allowed every student to test the limits of leadership, within small group, whole group, or even being a leader and advocate for themselves. During our travels to Camp Gorham, students had the opportunity to read about leadership, communication, and conflict resolution styles that come into play when leading groups of people. They also reflected on the character traits, their own personal strengths and weaknesses, and set goals around becoming the best leader they can be.



The wonderful staff at Camp Gorham led the class through team building activities and a low ropes course that required communication, collaboration and out-of-the-box thinking. As always, Success and Failure provided moments of reflection and meal prep and tent set up required negotiation, listening, and learning to be ok with not getting your way. In fact, being uncomfortable was a big part of this experience – whether it was sleeping on the forest floor, dealing with mosquitoes, or having to use “the stick” for personal needs, kids stepped up and outside of their comfort zone.

Learning to communicate effectively was important in our canoe initiative and with our hike to the Big Moose River overlook. Giving directions from the back of a canoe and warning fellow hikers of loose rocks or broken branches mattered. Being clear, calm, and concise when speaking make a difference in crew work, regardless of the venue. Our retreat experience helped solidify the message “we are crew” and we know that if students can climb a mountain, paddle a loaded canoe the length of Darts Lake, and rough it for four days, they can tackle any challenge that comes their way in the classroom!



## Chromebook Roll Out!



We introduced our Chromebooks this week and will spend the rest of the month becoming more familiar with the laptops. Students have a school Google account assigned to them, allowing them access to email, Google drive storage, and a variety of apps they will use over the next several months. Please check in with your sixth-grader about our expectations when using the equipment.

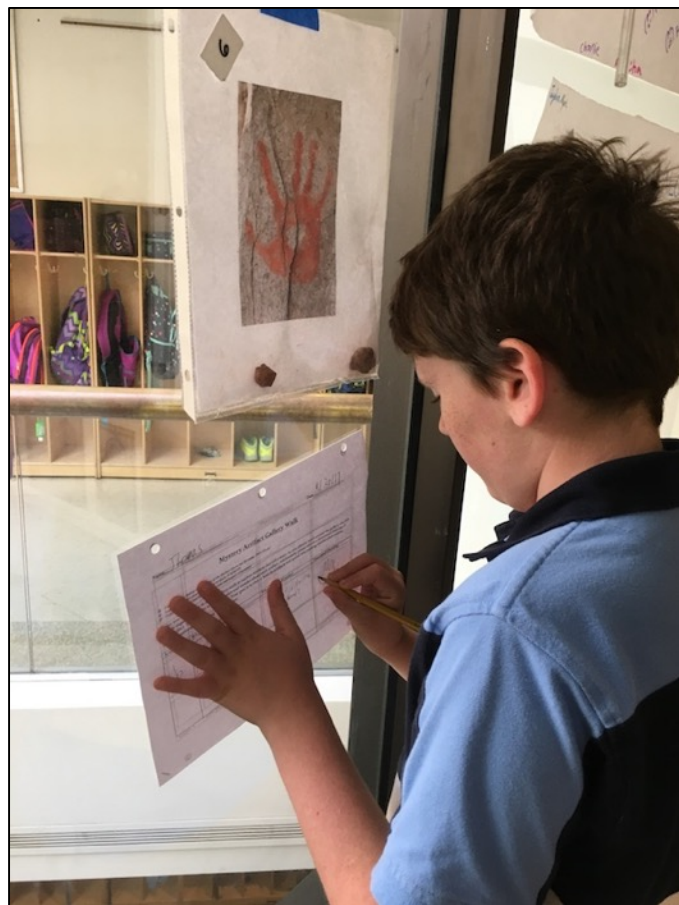


- ✓ **Picture Day** - We are scheduled for pictures on Thursday, 9/ 28. Both the individual portraits and class picture will be taken on this day.
- ✓ **Curriculum Night** - We are looking forward to sharing the year ahead on Tuesday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ **Parent Homework!** - Please read the "Heads Up" booklet that came home with your sixth grader this weekend. It highlights information about internet safety and digital citizenship. Have a conversation about keeping information private and keeping classmates safe online.
- ✓ **Class of 2018 Get Together** - Meet up at the Ellwanger-Barry playground on Saturday, 9/30 from 10:00 a.m. - noon.

## Expedition Update

This week our class took a step back in time – about 6,000 years back in time! We conducted a gallery walk of artifacts ranging from obsidian, to shells, to grains, in an effort to try to understand how collaboration benefits a community. We came to understand the role the Neolithic Revolution (sometimes called the Agricultural Revolution) had on the development of communities and how the legacies of plant and animal domestication are a part of our lives today (mostly for better, sometimes for worse).

We will continue our exploration of the Neolithic Era next week and try to make sense of the artifacts and their role in the lives of people from long ago. Our year-long look at bridges and barriers will evolve as students have a greater understanding of the historical roots of collaboration – and segregation.



Your Sixth Grade Team

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