

# Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

## April Newsletter 2019



### The Principal's Corner - Mr. Lynch

Looking at the above picture of flowers, it's hard to believe that I scraped frost off of our vehicles and turned the heat back on just three mornings ago! As you read through this newsletter, I hope you are as excited as I am about the opportunities that our students are receiving at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School. From authentic and blended lessons, to trips to Marist, The Mid-Hudson Bridge, and Boston, our students and teachers inspire me on a daily basis with their energy, dedication, and passion. This is my eighth year at Webutuck as a teacher and principal. While that is still a relatively short time, it's long enough for me to work at keeping perspective by asking myself questions each day. Where were we eight years ago? Where are we now? Where do we want/need to go moving forward? What is a day like for a student at EBIS? In the coming months I will be asking for feedback as part of our district TSI process from all who are willing to give it. I look forward to our next chapter together! Stay tuned!



## General Announcements

- PARENTS: Please remember to call in your child's absences, or send a note with them when they return to school. **Any absence that remains undocumented after a 5 day time period will be recorded as unexcused.** Thank you!
- PARENTS/STUDENTS: Please make sure to have after school plans and transportation worked out with your student before school hours. Students are missing important instructional time by asking to go to the office to discuss plans and pick ups.

### ***4th Grade:***

- In ELA, students are learning about redwood forests and will be writing an essay in the upcoming end of the unit. This is a research essay... so any home research will only add to the success of this writing piece. Learn about and discuss the flora and fauna with each other!
- In Math, students have been reviewing all units. The upcoming Chapter 9 will focus on relating fractions and decimals, so please try to use real-world examples when you are out shopping at the supermarket or baking cookies at home!
- There are field trips coming up in the near future, so please continue to check your child's homework folder for Locust Grove and The New York State Museum in Albany. More information to come!
- In Science, we have recently been working towards completing our curriculum for the New York State Science test, with recent emphasis on earth, moon and stars and digital laboratories that display scientific concepts through exploration and discovery.
- In Social Studies, we are understanding timelines and studying American History in sequential order.

### ***5th Grade:***

- In Ms. Raffaele's ELA class, students are starting their new unit on short stories. We will be reading many genres of short stories and the students will learn different themes. At the end of the unit, students will choose two stories with similar themes to discuss in an essay. The students are also practicing their close reading skills. Students

worked hard on their colorful close readings. Here they had to read the passage, answer questions that were color coded, and then color in the numbers to reveal the picture. This was a fun way to practice these important skills that we continue to work on.

- In Ms. Simon's Science class, students are working on their Research Women Astronaut Projects. Students were each assigned a different astronaut and completed a colorful fact sheet, which they presented to the class. In Social Studies, we have been working on geography in the Western Hemisphere. Students created a flag and fact sheet on a South American country, a Caribbean country, or a Canadian Province. The students projects are boldly displayed across our classroom.
- In Mr. Sullivan's Math class students continue to work on mastery of converting unit within given systems. For examples, turning gallons into pints and kilometers into meters. Review at home by asking your student how many quarts, pints, and cups are in a gallon of milk! Students are also learning to apply a variety of graphing skills and design choices to represent real world data!
- During Math Blend periods with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Murphy, we are working on using all operations with fractions! In ELA Blend with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Langton, we are working on short response questions and including many details from the text.
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## 6th Grade:

- ***Reminder: Our Medieval Times trip is scheduled for May 10th. All students will need to be dropped off by 7:30 and picked up around 3:45. We will send out more information as we get closer.***





## Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

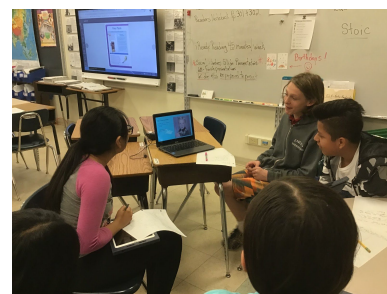
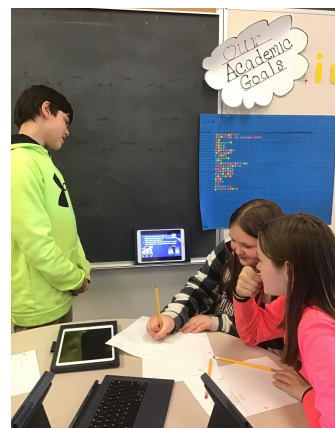
- Our 6th Graders will be taking their NY State Mathematics Assessment on May 1st and May 2nd. This test is only 31 multiple choice questions on the first day. The second day is only 7 multiple choice, with 7 short-answer and one extended response. Both days are untimed, and I'm confident all will be overly prepared for this assessment.
- After our assessment, we will wrap up our Go Math curriculum with our two remaining chapters on Data Displays and Data Distribution.
- June will be an opportunity to begin prepping my students for 7th grade, by introducing some new concepts.
- Our last Diagnostic exam will begin May 13th. This is an exciting time, because it means we are wrapping up the school year, and now students have a chance to show us just how much they learned this year!
- In Science we are in the middle of our Space Unit! This tends to be a very interesting and exciting topic for 6th graders. We will do several projects, most of which will be done in class.

## ELA- Mrs. Conway:

- We are in the process of finishing Unit 5 in Journeys. Students are showing excellent skills in comprehension, grammar and vocabulary!
- There is one more week in our Word of the Week rotation. When we finish we will have covered 30 words. Then we will start a review to make sure that students retain these words in their vocabulary. Ask your student what "turbulent" means!
- As the school year winds down, I always like to have students read The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. It is a fun way to end the year. Sixth graders love reading about characters who are like them in age and interests. We hope to begin this text soon.

## Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

- We have just finished slide presentations on The Middle Ages. Students were asked to research a particular social role such as knight or peasant or king, and explain what ordinary life was like for people in these roles. Students had fun presenting to their peers in small groups.
- Next, we are reading and learning about the Byzantine Empire, and Emperor Justinian.
- Following that, we will be learning about the ancient Muslim world and culture. By the end of the school year, students should have a strong basic knowledge about the history of the eastern hemisphere in ancient times.



## iReady- Mrs. Conway

- Students are showing improvements in their reading skills and in their ability to answer questions about the text. The practice time on iReady is clearly making a difference, so please encourage your child to work on iReady reading and vocabulary for 45 minutes per week.
- We continue to work on Guided Reading (in small groups) as well as on iReady during our Blend time, 4th period.

## 7th Grade:

- *In Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND classes we are continuing to "fill in the gaps" and work on iReady. Remember that earbuds and charged iPads are necessary materials for this class. Each week we are also keeping an organized log of the word of the week to expand our vocabularies. Thank you to Mrs. Hoke for helping us stay organized with this and encouraging this very important skill!*
- Ms. Hollis' 7th grade ELA classes are working on close readings of Frederick Douglass' autobiography. We are learning about what it means to fight for what you believe in by "Taking a Stand" in class with mini-debates and argumentative writing. We are also becoming skilled with grammatical techniques using NoRedInk, an online program that lets students learn and work at their own pace. Recently, we viewed and discussed Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche's TED Talk "The Danger of a Single Story;" [go check it out!](#)
- *In Grade 7 American History class the students learned about Andrew Jackson. The students did a project evaluating his presidency using supporting details. Next, the class learned about the Industrial Revolution and how it helped to shape America.*
- *Mrs. Gillette's 7th grade science classes are learning about human body systems. Soon, we will observe the anatomy of trout during a dissection and also examine the anatomy of a chicken wing- skin, muscles, and bones.*
- *7th grade accelerated science students are learning about genetics.*
- In Math 7, students have continued to apply their Geometry skills to areas such as scale models and finding area of combinations of shapes. Students are also practicing their probability and statistics skills in Blend Class. A long-term data collection and presentation project has just begun, called "Dear Data." These skills were seen live-in-action when we took our field trip to the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, a nationally





recognized data collection institute, on April 29. On the trip, the students also analyzed data from their own class after taking a survey! Later that day, we explored the Mid-Hudson Bridge and were guided *inside* the structure, where we could see the wires responsible for suspending the bridge. We also checked out the underside and top of the bridge, overcoming some fear of heights to do it. Webutuck students were the first students to ever see the inside of the bridge.



Tyler wrestling with temptation!



Jacob testing out the bridge's vibrations.



Hope, Norberto, and Grainne seen from above!



Rafael, Dominyck, and Mr. Braislin admiring the anchorage.



Cameron, Jayden, Rafael, and Jeffrey checking out a bin of leftover coal.



Lyndsay, Amanda, Zoey, Hope, Savannah, and others after a satisfying lunch at Marist.



Ana, Dominick, Jordany, Nathaniel, Cameron, Joseph, and Riley learning about the cables that suspend the bridge.

## 8th Grade:

- The 8th graders will be headed to Boston on May 9th for their overnight trip! Please be sure to have the necessary permission slip and medical forms turned in as soon as possible. We are looking forward to an amazing trip!
- *In Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND classes we are continuing to "fill in the gaps" and work on iready. Remember that earbuds and charged iPads are necessary materials for this class. Each week we are also keeping an organized log of the word of the week to expand our vocabularies. Thank you to Mrs. Hoke for helping us stay organized with this and encouraging this very important skill!*

- *Miss G.'s 8th grade ELA classes are continuing our study of the 3rd NYS Common Core Module book, Unbroken. We are working on strategies that will help with comprehension. These strategies can be used all throughout high school also. Please encourage nightly independent reading. Email me if you would like to know what book your child signed out. This photo is from a scene in the Unbroken movie.*



- Ms. Hollis' 8th grade ELA class is reading *Unbroken* alongside Miss G.'s classes. We are developing "working definitions" of character traits and collaborating to create "master documents" of compiled evidence and chapter summaries that we can all refer back to later.
- The Grade 8 American History class learned about the Civil Rights Movement. We also learned about the 1960s. The students worked on a 1960s Project. The students researched and evaluated important events of the 1960s.
- 8th grade science students participated in a marshmallow toothpick challenge- to build the tallest free-standing structure. See picture of the champions- Nate, Abby, and Gwen. Soon they will be doing a project on the electromagnetic spectrum.



A) Champions!



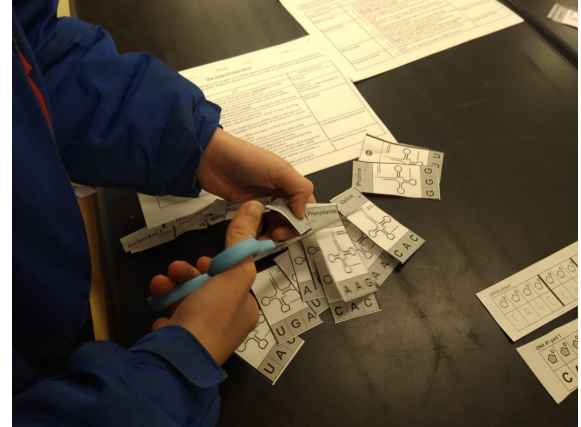
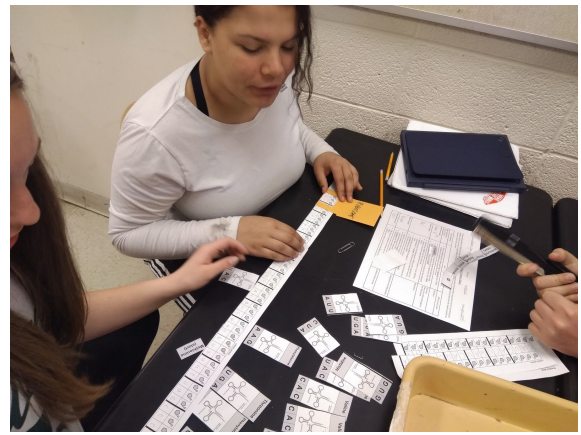
B) Runner-ups!



C) Third place

- In 8th grade Accelerated Science students modeled creating a code using only 4 simple shapes that would allow them to write their name, to explore how complex messages can be created with only 4 nucleotides like we observe in DNA. Students worked as teams to model the the complicated process of DNA replication, transcription, and translation, changing from the original DNA code into the desired protein. Finally we looked at how DNA sequences can become damaged, leading to mutations which lead to changes in protein structure, traits, and potentially result in disease.





Students should remember to work on their assigned Castle Learning Regents Review sets, which will be assigned weekly in addition to regular homework assignments. These will help students review material we have covered throughout the year and gain additional practice before the Living Environment Regents on Tuesday, June 18th.

- Math 8 students have been working on their geometry skills this month. Students have learned about the Pythagorean Theorem, distance formula, and volume formulas for a variety of 3D figures. I-ready lessons are continuing, with students who are completing their 45 minutes and at least one lesson each week showing visible progress. Several students are only a few squares away on our new i-Ready Bingo reward promotion!

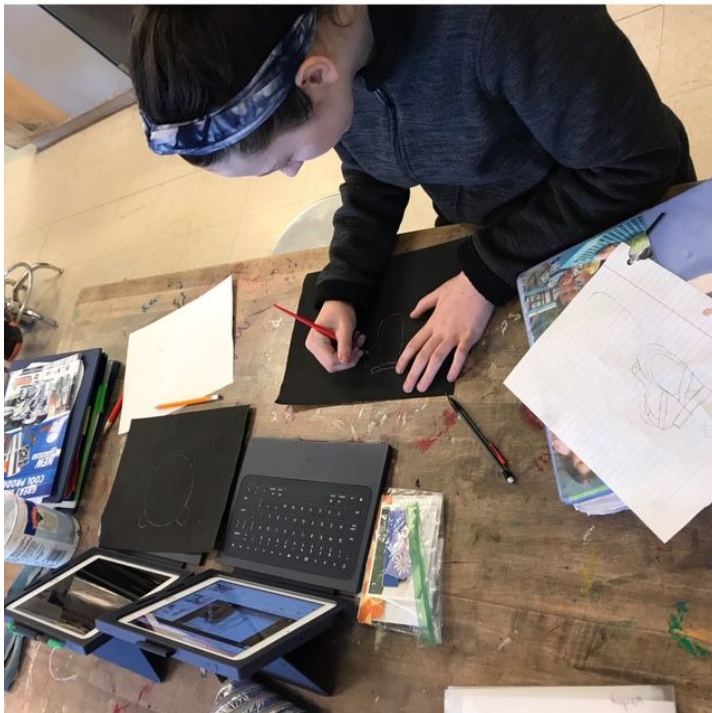
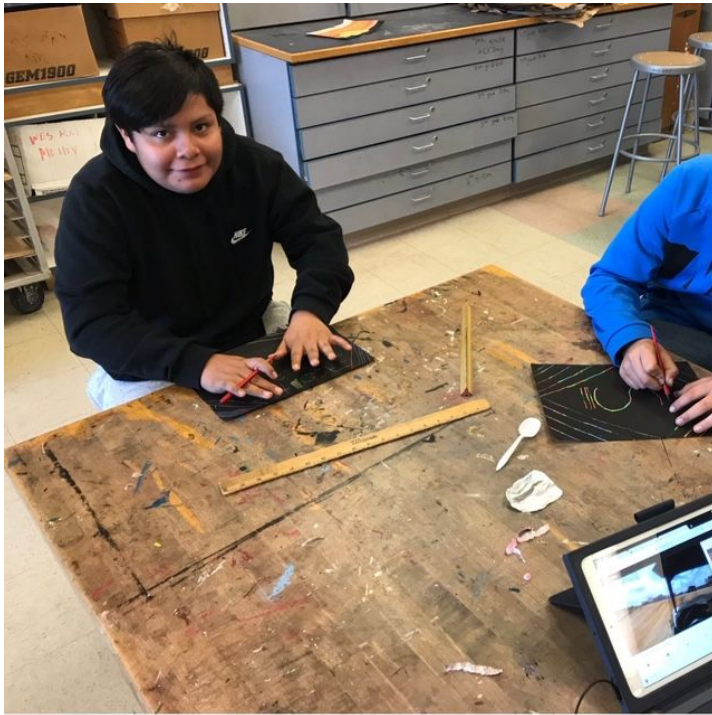


Jason measures the volume of a Clementine, then compares his solution to his centimeter cubes.



**SPECIALS:**

**Visual Arts: 7th Grade working on Homemade Scratch Art Boards**





*Tech 6: Mr. Corbett's 6th Grade class is working on making some wood burned designs utilizing some of the old bleacher wood from the newly remodeled high school gym.*

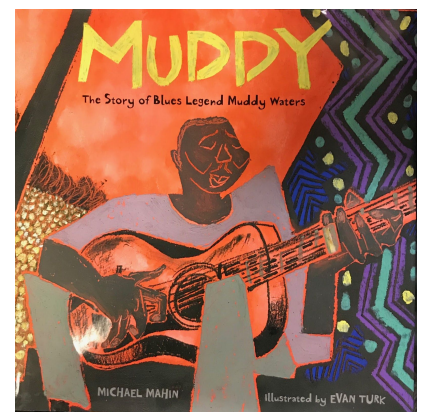


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## **Music:**

- Here's a [short video](#) featuring students using some of the new Music Technology. All music was created by Webutuck students.
- April is Jazz appreciation month and Poetry month. Nothing combines the two arts like the Blues! "To have the blues was to feel bad. But to play the blues was to take that low-down, skunk-funk, deep-stomach hurt and turn it into something else." The story of blues legend Muddy Waters is told in the great book, "Muddy" by Michael Mahin with fantastic illustrations by Evan Turk. Blues is at the heart of a lot of music; Jazz, Rock, Soul and even Rap and Hip Hop. Our students learned about Muddy waters and how racism in the deep-South led Muddy to seek a life in Chicago where his unique style of blues eventually became highly influential to groups like the Beatles and Rolling Stones.



- Students are working hard and gearing up for Music events:

*Concerts:*

May 9th at 7pm - Grades 9-12 concert

June 6th at 7pm - Grades 4-6 concert

May 3-4 at Unionvale MS-NYSSMA Solo Festival

May 27th - 9:30am Memorial Day Parade

- Webutuck Music Depart proudly announces Webutuck Music Warriors wear: United By Music. See the [Music Department webpage](#) for more information or [click here to order online](#). Online orders are due by May 3rd. For cash orders, print the [order form](#) and turn it in with payment by May 1st.

### ***Mental Health:***

"Tolerance- the ability or willingness to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions or behaviors that one does not necessarily agree with". Suite 360 lessons this month focused both on being tolerant and the impact we have on our environment. In particular, the steps to accepting others was reviewed-recognition, tolerance, acceptance, and appreciation. We talked about being responsible for what we do and say. Here at EBIS, we promote and embrace an environment that encourages understanding and compassion for others. Deputy Cohen spoke to the students about the results of using derogatory language and hurtful language. The students benefit greatly from his input and "real-world" references.

### ***Library Media Center:***





***"Meet Edison"***—that's the phrase that has been greeting students as they enter the library media center each class time. Each student that enters the media center recently has been introduced to Edison and then given the opportunity to program the robot. More than just a robot, this is the first step for our students to use these new additions to the media center. Once they have mastered writing programs on scratch, they are able to experience instant success by seeing their programming come alive. The media center has many other robots for the students to experience during free periods and after school.

### ***Athletics:***



Despite the cold and wet start to the spring sports season, the teams are off and running with a full complement of contests and meets. Our coaching staff within each sport is hard at work, dedicating time and energy toward improving the skill sets of Webutuck student-athletes. Please visit the school website to find updated game information and, please, come on out to support your Warriors!!

REMINDER!!!

SIGN UP and SUBSCRIBE to game change notification by receiving notification via text or email on <http://ociaa.ouboces.org/webtuckschedulepage.html>

### ***5th Grade Technology:***



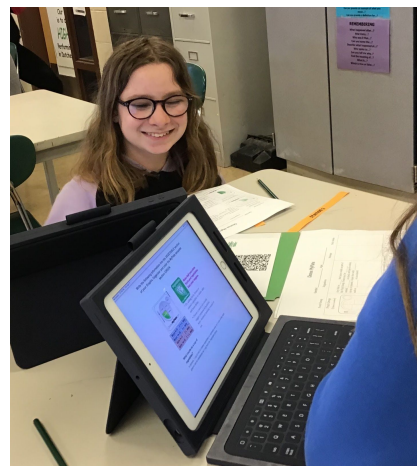
Our last rotation of technology classes began April 8th. In April, students will be completing projects to explore the basics of sequencing, events, and looping.

### ***5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:***

The 5th Grade Home and Careers class began their unit on cooking by learning about kitchen safety and the importance of washing your hands.

The 6th Grade Home and Careers class finished a unit on MyPlate and healthy eating. Students participated in an activity to learn more about each of the foods groups using QR Codes and their iPads.





## Spotlight on Accessibility - Lizzie Eisermann

One of our 8th graders has gone above and beyond to bring issues of accessibility to light. During an iReady session last month, Lizzie came across a reading on iReady about disabilities and it occurred to her that those who are Deaf rely on closed-caption functions when watching videos, which iReady does not offer.

With Mr. Pascale and Ms. Hollis' help, Lizzie drafted a letter to iReady and followed up with a phone call to the company. On the phone, Lizzie clearly and concisely explained her concerns to an iReady spokesperson who commended her for her "open-mindedness" and "thoughts for others." Congratulations to Lizzie for identifying a need and reaching out to those with the power to make a change!