

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

February Newsletter 2019



The Principal's Corner - Mr. Lynch

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

If your children are like most, they probably seek first to be understood. They have not mastered the art of listening yet, and it's most important for them to "get their point across". In doing so, they may ignore the other person completely, pretend that they're listening, or selectively hear only certain parts of the conversation. So why does this happen? Because most people listen with the intent to reply, not to understand. They listen to themselves as they prepare in their mind what they are going to say or the questions that they are going to ask. They filter everything they hear through their life experiences, their frame of reference. And consequently, they decide prematurely what the other person means before he/she finishes communicating. Sound familiar? [Nail Video Link](#)



A POSITIVE EXAMPLE - On February 22, our Kids Heart Challenge culminated with a Ninja Warrior Theme Event. Our students had a blast, and we raised several thousand dollars for The American Heart Association. However, leading up to the event, our students listened with open minds and hearts as Kelly Scattergood (A Rhinebeck High School Student) spoke to our 4-6 graders about her congenital heart defects, multiple surgeries (including open surgery), and current lifestyle. They REALLY listened, learned, and then followed up with REALLY listening to Mrs. Howard when she explained how each one of them could make a difference for other kids that are, and will be born with hearts like Kelly. I was proud to witness this process just as much as I enjoyed our final results.



General Announcements

- PARENTS: Please remember to call in your child's absences, or send a note with them when they return to school. 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.
- Over 50 students in grade K-12 participated in the 5th Annual STEAM Fair on Saturday,

2/9. The intermediate school was well represented! Congratulations to the EBIS winners!

Left to right:

*2nd place- Jordyn Thorne & Elizabeth Eisermann;
1st place- Thomas Beeman; 3rd place- Aidan Furey.*



Honorable Mentions: Ayden Wheeler, Riley Mahaffey, Betsaida Franco-Sub, Lexi Russell, & Cadance Shufelt



Grade Level Updates

4th Grade:

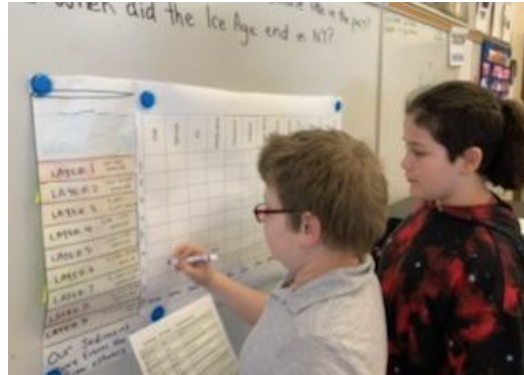


- We participated in Kids' Heart Challenge and helped raised a lot of money to donate to a great cause with awesome activities with Mrs. Howard!
- Hailey Brennan and Emma Sprague participated in the STEAM Fair with their science cloud projects.
- Sophia Beeman from Mr. Hart's class presented her project of a Terrarium. She explained the steps in how to create a garden in a jar at the STEAM Fair.
- Writer's Workshop was a great success! We continue to learn organization in the writing process. Journaling is always helpful at home...please encourage your child to write creatively in their free time.
- 4th grade Go Math has been focusing on fractions. Invite your child to cook/bake with you to give them real-world/practical understanding of parts of a whole.

5th Grade:

- In Ms. Simon's Science class students are learning about fossils! We had a visit from Ms. Shelly from the Cary Institute. Ms. Shelly showed us many types of fossils that we were

able to look at with magnifying glasses and microscopes. In Social Studies, we are studying the geography of the Western Hemisphere!



- During Math Blend periods with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Murphy, we are working on decimals and volume. In ELA Blend with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Langton, we are working on comparing and contrasting.

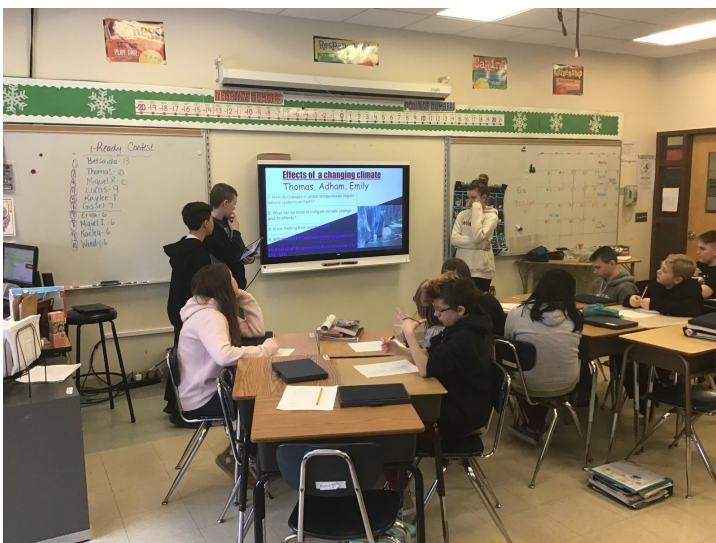
6th Grade:

- Students will be receiving their Medieval Times permission slips this week, so please be on the lookout for that.
- A reminder that all students are required to have headphones/earbuds in order to use their iPads properly. All students can receive a free earbud set from the office. However, many students have lost/broken their initial set, and have done the same with the one they were given. Please e-mail us, or ask your child if they need a pair.

- Many students are without pencils at this point. We have given out a bunch, but are running out ourselves. If you have some pencils laying around, or can purchase a package, please send in with your child. They can store these in their locker or ask one of us to hold onto it.
- iPads need to be charged daily.

Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

- Our 6th Graders are working on *Geometry* now. We are currently looking at finding the area of parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids. After our mid-chapter quiz we will look at finding the area of regular polygons and composite figures. After this chapter, we will take a break for about a week from *Go Math* and begin reviewing for our State Assessment in May. We will do this for about a week, so we can all sharpen our skills from lessons taught back in September and October. Our final chapter in Math before our assessment will be on surface area.
- Please remember, each child should be completing 2 (passed) lessons a week on i-Ready. As a reminder, you can check their progress by asking your child to show you their i-Ready progress right from their iPads.
- In Science, we are just wrapping up our climate presentations. The groups have presented and worked on these in class over the past month. Earth-Sun-Moon systems is our next unit. Students will do the readings in class, and have to follow-up with questions for homework.



ELA- Mrs. Conway:

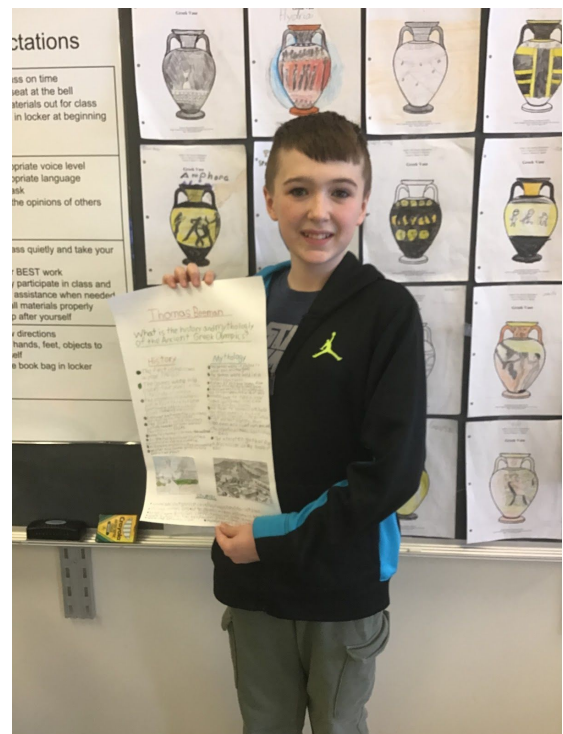
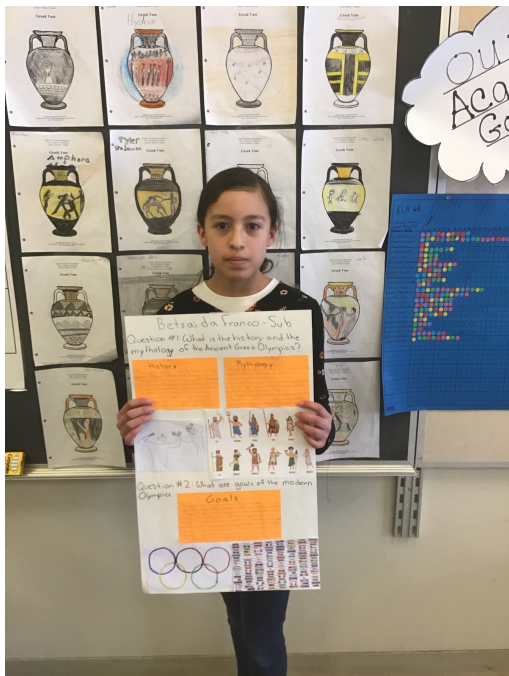
- Students have just completed their Unit 3 End of Unit Writing Assessment. They were asked to compare two texts from the Unit, in order to discuss how each of the main characters were motivated to show bravery. They were expected to use two details from each text (quotes from the texts) to support their claim. This task will help

students prepare for the NYS ELA Assessment, which is coming up the first week in April.

- Please remind your student that doing their homework is a critical part of their learning. We have **started Unit 4** this week. They do the vocabulary and the grammar for homework each week, in order to prepare them for the test we have each Friday (during normal school schedule each week).
- We continue to learn the "Word of the Week", which is a new vocabulary word that is introduced school-wide each week. Please ask your child what the word is, and what it means. You could even ask them what part of speech the word is, and ask them to use it in a sentence!

Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

- Students have just completed a research project in which they researched facts about the Ancient Greek Olympic games, as well as the modern Olympic Games. They are presenting the projects this week, in small groups. This is a great way to share with their classmates what they have learned on this topic.
- We have just begun the Unit on the 5 Major World Religions. Students have received handouts on quite a few vocabulary words (glossaries). Please ask your child to review and study these words in order to be better prepared for the test for these lessons.



iReady: Please ask your child about their iReady lessons for reading and vocabulary. Please remind them how important this practice is toward building reading and comprehension skills.

New York State ELA Assessments are scheduled from Tuesday, April 2-Thursday, April 4. Makeup tests for those who are absent will be administered from Friday, April 5 - Tuesday, April 9.

7th Grade:

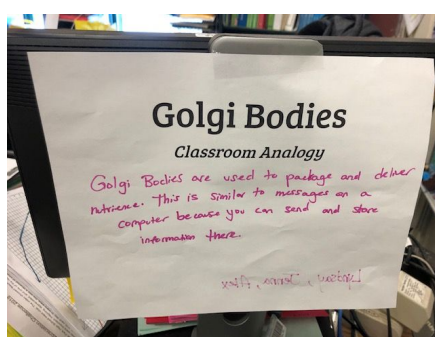
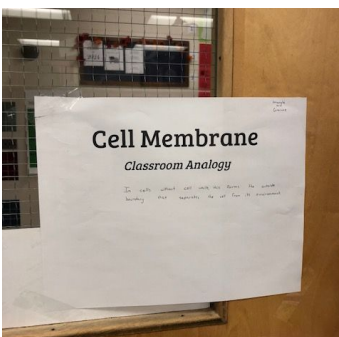
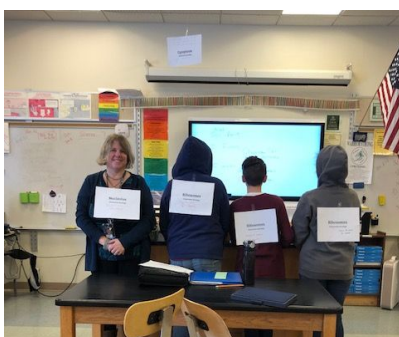
- In Grade 7 Social Studies, the students worked on an Inquiry Unit evaluating the presidential terms of George Washington or John Adams. We also learned about the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812.
- Math 7 students have been working on solving problems using a variety of methods. They are learning to work in small groups to share their methods or ideas and then share



out to the whole class. The problems at the start of the month were regular equations, but now students are working on inequality problems. An example of an inequality you may see every day is a speed limit sign. The sign shown here means you can drive 55 or fewer miles per hour (or $s \leq 55$).



- In Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND classes we have been continuing to improve our skills through the use of Iready. We have also conferenced on your child's progress on the Iready winter assessment. Please sign and return the Iready goal sheet that your child was given in class if you have not done so already.
- 7th Grade Science students are learning about evolutionary changes over time. They explored how Darwin discovered many new species on the Galapagos Islands and learned the challenges that his crew faced. We compared the differences in exploration of the Galapagos Islands now, with technology and advancements.
- The accelerated Science class are learning about cell biology. We turned the classroom into a cell using an analogy- comparing the classroom structure and contents to that of a cell.



8th Grade:

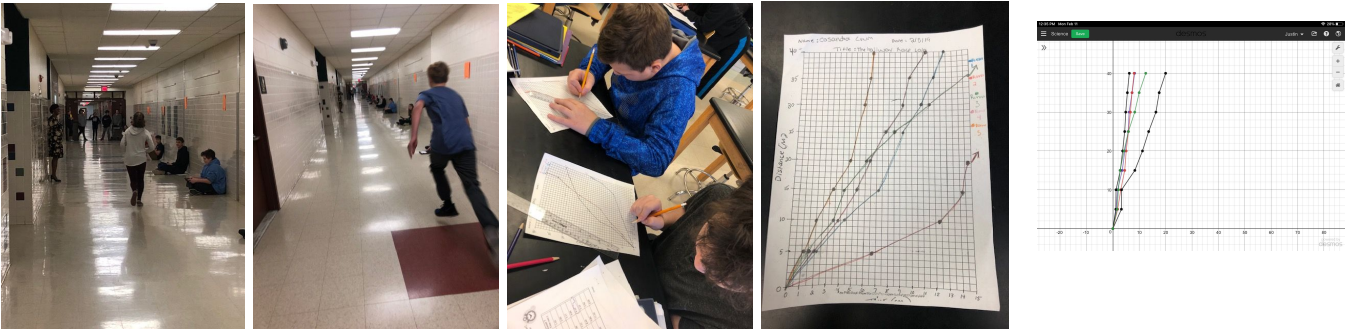
- In Grade 8 Social Studies, the students wrote a DBQ on the Great Depression. The students also learned about World War II. While learning about World War II, the students did an Inquiry Unit on the decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan.

- In Miss G.'s 8th grade ELA class we have just read the climactic court scene chapters in *To Kill a Mockingbird!* Please encourage nightly IR (independent reading) at home. We have also conferenced about your child's winter Iready scores. Please sign and return the Iready goal sheet that your child was given in class if you have not done so already. Ask your child about the writing contest we did this month! The *Millerton News* is doing an article about this to be featured later this month.



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- Math 8 students have wrapped up the graphing equations unit. In recent weeks, the students learned to compare prices for a variety of businesses—checking to see when two companies might cost the same or when one would be the better deal.

- Mrs. Gillette's 8th Grade Science classes are studying Motion and Speed. They did a hallway race lab and used their iPads to time 5 runners. They then graphed the lab by hand and then with iPads to compare.



- In Accelerated Biology students have been exploring the limits to how large cells can grow, the events of the cell cycle, and how errors in controlling cell division can lead to cancer. In lab, students have explored the effect of CO_2 concentration on the rate of photosynthesis and are now planning experiments of their own design to test the effect of a number of variables on the rate of photosynthesis.



SPECIALS:

Visual Arts: 6th grade Art Students learning about Petroglyphs: Ancient peoples of North America and how they left evidence of their existence in stone across the continent. They are turning out their story as if they were leaving it in stone 1,000- 20,000 years ago! What would life be like for them?



STEAMM:



The 7th Grade STEAMM class had the opportunity to be the first group to test drive the districts new Oculus Go VR Headsets. The unit consists of research into the fields of NASA

and space exploration with the culminating project having the students experience the International Space Station first hand inside the VR headsets. They learned to troubleshoot real issues on the ISS in real time.

Music:

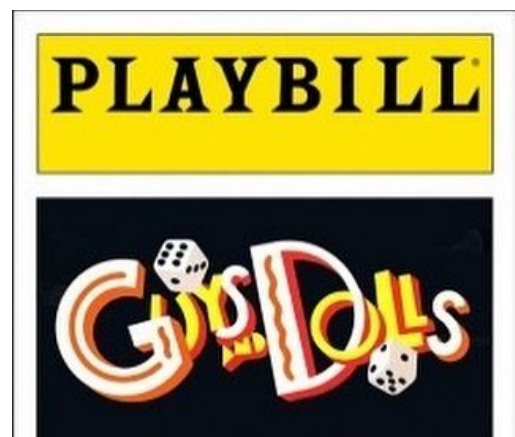
- We're gearing up for some exciting events. Three students are heading to Elementary All-County on March 1st. 5th grader Ashley Johnson will be playing clarinet in the Band while 5th grader Grace Manning and 6th grader Khyra McClennon will be joining the Chorus! We're so proud of EBIS Music Warriors!
- Many thanks to those that helped us tame our music stand hedge by contributing to Mr. Wiener's DonorsChoose project to get music stand carts. We're excited to see how our music spaces evolve to better serve our students. Organization is a key component of any space, especially ones that have to be versatile to meet many needs. We are grateful for your support. For more on how you can help, visit www.donorschoose.org/e.wiener



- The Webutuck Drama Society has been working hard prepping for their presentation of "Guys and Dolls". This classic musical, featuring Webutuck students in grades 7-12, is a must see! Join us on March 15 & 16 at 7PM and March 17th at 2PM.

TICKET PRICES

- \$12 at the door
- \$10 in advance (until March 11)
- \$8 Family of four or more, Seniors
- \$0 Children under 5 free



Spanish:

In Español 8 we are in the middle of our travel unit. Students have learned vocabulary for taking a vacation, modes of transportation and we are currently working on travel vocabulary. Students will be creating an itinerary for a seven day trip to a Spanish speaking country along with all the travel plans. ¡Buen Viaje! Español 7 has just finished up our unit on adjectives and we are onto our school chapter. Students will be able to identify their classes, describe them and write out their schedules all in Spanish. ¿Cómo son tus clases?

Mental Health:

Suite 360- Focus this month was on Social Media. Lessons touched on tips and hidden dangers of posting online.

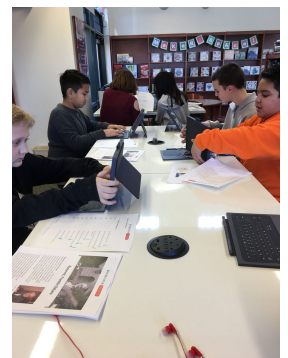
Tips for Parents/Guardians:

- Consider using one of the numerous apps that allow the ability to explore and monitor cell phone activity.
- Set a phone curfew
- Encourage the use of privacy/location settings
- Limit use-especially @ bedtime

Library Media Center:

MakerSpace Mania on Mondays

Students will have the opportunity to sign up to stay after school to experiment with the robots in the media center. New standing tall tables with whiteboard tops have arrived. These tables are designed to assist in the creating process and development of robotic coding applications. These tables were funded from an anonymous benefactor. Thank you!



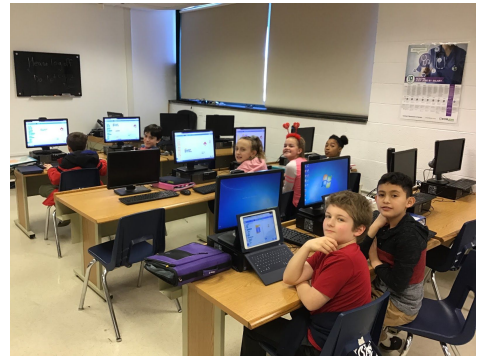
Athletics:

REMINDER!!!

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

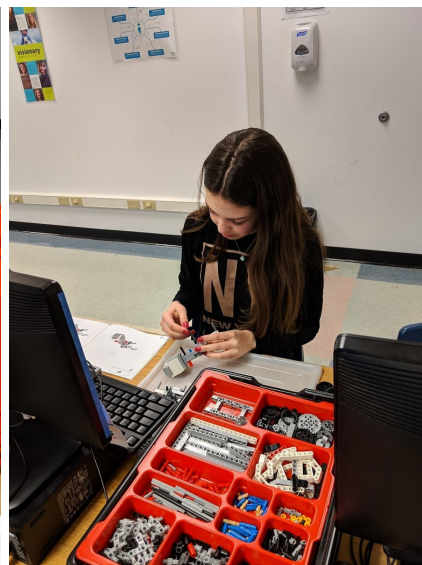
5th Grade Technology:

Our 5th grade Technology class has been exploring coding concepts like sequencing and debugging. Debugging involves the identification and correction of coding errors. We had our first "Debug It!" Challenge the quarter, where students work together to debug errors in existing Scratch projects. We had a blast using collaboration and problem-solving skills to debug.



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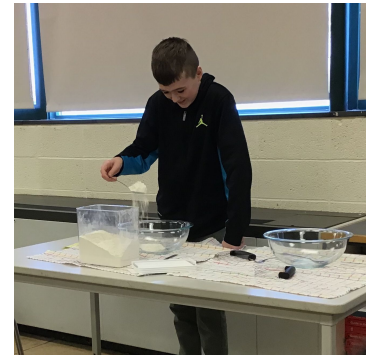
6th Grade Robotics: Building the Lego EV3 Robots!



5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:

The end of January means a new semester and new classes to get to know. The 5th grade class completed their Coat of Arms designs and the 6th grade class learned the importance of measuring accurately.

Sixth grade student Thomas Beeman demonstrates how not to measure correctly!



5th Digital Citizenship:

Students have been working on understanding the difference between private and personal information. They have been determining which information about themselves is okay to share online. We have been working on creating FAKEbook accounts with only personal information in order to protect our private information and our identities

