

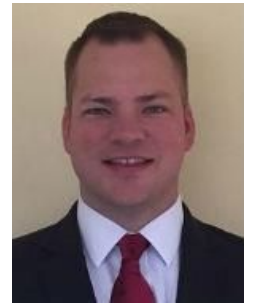
Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

March Newsletter 2019



The Principal's Corner - Mr. Lynch

Recently there's been a significant amount of buzz surrounding the concept of the "[snowplow parent](#)." It's something I think quite a bit about, both as an educator and a father. We (well intended parents, teachers, mentors, principals, etc) sometimes do more damage than good when "clearing the roads" for the children that we love most. We shield them at all costs from anything that resembles failure, struggle, fear, embarrassment, or loss. By not making kids uncomfortable/struggle at a young age, we increase the probability that they eventually fail and don't recover when they are someday out of our reach.



As Spring arrives and hope is in the air, let's consider the following quote from Ms. Lythcott-Haims! "The point is to prepare the kid for the road, instead of preparing the road for the kid."

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:

We'd like to recognize again our Students of the Month, Hailey Brennan and Brayden Selfridge. Their hard work and great attitudes exemplify the characteristics of PBIS.



5th Grade:

- In Ms. Raffaele's ELA class, students are reading historical-fiction and nonfiction texts on the American Revolution. The students are learning what certain people did to help shape our government and the reasons that lead to the Revolution. Students are also working on improving their short answer responses with finding details from the texts to support their answers.
- In Ms. Simon's Science class, students are working on the Solar System. We are learning about the planets and ways to view them. In Social Studies we are working on researching different countries in the Western Hemisphere. Students are identifying the various geographies of their chosen country and finding some very interesting facts!
- In Mr. Sullivan's Math class students will be wrapping up a series of Geometry lessons involving two-dimensional polygons and three-dimensional polyhedrons. Classification triangles, quadrilaterals, pyramids, and prisms become our focus in the first week of March. The following weeks are devoted to exploring conversion of units within the US Customary and Metric Systems. Ask your G5 student how King Henry's Death from Drinking Chocolate Milk helps them convert meters to kilometers!



- During Math Blend periods with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Murphy, we are finishing up working with decimals using all operations. Next, we are starting to improve our work with fractions in word problems. In ELA Blend with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Langton, we are concluding our work with cause and effect and beginning to work on figurative language.

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.*

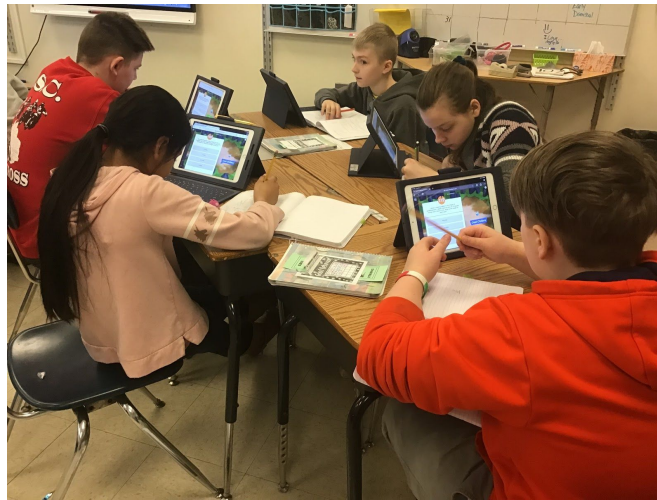


Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

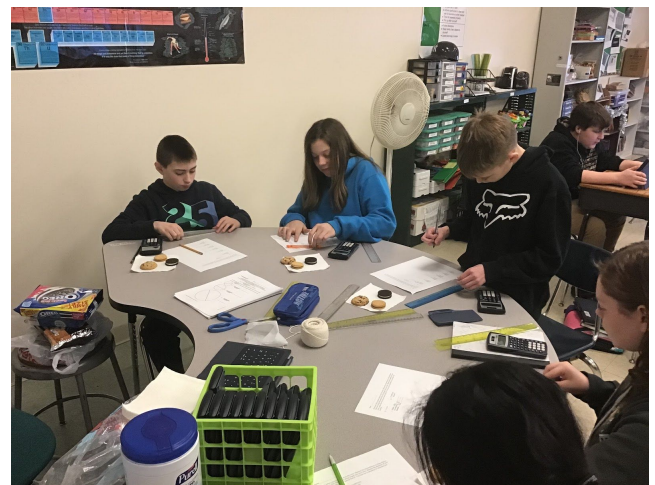
- Our 6th Graders are finishing up our last Go Math chapter before our State Assessment. We will spend the remaining weeks reviewing for our Assessment which is May 1st and 2nd. This is always an exciting time, because with review, my students are prepared for this assessment. They also find that it's easier than what they did all year, which gives them a great deal of confidence. I will be sending out a letter as we get closer to testing with more information.
- Our March Madness i-Ready contest is underway. We have four students left, and on Monday we will be down to our final two! Good luck to those still participating and nice job!
- Please remember each student is expected to pass at least two math lessons a week. Some students are not keeping up with this, and will have to come in for lunch to make up the time.
- In Science, we are wrapping up our chapter on the Moon and Earth. We will begin our Space chapter soon, which is always a lot of fun. Students are also in charge of choosing a current event to report on. We will be working on this in class, and it will only become homework if it's not finished in class.



In the above picture, our 6th graders are reviewing by using the website Kahoot! Students are competing against each other for the top score.



In the above picture, my students are working as a team to answer review questions, in preparation of their upcoming Chapter test.



In the above pictures, students are discovering Pi, by finding the diameter and circumference of their cookies.

ELA- Mrs. Conway:

- We have just finished the 4th unit in our Journeys text. We are currently working on the end of unit writing assessment. This is a research report about how archeological research has helped us to understand the culture, religious beliefs and jobs of the people of ancient Pompeii, ancient China and the ancient Vikings.
- We have one more Unit in our Journeys text (5 lessons), with one more major writing assessment to go. Then we will be able to relax a bit, and read *The Lightning Thief*! Student love this book, since the main characters are their age, and the story includes Greek gods and goddess!
- With the weather warming up, I am hopeful that we will be able to spend some time reading outdoors, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine as we read and discuss our texts.

Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

- We have just wrapped up our study of the decline of the Roman Empire!
- Currently we are beginning our unit on the Middle Ages, also known as medieval times! By the time we go on our field trip to Medieval Times in New Jersey, students will have a good understanding of the social roles/social pyramid of this time, from peasants at the bottom, all the way to the King at the top. Students will be doing a mini research project about these social roles, which 6th graders always enjoy. Learning the vocabulary of this time will greatly enhance their experience on our field trip. Please encourage your child to study this vocabulary so that they are ready for our test (in about 2 weeks) as well as for our trip.

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.

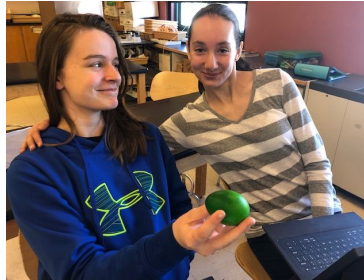
New York State ELA Assessments are scheduled from Tuesday, April 2-Wednesday, April 3. We have practiced writing and test taking skills, and students are ready!

7th Grade:

- In Grade 7 Social Studies, the students did an Erie Canal DBQ. The Erie Canal helped to make New York State the state that it is today. The Erie Canal DBQ led us into the Westward Expansion Unit.
- Math 7 students have been learning geometry skills. Students are learning to calculate area of a variety of shapes. Everyone's favorite so far has been circles, since we had a special day to celebrate pi on March 14 (3/14, like pi, which starts out 3.14). Students are continuing to work on i-Ready each week, completing a lesson and 45 minutes of learning. We will begin preparing for the upcoming Math State Assessment in the coming weeks.
- In Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND classes we have been continuing to meet expectations by completing 45 minutes of iReady and passing one lesson per week. Remind your child they are expected to come to class with earbuds and a charged ipad! We are continuing to chart data as well and learn new vocabulary words through the weekly word of the week study.
- 7th Grade Science students are learning about plants and plant reproduction and growth.



- The accelerated Science class completed a week long Egg Osmosis Lab. They used raw chicken eggs with the shells dissolved as a model of a cell. The eggs were put in different solutions to observe diffusion and osmosis across the egg membrane.



8th Grade:

- In Grade 8 Social Studies, the students learned about the Cold War. We did a project evaluating some of the inventions that came out of the Cold War.
- In Miss G.'s 8th grade ELA class we are reading our 3rd NYS Common Core module book, *Unbroken*. We will be focusing on vocabulary and comprehension skills. Continue to encourage IR at home!



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- Mrs. Gillette's 8th Grade Science classes are studying Energy. They did a lab on energy transformations and had to identify the input energy source, useful output forms of energy, and the waste forms of energy.



- In Accelerated Biology Lab students started this month conducting experiments of their own design to test the effect of different variables on the rate of photosynthesis. Students then created mini posters to present their findings to their peers. We then explored how to create karyotypes to analyze chromosomes and diagnose genetic disorders. In lecture students have been comparing the benefits and drawbacks of asexual versus sexual reproduction, and examining how meiosis is used to create gametes through a specialized type of cell division. We are now exploring how alleles separate and recombine during sexual reproduction to create new combinations of traits in offspring.



Math 8 students have been learning geometry skills. Students have been working with angles, parallel lines, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students enjoyed celebrating pi on March 14 (3/14, like pi, which starts out 3.14) with some special activities and contests. Cadance Shufelt memorized 79 digits of pi! In Math Blend, students are learning to 3D print in small groups. Soon, every student will have designed and printed an item to take home! Students are continuing to work on i-Ready each week, completing a lesson and 45 minutes of learning. We will begin preparing for the upcoming Math State Assessment in the coming weeks.



Proving the Pythagorean Theorem



Student design ready for 3D printing

SPECIALS:

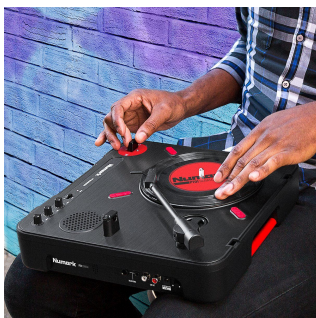
Visual Arts: Mr. Wiegard's classes are working on end of month posters for **Earth Day 2019-Saving the Species**, which are endangered from being wiped off our one and only Earth!

Earth Day is on April 22 this year and next year is the **50th Anniversary of the first Earth Day**. Some posters will be displayed in the Millerton Townscapes.



Music:

- March is Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM)! Recognized both nationally and by NYS, MIOSM is in its 34th year. The theme for this year is All Music, All People.
- We kicked off MIOSM by celebrated talented elementary students of Dutchess County at the Elementary All-County Music Festival. EBIS Music Warriors Khyra McClennon (6th grade) and Grace Manning (5th grade) performed with the All-County Chorus and Ashley Johnson (5th grade) performed on clarinet with the All-County Concert Band. Well done, Warriors!
- We further celebrated MIOSM with the Webutuck Drama Society production of the classic musical "Guys and Dolls". The cast, featuring 12 students in grades 7-12, worked extremely hard to bring this fantastic show to Webutuck. Thank you to all of the cast, crew and volunteers for your amazing effort. It really showed in your three awesome performances.
- With the concept of All Music, All People, we continue to explore musical diversity in relationship to the diversity of our students. One concept that we are looking at is Turntablism. Yes! That's a thing! What is Turntablism, you ask? Essentially it's the concept of using the turntable/record player as a musical instrument. The old joke that "I play the record player" has become a reality because turntablists play it like an instrument. The art of the DJ has been around for a long time but beat juggling, scratching and record swapping have their origins in Hip



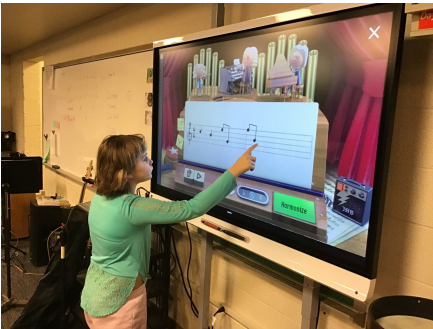
Hop and Rap of the '70s. Scratch DJs and Turntablists have highly developed skills which cross musical styles, using the turntable to produce musical sounds by manipulating the record and stylus, rather than just relying on pre-recorded sounds on the record. Mr.



Wiener has been working to bring the concept of "Scratch In School" to Webutuck.

He has already fundraised for four portable Scratch turntables and has three more in the works. We hope to introduce them to students soon. You can help by checking in on Mr. Wiener's projects at www.donorschoose.org/e.wiener

- Students also celebrated MIOSM using our fantastic technology! Among the celebrations was Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday, honored in a cool Google Doodle. Using the SmartBoard and their iPads, student composed a 2 measure melody and the Google Doodle used AI to create a 4 part harmony in the style of J.S. Bach. Very Cool! Plus, some students came in during lunch to use the other equipment. So much fun!



Spanish:

In Español 8 we have completed our vacations and travel unit and we are on to the house. Students will be learning vocabulary for the rooms of the house, furniture, prepositions and chores. ¿Cómo es tu casa?

In Español 7 students are working hard at conjugating verbs. We can speak and write so many sentences now! We continue with our school unit and students are now identifying objects in the classroom and speaking about the location of items using the verb estar.

Mental Health:

In grades 4, 5, 7, and 8, Suite 360 lessons focused on anger management. The presentations discussed the various styles of anger and what to do when you or someone else is angry. The 6th grade lesson focused on responsibility. What being responsible looks like and the work required to be a responsible person were the main points covered.

Library Media Center:

Classes in the Library Media Center have been very active lately. All scheduled classes have been spending their class time building, creating and activating robots. The 5th grade students pictured above have worked together as a team to build a Catapult from the Robotics Smart Machines kit in our MakerSpace area of the library. Sixth graders are seen building a geckobot. Classmates are all working throughout the room on other robots as well as a Star Wars lab. The Library Media Center is open after school every Monday for budding engineers to experiment and experience the robots. Please sign up in the EBIS office.



Athletics:

On March 8th, the athletic department held the Winter Sports Awards Banquet. The Webutuck Cheerleaders are comprised of 7th-12th grade students. One of the awards given was "Miss Cheerleader", which was given to the cheerleader who shows the most heart and love for the sport. Coach Ambrosino and Coach Simon decided that this season's Miss Cheerleader award was to be given to 7th grader, Jahlin N.

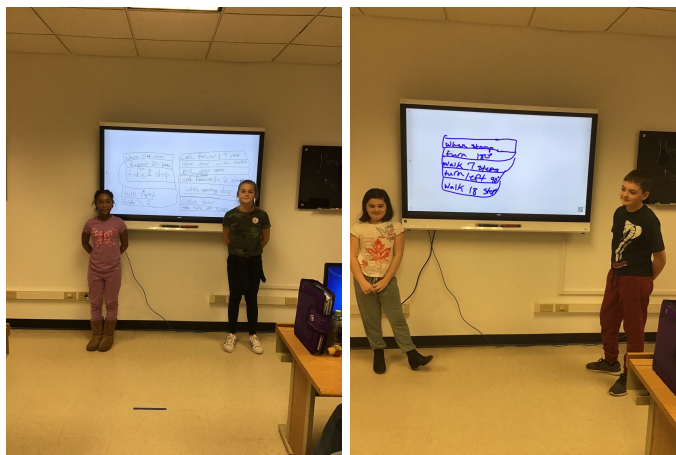


REMINDER!!!

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 Computer Technology class has been continuing our exploration of coding concepts. We learned about parallelism, events, sequencing, and other coding concepts by "writing code" that directs a person to walk through the classroom, open and close the door, and walk back.



5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:

Fifth grade students work diligently to practice their stitches and sixth grade students completed their kitchen measurement unit. We focused on measuring dry and liquid ingredients, kitchen equivalents and how to double a recipe. To practice their newly learned skills, students doubled and baked snickerdoodles.



5th Digital Citizenship:

Students have been working on their Anti-Cyberbullying Campaigns. They are working in groups to define terms, explain why the campaign is needed in our school community and planning interviews and skits. They will be using a combination of different technologies such as Google Slides, iMovie, Filmmaker Pro to make their campaigns come to life.

