

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

November Newsletter

2018



The Principal's Corner- Mr. Lynch

As we leave this season of thanks, a time period based on the concept of gratitude, I want to express my deep appreciation to our parents, students, and staff. We've had 56 days of school that have been filled with excitement, learning, experimentation, and busted water pipes! It's been a windy road that I'm grateful to be sharing with you.



We have so much to be grateful for in our school. For me, I'm grateful for the privilege of serving this community in a capacity where I'm able to positively affect change alongside a dedicated staff, supportive parents, and incredible students.

At times, we all slip into the trap of dwelling on the negatives in our lives. It's easy, it feels good, and it can be contagious if we allow it to be! Habit number one in Stephen Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, focuses on ***being proactive***. Within this habit is the

idea that we each have a *circle of control* (small circle) and a *circle on no control* (large circle). The more time we spend on controllable things, the larger that circle becomes, making the larger outer circle smaller. The opposite can happen as well when we spend too much of our time, thoughts, and energy on things that we absolutely can't control. This creates stress, helplessness, and eventually shrinks the number of things in our lives that we actually can control and influence. While I've decided to focus my thoughts on attitude, we also control our choices and responses (despite our students sometimes blaming their parents, teachers, and fellow classmates).

Please review these concepts with your children and allow them to fail, persevere, and then come out on the other side stronger. I know this is easier said than done! Our end goal is to graduate independent young adults that will someday make this world a better place. Failure (when combined with support) will build our future doctors, entrepreneurs, farmers, bankers, and teachers into stronger human beings that accomplish that goal.

HABIT #1 – BE PROACTIVE

You're in Charge

To be proactive means to take responsibility for your choices and behaviors.

YOUR ATTITUDES

- Use proactive language, as opposed to reactive language.

Reactive Language	Proactive Language
I'll try	I'll do it
That's just how I am	I can do better than that
There's nothing I can do	Let's look at our options
I have to	I choose to
I can't	There has to be a way
You ruined my day	I'm not going to let your bad mood rub off on me

- Focus on things you can control (i.e. your actions and behaviors) versus things out of your control (i.e.



YOUR CHOICES

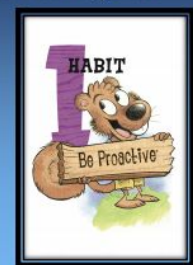
- Stop and ask yourself, "What is the right thing to do?"
- **At Home** – be responsible for yourself (i.e. getting dressed, preparing backpack, brushing teeth) and your family (i.e. doing chores, helping family members).
- **At School** – doing homework, good listening, following directions

YOUR RESPONSES

- Encourage your child to stop and think before acting.
- Others do not "make" you feel a certain way, you choose to feel that way.
- Be aware of your feelings (mad, sad, happy, etc.) and learn healthy ways to manage your emotions.

YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF ...

1. Your Attitudes
2. Your Choices
3. Your Responses



"The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you are."

- Robert Holden-

General Announcements

- Please remind your children to bring a winter jacket to lunch with them! We do have outside recess after lunch, and we go out if it is above 20 degrees and not raining or snowing.
- PARENTS, PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: On December 4th, 2018, there will be an Internet Safety Presentation for parents with students in grades K-12. Tom Roidl from the New York State Police is an investigator for Troop K in the Computer Crime Unit, and he will be speaking in the Webutuck High School Library from 6- 7:30 pm. HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!
- A big thank you to all of the local veterans that came to our breakfast this year and to Mrs. Howard for leading us all in the planning of the event. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our veterans publicly while at the same time teaching our students authentically about service.



- Congratulations to Mariah Lattrell, Riley Thirlwall, Jordyn Thorne, and Kaitlyn Cope for being selected as Students Of The Month for 7th and 8th grades!



Grade Level Updates

4th Grade:

- The 4th graders had a valuable experience working with Miss Shelly from The Cary Institute. They learned all about invertebrates (and how they don't come out when it's too cold!). BUT... Chris found a cicada exoskeleton!
- Haudenosaunee and Algonquian home projects are displayed in the entryway of the building. Everyone did an incredible job!



- Students got their assigned iPads in class and are using them for iReady, Journeys reading, edPuzzles, writing performance tasks and more!
- Everyone was so proud to be in the company of our local veterans (heroes!) and to celebrate Veteran's Day amongst them.



5th Grade:

Check out some awesome pictures of our trip to Fairfield Farm and The Hotchkiss School's Biomass Power Plant!



- In Mr. Butland's ELA class, our students have been learning about "The Snazzy Steppers" Double Dutch Team in one of our stories and what is entailed in becoming a World Double Dutch Jump Roping Champion. Also, we have been working steadfastly on sharing and perfecting our *Thankful Essays*, which focused on all of the special people as well as moments that have made our year thus far so worthwhile.
- In Ms. Simon's Science class students are working on how living things grow and reproduce. We worked with Ms. Shelly from the Cary Institute on sorting and identifying seeds through a series of fun tests. In Social Studies, we are learning about

European exploration to the western hemisphere and are finishing up our Newspaper Project on our explorers. Please remember Dichotomous Key Projects that are to be done at home are due on December 13th!

- In Mr. Sullivan's Math class students are discovering strategies to successfully multiply and divide numbers with decimal places into the thousandths! The resources we use in class, on iPads, are available through Mr. Sullivan's Google Classroom and can be accessed at home. They are a great way for students to remind themselves of the skills we learned during class and a HUGE help with homework! In addition to regular math homework, and if possible, each student should complete at least (3) i-ready math lessons each week from their home PC or tablet. i-ready was designed to help fill in gaps in individual student's understanding making it even more valuable of a resource for students who are in need of help in math and looking to improve!

6th Grade:

- Students should be spending a minimum of 45 minutes each week on their ELA and Math lessons for i-Ready
- Please sign up for Parent Portal, and check your child's grades regularly. There's also a new Push Notification you can sign-up for, which sends you a notification once a grade has been entered.
- During Blend, we are meeting with our students weekly regarding their i-Ready lessons

Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

- Our 6th Graders had a fun and educational visit with Shelly from the Cary Institute. Shelly used a model to explain groundwater, and allowed students to experience first hand what happens with pollutants.
 - Shelly also worked with us on an outdoor groundwater investigation. While looking at a school map, students made predictions about areas of the school grounds that they believe has no infiltration, limited infiltration or if they thought it is an area that water could infiltrate easily. Students then went outside and tested out their predictions. In science class, we created Slide Presentations with this information and shared with our classmates.
- Our next science topic will be on Pangaea
- In math class we just finished up chapter 4 on Rates, Ratios and Unit Rates-Which most students did well with!
- Chapter 5 will be on Percents

- 6th Grade Math is currently in the lead for our i-Ready Contest!! Keep working hard!!!!



ELA- Mrs. Conway:

- Sixth graders are currently working on persuasive essays, also known as argument writing. These are 5 paragraph essays and are meant to use clear, strong evidence and reasons to win readers over.
- We will be finishing a realistic fiction story titled "Kensuke's Kingdom". Grammar related to this story is about "dependent and independent clauses".
- The genre of the next text we will be reading and working with is literary nonfiction. The title is "Children of the Midnight Sun".
- Please encourage your child to use their iPads to re-read each of these texts more than once, and to study their vocabulary and grammar nightly. This will help them tremendously with their comprehension.
- We work together in class each week on the school-wide "Word of the Week", also known as WoW. Ask your child about the word, its meaning, and how to use it correctly in a sentence and let them "WOW" you!

Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

- We are finishing up our study of ancient River Valley Civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere. Currently, we are studying ancient Egypt, which is an interesting and captivating culture.
- Students will be working on a small research project on ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses.
- They have already learned about the social structure of the Ancient Egyptians, as well as about some of their amazing inventions.
- Remember to encourage your child to review their notes whenever possible, since we only meet for Social Studies every other day.

7th Grade:

- The Grade 7 Social Studies students learned about the causes of the Revolutionary War. We also wrote a document based question on the same topic. We began to learn about the Revolutionary War.
- In Science class, we finished up our collaboration with the Cary Institute. Our study on Lyme Ecology included trail cameras to record the animal diversity of the Webutuck lawn and forest areas.



- The Math 7 students have been working with fractions and decimals to solve problems involving positive and negative numbers. Some classes are applying these skills by planning the details of a Thanksgiving meal. Students were surprised at how much math was involved!
- In ELA class we are continuing to read about the Sudanese Civil War and are learning how to write strong paragraphs with consistent organization!

- In Miss Garofalo's BLEND classes (7th and 8th grade) we are continuing to work on IReady and NoRedInk. Students need to obtain 45 minutes per week of IReady. We are conferencing weekly about individual student progress. Headphones are *required* for this class.

8th Grade:

- Students made edible electron dot diagrams in Science 8. We are now studying the elements. The 8th grade classes and the accelerated classes combined to complete a wall size Periodic Table of Elements.



- Field trip to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum was on November 14th.
- The Grade 8 social studies students finished an Immigration Document Based Question. We also learned about the Age of Reform. We are learning about President Teddy Roosevelt.
- Math 8 students learned about Rate of Change (slope) and Initial Value (y-intercept) as they relate to functions and equations of lines. Students participated in an auction activity in which they competed to purchase the most functions for their team.
- In Accelerated Biology students have been learning the importance of enzymes for biological processes. In lab, students have been working on their first



state-mandated lab, *Making Connections*. Students collaborated in small groups to design their own experiments to test the effect of exercise on muscle fatigue.

- In ELA grade 8 students are continuing to work on the objective of citing evidence. We are working on finding connections between the class novel and various articles and speeches in order to synthesize and formulate a main theme. We will be finishing the first NYS Common Core Module text soon! Students are also working on their 2nd Marking Period independent reading book. Happy Thanksgiving!



We had a great time on the FDR field trip!

- In Miss Garofalo's BLEND classes (7th and 8th grade) we are continuing to work on IReady and NoRedInk. Students need to obtain 45 minutes per week of IReady. We are conferencing weekly about individual student progress. Headphones are *required* for this class.

SPECIALS:

Music:

With December around the corner, we're sliding into concert season. Join us Wednesday nights in December at 7pm in the WHS Auditorium to hear our hard-working bands and choruses perform. Hope to see you there!

- December 5th - EBIS Grades 7/8
- December 12th - WHS Grades 9-12
- December 19th - EBIS Grades 4-6



Congratulations to Emma Manning & Aidan Furey for being accepted for the Junior High All-County Chorus and to Jack Forbes and Riley Thirlwall for being accepted to the Junior High All-County Concert Band! Well done!

Spanish:

8th-grade Spanish students completed their family chapter with a family project and presentation. It was wonderful to hear about their families all in Spanish. We are now onto our clothing and shopping chapter. In 7th grade students have covered alphabet, numbers, calendar vocabulary, weather, and colors. We also enjoyed a Día de los Muertos celebration in class.

Visual Arts:

Seventh grade art work "Shade and Value" This unit is coming along this month, students are learning how to make tonal gradations in shaded spheres by picking different techniques and see which techniques they would like to use in their "Realistic Hands" renderings. The art students are working really well by observing and studying all the nooks and crannies that their hands have.



Mental Health:

Suite 360 workshops continued this month for students at EBIS. The digital character development program helps students understand themselves and others through an interactive program led by Mrs. Hart, Mr. Merendino, and Mrs. McLaughlin. The November focus for grades 4-7 was on social relationships while 8th grade worked on education and college prep.

Library Media Center:

The Eugene Brooks/Webutuck High School Library Media Center is morphing into a MakerSpace. MakerSpace is an area of the media center allowing for the students to explore coding. Coding is a universal language that allows our students to integrate computer science into ELA, Math, Science and Arts. The robots have arrived and are waiting to become a part of our learning.



Athletics:

Winter sports

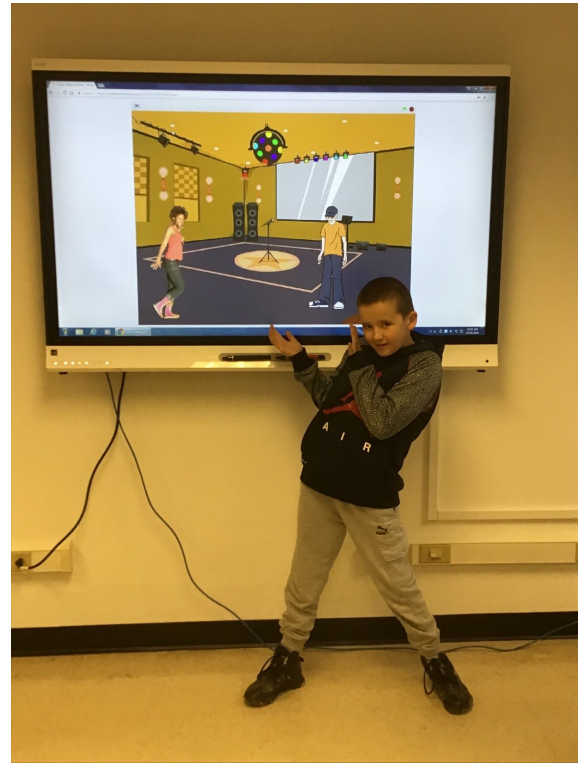
Winter sports have begun. Come out and support our Boys and Girls Basketball teams.

You can find game schedules on our Athletic Website.

Click on the game schedule link and look up schedules by specific teams.

SIGN UP and SUBSCRIBE to game change notification by receiving notification via text or email.

5th Grade Computer Technology:



Our computer technology class has been creating animations with the Scratch block coding program.

6th Grade Robotics:

Students complete a Personality Test and a Multiple Intelligences Self-Assessment to learn about themselves and how they learn best. Try it out:

http://stemrobotics.cs.pdx.edu/sites/default/files/ID_Personaity_Survey.pdf

This information is added to their ID Badge which is designed after either a Pokemon Card or a Yugioh Card. Students are required to bring their ID Badge to class each day in order to demonstrate one aspect of their preparedness to work.



5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:

In our "Getting to Know You" activity, the class designed a coat of arms representing their individual personalities. We also completed a unit on MyPlate and know how to make healthy meal choices!

