MIS Family Update--04.02.2019

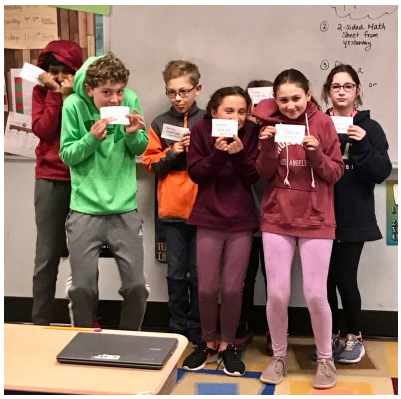
Tuesday, April 2 is Autism Awareness Day--Join us today as we recognize today as Autism Awareness Day!

STEM Instructional Specialist--We are very excited to welcome Mrs. Shannon Insero as our new STEM Instructional Specialist. Many of you may remember Mrs. Insero from Spaulding where she most recently was the Library Media Specialist. As our STEM Instructional Specialist, her goal is to work with teachers on providing students with opportunities that will help them grow as problem solvers, to encourage them to think outside the box, and to prepare them to join a workforce that is already heavily STEM centered. Although STEM stands for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics, we can think of it as an adjective and bring that lens into all curricular areas. STEM opportunities challenge students to identify problems and create solutions to foster advanced levels of technical knowledge and problem-solving capabilities. Students will need these skills to become leaders in today's rapidly changing world. To kick off our work together, we are having a **STEM Night** on April 24th, along with our Spring Book Fair. Please mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there!

Project-Based Learning Style Lessons--Mrs. Stiles is working to incorporate tenets of Project-Based Learning into her classroom lessons. Last week students generated "Need to Know" questions for their research unit, and then will work with those questions (and discover answers to them!) throughout the unit. This approach creates a very intentional purpose to student learning.

Class Placement Parent Letters - Correspondence went home on March 27th regarding 2019-2020 classroom placement. As always, we welcome this input with regard to children's academic, social, and emotional needs. Please send in your input no later than Friday, April 12, 2019.

Science Learning in Fifth Grade--Last week Mrs. Larson's classes were learning how water molecules behave when changing from a solid, to a liquid, and then to a gas. This inquiry-based lesson involved lots of interaction, movement, role playing, science vocabulary, and discourse all the name of discovering scientific properties. Way to go fifth graders!



in

Signature Project---Last Thursday we all went to the Middle School to see Patrick's Dunning's "Signature Project". This show was a thoughtful combination of storytelling, multimedia artistry, and music that celebrates different people from around the world. It is fascinating to see Dunning's inspiration, planning, creativity, and perseverance as he works to create a "painting" made from millions of signatures. Thank you to our PTO for bringing this show to our students.

Collaborating with Our Middle School Peers---Two of our classrooms went over to Suffield Middle School to work with students on their fairy tale adaptations. Students worked together to edit, revise, and receive constructive feedback on their individual pieces.

Third Grade Field Trip--Last Friday, our entire third grade went to the Springfield Symphony to see *Rosie Revere, Engineer* -- a wonderful show based off the New York Times bestselling picture book about persevering in order to achieve a dream. Everyone enjoyed the production and were inspired by the message.

Important Dates at McAlister :)

4/1 through May 16--Spring Session of Expanding Horizons in Progress
Tues., 4/2--Autism Awareness Day--Wear Blue!
Wed., 4/3-- *Angst--Raising Awareness Around Anxiety* movie showing at SMS for students and their families aged 10+
Sat., 4/6--*Drumming For Wellness* presented by Suffield Youth Services--Information in MIS Virtual Backpack
Fri., 4/12--Class Placement Letters Due--please send to Main Office
Tues., 4/23--Early Release--PD Day
Wed., 4/24--MIS Spring Book Fair and STEM Night
Fri., 4/26--Arbor Day for all fourth grade students
Tues., 4/30 through Thurs., 5/2--Grades 3, 4, & 5 SBAC Math Assessment
Tues., 5/7 and Wed., 5/8 --Grade 3 SBAC English Lang., Arts Assessment
Sat., 5/11--Suffield PMC Kids Bike Ride--see information in MIS Virtual Backpack
Tues., 5/14 and Wed., 5/15--Grade 5 Next Generation Science Assessment