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ECS NEWSLETTER 3/5/18

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Draft

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ECS Newsletter

3/5/18

ECS Mission: To Collaborate with PSB educators to create rigorous, relevant, engaging learning for all students

Goals of the Public Schools of Brookline

Goal 1: Every Student Achieving

Goal 2: Every Student Invested in Learning

Goal 3: Every Student Prepared for Change and Challenge

Goal 4: Every Educator Growing Professionally



@ECSbrookline

@tanyagregoire

WWW.ECSbrookline.weebly.com

Psbma

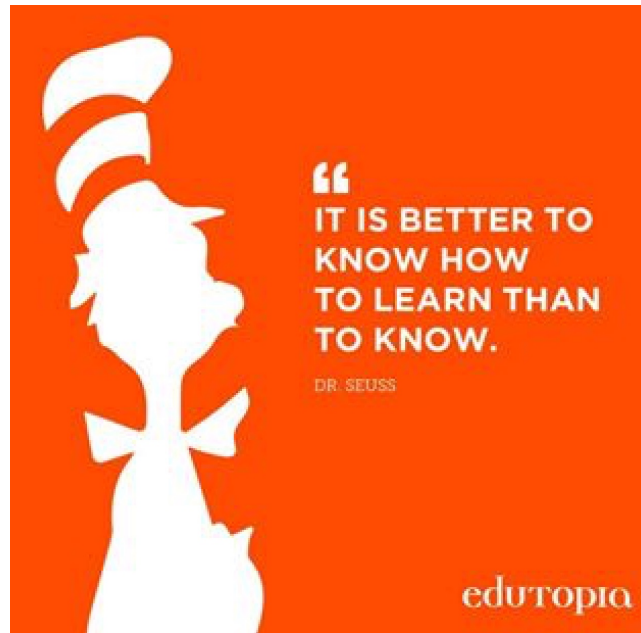
Quotes of the Week

“Who knew we could make such COOL things? We are working so hard. Each of us doing the best we can do! I love the makerspace because it let’s us use our imagination. We have such a good time at the makerspace; our creativity shooting up into the stars to share with the world! “

- Gr 4 Student, Pierce school
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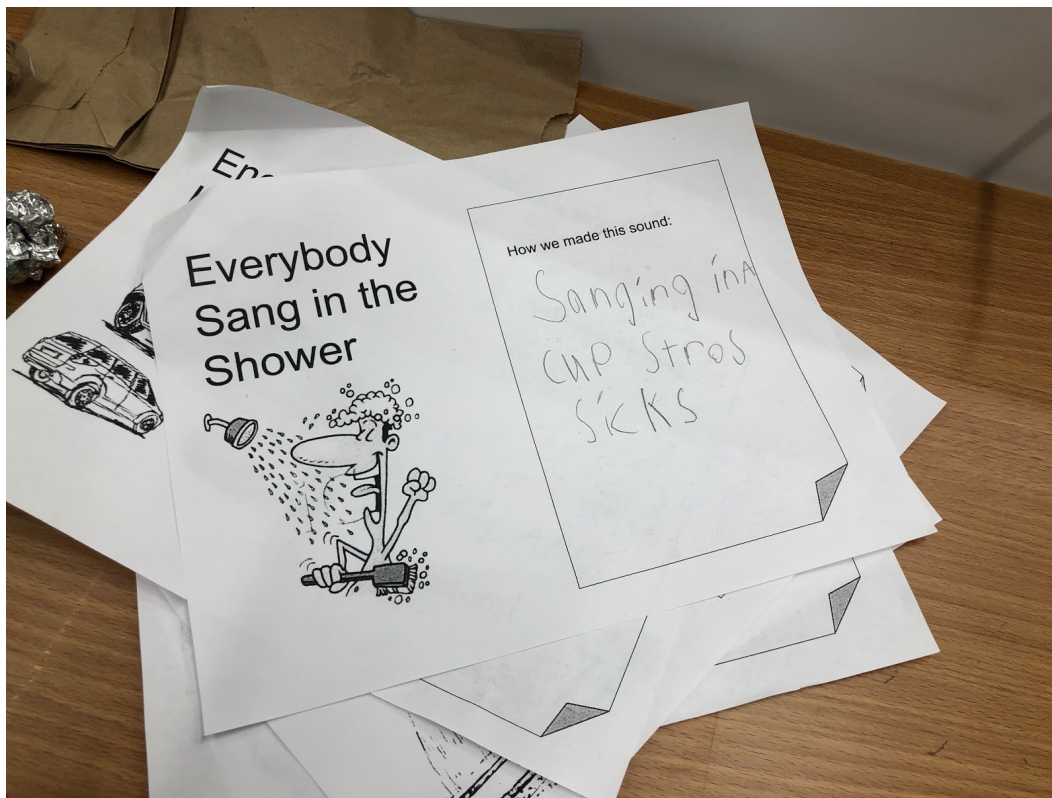
“Look how messy our table got! It’s because of our hard work!”

Gr 4 Student, Pierce school



Current Goings On

Foley Art and a Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!



A first grade class just finished a project where they read the book "The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet", and then created sounds that occurred in the book to create [foley art](#). Sound is a theme in first grade science, so this was a nice marriage of science and ELA together.

[Watch their project here.](#)

Duct Tape Accessories With a Focus on Empathy

Students in grade 4 created duct tape accessories for clients using the design thinking process.

[Watch a quick movie documenting their work here](#)



Articles and Resources

[Don't Leave Learning Up To Chance: Framing and Reflection](#)

Being intentional and reflecting on our learning helps to cement what we learned. From the article:

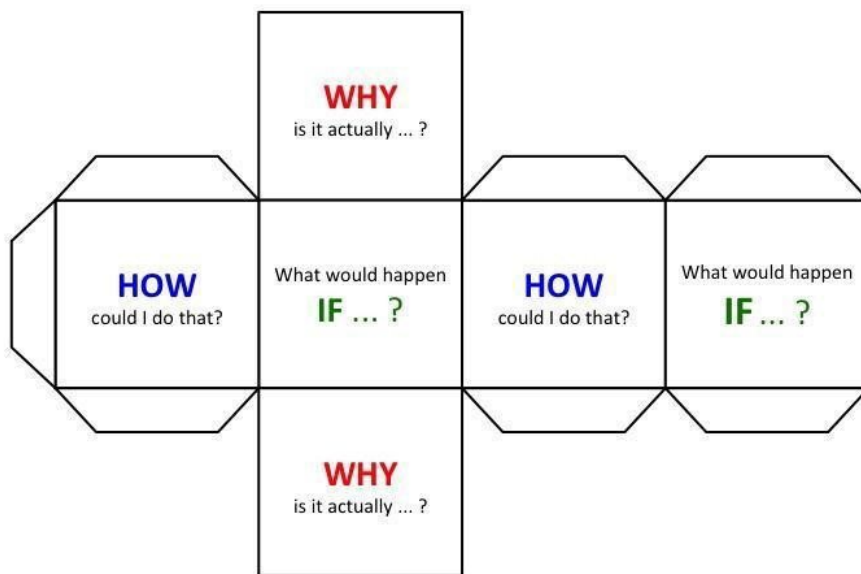
The main thing for teachers to remember is that just because they can see that students are learning doesn't mean the students are making the same connection. it is important for students to make meaning on their own, [practice metacognition](#) and learn to self-evaluate.

[Google Finds STEM Skills Aren't the Most Important Skills](#)

It's all about soft skills: communicating, listening, empathy, critical and creative thinking, problem solving. (thanks Matt R.!)

[The Question Game: A Playful Way To Teach Critical Thinking](#)

The Question Game focuses on teaching children a kind of thinking which is particularly useful in creative problem-solving—a focused approach to get from a problem to the most effective solution.



“We need to support kids’ interests no matter what they are”

Check out this recent [Tweet](#) by Tony Wagner (*Creating Innovators*)

"Kid who made his first yogurt at 6 now creates new flavors for Chobani. Great example of play to passion to purpose. Parents and teachers: we need to support kids’ interests no matter what they are." (thanks Matt R.!)

Equity/Every Student Achieving

[Teaching the Hard History of Slavery.](#)

They argue, successfully from my experience, that we (most of us teachers) don’t know enough about slavery to teach it the way it needs to be taught. This is from the Southern Poverty Law Center- a good resource for learning about civil rights. [Take the six question quiz about slavery.](#) It’s an eye opener. I took it and learned that I need to know more.

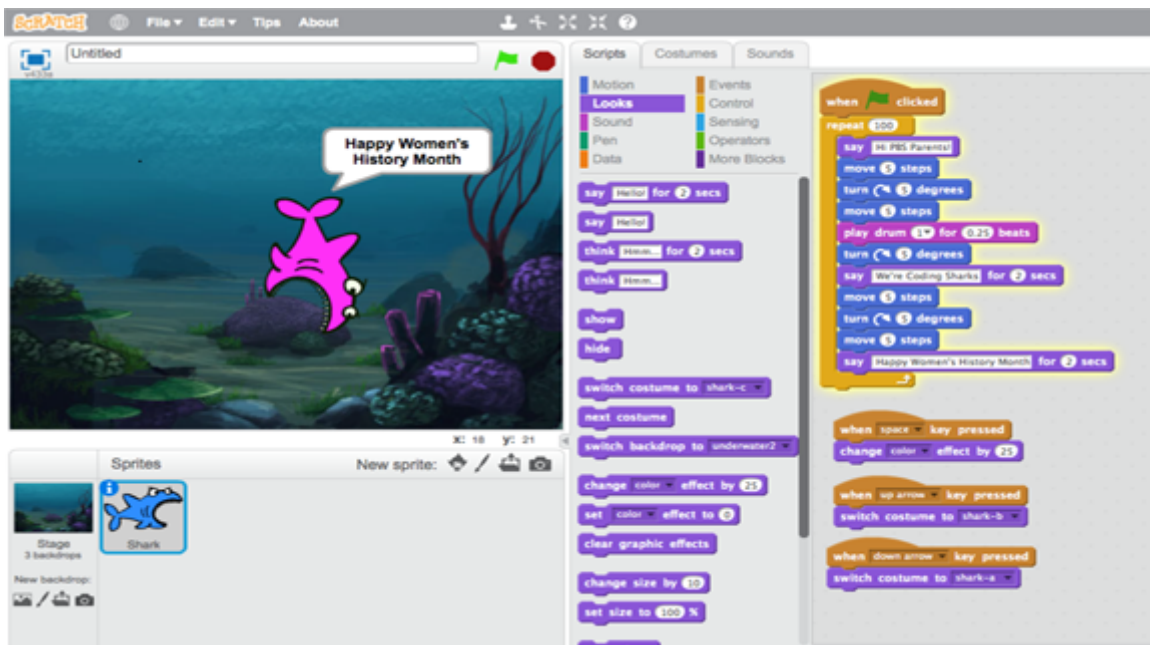
Tinkertime

[Writing Code For Sharks: A Women’s History Month Activity.](#)

From the article: Let’s celebrate Women’s History Month with an extremely unique and highly interactive learning activity that honors the contributions of both Grace Hopper and Eugenie Clark,

two luminaries in the fields of computer science and marine biology, respectively. Let's write computer code for sharks!

If anyone wants to explore coding - let me know... I've got my toe in the pool... We can work on it together! It's actually really fun, and kids seem to love it. - Tanya



10 Reasons to Teach Coding

By Brian Aspinall @mrspinall

5 Coding is inclusive & builds self-confidence.

6 Coding supports many principles of mathematics.

7 Coding teaches problem-solving and critical/analytical thinking skills.

8 Coding is a new type of literacy and will be a large part of future jobs.

9 Coding develops teamwork & collaborative skills.

10 Coding can help humanity.

BONUS: Coding gives you SUPERPOWERS!

1 Coding allows students to create content, not just consume it.

2 Coding empowers students and gives them tools to express themselves in really cool ways.

3 Coding teaches storytelling with games and animations.

4 Coding is a place for students to take risks & fail safely.

@sylvia duckworth

Green Ants?

I don't know what this is, exactly, but it looks like a really awesome "tinkering" experience. I saw this photo online somewhere. What would happen if you fed ants colored sugar water??? What if you fed them other foods? What if they drank a little yellow and a little blue, would they turn green? (recommended for outside tinkering only.)



Opportunities

[Afrotectopia](#)

This event is sold out for this year, but... Time to write some grants to go next year??

AFRO•TEC•TOPIA is a new media art, culture, technology festival designed to recognize the contributions of Black artists, designers, technologists and activists; as well as build community amongst people currently working at the intersection of art, design, technology, activism and Blackness.

technology, activism and Blackness

[The Boston Pi Party](#)

Celebrate pi day with the Museum of Science by attempting to win a Guinness book of world record for the most shaving cream pies thrown at once. Other activities and prizes will also be there.



Just some Teacher humor:



**Why science teachers
should not be given
playground duty.**