Public Schools of Brookline

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ECS NEWSLETTER 1/28/18

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Draft

ECS Newsletter

1/28/18

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

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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

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Psbma

Quotes of the Week

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on" – Albert Einstein

:----------:

If pizza sizes were given in area not diameter, you'd see instantly that a 7 inch is less than half the size of a 10 inch pie

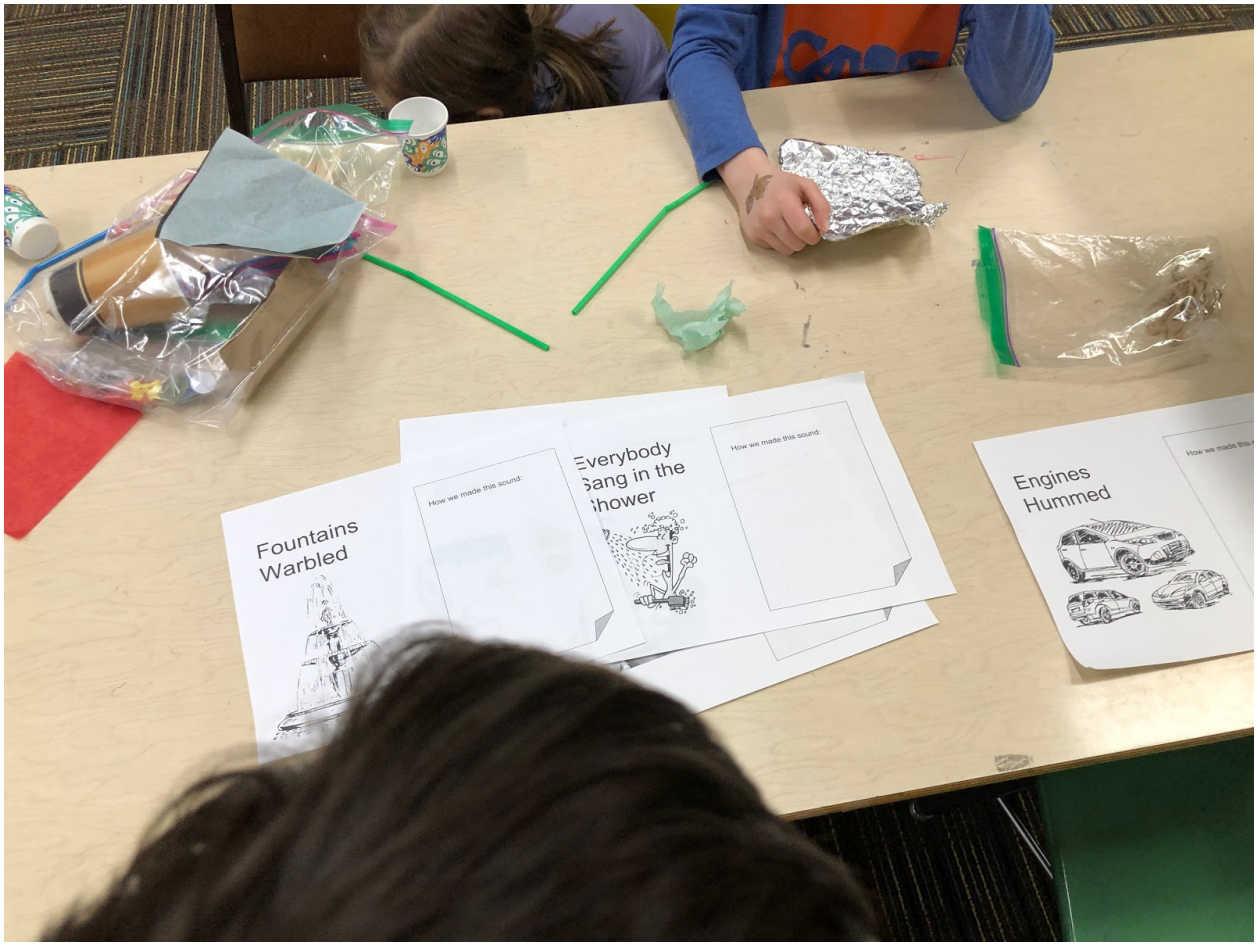
— Neil deGrasse Tyson (@neiltyson) January 25, 2012

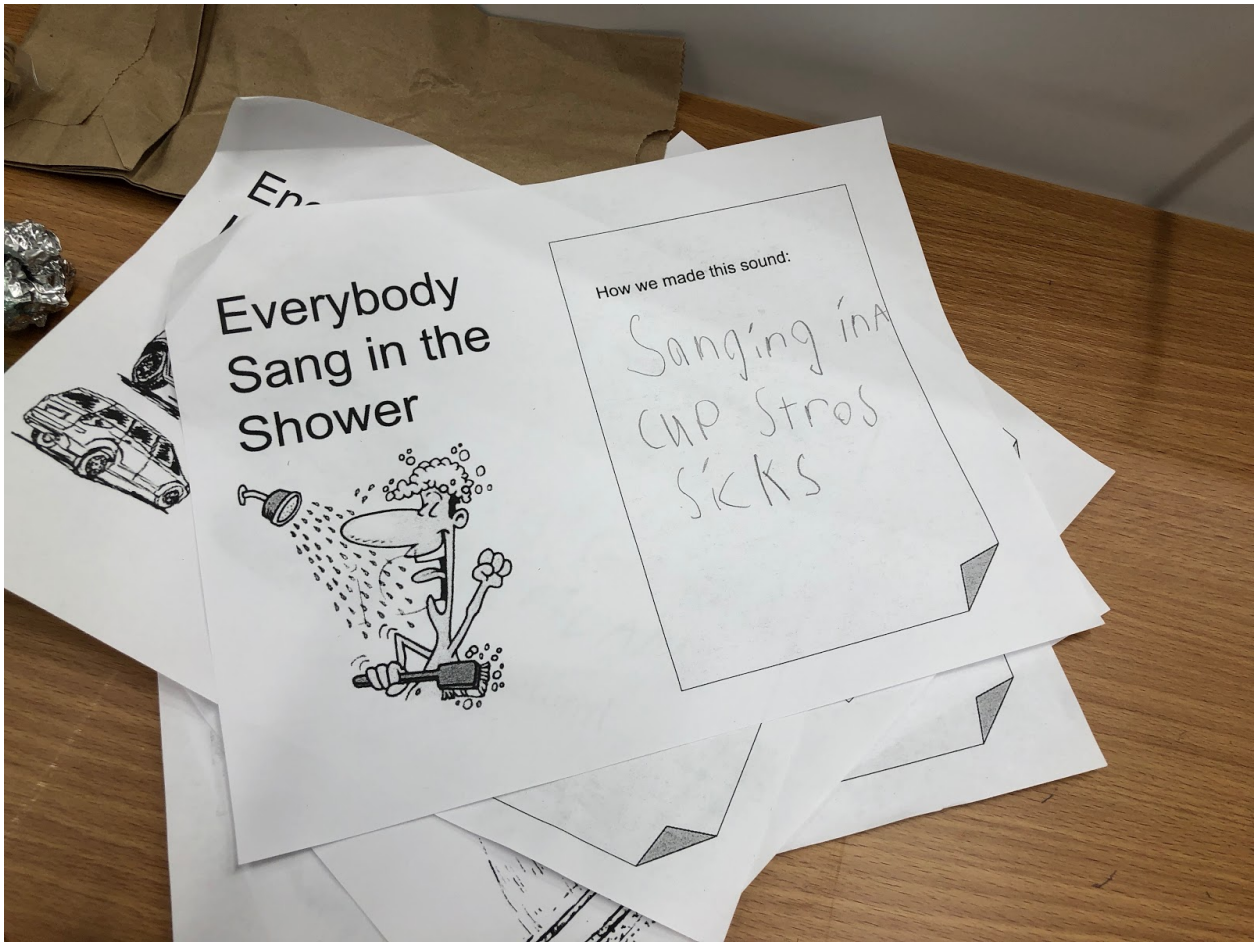
Current Goings On

Combining Foley art (the art of creating sound for media), Science and ELA with Ms. Yee's Gr. 1 class

We read the book The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet. The story is about a loud rooster in a noisy town. Students try to recreate the sounds in the book with many different materials, and write about how they created them. Watch a quick clip called "singing in the shower" which has singing *and* the sound of a shower!

Students use creativity and problem solving, to explore sound (gr 1 science unit), reading, and writing.




Everybody
Sang in the
Shower
How we made this sound:
Sanging inA
cup Stros
Sicks

Articles and Resources

Reflecting on Reflection: A Habit of Mind - **Terry Heick looks at what reflection is, how it works as both a private and shared activity, and why teachers need it in their toolkit.**

Guiding Students To Be Independent Learners

I think this is one of the most important things we can teach our students. They will be faced with an ever increasing amount of information. They will need to know how to negotiate it; how to categorize it, prioritize what is important and how to apply what they learn. There most likely will not be a textbook to show them how to do all of this.

4 Myths About Creativity

Everyone can be creative! Learning good creativity skills are like learning anything. It takes practice and persistence.

From the article: Creativity grows out of a certain type of hard work, combining curious exploration with playful experimentation and systematic investigation. New ideas and insights might seem like they come in a flash, but they usually happen after many cycles of imagining, creating, playing, sharing, and reflecting—that is, after many iterations through the Creative Learning Spiral.

Equity/All Children Achieving

The Troublemakers - When students act out, why do we seek out flaws in their character? Shouldn't we instead search for the flaws in our schools and our teaching, holding us, the adults, primarily responsible?

Looking For Multicultural Children's books? Here are 8 Great Sources - Because all children deserve to see themselves in the pages of a book

This is a really nice list of resources for a wide range of diverse populations.

> **Representing the melting pot of our society should be a requirement, not a random box checked off by publishers.**
>
> —Paula Chase, author

Tinker Time

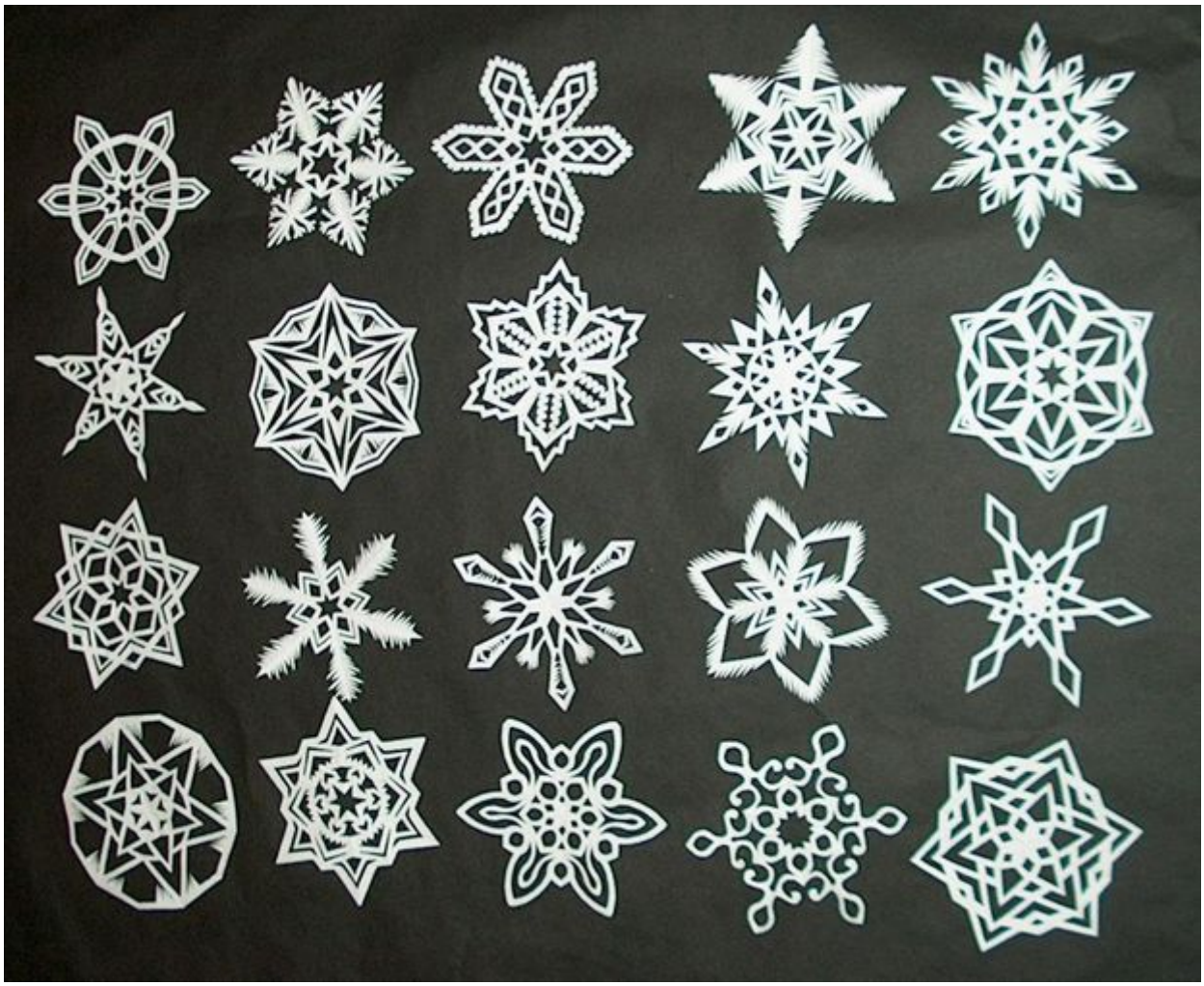
5 Reasons Why Origami Improves Students' Skills - From the article:Origami, the ancient art of paper folding, has applications in the modern-day classroom for teaching geometry, thinking skills, fractions, problem solving, and fun science.

I would argue that origami and kirigami (folding, cutting and gluing paper) are great for visual spatial learning, an area in which we do little exploration or teaching. - TG

Snowflake Fun Facts

All snowflakes have six sides. To fold an accurate paper snowflake, they must be folded in a mathematically specific way (not difficult).

How to Fold 6 Pointed Snowflakes

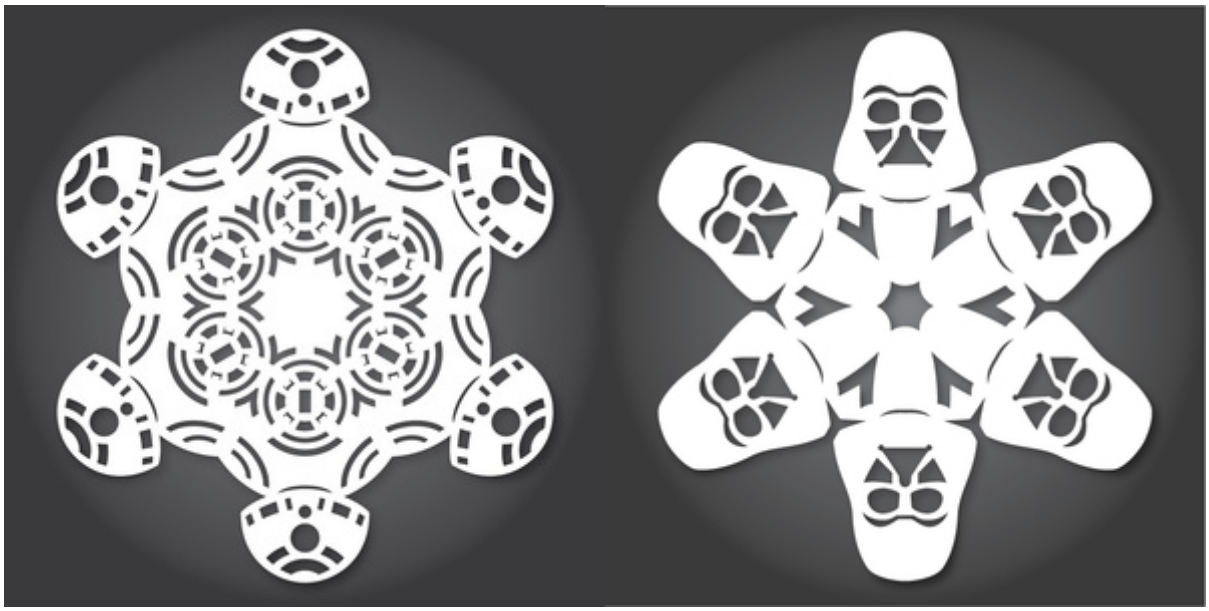


Snowflakes, Starflakes and Swirlflakes - a good math challenge

This is a link Vi Hart's Video About Cutting Paper Snowflakes. As usual, she packs a ton of really fun, deep mathematical thinking in a quick (too quick?) video. A nice challenge for students who are interested, is to follow along with her thinking and see if you can cut snowflakes like she does, and explain why they work

Star Wars Snowflake Templates (there are a lot of them)!

And a Video on how to fold and cut them.



Opportunities

Boston Area STEM Activities for Kids February Roundup

From Boston Tech Mom

There are a lot of really great experiences listed here.