Public Schools of Brookline

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ECS NEWSLETTER 12/11/17

Asa Sevelius <asa_sevelius@psbma.org> Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 8:36 AM
Draft

ECS Newsletter

12/11/17

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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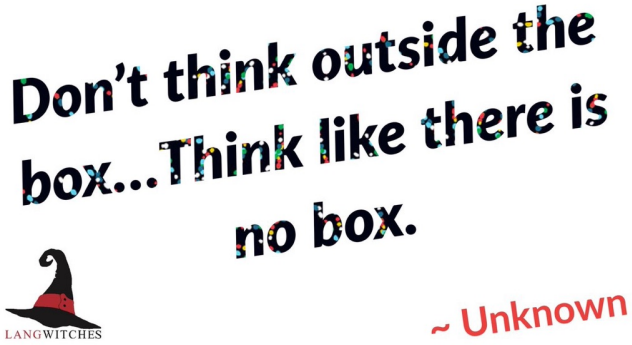
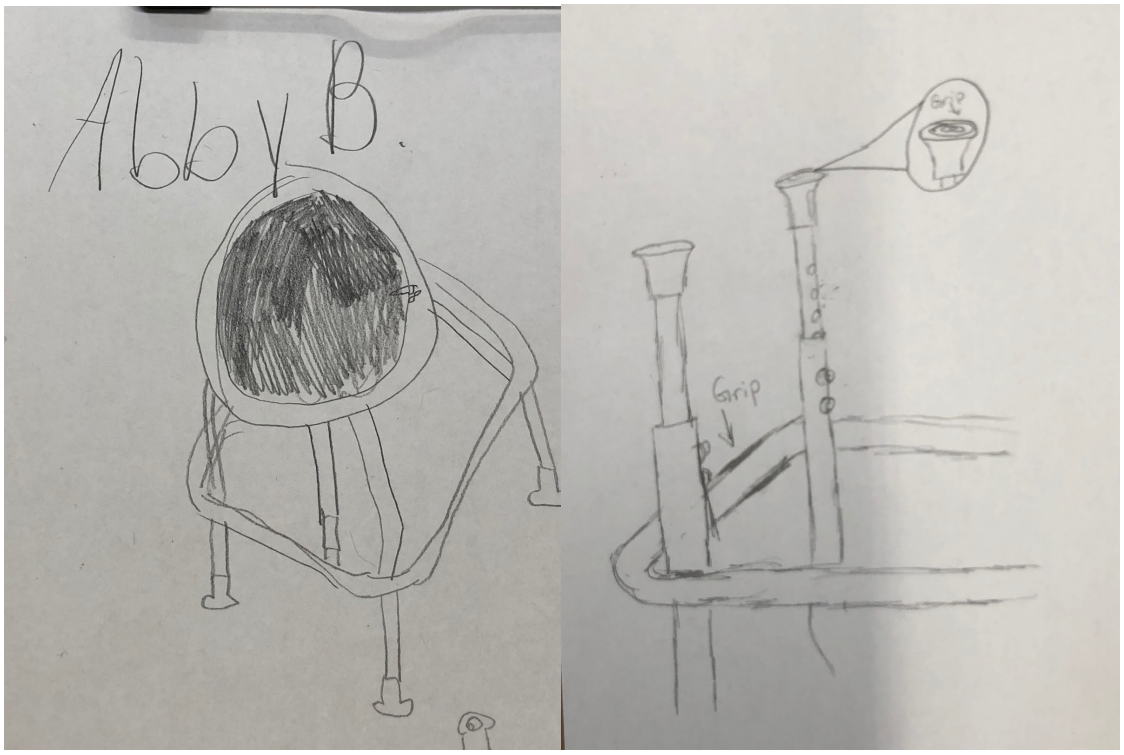
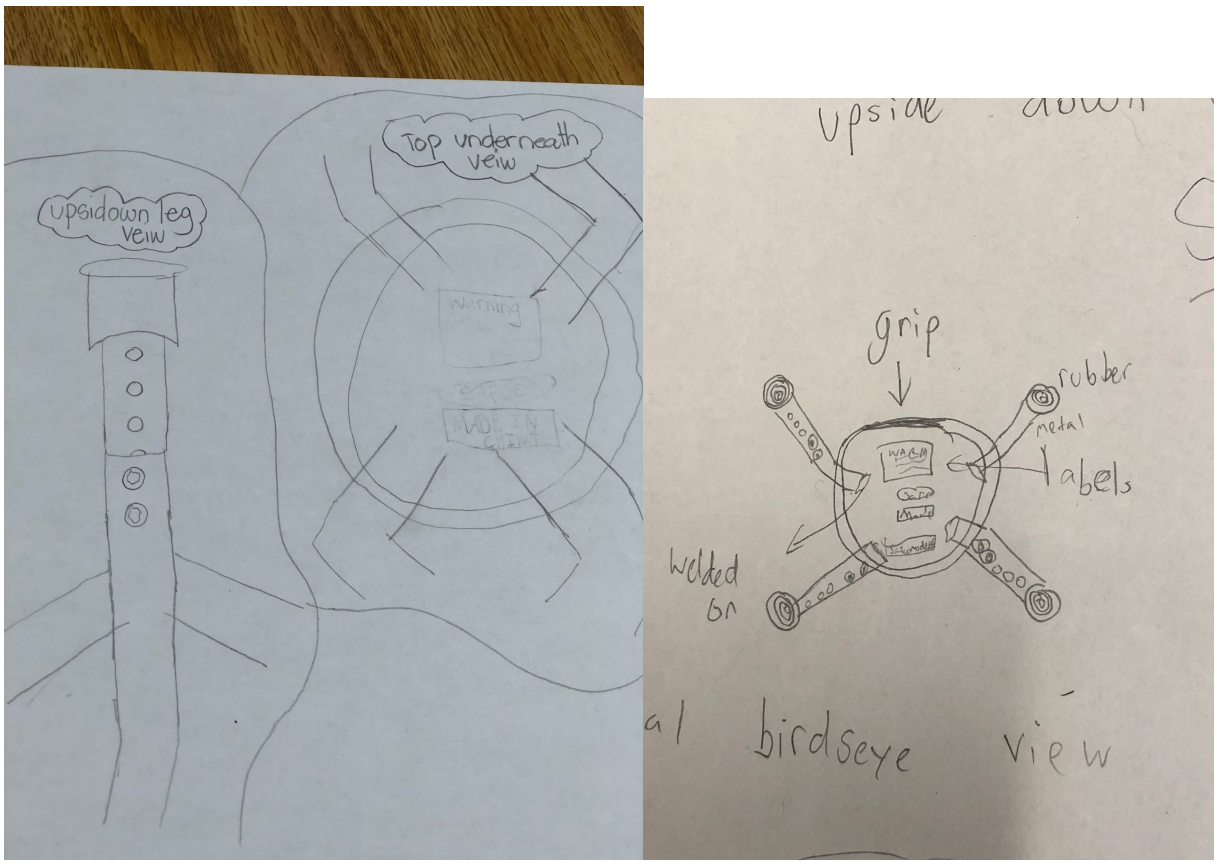
Psbma

Quote of the week:



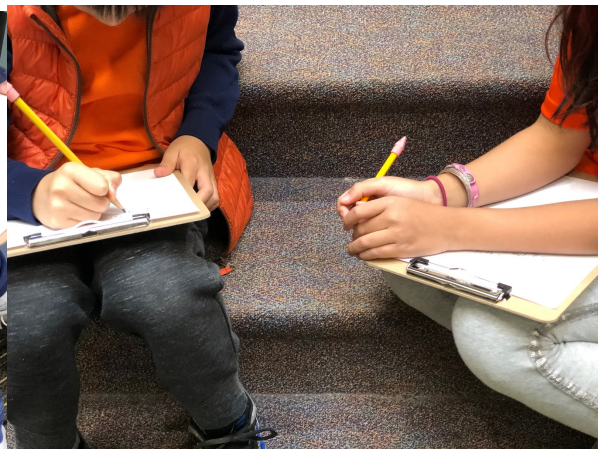
Current Goings On



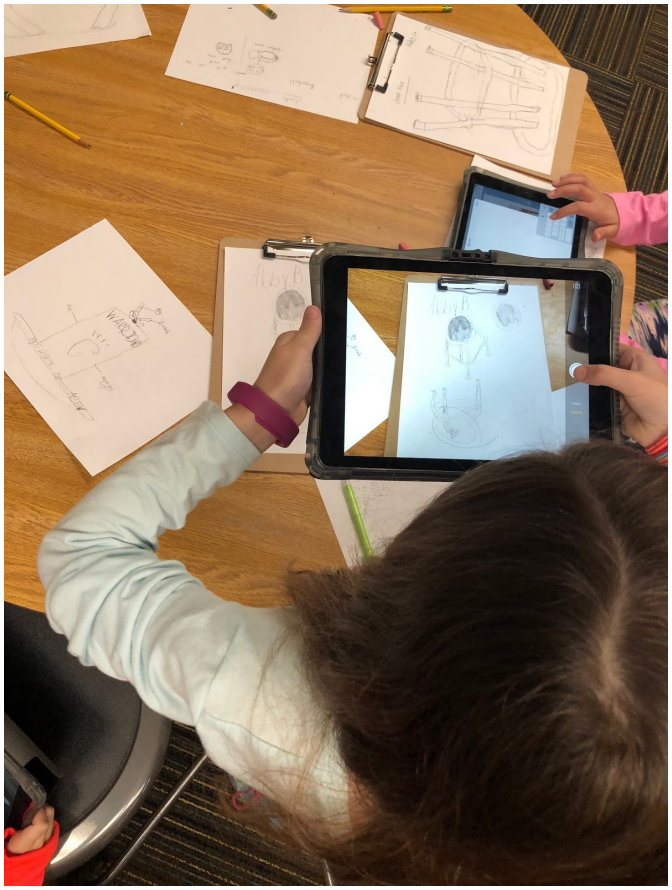


Grade 4 students looked very carefully at the details of a stool design. They sketched them in great detail. All this in preparation for creating their own design sketches in order to create duct tape accessories for their client (a student in their class). One goal of this project is to teach

empathy for others. Below they are interviewing their “clients” to get to know their likes and dislikes.



Each student will record their progress and reflections in their own book in the Book Creator App.



Grade 1 students practice coding with a really fun (for all) Google Doodle coding doodle. **Try it yourself,** no coding experience necessary, it walks you through it. The graphics are really nice and it is well done. The kids had a fun challenge

Articles and Resources

Add Coding to Your Elementary Curriculum… Right Now

If you want to do something with coding - let's talk!
From the article: Children *want* to learn how to code. They want to learn how to make tablets and computers do useful things. They want to learn how to build websites. It's actually a very cool thing to them. And while "cool" is nice, what really matters are the lasting benefits of building these skill sets:

- Logical thinking
- Problem solving
- Persistence
- Collaboration
- Communication

Forget The 10,000-Hour Rule; Edison, Bezos, & Zuckerberg Follow The 10,000-Experiment Rule

Malcolm Gladwell said that the 10,000 hour principle holds that 10,000 hours of "deliberate practice" are needed to become world-class in any field. This article, among others, challenge the idea that practice is important. They say that experimenting, or dare I say "tinkering" or "making" is what is important for success. How does this idea relate to how we teach school?

From the article: "Our success at Amazon is a function of how many experiments we do per year, per month, per week, per day," Jeff Bezos has claimed. In a recent interview, Mark Zuckerberg explained, "One of the things I'm most proud of that is really key to our success is this testing framework … At any given point in time, there isn't just one version of Facebook running. There are probably 10,000."

Building Community with Attendance Questions

From the article: Because learning is fundamentally a social and emotional experience, achieving this sense of we is critical before students fully engage in classroom activities. A sense of we creates safety and makes it more likely that a student will risk moving out of his or her comfort zone to try something new -- and ultimately to learn.

Equity/Every Student Achieving

Oakland Teen is Creating an App to Prevent Police Brutality

If you are still doubting that kids should learn coding, check this out. This is another very good reason for them to learn. They can make a difference in the world, even at the young age of 17! Take a look at the video to find out more about this wonderful young man.
Here is a link to a video about George Hofstetter and his app. (via Facebook)

TinkerTime

14 Best Cardboard Box Crafts to Make With Kids

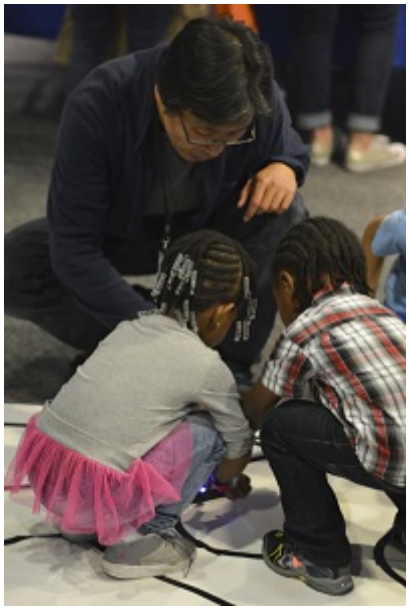
You know how much I like building with cardboard! Many of these would be great in the classroom, or at home over vacation.

How about a **cardboard maze**? Let your kids design and build it! They could put in windows and towers, and decorate it…

Blind Contour Drawings

I'm not really sure what we could do with these. I just really liked them. I wonder if this kind of art experience would help to increase students' social/empathy skills because they have to truly look

closely at the face of their partner while they are drawing… I'd love to brainstorm how to use this with anyone who was interested...

December Vacation Maker's Week at the Children's Museum

This looks like fun!