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5/14/18 ECS NEWSLETTER

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Draft

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ECS Newsletter

5/14/18

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



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Quotes of the Week



Current Goings On

Grade 5 Students Design 9th School

Students have been given the task of designing a model for the 9th school. This is not official business contracted by the architects, but it is the students' hope that when their project is presented, that those with influence might take some of their ideas to heart.

A strong focus for them is empathy - they will learn what the school community needs before they can design and build for them. Our guiding question is "How does your design make it easier for students to learn?"

Each group of students will develop one space in the school, and the entire school will pieced together like a giant jigsaw puzzle as a final project.

Of course the pieces will all have to fit, so students will have to understand about scale, and standards. We are working with math specialist Eleanor Demont to provide some lessons about scale.

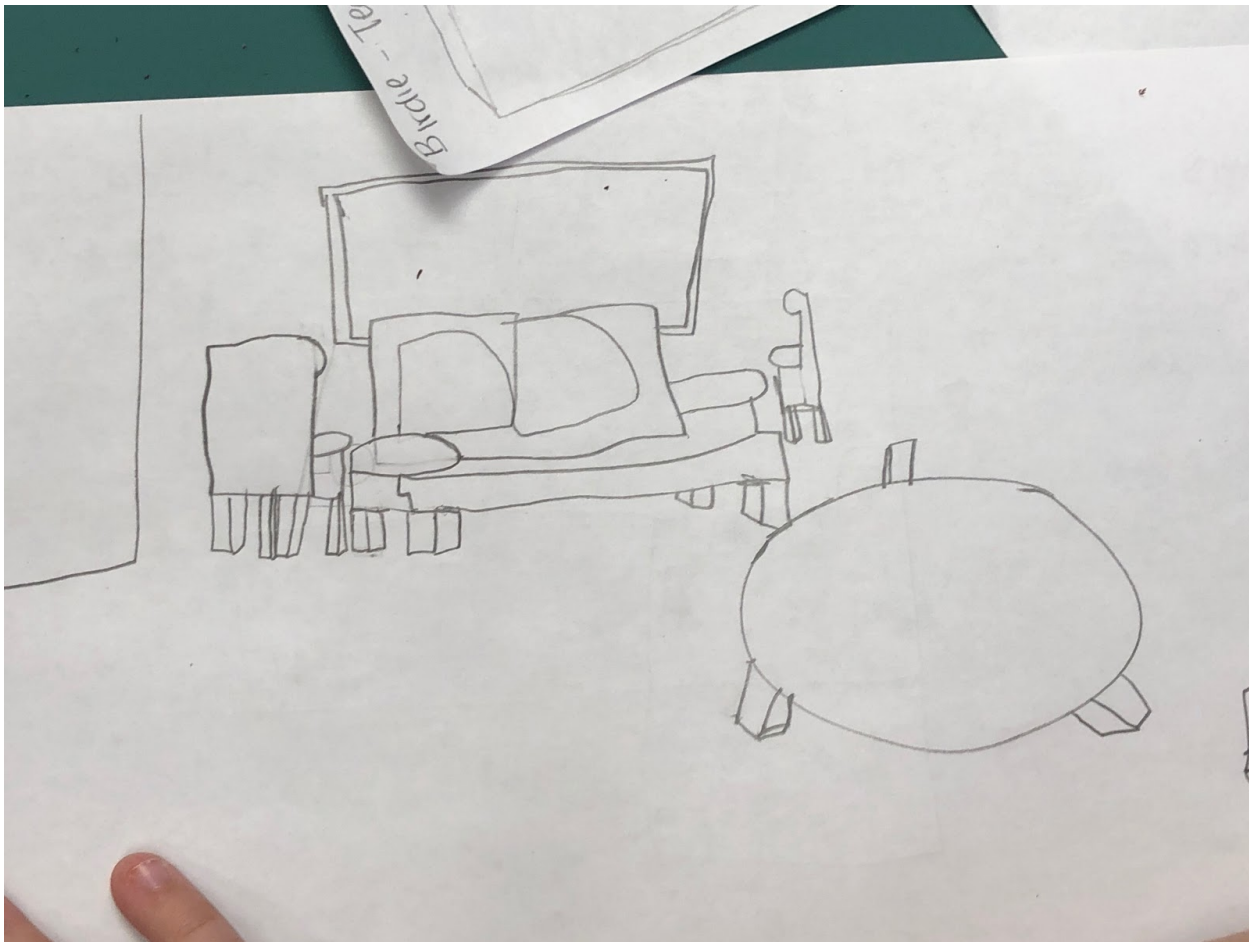
We are just beginning of this process, so keep tuned!

Student quotes:

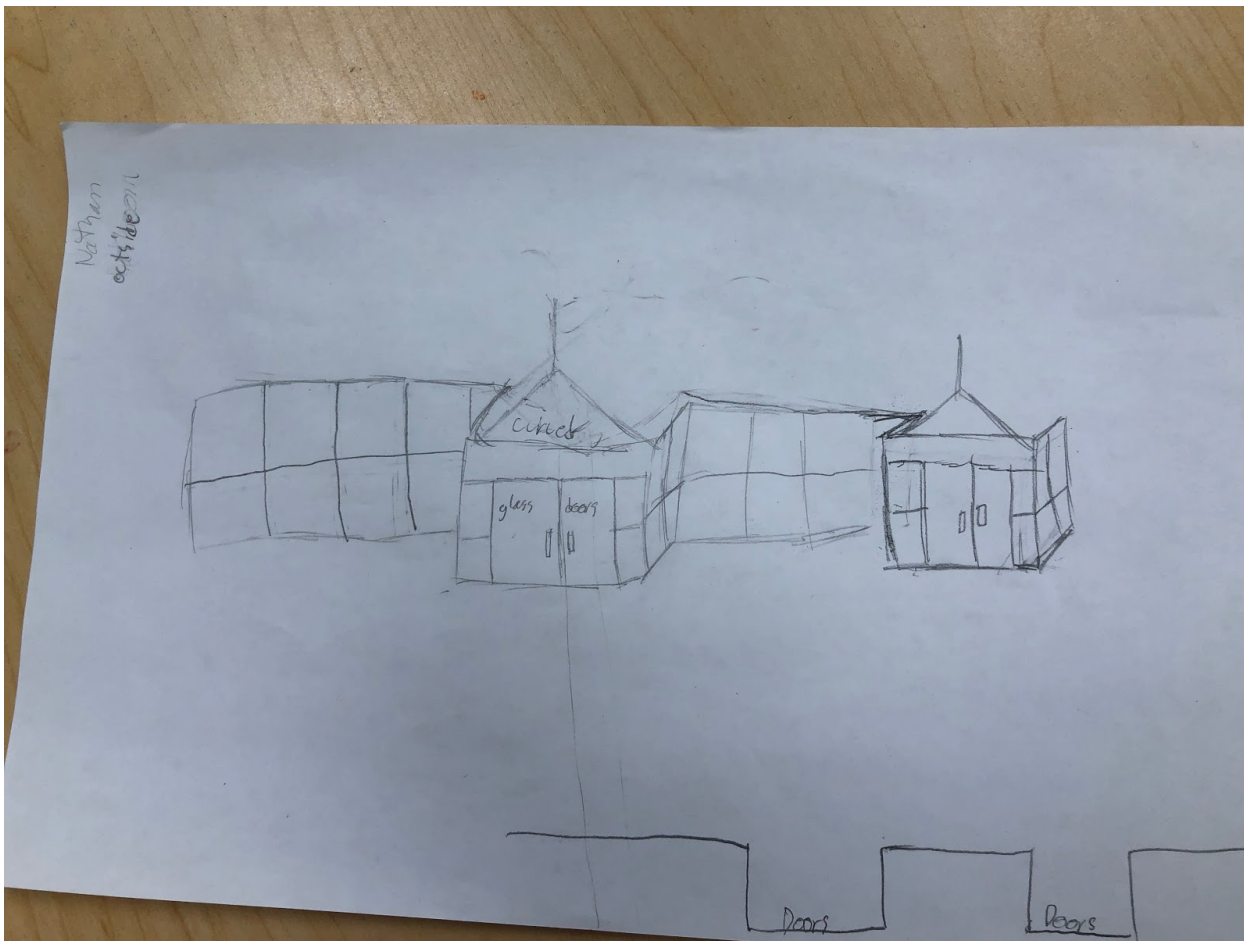
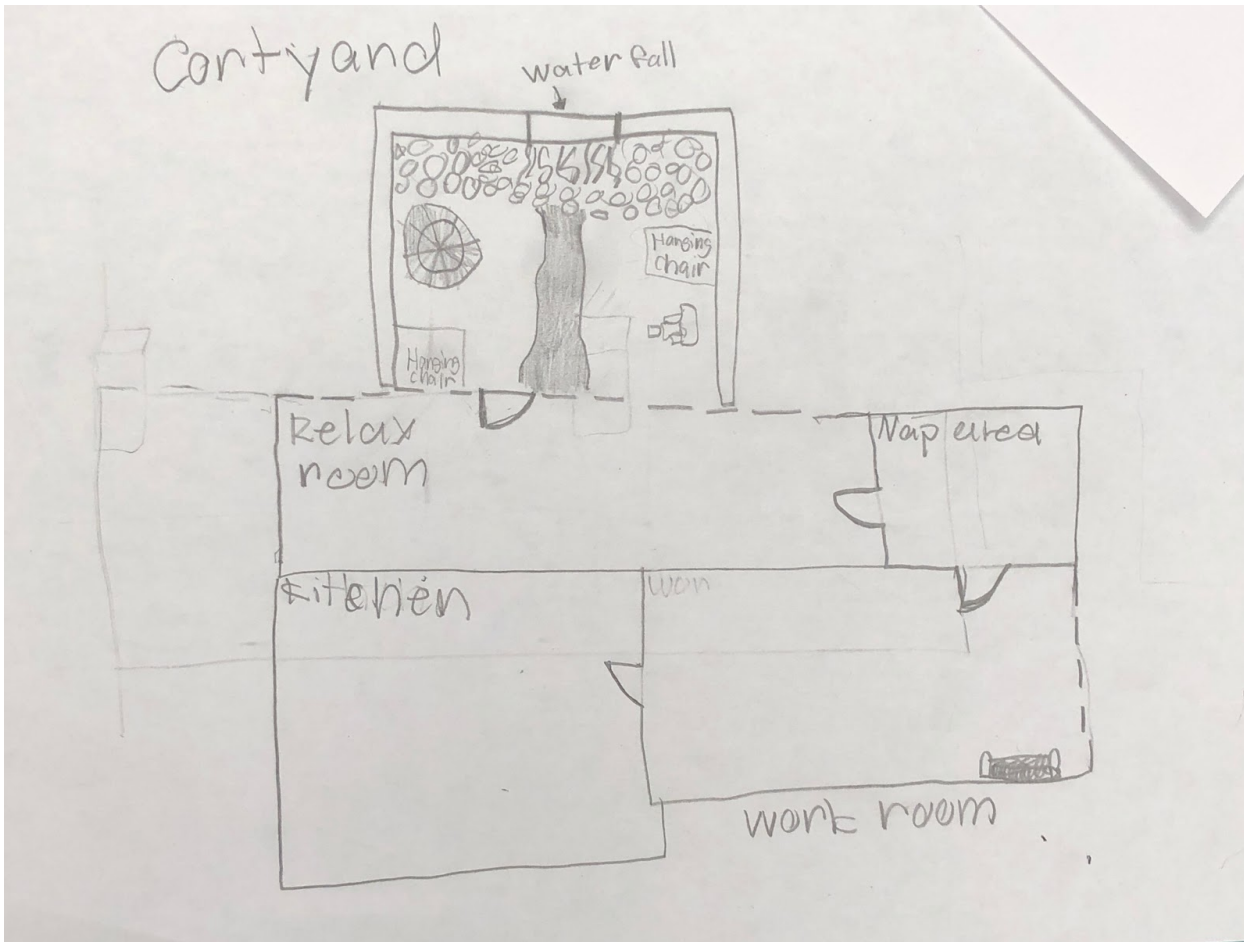
"I want a lot of windows because it brings in a lot of light. When people are in the dark they are sleepy and maybe sad. Light will make them more awake and happy. Plus, it's energy efficient!"

"I'm super excited because I might have an influence on the 9th school. I feel so grown-up!"





Here is a teacher's lounge with a waterfall and a nap room! Don't we just love our kids?



Students are measuring the maker space to get a sense of size. How big should they build their classrooms?



Articles and Resources

10 Tools for Your Students' Creativity Toolbox

There are many great resources in this article.

From the Article: It's a mistake to believe that creativity is an inherent ability that some people have in plenty while others have little.

Creativity does not just occur in the arts—it happens within engineering design, policy making, problem solving, game strategizing, and especially lesson planning. And it's a process that takes many forms, from conceiving an idea to shaping thoughts into something tangible to polishing a draft. During the process, there are likely many redos, as each draft and conversation inspires a new take on the idea, which may sharpen the picture of one's creation.

4 Myths About Creativity

Creativity can be taught and nourished!

How Do We Prepare Students for the Future? (Thanks Matt R.!)

What will the world look like when our students graduate high school? If we think about what technology looked like just 5 years ago, imagine how it will change in the next 5 years. Our world is changing so quickly in this information revolution, are we sure we are teaching the right skills so our students will thrive?

This article is written by a Wentworth Institute Professor and Brookline Parent.

Equity/Every Student Achieving

African-American Students with Disabilities are Suspended at disproportionately High Rates

This is not surprising, but extremely frustrating. What can we do, individually, and as a community to make sure that we treat all of our students equally? That we understand the needs of everyone, and provide for them?

From the Article: The report found that nationwide, for every 100 students with special needs in 2015-16, white students lost 43 days to suspension, while black students lost 121 days. The findings showed a slight increase in disparity between the two groups over the previous year.



African American students with disabilities face disproportionately high suspension rates and lose more classroom time than white counterparts, study finds.

Tinker Time

How to Make a Milk Crate Garden

Growing vegetables or flowers in a milk crate (or several) is easy, not expensive and rewarding. It is an ideal garden for urban spaces because there is no need to dig in dirt, and it can be moved around as needed. Some gardeners nestle many milk crates together to create huge urban gardens on vacant lots, roofs or even parking lots. Just remember to water!





Things to Do

[Science, Technology, Engineering Arts, and Math Classes for Boston Kids](#)

There are some great resources here. Did you know there is a [Makerbot Retail store](#) on Newbury Street that offers classes?



[Olin College Spring Expo, May 14 and SCOPE Summit, May 15](#) (Thank you Newton STEM)

Each spring, [Olin College of Engineering](#) holds two public events to showcase the work of its students:

- [Olin Spring Exposition, May 14](#) (10AM-3PM): First-, second-, and third-year students present their projects in poster sessions, oral presentations, and artistic performances (see [program](#)). [Register](#) here. For information, email expo@olin.edu.
- [SCOPE Summit, May 15](#) (9:30AM-3:30PM): Seniors present the results of their year-long, corporate-sponsored [Capstone projects](#) via rocket talks and poster sessions. [Register](#) to attend.

[FSU Talk: How to Hold a Dead Star in Your Hands, May 18](#)

(Thank you Newton STEM)

The [Christa McAuliffe Center](#) at Framingham State University will host a multimedia presentation, [How to Hold a Dead Star in Your Hands](#), on **May 18**, 6PM by Kimberly Kowal Arcand of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA. The program is recommended for ages 14+ and does not include a planetarium show. [Pre-registration](#) is strongly recommended. The event is free, and a suggested donation is \$5 welcome.

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ECS = Innovative Learning for All Students

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