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11/16/17 ECS NEWSLETTER

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Draft

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# ECS Newsletter

11/16/17

**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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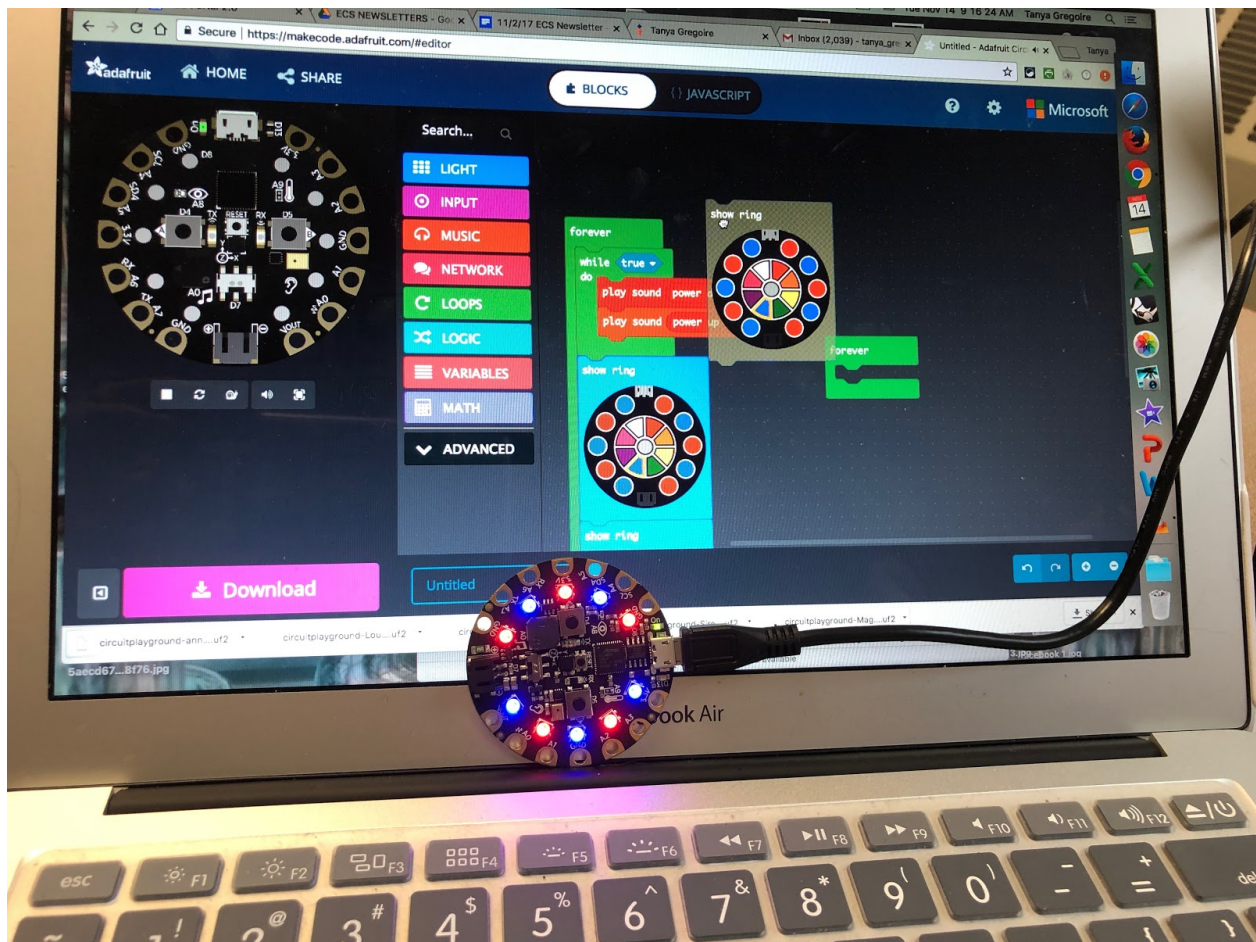
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## Quote of the Week



## Current Goings On

I've been learning a lot about Arduino with several colleagues. We are excited to plan ways in which students can use it and learn about it. The student in the picture and I are learning together. He created a program called "Annoying" in which the circuit board played a really annoying sound, and blinked in a random, and seizure-inducing way. It was pretty funny.



What is Arduino?

Arduino is a tool that combines programming, electronics, engineering, and of course critical and creative thinking. The basics are this: You create a program on a computer, and download it onto a teeny processor (a microcontroller) on the chip. You see one called the “Playground” in the center of this picture. The program directs the microcontroller to do any number of things, including playing an annoying song, and blinking lights, to sensing sounds, and temperature, or running a motor to run a robot and a lot more. Scientist and engineers use these exact same set ups to run real research in their labs, and we can use them in our schools. I can’t wait to learn even more about how they work, and how we can use them to help our students grow

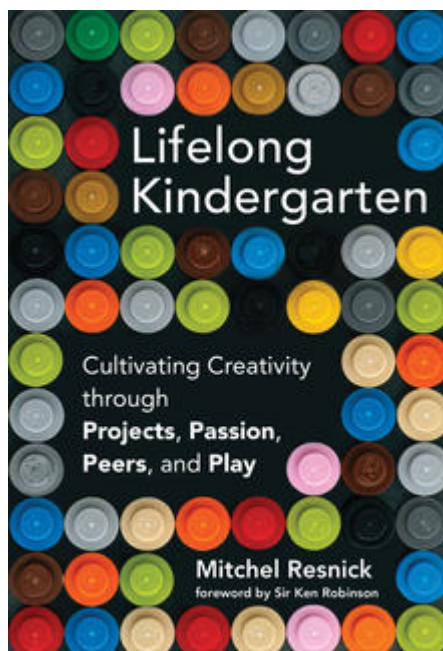
## Articles and Resources

### [Sparking Curiosity and Solving Real-World Problems](#)

See how students apply their literacy skills to explore science problems outside classroom walls.

### [Lifelong Kindergarten: Cultivating Creativity through Projects, Passion, Peers, and Play](#)

This looks like a wonderful book. I think I’ll put it on my holiday wish list.



### [20th Annual Friday After Thanksgiving \(F.A.T.\) Chain Reaction](#)

Whether it's the reaction induced between two creative contraptions or the joyful reactions sparked on the faces of spectators, the MIT Museum's Friday After Thanksgiving (F.A.T.) Chain Reaction is a one-of-a-kind engineering feat that must be seen to be believed!

### [Boston Area Girls STEM Collaborative](#)

The Boston Area Girls STEM Collaborative is committed to increasing young women’s participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by creating programs that spark their interest and expand their knowledge of the multifaceted careers in these disciplines. The Collaborative seeks to make a greater impact by leveraging and sharing their resources. They

collectively develop and implement programs that offer young women opportunities to learn about current research, interact with female role models, and access STEM information and resources. Through these efforts, the Collaborative hopes to encourage more young women to pursue STEM careers.

They have a lot of really interesting [programs](#)

## Equity/Every Student Achieving

### [The Ugly History of the Pledge of Allegiance - And Why It Matters.](#)

As I read this article, I thought about the presenters we heard on PD Day, Particularly Phil Lee who explained the history or racism. I know that saying the Pledge of allegiance can be a divisive issue. This article offers a lot of interesting information about the pledge that many of us don't know.

From the article: While defending pledge protests on free speech grounds is useful and necessary, it often draws attention away from the pledge's political origins in nativism and white nationalism — roots that help us better understand the broader struggle for racial justice and full citizenship that drives these protests.



## Pronouncing Student's Names Correctly Should Be a Big Deal

Research has found that students' socioemotional well-being and worldview can be [negatively impacted by teachers' failure to pronounce their names properly](#), and can even lead students to shy away from their own cultures and families.

This is familiar territory for many teachers. Educator Jennifer Gonzalez, the creator of the website Cult of Pedagogy, [puts it best](#): "Mutilating someone's name is a tiny act of bigotry." And Adam Levine-Peres, a teacher who created the online series "[Project Bronx](#)," suggests that mispronouncing a student's name fails to establish an environment of trust, sends the message that perseverance is not important, and communicates disrespect.

## Tinker Time

### Turkey Anatomy

A fun family tradition for my family is to save as many of the turkey bones as we can, and then try to recreate the turkey skeleton! It's actually very interesting, and somewhat like a puzzle. If the whole turkey skeleton sounds daunting, why not try just part of the turkey, like the vertebrae or legs?

[Your Holiday Dinosaur](#) has good information about the relationship between turkeys and dinosaurs, as well as good techniques on how to clean turkey bones and images of turkey bone anatomy.

