



**Jennings**  
**Elementary School**

## *January 20th Jennings Journal*

Hello Jennings.

Do you know what having grit means...or perseverance and stamina? Well your kids will surely know. We have been talking a lot as a faculty about how we can teach and value these very important character traits. The concept of having grit is nothing new, but it is something that we sometimes lose focus of as parents and educators. We want our students and children to be successful and we do our best to provide them with the tools to do so. However, admittedly so, we sometimes do too much for them. I know I am guilty of that as a parent.

We have to think about the fact that if kids struggle through something that is hard for them they learn valuable life lessons through the process. Mr. Therriault shares additional perspective in this week's curriculum corner article. We will soon plan some parent workshops and discussions on this topic. We hope that you begin to think about "grit" and "perseverance" as a part of your everyday lives.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Vuolo

### **Important school information**

#### **OPPS Cart**

The main office kindly asks for your assistance with the "opps" cart. If you are dropping something off for your child please place it on the cart, fill out the log sheet and quickly buzz to the office to alert them that you have dropped off an item. This will assist the secretaries in retrieving the item in a timely manner and delivering it to your child.

#### **Dismissal**

This is a good time to remind our community of the importance of communicating regarding changes in dismissal. Inevitably the Variety Show schedule brings many changes to the typical routine. We ask that you PLEASE adhere to the change of dismissal protocols. Fill out a form for every day that there is a change. We prefer over communicating in this regard. There are times the main office is trying to figure out where a student may be? This is difficult at the end of the day and often creates a stressful situation. A simple note or call to the main office regarding changes lessens the anxiety during dismissal. Thank you very much for being diligent with this form of communication all year!

## **Character Assembly**

We wanted to congratulate the grade 5 teachers and students on wonderful presentations at the Character Assembly last Friday. They learned a lot doing research for the presentation and also helped the rest of us learn more about MLK's contributions to our society. Pictures of our newly nominated Persons of Character are proudly on display as you enter the school. The newest video should also be placed on the website this week.

## **Curriculum Corner**

### **Teaching Grit, Persistence and Resilience**

"Don't give up"

"Keep your nose to the grindstone"

"Work through it"

"With great struggle comes great achievement"

or my dad's favorite, "Eric, anything worth doing is worth doing right"

I'm sure we've all heard these messages at one point in our lives. They were often heard from our parents, mentors, teachers and coaches. Some of us may have heard these phrases so often that they've become personal mantras to keep us moving forward and always trying to better ourselves. They all speak to developing and instilling in everyone the strength, tools and mindset to persist and be resilient when faced with challenges.

A growing body of research has confirmed the wisdom of these lessons and Jennings staff has been exploring and discussing the research of Angela Duckworth and Carol Dweck who have focused their work on the importance of teaching grit and developing a growth mindset in learners. To gain better insight into our work please check out this link. The videos, and particularly the TED talk by Angela Duckworth are well worth your attention.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/grit-help-students-overcome-inner-obstacles-vicki-zakrzewski>

Happy Researching!

Mr. Therriault

## **Library Learning Commons**

Mrs. P has been very busy engaging all of our grade levels in activities that stretch the minds of our students. You can keep up to date on what is happening by reading her blog. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the latest posting.

## **Building Use and Variety Show**

This is an exciting time of year as all the students and parents are gearing up for the Variety Show next month. Often the building is used for rehearsals by the various groups performing. We ask that all of you are considerate of Jonesey and Joe in taking good care of the areas and monitoring the students you are in charge of. It makes a huge difference when we all work together to show CARES during this thrilling time.

## **Music News**

Congratulations to our Mrs. Eckhardt, Mrs. Fiero and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade performers on their concert! They did a wonderful job at both the in school and evening performances.

Beginning this month, all classes will be treated to a Composer of the Month. I just received 9 biographies and compact discs, of music, of very famous composers such as: Mozart, Purcell and Beethoven, to name a few.

I am looking forward to sharing the great stories and musical works with your children!  
Ms. Fiero

## **Art Room**

Art room donations.... There are still some things that we could use in the art room! If you are unloading any large appliance boxes, I could take them off your hands! Also, old costume jewelry, crayons, fake flowers, and bottle tops of any size!

Thank you!

Mrs. Staples

## **Recess during the Winter**

As mentioned in previous Journals, we want our families to know that we prefer to send students outside, as appropriate, during the winter months. Research supports the need for children to be as active as possible during the cold weather months. Therefore we urge families to send their children to school with proper winter attire. Unless it is deemed too dangerous or too cold, the students will have their 20 minutes outside to release their energy. In an effort to keep our students healthy, staff retains the right to keep students inside if appropriate attire is not worn.

This Week's Reminders...

**“D” Tuesday            9:15 – KDG Peabody Museum Trip**

**3:30 - Chess**

**“E” Wednesday       Vibes Presentation – for grade 5**

10:10 – 5C; 11:10 – 5F; 12:10 – 5R

3:30 – ATB – Games with Mr. C, Grades 1,2

“A” Thursday 3:30 Clay Creations – Grade 2-5

3:30 Minecraft – Grades 3-5

“B” Friday 3:30 Minecraft – Grades 3-5

3:30 American Girl – K- 5

6:30 – 8:30 – Movie Night

For more information [CLICK HERE](#) for our weekly Digital Message

Please see below for the pictures of the week!



Mrs. Rodriguez and her second grade students showed “grit” as they learned how to use the new tablets in the Library Learning Commons.



Mrs. Roxbee’s class enjoyed a DEAR day in the LLC. DEAR stands for Drop Everything And Read. They sure look cozy reading their book!

Keep an eye out for Next Week's Pictures!