

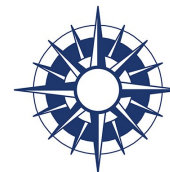
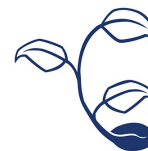


POCANTICO HILLS SPECIAL AREA NEWS

Art • Family and Consumer Science • Music • Library • Physical Education • World Language



LEARNING • ACHIEVEMENT • GROWTH • DIRECTION



ART STUDENTS SHARE THEIR MASTERPIECES

Greetings parents and friends! I hope you all enjoyed the special gifts the students bringing home from their art classes. Pre-K worked hard making snowmen out of model magic and decorated their sculptures with lots of embellishments. Kindergarten learned how to draw snowflakes using vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines while also reinforcing letters in the alphabet. They were excited to bring home their final sculptures for you and hang somewhere special. First graders created beautiful winter tree landscapes using watercolors, which were displayed around the school before being brought home. The second graders created beautiful pictures on a sixteen-piece puzzle template. Students designed and painted their entire work, then took apart the final project to package it as a fun activity for a family member.

Third graders had a wonderful time working with glass paint on the jars sent in from home and incorporating special notes for a family member. This was a great design project reinforcing writing skills that allowed students to reflect on who and what was important to them around the holiday season. Fourth graders studied artist Wilson A. Bentley and his extensive photographic coverage of snowflakes and snow crystals. Students used his work as inspiration for drawings, paper snowflakes and three dimensional works with wood pieces and had the opportunity to paint.

Middle school students are exploring sketching, clay work, color wheels and our new STREAM graphic design and marketing units. We look forward to sharing more of their progress throughout the next few months. I am always available via email for feedback or questions at jmorotti@pocanticohills.org.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE STUDENTS USE A CRITICAL LENS

In FACS, the significance of teamwork is emphasized both currently in the classroom and later on as a key skill critical for lifetime success. Students engage in activities where they discover that by working cooperatively, everyone benefits. The sixth graders explored the power of advertising persuasion as part of a broader unit on consumer rights and responsibilities. Students discover that everyone has a right to be heard, to be safe, to choose, to seek redress, and to receive truthful information. This background will help students analyze ads and promises made by merchants with a more critical lens. I approached the study of advertising persuasion by teaching Aristotle's Art of Rhetoric. Next time you see an ad you may want to ask your child whether the persuasive strategy is *Pathos*, *Logos* or *Ethos*.

Next, the sixth grade students will apply the Yale New Haven decision-making model to typical adolescent conflicts. Weighing risks, priorities and values are especially important as students face challenges involving peer pressure during the middle school years.

Winter 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/15 Community Read Begins
- 3/3 & 3/4 All County Festival at SUNY Purchase
- 3/14 Author Visit– Skype with Dan Gutman (Grades 4-6)
- 4/26 PHSF Sundae Serenade
- 5/9 Elementary Spring Concerts
 - Grades 1 & 2 at 6PM
 - Grades 3 & 4 at 7PM
- 5/16 Middle School Spring Concert at 7PM
- 5/28 Memorial Day Parade 8:30AM at the Firehouse



BAND PROGRAM NEWS

The students in the band program at Pocantico Hills have had an eventful beginning to their year. The 7th and 8th grade band had a busy performance schedule that include playing “Ghostbusters” for the Halloween Parade, as well as preparing “Fires of Mazama” and a challenging arrangement of “Carol of the Bells” for the winter concert. The 6th grade band prepared three pieces for the winter concert including “Machu Picchu,” “Antagonist,” and “First Holiday Concert.” The 5th grade band, which is made up of students who are almost all new to their instruments, worked really hard to perform a short rendition of “Jingle Bells” for the winter concert. Lastly, the 4th grade band students, who started playing in October of this year, have been making steady progress on their respective instruments.

I am excited to be working with the students on fun and challenging music that will increase their musicianship and technical facility on their instruments. Grades 5-8 are also continuing to use and develop their comfort with an online based band program called “Smart Music.” This program helps students to track their practice times, submit recorded assignments, and get instant feedback on the notes and rhythms that they play. Lastly, students in the Pocantico Hills band program have the opportunity to audition for an afterschool jazz ensemble program that will teach students how to play various styles of jazz music including, blues, big band, Latin jazz, and swing. Students in the jazz ensemble will also learn how to improvise solos, which is the very foundation of jazz music. Students who are interested in bringing their playing to higher level will also have the opportunity to perform an adjudicated solo at this year’s NYSSMA Festival. Students interested in joining the jazz ensemble or performing a NYSSMA solo should contact Mr. Murray at mmurray@pocanticohills.org.



GENERAL AND CHORAL MUSIC ADVENTURES

Bravo to all of our Pocantico performers who completed their Winter Concerts! Students in first through eighth grade took to the stage to demonstrate their musical skill and spread cheer. All students Pre-K-4 are focusing on character songs with themes of friendship, loyalty, honor and respect, specifically in a school community.

Third grade students have been traveling around our “Musical Planet” this year, studying music and culture in the Philippines, India, Israel and will be moving next to Brazil. In each of the countries, students examine the geography, national symbols, native language and traditional music as well as any pop culture connections they can find. While learning to sing the songs, students also experiment with the rhythms on instruments and the dance steps connected. So far the Bollywood-style from India has been their favorite as well as Tinikling dance from the Philippines.

February brings us into our traditional spiritual and jazz music units at the various age levels. Pre-K and Kindergarten will be exploring Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong and expressing their emotions through color and painting in Art. First through fourth graders will be exploring “Follow the Drinking Gourd” vocally, rhythmically and some even on recorders! Eighth graders have started music rotation reading excerpts from Duke Ellington’s book, and reflecting on what it means to say, “the art is in the cooking.” Eighth grade students will continue to explore music through the Civil Rights Movement and dive into lyric annotations and music elements and how these songs have impacted society throughout the ages. We are looking forward to a busy quarter! Please feel free to contact Mrs. DePaola at sdepaola@pocanticohills.org if you have any questions.



LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

The library has been very busy lately, with students in all grade levels actively engaged in a wide variety of learning experiences.

Pre-K students have come in with excitement and enthusiasm for the stories we share, both fiction and nonfiction, covering many topics including: seasons, holidays, friendship and kindness, and letters and numbers, to name a few. It is inspiring to see our youngest students so eager to come in to explore all the books and online destinations we visit together.

Elementary classes have explored many topics including geography, science, history, art, coding, chess, and most importantly, how to find that next great book.

Working in collaboration with teachers, middle school classes have been learning inquiry-based research skills (questioning, reflection and construction) as they explore a range of meaningful topics.

This year's author visit program got off to a great start when award-winning storyteller, LuAnn Adams, came to visit with Pre-K - 2nd grade students in October. LuAnn has visited with schools around the world, and our students enjoyed her lively stories focusing on friendship, courage, and global citizenship.

Students in 7th and 8th grades had a lively, engaging visit with the acclaimed author, Thanhha Lai, who discussed her book *Inside Out and Back Again*. Students had just read her book and were excited to have the chance to meet her in person.

If you have any questions about library events, please feel free to call or email Mrs. Gordon at agordon@pocanticohills.org.



A LOOK INTO PHYSICAL EDUCATION

To kick off the winter season, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes enjoyed ice skating in the gymnasium! They were provided with special “ice skates” that only perform well in the gym. Students participated in partner and group skates, as well as individual performances to music. It was great to watch the students get creative with their moves .

First grade utilized station rotations to work on various physical skills and are now moving on cooperative games and jump rope skills. Second grade played “Pinball” to work on their throwing and kicking skills. Grades three and four are exploring cooperative games as well as basketball.

Recently we had an “adventure day” for third and fourth graders where students took part in challenges involving team work, problem solving, and communication as part of our newly adopted Project Adventure curriculum will continue to expand.

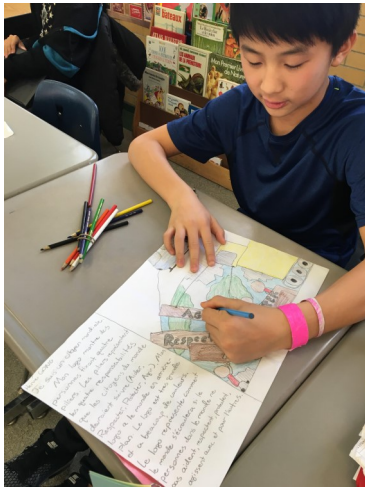
Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade are also engaging in our new Project Adventure additions including cooperative games to build morale and trust among students classes. Volleyball, basketball, and soccer are also rotated into the PE classes. Students are enjoying the addition of new principles and ideas.

Jump Rope for Heart will be the next big focus for our primary and elementary grades. Keep a look out for more news from Mr. Linehan coming soon, or volunteer to help by contacting him at dlinehan@pocanticohills.org.



Pre-K students “Ice Skate”

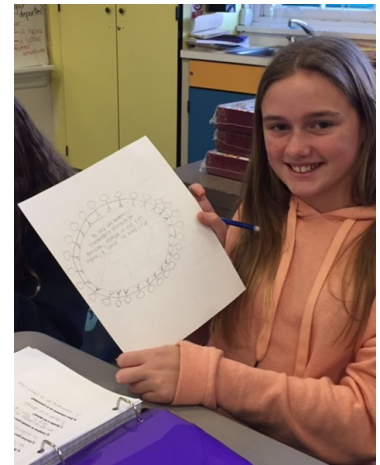
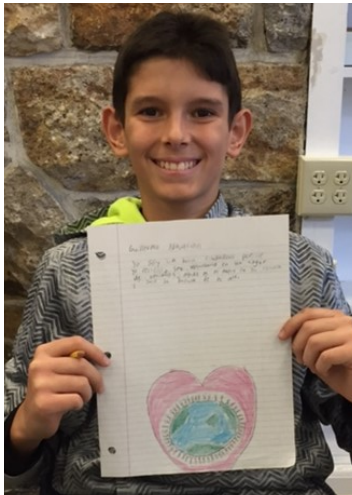
STUDENTS DIVE INTO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN WORLD LANGUAGE



In the world language program, students are working diligently on elements of global citizenship. In the middle school grades, we have spoken about the four pillars of global citizenship: helping, respecting, protecting and taking action. We are continuing to teach within the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational). In our global citizenship unit, students began by creating logos representing what global citizenship means to them. Students are practicing speaking interpersonally about the four pillars within their selected languages. Students are also using their interpretive skills as they listen to stories and discuss issues concerning global citizenship within these language classes. We have extended this unit with the elementary school grades. Our focus in the primary grades, by focusing on friendship and what it means to be a good friend, as well as community and community helpers.

Please email kcarruth@pocanticohills.org and amorton@pocanticohills.org if you have any questions.

Mademoiselle Carruth & Senora Morton



Student Spotlight News...

POCANTICO ART STUDENT ADVANCES TO THE NEW YORK STATE POSTER CONTEST

Students in fifth grade were given the opportunity to participate in the New York State Arbor Day Poster Contest. The winning poster to represent Pocantico Hills on the state level was created by Sydney S.. Honorable mentions include: Maisie K., Cate W., Daniel R., and Michaela B. The New York State Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by the New York State Department of Education. This year's theme was "Trees for Bees" focusing on the vocabulary terms: pollination, ecosystem, nectar, pollination, and pollen. Sydney's "Trees for Bees" creation combines a beautiful tree branch and honey comb feature which creatively brought the visual idea of pollination to life. Kudos to all of the students who participated in this exciting project!

