

From the Principal 1/27/17

The midpoint of the school year is here! We have accomplished many things for your child's academic, social and physical growth and there are many exciting things that are and will be happening in your child's school.

Teachers deserving recognition for excellence in the profession

I am honored to announce that **Mrs. Joanne Brown and Mrs. Veronica Richter** are this year's recipients of the Harold Grinspoon Award for Teaching Excellence. This is a very honorable award that recognizes teaching excellence and commitment to the profession in the Pioneer Valley. Additionally, **Mrs. Danielle Larkin** was named a finalist of 5 for the MA STEM Teacher of the Year Award. This award brought \$1000.00 to our school for improving STEM learning for students. We have purchased a Pinewood Derby track and elapsed timer system along with lego starter cars for designing and racing. Our hope is to have all of our students engaged in the activity of building, racing, timing and improving their cars throughout the second half of the year.

Makerspace

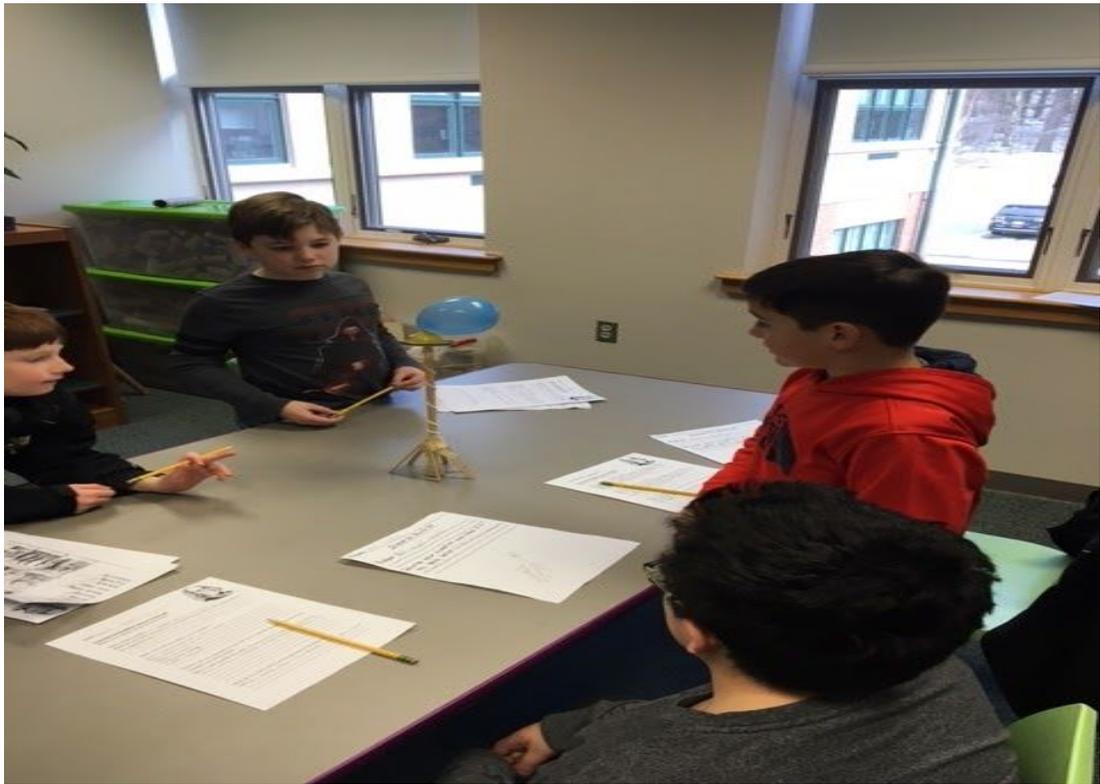
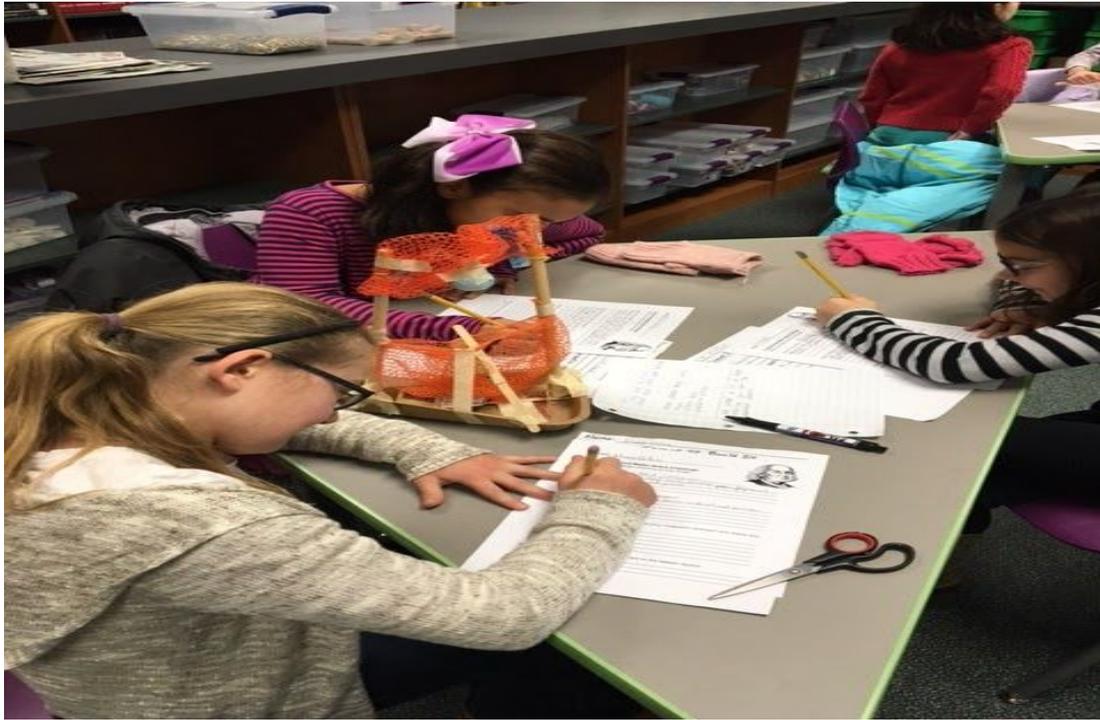
You may have heard by now that our district has created a Makerspace in Birchland Park Middle School for students in grades 3-8. This innovative educational initiative began as a collaborative effort between Dr. Allen (Birchland Principal), Kalen Schloyer (Birchland Librarian) and myself. Our vision is to provide students with a functional space for hands-on projects that incorporate cross-curricular learning opportunities through collaboration, problem solving, designing and building both with and without technology.

We have been gathering/pooling resources, collecting donations, writing grants, providing teacher professional development and meeting as a Makerspace committee of teachers, administrators, IT staff, and ELCAT personnel.

Birchland Park students opened up Makerspace with an after-school challenge where 20 teams of 3 or 4 students in grades 6-8 competed to complete a design challenge. The winners were **Samantha Ahlberg, Mie Hopper, and Sofia Dow (all former Mapleshade GEMS students)!!!**

Thanks to the donations of parents through Donor's Choose and a big contribution by Horace Mann Insurance and Investments we were awarded grants for four "maker" innovation products: Erector Sets, Makey Makey, Raspberry Pi, and Snap Circuits.

Mrs. McCauley's class has already accessed Makerspace for an exciting project that incorporated engineering design solutions for the early colonists. Check it out...



PTO Staff Vs. Staff Volleyball Game February 8th @ 6:30

You and your children are invited to a fun-filled PTO fundraiser featuring your child's teachers and principal in a staff vs. staff volleyball game. Mr. Fredette's D-Nominators will challenge Ms. D' Pirates to a friendly death match, I mean volleyball match to raise money, have fun and entertain our Mapleshade Community on **February 8th at 6:30 in Birchland Park's Gymnasium**. Tickets have been on sale and there will also be the opportunity to purchase tickets at the door that evening.

D-Nominators	Pirates
C Mr. Fredette	C Ms. Demetrius
Bill Sears	Amy Stocks
Bruce Goldman	Dale Carey
Christi McCandlish	Deb Foley
Colleen Latsko	Joanne Brown
Danielle Brunelle	Leigh Plahna
Danielle Larkin	Lisa Berrios
David Axelrad	Marianne McCauley
Joanne Grimes	Mary Cloutier
Nora Cuch	Renee Levesque
Samantha Ruggiero	Ryan McMullen
Stephanie Roy	Sean Smith
Sue Crowley	Shana Cosentini
Veronica Richter	Susan Hucul
John Wiedersheim	Christine Korbut

Learning Carnival March 22nd @ 6:00



In lieu of an individual Literacy Night, Math Night, or other type of parent event, we are going to host our first ever Mapleshade Learning Carnival! The night's theme:

“A night to interact, have fun and learn with your child as you travel from booth to booth.”

Students will travel throughout the carnival with their parents and families in order to earn tickets after completing the activities at a fun learning booth. These tickets will enter them in a raffle to win exciting prizes. **When: March 22nd 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

*for parents: it will be open house style, parents must accompany child

What (a learning booth 5-10 minutes):

1. Michael Fredette / Amy Stocks - tiered booth for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade STEM (snap circuits, Makey Makey, Pinewood Lego Derby)
2. Marianne McCauley- Japanese storyboards
3. Mary Toller- Math games
4. Danielle Larkin- Sail Away Challenge
5. Ryan McMullen - Bananagrams / Storymatic
6. Lorin Porth - Fossil dig, oobleck, etc. info. On outreach
7. Lily Uttech (Bay Path) Neuroscience
8. Elizabeth Lynch (Bay Path)
9. Deb Douville/Sue Hucul - Title I/ ELA learning games
10. Bruce Goldman/Joanne Grimes- we are working on it
11. Lorraine Malone - **How can you go faster down a slide? Mystery science: friction**
12. David Axelrad-Brain Teaser Games/Challenges
13. Therese Moriarty - Be a Printmaker

PTO Directory

Our PTO Directory is posted on our school website under the “*more*” section. The passcode is the last 4-digits of the school’s phone number. Here is the link...

<http://mapleshade.eastlongmeadowma.gov/401/login.php?redirect=/pto-parent-directory.html>