

Fletcher Maynard Academy *Gazette*

LEARNING TO SUCCEED

October Newsletter



FMA Sets Sail

Sailing Comes to Fletcher Maynard

On any given Tuesday or Thursday afternoon during the month of September, you can spot the large red, white and blue sail gliding across the waters of the Charles River. Sail To Prevail, supported by CEO, Paul Callahan, and President, Alexander Egan creates opportunities for children to become active participants in the sailing experience. Fletcher Maynard Academy students alongside members of the Harvard Varsity Sailing Team and Sail To Prevail instructor, Allie, learn the basics of boat handling, steering with a tiller, trimming a sail, and boat safety. They make children comfortable and confident while having tons of fun. FMA students have been overheard saying, “This is the best day ever!”, “Do you think the boat will tip over?”, “This is awesome!” and “Can I come back next week?” As the month draws to a close, everyone is looking forward to going back out next September.

FMA October Happenings

- Friday, 10-5 8am to 9:30am Leadership Team Meeting
- Tuesday 10-9 12pm to 8pm Kendall Square MIT Innovation Playground Groundbreaking: bit.ly/mitplygrnd
- Saturday, 10-13 9am to 12pm Qualls Academy
- Monday, 10-15 8am to 9am PTO
- Friday, 10-19 7:45am SPO Meeting
- Friday, 10-19 10am FMA STEM Fair
- **Monday, 10-22 6pm to 8pm Courageous Conversations (dinner at 5:30pm)**
- Thursday, 10-25 PICTURE DAY
- Saturday, 10-27 9am to 12pm Qualls Academy



Don't Forget! 2pm Dismissal Every Wednesday

Fletcher Maynard Academy

FMA Staff Engage in First (of Five) Equity PD Workshops



The FMA faculty and staff began their journey to explore race and equity during the early release PD on Tuesday, September 18. This year the staff will participate in five professional development workshops focused on exploring how matters of race and equity impact members of the school community. FMA's ultimate goal is to develop strategies to help the school community better engage with matters of race and equity through curriculum, pedagogy, and student support. Although this work is part of FMA's year's long equity work—that includes the evening Courageous Conversations (see page 4) and the equity curriculum work begun last year in collaboration with the Harvard Ed school's RIDES initiative, the work is also connected to Cambridge School Department's recently articulated focus on equity. We look forward to continuing this necessary work and will continue to share our progress. If you would like to get involved in FMA's broader equity work please contact Uche Amaechi @ uamaechi@cpsd.us.

From the Music Room

Ms. Higgins

Welcome back, students!

The Musician of the Month for October is the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops. This is our orchestra, and they play right down the street at Symphony Hall on Massachusetts Avenue. This Sunday, Sept. 30th, they will come and give a free concert with Keith Lockhart conducting at the Franklin Park Zoo. Concert is at 3:00 with many opportunities to get up close and personal with the orchestra. Check out the website, which includes free community concerts by small ensembles of the BSO. www.bso.org. Students in grades 2-5 will be learning more about the orchestra instruments and hear some major works that they will listen to and move to as well. Grade five students who are now beginning to play instruments this year can listen to the instruments and gain inspiration from these wonderful recordings and videos.

FMA September Students of the Month

Powell	Phelicia Charles
Brennan	Salma Boud
Martin	Jennifer Alcius Etienne
Sargent	Zoe Jimenez Villar
Williams	Jesse Welch
Waddell	Naishah Altidor
Oluwole	Christian Cadet
Tucker	Naela Nortelus
Chao	Fnot Alem
Allen	Aliyah Nghiem
Abdul-Musawwir	Leshia Kelly
Lincoln	Joseph Charles
Casselli	Kolina Julien
McGonegal	Lucy Zhang

Fletcher Maynard Academy

Reading Bingo

Ms. Aisha

What is the Reading Rainbow Challenge?

The Reading Rainbow Challenge is a reading incentive program designed to motivate and reward students for reading a variety of books as well as familiarize themselves with finding resources in the library.

How does it work?

Early in the school year, students will be given their first Reading Bingo card. Each time the student reads a book in one of the categories and writes the title of the book in that space. When the entire card is filled out, students will have a parent, guardian, sign the bottom and return the card to the library. (4th and 5th grade students will also check in with their teachers.) Students will receive a prize after finishing the orange, green and tan colors. When students complete the purple card they are eligible to attend the **Purple People Party** at the end of the school year. Completed cards will be kept in a binder in the library.

Why are there specific reading categories on the card?

Listing reading categories serves two purposes: it allows students to use the library catalog to find different kinds of books, and it encourages them to read books about a wide variety of topics.

Other important information

- You may read the books in any order on your card and choose any titles that fit the categories. The books may come from any source (FMA library, public library, book fair, classroom, friends, home, etc.).
- Books read in class, by teachers, by a librarian, for class assignments, in a book club and at home may also count.
- Each grade will have different book categories on their Bingo cards. There are eight card levels (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, tan, pink and purple) for each grade. You may not skip levels. Turn in your card in the library. You will get a new card (color-coded for the next level) when you turn in your completed card.
- The cards should be signed only when they are completely filled out (before they are turned in to the library). Please do not sign cards until all the spaces on the card are completely filled in. Partially-completed or unsigned cards will not count.
- Each book counts only once. You may not repeat the same book on two separate cards.
- The program ends on Monday, June 3, 2019. New cards will not be accepted after that date.

A Message from Principal Harris



September is a blur and it's hard to believe that October is here! Fall is not sure it wants to arrive yet, but there is much happening at Fletcher Maynard Academy. I enjoyed meeting and talking to parents at both the Back to School, Curriculum Night and Room Parents meetings. I'm very committed to finding multiple ways to connect with more families during the next few months.

We'll kick the month of October off with our monthly Leadership Team meeting, taking place on the 5th, from 8:00-9:30am. The Leadership Team is composed of family, faculty and community members. They meet once per month (first Friday) and determine the structure of school based planning and shared decision-making. All members of the FMA community are welcome to attend. During the first week of October, teachers in grades 1-5 will come together with instructional coaches, support staff, and administration to review fall screening data and create concrete plans to support individual students in making academic gains.

General Reminders For Families:

- Please have children at school prior to 7:45am, after 8:00am students are late.
- If students are picked up early, please do so before the last 15 minutes of the day
- Please call the office (617-349-6588) to report student absence, follow up with written notification is appreciated

Fletcher Maynard Academy

From the Family Liaison Office

Mr. Skeritt

Food for Free Weekend Backpack Program

The Fletcher Maynard Academy participates in the Cambridge Weekend Backpack Program to offer a supply of nutritious meals and snacks for children over the weekend, free of charge. The vision from the Fletcher Maynard Academy Family Resource Liaison office was to continue this program with new backpacks so that the children can carry the meals home securely and discretely.

Through the collaboration of non profit organizations; *Food for Free Cambridge*, *Cradles to Crayons*, *Brighton*, and Family Liaison, Daniel Skeritt, the FMA brought in a large number of new backpacks to be used in the program.

Room Parent Newsletter

One of principal Robin Harris's goals for this school year is has been to re-establish the FMA Room Parents group. Family Liaison, Daniel Skeritt spearheaded this effort by reaching out to all FMA parents and guardians to recruit new room parents. The results within the first couple of weeks has been phenomenal.

More than 20 parents signed up to become room parents, or as point persons to help the classroom teachers. The room parent roles also involves recruiting parents for projects and sharing information from the school or classroom.

If you would like to become a parent/guardian volunteer please speak with your child's classroom teacher, or contact FMA Family Resource Liaison Daniel Skeritt at 617-349-6589 or DSkeritt@cpsd.us

FMA Sailors in Action



FMA Courageous Conversations

The goal of the FMA courageous conversions is to:

- *Come to shared understanding of race and racial equity, and how members of our community understand and talk about it*
- *Understand different stakeholders' diverse experiences around race and equity in the FMA community*
- *Develop a clear vision of what the FMA community would look like with a deliberate and comprehensive focus on race and equity*
- *Begin to execute on the vision.*

If you're interested in joining the Conversations please contact Uche Amaechi @ uamaechi@cpsd.us

Meeting dates are below. **We invite all faculty and staff, family community members to join us.** Dinner (at 5:30) and child care will be provided.

- **Monday, October-22**
- **Monday, January 22**
- **Tuesday, February 26**
- **Monday, March 18**
- **Tuesday, April 23**
- **Monday, May 20**