

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY LYMAN C. HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contents

Principal's Message	2
BE Above News	3
Phoenix Team Update	4
Oasis Team Update	4
Synergy Team Update	5
Solstice Team Update	6
Indigo Team Update	6
Girls Tech	8
Burlington School Food Project	9
Parent IN	10

Principal's Message



Dear HMS Parents and Guardians:

Happy New Year from Hunt Middle School!

During the month of December, Team Synergy virtually attended a commemorative ceremony in Canada via CBC Nova Scotia's Facebook livestream. The ceremony honored the victims and survivors of the [December 6, 1917 Halifax Explosion](#), which killed nearly 2,000 people and wounded over 9,000. The students used multiple resources from print, interactive video and maps to learn about this important event that most Americans and many Canadians have not even heard of. The students were focused during the ceremony and had many thoughtful comments during the debrief. Livestream technology allowed the students to witness the ceremony as it was happening.

All of our students have been working on their Personal Learning Plans (PLP). The PLP is a portfolio of a student and student's work. It is a scrapbook of who they are, what they can do, and what they are learning. Each student has been designing and creating a new About Me Page. (they are to keep the old About Me Page so they may look back and see the growth from year to year).

On December 14th, we had a guest speaker Linda Dutil, RN, who spoke to our students about the consequences of drug use and underage drinking. After the assembly, the students participated in a tier one restorative circle to discuss what they learned during the assembly and how it impacted them.

We were fortunate to have [Will "KASSO" Condry](#) as a guest artist for a week in early December. He worked with students designing a mural that will be hung in the hallway near the gym. It is a beautiful piece that over 100 of our students worked on.



Congratulations Anah Gagnon and Nathan Caswell for becoming National Board Certified Teachers! This three year process gave them the opportunity to connect their professional learning with their classroom teaching experience, and helps them support individual student learning.

Another good way to learn about what is going on in our building is to join me on the first Friday of every month at 7:30am for principal's coffee. We serve the best coffee in the New North End!

BE Above's News!

12/13/17 Tis The Season to Prevent Impaired Driving

BE Above Members Raise Awareness about the Dangers of Drunk and Drugged Driving During National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, twice as many people die in alcohol-related crashes (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism). On December 13th, Hunt Middle School BE Above substance abuse prevention students traveled to Burlington restaurants and businesses to raise awareness about the increase in drunk driving crashes during the holiday season and to encourage people who consume alcohol to use designated drivers, call a cab, use a ride-sharing service like Lyft or Uber, or make other plans to avoid impaired driving.



12/18/17 Speaking Out Against the Sale of Tobacco Products to Young Vermonters

On December 18th, members of the Hunt BE Above group joined Edmunds Middle School Be Above group members at a City Council meeting to speak in support of a ballot item encouraging the Governor and Legislature to raise the age to legally purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. City Council was persuaded and the item will be included on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March! Minimum age laws are one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use because only 10% of smokers start at the age of 21 or older (CDC). These laws reduce teen access to tobacco products because teens

are less likely to socialize with 21-year-olds than with 18-year-olds. Reducing teen access to tobacco products is extremely important in light of the fact that tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death in the US and, while teen cigarette use continues to decrease in Burlington and across the country (Youth Risk Behavior Survey), one in three 12th grade students in the US report past year use of some kind of tobacco vapor products such as e-cigarettes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens (Monitoring the Future, 2017).



REMINDER: BE Above meets at the Miller Center every Wednesday afternoon from 2:15 - 3:45 pm. New members are always welcome! Contact beabovebtv@gmail.com for more information.

Team PHOENIX:

There are some great updates on our Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/PhoenixLearns>) and lots of updates to our blog (www.hmsteamphoenix.blogspot.com). Please visit them and be sure to sign up/follow for updates. We welcome your feedback as we seek to make these tools as helpful as possible for you all.

Language Arts:

- This month we will begin analyzing our favorite books and writing about them. Before this work we will read a short story "The Stolen Party" by Lilita Hecker.
- We are happy to welcome Ms. Lindsay Sugar to Team Phoenix's English Language Arts! She will be student teaching with Ms. Hickey this spring semester. She is from Canton, Connecticut and is a senior attending Champlain College and is studying Middle Level Education specializing in English and Social Studies. She is excited to learn alongside our students as well as help build their love of reading.
- Please continue to support your children's reading at home.
- Ms. Hickey can be reached at lhickey@bsdvt.org.

Social Studies:

Students have shared the results of their inquiry based on Mesopotamia. We will now begin exploring ancient Egypt and the connections between these two river civilizations. Please check the Weekly Class Content announcements in Canvas for further details.

Ms. Fabri can be reached at jfabri@bsdvt.org.

Mathematics:

- 7th graders will continue to learn about proportionality.
- 8th graders will continue to study systems of linear equations.
- Ms. Saunders will be joining us as a student teacher from UVM. She is studying Secondary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. She spent last semester working with Mr. Bunbury and is looking forward to continuing to work with the Phoenix students this semester! Ms. Saunders can be reached at csaunders@bsdvt.org
- Ms. Gagnon can be reached at agagnon@bsdvt.org

Science:

Students will be starting a unit on adaptations and genetics.

They will begin with how specific traits help an organism survive.

Then they will learn how traits are passed from one generation to another.

Ms. Cullen can be reached at mcullen@bsdvt.org

Team OASIS

In math class, seventh graders have been working on a unit about ratios and proportions. Students have learned to identify proportional relationships in charts and on graphs. They have also learned about the constant or proportionality and how to use it to write equations for proportional relationships. Soon they will be using what they have learned about proportionality to find missing dimensions in similar figures.

Eighth graders recently started a unit on exponents. So far, they have learned what exponents are and how to simplify exponential problems involving multiplication or division with the same base. Soon they will learn about negative exponents, simplifying problems involving exponents and scientific notation.

Students have many great math programs available to them to practice their math skills. They have passwords and know how to log into IXL, ST math and khan academy. All three are great place to practice both skills we are working on in class or other grade level (or off grade level) skills. Please encourage your student to show you these sites and practice at home.

I would like to welcome Olivia Bryce to our mathematics classroom. She is a senior from St. Mike's and will be joining us full time until May.

Greetings from Synergy Team!

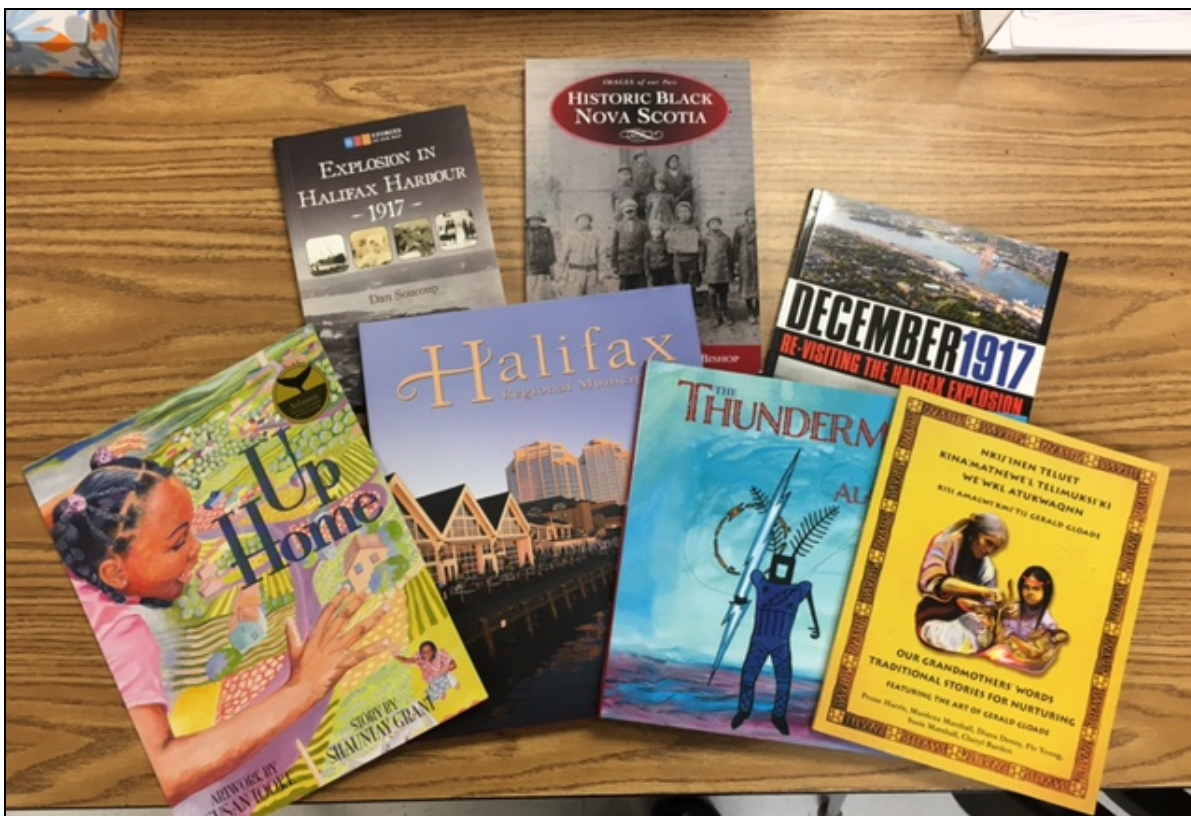
The sixth grade students at Hunt Middle School have been learning about the great Halifax Explosion of 1917: an event that few people beyond Nova Scotia have heard of. The explosion in 1917 was the largest man-made explosion ever; only the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have surpassed it. Nearly 2,000 Haligonians were killed and 9,000 injured.

African-Nova Scotians and the First Nations Mi'kmaq were also victims, but relatively little was reported about their losses. In addition to reading and writing about the event, Team Synergy students have been researching why more has not been written the African-Nova Scotians and Mi'kmaq people whose communities were also devastated by the blast.

On December 6th, on the 100th anniversary of the explosion, the students attended, via CBC livestream, the [Commemorative Ceremony](#) held in Halifax. The Halifax mayor's office learned about their study and involvement, and, this week, they received the most wonderful gift: Over \$100 worth of books about the city, books about First Nations people and African-Nova Scotians, and books about the Explosion. They sent every child a beautiful Halifax lapel pin and also a Halifax button. Finally, the mayor wrote a letter of greeting and congratulated the students on their interest in this event.

The teacher of this curriculum, Lee Orlando, writes, "I think this is a newsworthy gift because it represents an unexpected but important connection between Burlington students and citizens of Halifax. It shows the generosity of a Canadian city that went to the expense and effort to send these materials to our students so they could learn even more. We are enormously grateful for this gift and are really touched that Halifax would do this for us. I am attaching some photos of the books, buttons and pins, and letter."

The Burlington School District is happy to congratulate the sixth graders at Hunt Middle School for a job well-done. **Thank the mayor of Halifax for this generous gift.**





SOLSTICE TEAM



Science:

- Students have started 2018 by developing and documenting a goal in their Personal Learning Plans. Ask your child to share their goal with you.
- We begin a new unit in the new year. Students will learn about genetics, heredity, and natural selection as they construct an answer to the question, "Why do organisms look the way they do?"
- Follow our class on Twitter and Instagram @SolsticeScience

Math

- Our seventh graders are continuing to explore proportional relationships. We have moved from looking at the overall pattern through tables, graphs and equations to narrowing our focus to look at the individual ratios that are part of the relationship and using proportions to solve problems dealing with scale factors, discount, tax, and tip.
- Our eighth graders are finishing up a very extensive look at linear relationships (which include the proportional relationships they looked at as seventh graders). We are in the middle of looking at systems of equations and inequalities.
- Some of our eighth graders have also chosen to be part of an Algebra Seminar, and continue to work very hard.

Language Arts

- Happy 2018!!
- As an introduction to *Brown Girl Dreaming*, we watched the movie *Hidden Figures* prior to vacation. Students found this to be a valuable experience in seeing how race relations were a part of our culture during the setting for our book.
- We continue to read the novel while recording and discussing obstacles the main character faces. This will help students when writing their own personal essays at the end of the unit.
- Students will also write an imitation poem that mimics the style of one of the poems the author wrote.
- Students continue to read independently at home, as well as in class.

Social Studies

- We begin our study of Ancient History.

Indigo Team

Happy winter, everyone! Our team ended 2017 on a very positive note. Here's what we have been doing and what's coming in 2018.



***Special Team Events:** Based on team discussions, we modified our schedule a bit before vacation to help everyone remain as productive and focused as possible, while also including breaks and treats to keep us all cheery and present. We were pleased with how the kids' suggestions helped our team have a positive end-of-2017 experience. Here are a couple of highlights: Our team skating trip, suggested and organized by Camryn with the help of our social committee, was such a blast! Many, many thanks to parents who helped out with this excursion. We also held a first-time-ever Solstice Celebration before vacation. This included cookies baked and prepped by small groups of Indigo kids

and decorated and enjoyed by us all; and the creation of working lanterns that came out just beautifully and provided mood lighting for some mindfulness activities.



***Social Studies:** All Indigo students have finished "traveling" through Canada, and had a good time documenting their journeys using Pic Collage and Book Creator on their iPads. Happily, their excellent project work was further validated by mini-quizzes showing that kids picked up a lot of content and skills in the process. Before vacation, we spent a week exploring the Territories region of Canada through station work. An especially fun station involved learning about Inuit string stories, which led us to some fun string games and challenges ourselves! We plan to culminate this regional study in the new year with a multicultural luncheon, honoring the (sometimes overlooked) diversity of Canada's major cities, so like the wonderful diversity of our own team. We are hoping that families might be able to send in a dish that reflects their family culture. Look for a notice soon about the timing of this special event. We will finish our Canada unit with a lively and interesting study of Canadian history. For this part of the unit, students will learn about some important aspects of Canada's past as it connects with US history, and as it helps illuminate the struggles for social justice that have been part

of the history of the western hemisphere. For this project, students will receive a historical “role” to explore, and will create and perform a monologue in character to bring the history to life.



***Science:** Indigos have been working hard on both science and writing for a big Ecology project, which will conclude this month. First, though, we are getting our scientist brains going with a design technology challenge called “Earthquake.” Kids are working within some strict parameters to create a structure out of straws that can withstand increasing tremors on the official Indigo Earthquake Simulator. We are noting some terrific problem-solving already! Equally important, we are seeing kids push through difficulties to make attempt after attempt on this very tricky challenge. Resilience, good scientific documentation, thinking, and great energy are all part of this week-long challenge!



Language Arts: Due to many student-centered detours and terrific discussions, our work on *The Revealers* has not yet concluded. Additionally, both classes have done a great deal of integrated writing and reading connected with our Canada unit and our Ecology projects, practice that will continue as these units come to completion. Another recent LA highlight was our students’ creation of personal iMovies. Within these charming, small films, saved on each child’s Personal Learning Plan Google site, students “introduce” their sixth-grade selves. We recommend that you check them out!

Math: We finished up our focused study of rational numbers before vacation, including a quick review of adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. Following a pretest, we combined application work for everyone with individualized practice sessions and challenge work, depending on students’ needs. Also in response to diverse student needs, we now have a volunteer cadre of skilled peer tutors who are working with their teammates during workshop time. This extra supported practice is very helpful! Starting this week is our ratio unit, the central study of the sixth grade Common Core curriculum. We continue to tackle many large, challenging, real-life, sometimes quirky problems that demand perseverance, creativity, and the application of the skills we are learning, as well as making regular math connections in ur Science and Social Studies work. And finally, we treated ourselves to some classic math logic, strategy and computational games to ease the stress of Math class right before vacation, games which kids are now playing at lunch time while cold temperatures keep us from going outside. Fun!



Please check our team page regularly, for announcements, homework, and a steady stream of photos linked at the bottom from our Twitter feed. Happy New Year! Keep in touch!



[Vermont Works for Women](#) and Burlington Technical Center are setting middle school girls on a path to success at [Girls Tech!](#) **Girls Tech!** is a one day career exploration opportunity for middle school girls and non-binary youth. **Girls Tech!** exposes students to careers that are non-traditional for women, to help them make more informed decisions about high school course selection and career pathways. Industry professionals from various fields will motivate and inspire students to think about possible career paths through safe experiential learning activities. Help students explore the world of possibilities by registering them for **Girls Tech!** today.

[Click here to learn more and register!](#)

2018February

18

9:10 am - 12:45 pm

[Register now!](#)

[Download our flyer!](#)



[For January Lunch Menu Please Click HERE:](#)

ParentiN promotion at Hunt Middle School

ParentiN is a new program designed for parents and guardians of middle school students, empowering them to help their child make healthy choices and avoid high risk behaviors, particularly involving drugs and alcohol.

Get involved and sign up to receive newsletters and texts featuring tips and resources. Join the “We are IN this together” campaign, and share your story with the Burlington community. You can also find out how to join other parents for a facilitated meet up in your neighborhood.

All services are free and open to any Burlington resident raising middle school students.

As a community we can work together to stop substance abuse before it starts. We are IN this together!

For more information visit www.parentinburlington.org.

