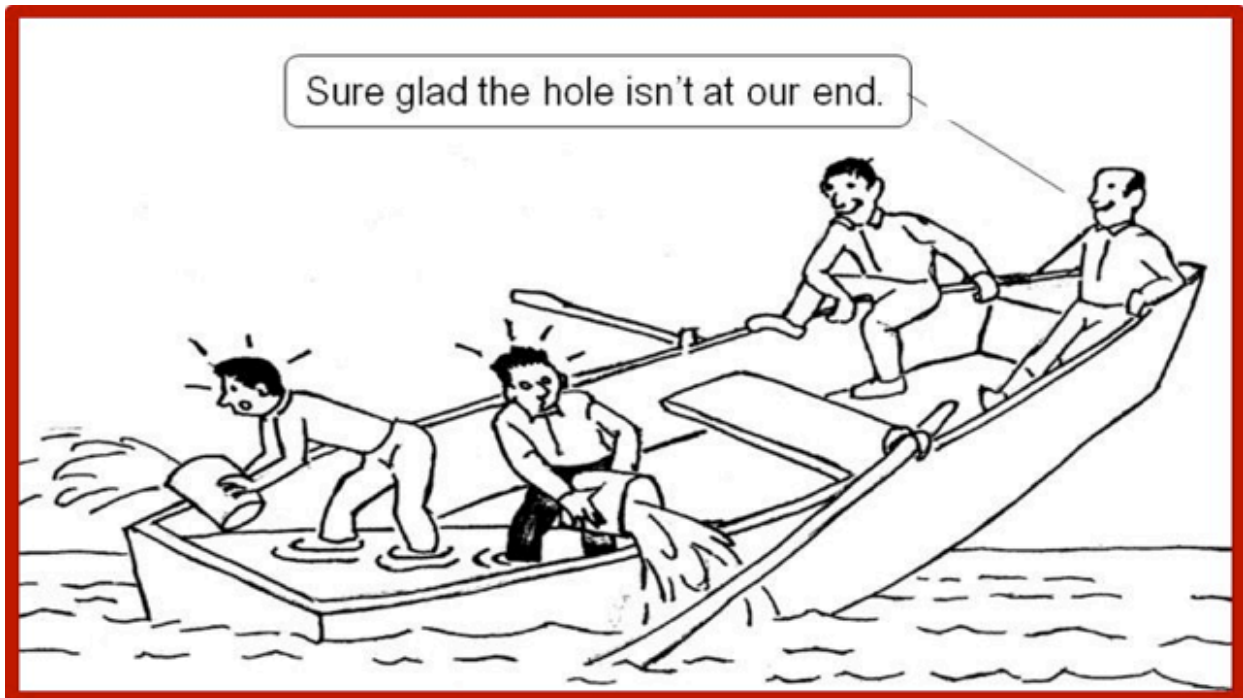


## Teaching & Learning 3

December 14, 2016



*This illustration depicts the **antithesis** of what we strive for in the Watertown School Community. In fact, our collective goal is to raise each other's capacity through collaboration, bail each other out with resources or fresh ideas when needed, and row in the same direction toward excellence in education for ALL students. And, parent partnership in reaching this goal is paramount (and appreciated).*

**1. Professional Development Team (PDT) Updates** - Our goal is to continue to build the capacity of our diverse staff as we create a comprehensive educational experience that supports each student's academic, social, and emotional development, by providing high quality professional development. The following provides a glimpse at the sessions our staff members will select from as they collaborate in their various areas for upcoming Early Release and Full-Day Professional Development:

- Effective Practices for Closing the Math Achievement Gap
- Transforming Conflict: A Kingian Mini-Lesson
- Introduction/ Advanced to Google Classroom
- Teach With Your Strengths, 101
- Developing "Cultural Metacognition" in the Classroom
- Picturing Writing Research-Based Animal Tri-fold Project
- Close Reading and Text Sets
- FLES Curriculum Development
- Teaching with 'Educreations'
- Analysis of Running Records for Elementary Students
- Basic Exploration of Global Competency
- Dare to Design (Yes, you and your students!)
- STEAM Projects in Your School Garden

- Global Learning in Physical Education
- Elementary Research & Writing
- What is Raz-Plus? What is Kids A-Z? And How Can I Use Them?
- LGBTQ Transitioning
- CARE System for Learning How to Speak to Kids
- Nurses - Review WPS Nursing Procedures/Policies
- McClosky Voice Technique
- How to Better Access Texts in the Secondary Classroom
- The Power of Play
- Social and Communication Intervention for Children with Significant Challenges
- Discipline Do's and Don'ts: What every educator needs to know about using time out, physical escort, and restraint
- Understanding and Responding to Students with Emotional & Behavioral Challenges Using a Positive, Trauma-Informed, Strength-Based Approach
- Applying the Cultural Proficiency Model to Attitudes about and Responses to Behavior



## 2. My Recent School Visits-

**(Left) WHS Wayshak Fab Lab** - Our K-12 education innovation specialist, Beth Lloyd, facilitated a Fab Lab orientation with visiting Medway Schools personnel who toured the space and heard about creative uses from some WHS students/teachers. Our aim is to document student work including reflections, process, and product as teachers continue integrating it into the curriculum.

**(Right) Makerspace at WMS** - These photos depict recent Professional Development for WMS teachers who moved through makerspace stations with hands-on activities, mostly demonstrated by their own middle school students!



**(Left Top) Hosmer School** - A visit to **Kelly Graves'** fourth-grade co-taught classroom with special educator, **Sarah Pelletier**, revealed modeling of a solid math lesson. Using a formative assessment to check for understanding, students solved math problems on individual mini-whiteboards while Ms. Graves most effectively led whole-group instruction. Student engagement was consistent, and with Ms. Pelletier seated among her students, she was able to monitor their progress during the lesson and make modifications where needed.

**(Left Bottom)** Down the hall, **Mike Murphy** was teaching his English language learners while **Melissa Reohr**, a new ESL teacher, conducted a peer observation. The excellent lesson included both language and content objectives positioned prominently in the classroom and referred to with frequency to assist students in honing their learning.

**(Right) Cunniff Kids News** - I was thrilled to join the **Cunniff Kids News** reporters (Campbell & Callum Cairns, Hadiya Khan, Nina Paquette, Kimora Yancey, Johanna Jane Leonardis) last week for an interview in their library. Their coach, John Vitti, is fortunate to facilitate this journalistic learning opportunity for these stellar students. We appreciate his volunteerism!

3. **WHS Female Empowerment course** - Principal Lundberg and I were invited to visit the self-defense training course taught by **Tina Taylor** where young women executed the self-defense poses and procedures with conviction and power. It serves as an excellent skills-based experiential class. *No photos were allowed for obvious reason.*
4. **PARCC/MCAS Results** - Were presented at the December 5<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting. (See attachment.)



Last week's WHS Winter Concert was a beautiful evening of student voice and instruments, which featured the Concert Band, Chorus, String Ensemble, and A Cappella Choir, *The Watertones*. While each performance was delightful, my favorite was the Chorus' rendition of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

**Some DESE Updates:**

**PISA Results Put Massachusetts among Top Nations:** The [2015 results from the Program for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#) show that if Massachusetts were a nation, it would share the top spot in reading with eight other nations worldwide. In science, the state's students and those from 10 nations came in second, trailing only students from Singapore. In math, 11 other nations were ahead of the Commonwealth. The triennial test, which assesses a sample of 15-year-olds, also showed that high-poverty schools in Massachusetts had higher scores in 2015 than in 2012.

**Resources for Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS:**

We have identified the 2001/06 [grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 science and technology/engineering \(STE\) standards](#) that will be assessed on the 2017 MCAS grades 5 and 8 STE test. These lists will assist schools currently transitioning to the standards in the 2016 Massachusetts STE Framework.

*For your planning purposes...*

Dec 14 - Superintendent Coffees 9:00am & 7:00pm @ Phillips Building Room 101

Dec 19 - Early Release all schools - Professional Development for staff

Dec 26 - Jan 2 - Winter Break

*That's all for now, folks!*

Keep each other well,

*Theresa*

**Theresa McGuinness, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Superintendent*