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ECS NEWSLETTER 12/25/17

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Draft

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ECS Newsletter

10/25/17

ECS Mission: To Collaborate with PSB educators to create rigorous, relevant, engaging learning for all students

Goals of the Public Schools of Brookline

Goal 1: Every Student Achieving

Goal 2: Every Student Invested in Learning

Goal 3: Every Student Prepared for Change and Challenge

Goal 4: Every Educator Growing Professionally



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Psbma

Quote of the Week

“Creativity is where we start to think differently, and innovation is where creativity comes to life”

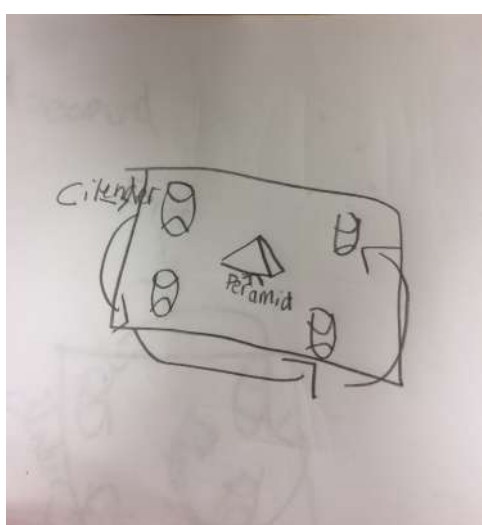
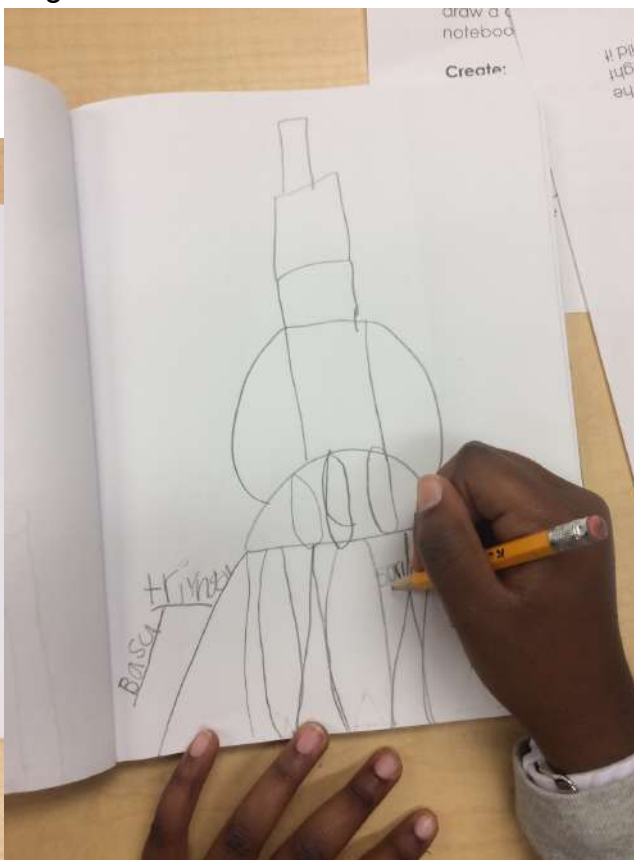
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George Couros

Current Projects

Tallest Towers

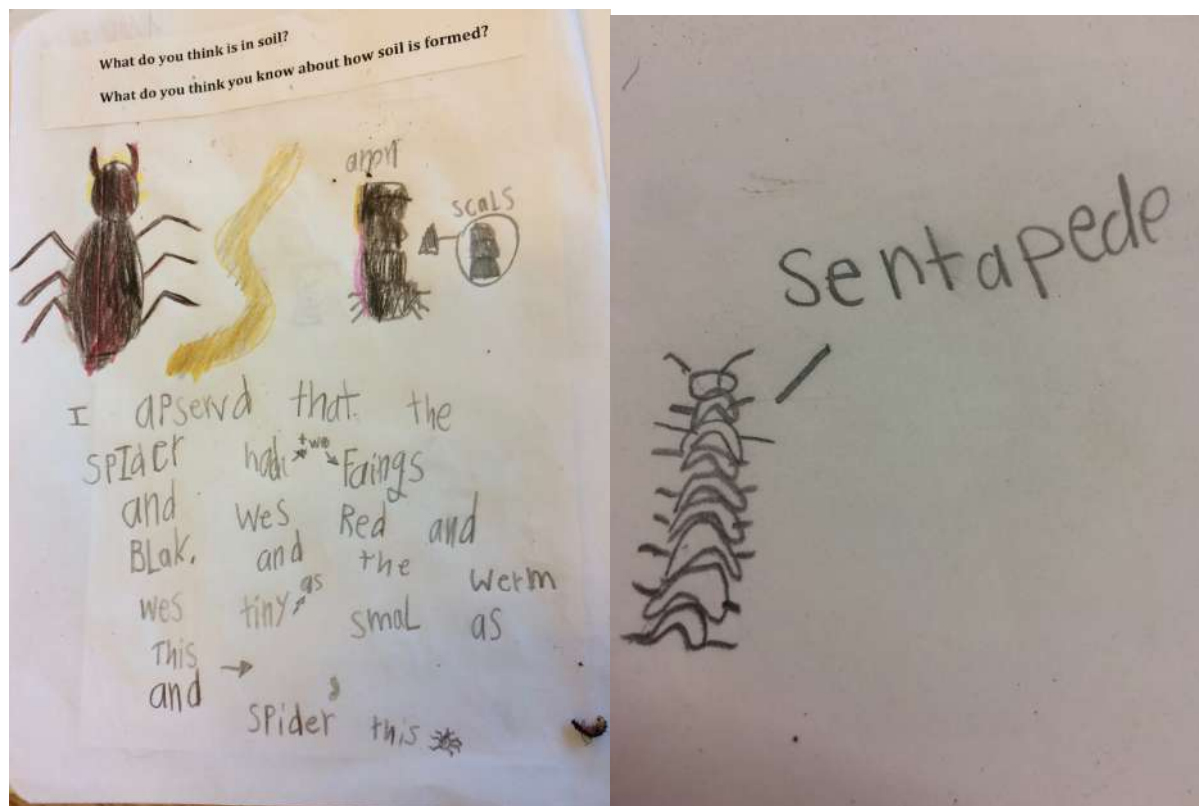
Students in 3Harty (Heath) work on their sketches for making the tallest tower possible. They are learning about the physics of pushes and pulls, and Thinking about where supports might go. They have created many iterations of their designs.



("Card nado")

Fantastic Critter observation sketches

Also, we've been looking at soil all throughout the 2nd grade at Heath. Here are two of my favorite sketches of things kids' found in the soil:



Students Solve a problem on their own

Finally, at Pierce, our makerspace is on a carpeted surface (I don't recommend it). Students found a great way of picking up all the little scraps of paper and cardboard off of the carpet. I didn't even suggest that they solve this problem. They did it all on their own!

Wad a ball of masking tape, and dab it around on the floor:



[Watch this movie to see it in action!](#)

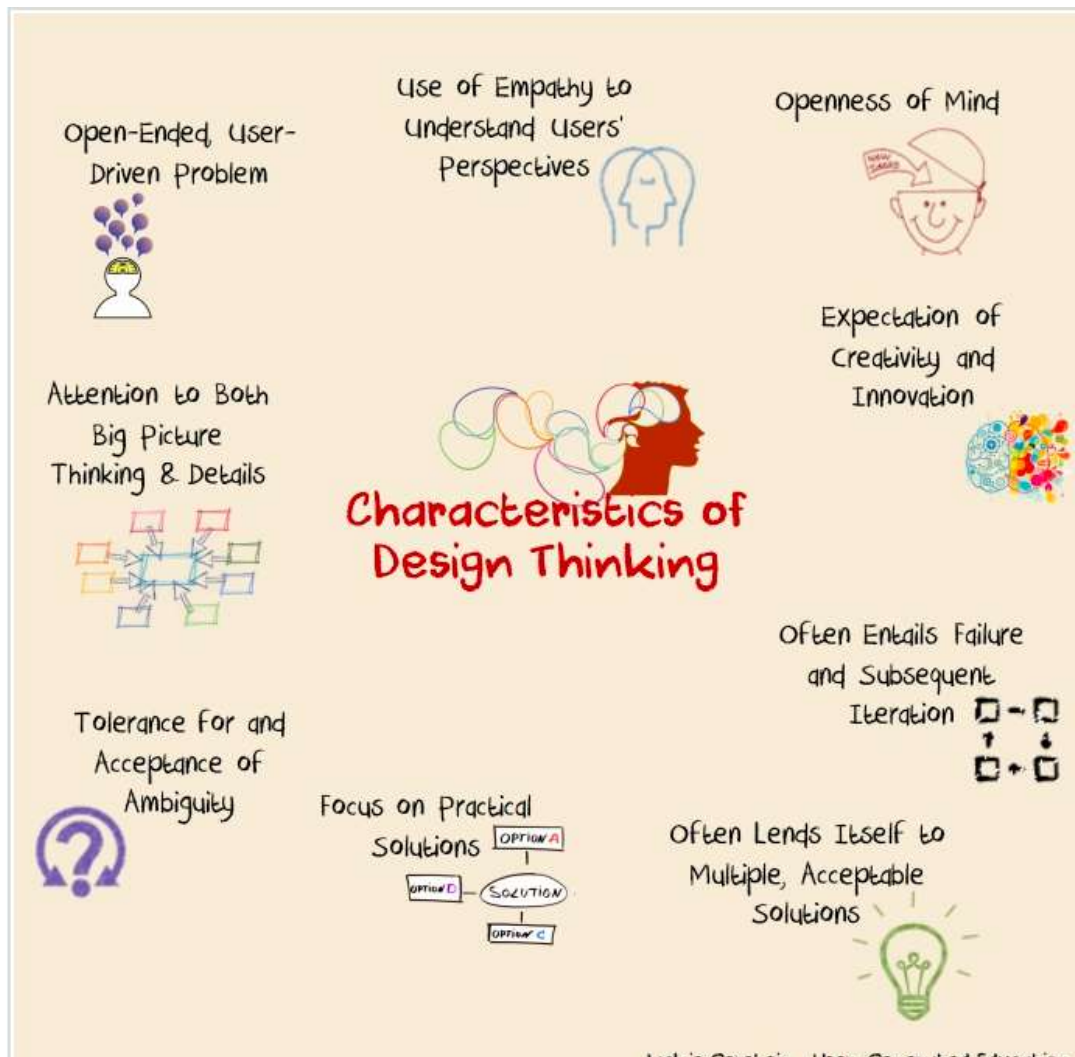
Articles and Resources

[Introduction to Design Thinking for Educators](#)

This article is packed full of great things for those new to design thinking, and for those who have been using the ideas for a while. Including, but not limited to: A movie that is quick, friendly and thorough for educators who want to know more about design thinking.

And an app from Destination Imagination that is a nice warm up for critical and creative thinking. It's called "Instant Challenge Shaker"





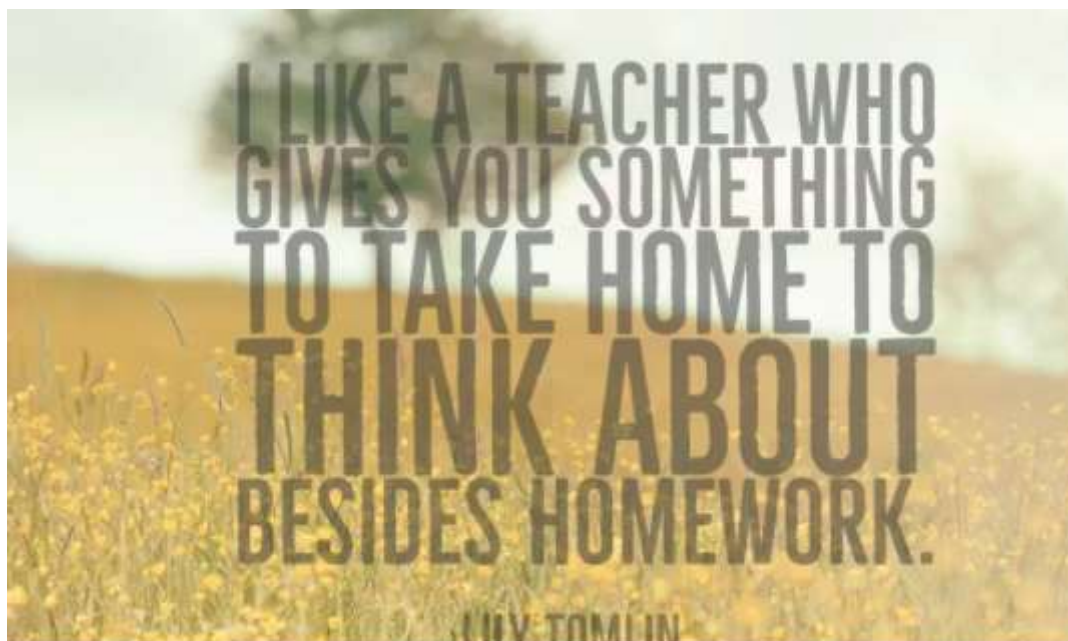
Why Mistakes Matter for Creating a path for Learning

From the article:

In recent years, cognitive scientists have done gobs of research on how making mistakes help us learn, much of it funded by the federal Institute for Education Science. Some findings make intuitive sense. Some are completely surprising. And many important findings that are relevant to teaching are not making it into the classroom, or penetrating very slowly.

Why Are We Still Assigning Homework?

A controversial subject to be sure. But the question is still something to think about. Do kids practice thinking while doing homework? What are your thoughts about this?



Equity

[Know Your Terms: Code Switching](#)

From the article:

Teachers should know that when they want to teach students how to use standard English, [*correcting non-standard English has been found to be ineffective*](#). In other words, treating the features of nonstandard dialects as if they are “errors” does not necessarily result in that student regularly speaking or writing in standard English.

Tinkertime

[Flextangles](#)

Paper fidget tools you can make yourself. I may have shared this last year, but it is one of my favorite things to make. It’s art, math, engineering, problem solving and more all in one sweet little



bundle.