

GATEWAY

June, 2016

“Gifted And Talented Education With ALL Youth”

**Mrs. Anderson,
Mrs. Contrino,
Mrs. Marks
Gateway Teachers
Grades 6-7**

Newsletter Highlights:

- **Mission**
- **Intensive Support**
- **Destination Imagination**
- **FOG**

MISSION

To support **ALL** students through talent development.
To identify, challenge and encourage academically advanced and creative thinkers.

Advanced Math Gateway

6th Grade: We completed mastering exponent rules and have moved to the distributive property. This will allow the students to begin next fall with double distributive property and binomial expansion.

7th Grade: Students have persevered with linear functions. They can now: convert from slope intercept form to standard form and from standard form to slope intercept form. They are able to solve systems of equations algebraically using substitution and elimination. Besides learning the process, students focused on recognizing the purpose and meaning of the solution and how to discern the correct strategy in different situations. They leave for algebra 1 prepared for future challenges.

STEM

6th Grade: We concluded our year in STEM by exploring renewable energy resources, specifically solar power. Students constructed solar cars which were required to move as straight and efficiently as possible. This assignment allowed the students to experiment with gear ratio, solar panel angle, chassis design, and axle placement. Most importantly, the students witnessed just how much sun is needed to properly power a very small car! Hoping for FULL sun on the 16th when classes race!

7th Grade: The seventh graders concluded their year with an act of patience, precision, and perseverance; making paper roller coasters. They cut, taped, and molded paper into straight tracks, loops, funnels, and curves to create very innovative and functioning marble coasters. Students took one class to test each track and vote on their favorite creations. Check the website for videos of some of the coasters and the blue ribbon winners from the categories, too. Roller coasters were displayed in the Barnstable Intermediate School's cafeteria for all to view!



Advanced ELA

6th Grade: The last two months of school have kept our 6th graders very busy! We read and discussed one final novel, *When You Reach Me*, by Rebecca Stead. The book addresses challenging topics, including Einstein's Theory of Relativity and the nature of time. The book inspired us to have some intense philosophical discussions! Ask your child about "the veil theory," and also how to "tesseract," or "wrinkle time." Those of you who read Madeleine L'Engle's classic book when you were a kid should have fun remembering how to "wrinkle time;" and perhaps that will help you to travel more efficiently during your summer vacation adventures!

We were all excited to see an excellent interpretation of Macbeth at the Zeiterion Theater; and then we came back to BIS and acted out some of our favorite scenes in class. Many of these kids were frighteningly convincing in their roles as Lady Macbeth or as one of the three witches - Bravo to all! Shakespeare is so much fun!

For our final assignment, each one of the 6th graders designed their very own children's story book! They were asked to write, illustrate, and bind a book that would appeal to an elementary school aged child. The books that were created are absolutely incredible. I am so proud of what these students have accomplished. I invite you to take a look at these amazing handmade books throughout the month of July, as they will be on display at the Sturgis Library in Barnstable Village. The children's librarian is hoping that some of our students might even volunteer to read their book at a preschool storytime in July. Enjoy your summer, soon-to-be seventh graders!

7th Grade: The 7th graders had a blast during our study of Macbeth! We had a wonderful discussion about the live performance we had the pleasure of seeing at the Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford. We were excited to see the way certain elements and characters were interpreted by the actors; and this informed the students' own classroom performances of key scenes. The results were superb. Who'll ever forget our witches that threw the snaps around to create thunder? Kudos to all the actors!



In addition to all that Shakespeare, we read one more novel together. Students read either *Trouble* by Gary D. Schmidt, or *The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong. Both of these powerful coming of age stories allowed the students to engage in meaningful conversations as they made insightful text-to-life connections. Excellent interpretations were made by all.

The final assignment of the year was the creation of a thematic journal, which serves as a very personal discovery of literature and art for each student. Students are asked to choose a topic (such as love, childhood, competition, etc.), to research. Published work regarding the topic is collected and quantified. The students also wrote several of their own pieces about the topic. The students' final projects are beautiful and inspiring. The journals are a physical expression of individuality and creativity. I am very proud of what these students have accomplished!

Finally, I want to wish the 7th graders the best of luck in 8th grade. It has been an honor to be your Gateway teacher for all these years. I know you will all continue to shine brightly and make me proud in the years ahead! Mahatma Ghandi has asked each of us to "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I am excited to see how each one of you will make your mark. Make your dreams come true!

Barnstable Gateway Program

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BARNSTABLE FPS



"The most basic skill that can be taught in today's schools is problem solving, especially skills in solving future problems..."

(Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Creator of FPS in 1974)

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: BIS is proud to announce that one of our 7th grade FPS teams earned a spot to compete at the 2016 FPS International Competition at Michigan State University! Congratulations problem solvers! All of our FPS teams worked together to raise funds for the trip. These awesome students happily washed cars, ate burritos at Chipotle, and made hundreds of shell bracelets to give to new friends made at Internationals. "Renewable Energy" was the topic presented to Micky Rose, Nate Wood, Ella Brahms, and Sophia Weinstock at the conference. The team and I had a fantastic time meeting FPS participants from around the world, and I came away from the experience energized and excited to get to work next year! A special thank you to our chaperone, Eric Brahms, for taking the journey with us! Our current 6th graders will be fully competitive next year, and I know they are ready! Go Barnstable FPS!

Project Based Learning



6th and 7th Grade: Over the last couple of months, students have been working independently and cooperatively researching topics that interest them. There was a wide variety of topics researched, some of which were Sleep Disorders, Filmmaking, Duck Billed Platypus, Unicorns, Joan of Arc, China, Chicago, Social Classes in High School, Chapstick, Alternate Universes, Batman and much more. After they completed their research, they were able to choose a project to present their findings to their classmates. Students enjoyed creating Posters, Explain Everything, Keynotes and Google slides. They all did a great job presenting their learnings, and they learned a lot from each other. It has been a pleasure working with all of these incredibly curious and hardworking students. I wish them all the best as they move onto 7th and 8th grade.

Destination Imagination

Our Destination Imagination program, open to all Barnstable Public School students, offers high-quality, STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) Challenges that help bridge the gap between what students learn in school and the skills they will need to thrive in an ever-changing economy. This year we sponsored ten teams, two of which (see below) went to the State Championship Tournament in Worcester.

Grade 5, BUES: Team Managers: Gwen Bainier, Linda Weinberg, Alexander Bainier, Jeff Hauck, Ciara Enright, Katherine Hempel, Renee Beauchaine, Cameron McCormack, Nik Lyons

Grade 3, BCHMCPS: Team Managers: Elena Gino, Tara Ramos, Teagan Geraghty, Liam Fishback, Simone Sader, Alina Gino, Nicholas Ramos, Nicolas Carney, Bihn Wyman

*To find out more about this program in Barnstable, email Lynore Frew, Coordinator at
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THANK YOU FOG!

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2016

After 10 years of successful fundraising, the Friends of Gateway non-profit organization (FOG) will be dissolved at the end of this school year. Founded in 2005 as a "booster" group, the Friends of Gateway objectives were to support the Gateway Program's mission of providing **"Gifted and Talented Education With ALL Youth"** to students in the Barnstable Public Schools.

With support from the school administration, and all the hard work of Gateway staff past and present, the Gateway Program has evolved over time to meet and exceed today's educational needs and best methods. Thanks to the on-going teacher training the Gateway Program provides, more students now receive Gateway services than ever before. However, these services are fully funded by the school district, and as a result of the evolution of the Gateway Program, FOG's mission also changed.

Over the last few years, the FOG board has had many discussions as to its increasingly limited role in supporting the Gateway Program. The bulk of fundraising activities benefited competitive teams headed to international competitions, such as Destination Imagination and Future Problem Solvers of America, which are just a small part of Gateway's many activities. In 2014, in keeping with Gateway's goal to serve as many students as possible (and at the urging of the FOG board) the former Director of the Gateway Program, Karen Murphy, moved to establish the Barnstable Destination Imagination program as a new extracurricular activity open to all students, regardless of their participation in the Gateway Program.

Over the past year, the board of the Friends of Gateway has met to discuss the best path forward. We have determined that our original mission and the Gateway Program itself have changed so much over the last decade that we are no longer serving the purpose for which FOG was formed. As a result, the board has voted to dissolve the organization and disburse all funds held by FOG directly to the Gateway Program as a means of benefiting all Gateway students. We have full faith in the leadership of Director Kari Morse and know that the Gateway Program will continue to flourish under her guidance.

The Friends of Gateway board would also like to thank former Directors Linda Tetrault and Karen Murphy; each member of the current and former Gateway staff; and all of the former board members and parents of Gateway students for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the students in the Barnstable Public Schools.

Rick Bsharah
Amy Canaday
Stacey Locasio
Karen Murphy
Stuart Rapp
Peter O'Toole

