

TERRAPIN TIMES

Grow. Learn. Thrive Together.



Upcoming Events

- ✦ 12/14 - 12/18 Distribution of Report Cards
- ✦ 12/18 Holiday Sing
- ✦ 12/23 Last Day (Regular Dismissal) - **No after school**
- ✦ 01/05 Students Return
- ✦ 01/07 School Tour 7:30 - 8:30 am
- ✦ 01/12 School Site Council 5:15 pm
- ✦ 01/12 Parent Council 6:30 pm
- ✦ 01/18 No School: Martin Luther King, Jr Day

A Peek Behind Ms. Cheryl's Desk

- ✦ Please check our child's backpack **daily** for important flyers and announcements.
- ✦ There will be no after school on December 23rd. Please make arrangements to pick up your child at 4:10. Thank you!

Before & After School

Seasons Greetings Manning Community, Thank You for a wonderful turn out at the Candy House Competition. Your support is greatly appreciated. Enjoy your vacation Happy Holidays and Happy New Year !



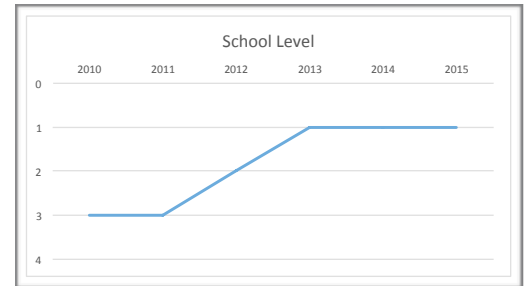
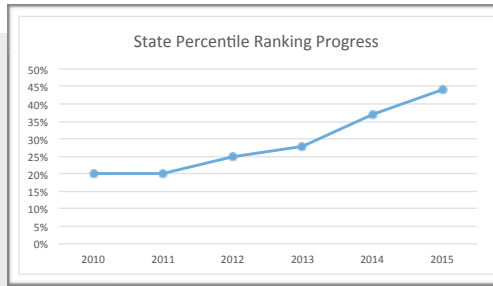
From Mr. dB...

Happy Holidays! On behalf of the staff here at the Manning, we wish every member of our school community a holiday season filled with health and happiness. We are so excited to ring in 2016 here at the Manning! Teachers in all grades have been implementing new curricula this school year. In all grades, K-5, a new math curriculum has been introduced, titled EngageNY. This new curriculum integrates the Common Core standards and focuses on mathematical reasoning, which ties to our instructional focus of providing evidence. You should be seeing student work that is focused not only on computation, but explaining reasoning as well!

In grades 3-5 Expeditionary Learning is our new ELA curriculum. This curriculum focuses on creating student engagement with high interest topics. Each unit is balanced in both fiction and nonfiction, and students learn to close-read texts and write about their reading. Please see the family resource section on the next page for support in our new curricula.

Lastly, our PARCC data has been released and is on the DESE website. Overall, we did great! In ELA, 64% of all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 achieved a Level 4 or 5, which is meeting or exceeding expectations. This is significantly higher than the district at 37.7% and 58% for the state! In Math, 61% of our students scored at Level 4 or 5, compared to 36.4% for the district and 52.7% for the state! Below are visuals of how the Manning has performed in the state in the last 6 years:





Did You Know?

In January, we will begin implementing our newly created Behavior Expectations. Each week will focus on a different area of the school to teach and model expected behaviors. Attached to this newsletter is the Expectations document that will be taught to students.

Family Resources

BPS Transportation:

BPS Transportation Hotline: (617) 635-9520

Where's My Bus? App:

visit schoolbus.bostonpublicschools.org

EngageNY Family Resource:

<https://www.engageny.org/parent-family-library>

A library of different types of resources in relation to EngageNY curriculum and Common Core Standards.

Expeditionary Learning:

commoncoresuccess.ededucation.org

The website for the EL curriculum. You can see how the curriculum was developed as well as exemplar student work.

Connect with Us!

@JPMANNINGSCHOOL



The learning that happens at the Manning is truly exceptional!

With great appreciation,
Mr. dB

Classroom Corner

In grade 5, students have had an exciting school year! The Manning Seniors have been working very hard to learn coding and robotics with Dash and Dot robots. Because of this dedicated work, the classroom was selected to have a special visit from a computer programmer from Aldebaran Robotics and Nao the robot. Jack the computer programmer was impressed with the students' understanding of robotic programming. The students were able to make connections and apply what they have learned from Dash and Dot to the sophisticated Nao robot. In addition to seeing Nao dance to Thriller, we programmed him to wave and say hello among other actions. Although reading, writing, and math are foundational subjects in our classroom, making connections with those subjects to technology and engineering are bridging 5th graders to be 21st century learners.



Parent Council Update

Parent Council was held on December 8 at 6:30. Ms. Capizzi, one of our 4th grade teachers, was invited to share her learning from the Understanding by Design professional development that was funded from Parent Council. Ms. Capizzi illustrated the importance of using the concept of Understanding by Design and showed the implications of planning units this way. Fundraising was also discussed, both a summary of what has already happened this year and what is coming up. Equal Exchange is happening now in our community, please participate! Lastly, the Parent Council is looking for volunteers to run stations for Craft Night on February 5! If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Louisa Dowal: louisa.dowal@gmail.com or 631-513-9530.

School Site Council Update

Four very important topics were discussed at Site Council this month: the Quality

School Plan (QSP), PARCC data, Earlier start time, and the initial proposed budget from Central Office.

The QSP is a document created by administration of the Manning that focuses on where we will work together to improve our school. In September, we shared with you in the newsletter that our instructional focus is focused on evidence based writing. The QSP goes into detail about how we are improving our practice in this area.

Mr. Db is working with transportation to work out a plan for an earlier start time next year. There are a few different proposals, but we need our Manning community to come together to advocate! There are three main people who you can call or email to help advocate for our school. They are:

Superintendent Tommy Chang	617-635-9050	tchang@bostonpublicschools.org
Mayor Marty Walsh	617-635-4500	martywalsh@boston.gov
City Councilor Tito Jackson	617-635-3510	tito.jackson@boston.gov

Initial numbers for the budget have been released. At this point in time it looks as if we have a 5% cut to our budget due to cuts in the weights of student funding for special education students. We are working with our community to design a response to these cuts and think creatively to keep our resources.