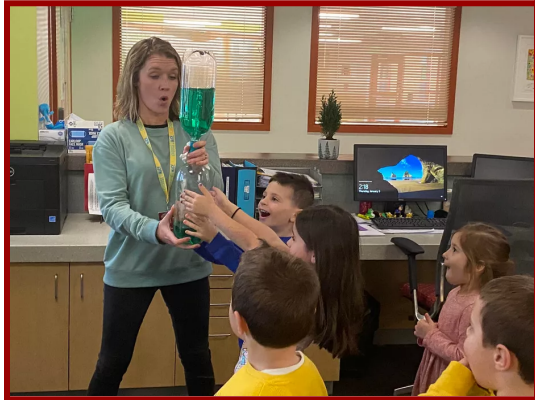


**Dedham Public Schools
Interim Superintendent's Update
January 18th, 2023
Day 83 of the 2022-2023 School Year**

Teaching and Learning



Hands on Learning in Science. Mrs. DeLong and her students excitedly explore changes in their tornado model as part of their BBS Weather and Sky Unit. It is one of several models used in this unit of study that focus on patterns and forces that cause various weather conditions and their impacts.

Elementary Literacy. Recently, students in Ms. Rusko's Grade 2 classroom used Geodes (decodable) texts to support Phonics learning. Students in 1F read the book "Library Cat" which is a book from the Geodes collection. Geodes are engaging picture books that are written to embed the phonics skills that students learn in the Wilson Foundations program. They are one of a kind books that simultaneously provide practice with phonics concepts while building content knowledge.



Fine Arts at Greenlodge. 5th-grade artists at Greenlodge working on their grid self-portraits, focusing on proportion and shading with an ebony pencil!

Applied Learning. DHS students apply their knowledge of quadratic equations. Mrs. Edwards asked her students to choose a height greater than 10 feet and to write a quadratic equation to model a ball dropped from that initial height. The equation was used to determine how long it should take a ball to fall from that height with no initial force. Pictured here, students measure the time it took the ball to fall the same distance. Students then reflected on the difference between their measurements and what they found using the quadratic equation as well as what would happen if the conditions changed, for example, if an initial velocity was included.



DELTA. DHS sophomores, juniors, and seniors participating in the DELTA class and program presented their findings based on an end of term project. The project required DHS students to choose a text to read to DELTA students and to develop an activity to accompany and complement the text. Today's presentations first asked DHS students to describe their book selection and the activity

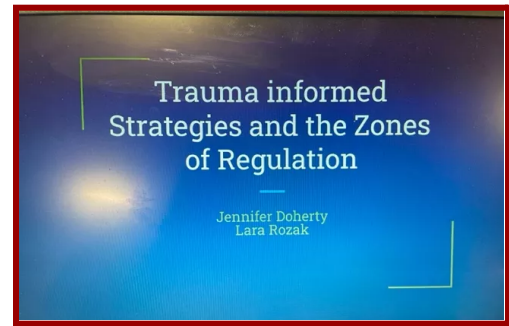
they developed. They then had to discuss how the lesson went, what they learned, what they would do differently in the future, and their takeaways from this semester-long course embedded in the District's DELTA program.

[Student Presentation 1](#) [Student Presentation 2](#) [Student Presentation 3](#)
[Student Presentation 4](#) [Student Presentation 5](#)

Professional Learning and Development

Social Emotional Learning and Self Regulation.

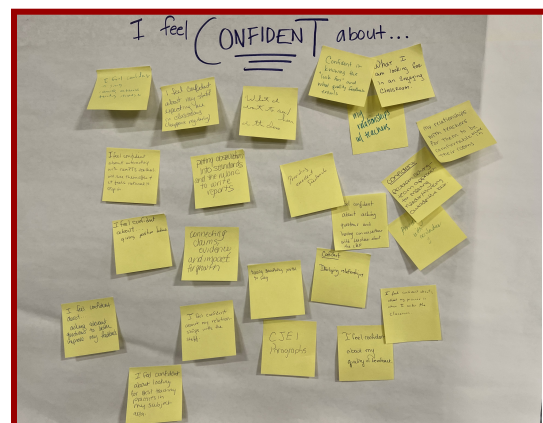
Lara Rozak, School Adjustment Counselor, and Jenn Doherty, School Psychologist, presented to Avery Staff during one of the District's building based PD meetings. This training focused on providing educators with tips and [tools](#) to successfully support students who may demonstrate challenges with school readiness, accessing learning, and engaging effectively with peers and adults.



Training and Coaching in

Mathematics. Professional learning in an elementary classroom, using the instructional practices of Math Workshop to engage students in mathematical discourse with rich and engaging tasks. Job embedded professional development, led by Dr Kobierski, with workshop trainers and instructional coaches (Michelle Canty shown here) continues to provide direct support to our educators and students.

Leadership Development. During our [District Leadership Team](#) meeting on 1.10.23, Dr. Smith led a positive and productive session focusing on the essential question, “How do we help educators improve their practice?” The leadership team discussed strategies for supporting educators. Dr. Smith’s [Presentation](#) is linked here if you would like to review.





Instructional Coaching and Leadership. Under the direction and guidance of Dr. Smith, the elementary instructional coaches have been meeting with teachers during common planning times to analyze student informational writing. Recently Instructional Coach Nina Mancinelli worked with the Gr 5 team at Oakdale to score student writing against the state rubrics.

Community Engagement

ELPAC. The Dedham ELPAC (English Language Parents Advisory Council) held a pizza party for students and families last week. It was an opportunity for families to connect and build relationships within our community. In addition to the fun and food, families had the chance to hear about the LEAP program from Alyssa Freda, Director of Extended School Day and Year Programming. In addition, EL Department Head Jen Robins and our amazing family liaisons made the District Curriculum Advisory's family communication survey available and supported participants in providing valuable feedback to the District.



MLK Community Celebration.

On Monday night DMS hosted the 6th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration. This amazing event is a product of the hard work and dedication of the [Human Rights Commission](#) and is truly a collaborative town wide effort. Local businesses, non-profits, town departments, and many, many others came together to enjoy an evening full of performances, speakers, and student showcases that honored the life and Legacy of Dr. King. Photo credit and sincere gratitude from the Interim Superintendent to DHS Junior Niko Fontaine for donating his time and expertise and for getting these images to me on very short notice!



Management and Operations

Bus Fleet Electrification

Recently our colleagues in Needham, Dover-Sherborn, and Medfield became aware of a technical assistance program through the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council \(MAPC\)](#). This team of leaders in partnership with local climate development councils decided to pursue potential grant funding to study the potential electrification of school bus/van fleets in the area. These leaders extended other local districts an opportunity to endorse this project and sign on to be a part of the study. This is a fantastic opportunity for Dedham to learn about potential efficiencies and further our goals to operate in a sustainable and climate friendly manner.

Cybersecurity

Dr. Langenhorst remains committed to the security of the District's sensitive data and the applications that we use to run the district. Recently the Swansea Public Schools were forced to cancel school due to the impact of a [ransomware attack \(another article here for your reference\)](#) on its network and systems. Dedicating time and energy to building our security infrastructure is more critical than ever and Dr. Langenhorst is no slouch. A high level summary of his recent work to ensure our faculty and staff understand threats to cybersecurity and that they are applying best practice in their day to day work in Dedham can be found [here](#).