



# Pathfinder News

.....

Welcome to our first edition of the Pathfinder News! The purpose of this publication is for families to have an update of units and current happenings in your student's core subject classes (Math, Science, & Humanities).

With this communication between home and school, families can continue conversations that Pathfinders are already having in class about course work and their overall understanding of the material in class. We hope that we can build a bridge between home and school, so we can all keep students accountable for their learning and continued efforts while in school with continuous support from the adults in their lives.

We hope our teacher and student-created publication is helpful and informative.

***“If you’re walking down the right path and you’re willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress.”***

**-Barack Obama**

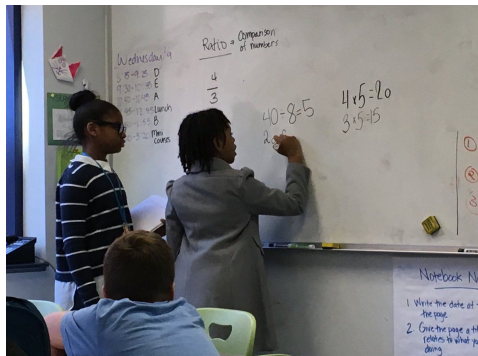


By Ms. Ironside, Ms. Ko, and Ms. Grieco

.....

## TOP STORIES

## Collaboration in Math



by Nancy Ironside

Pathfinders have been working on collaboration in math. Using a rubric that is framed around our Core Values, students are learning to ask meaningful questions of each other prior to asking for help from a teacher. Another goal is to contribute ideas to the group that will move the solution forward. The overarching theme is to try more math and become more independent problem solvers.

Each week, students reflect on their progress using the rubric. It has been exciting to see goals set and growth made. Be sure to ask at home how the work is going. You might also look for ways your student can implement some of the practices at home. For example, are they presenting a possible solution to you rather than simply asking for your input? Are they valuing the contributions that others make to a discussion? You can also check their weekly progress in Google Classroom, where we collaboratively decide on the students' weekly points.

In addition to collaboration, Pathfinders are also working on developing mathematical proficiency and practice through exercises in Khan Academy. It's a good idea to ask kids to show their progress. Our goal is to try again and again if we don't reach an 86% on the first go around. Khan Academy completion is part of the overall math grade, so it is important that kids login daily to make sure they are caught up with all assignments.

### Math Classwork Rubric

<b>Inquiry</b>	Student asks meaningful questions about the task to prepare. Questions asked while they are working enhance the investigation.
<b>Collaboration</b>	All group members are involved in problem solving. Everyone's ideas are taken into consideration. Student makes a contribution to the discussion.
<b>Process</b>	Group gets started on the problem without assistance. The group has a plan of some sort before calling the teacher over. Groups persevere through problem solving.
<b>Research</b>	Student uses their resources (notes, internet) for any information they don't have or can't remember.
<b>Knowledge</b>	Student appropriately applies skills learned in class, other groups methods and previous knowledge to the problem.
<b>Comments :</b>	

Developing the mathematical practices of trying and asking questions will enable students to become thoughtful learners, deep thinkers and productive members of classrooms and communities. I am personally very excited to see more kids thinking, wondering, trying and doing!

# Humanities Updates

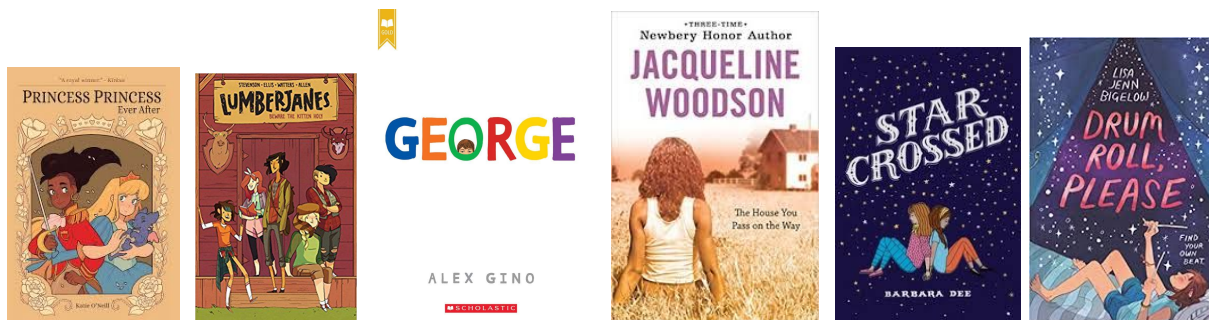
by Sarah Bower-Grieco

The second half of the school year is off to a great start in Pathfinder humanities. Students voted to begin a further study of LGBTQ rights in our country after our current event and museum project. Students expressed a need for individuals to feel accepted, heard and safe in our communities, and therefore This study began in Unit Four with a personal journey where Pathfinders narrated their own 'single' and 'other' stories. This gave students the opportunity to recognize assumptions we often make of others and that others make of us.

Currently, in Unit Five, Pathfinders are progressing through a novel study with a small group and reading one of several LGBTQ middle school novels while practicing specific writing skills. Students are practicing summarizing, predicting, analysis, connecting, and discussion techniques, but are also developing an age-appropriate understanding about how to become allies for themselves and others.

Each novel follows a middle schooler grappling with personal questions and peer challenges regarding their own identity. Our Pathfinders are building compassion while discussing the struggles that these characters face.

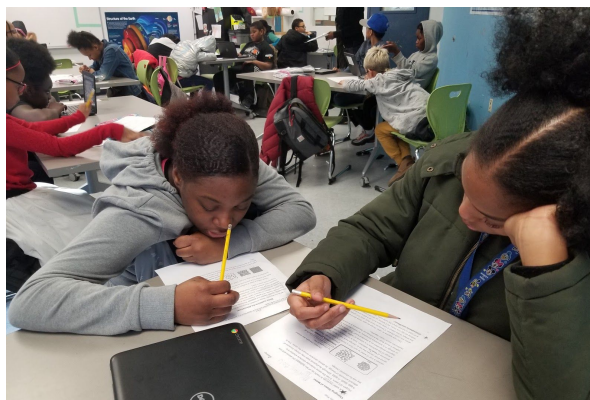
While completing the novel groups are compiling a budgeted list of books that they would like to see on our classroom bookshelves. Within groups, students are researching books that have a variety of diverse characters, authors, and subject matter that will spark conversation and kindness throughout the building.



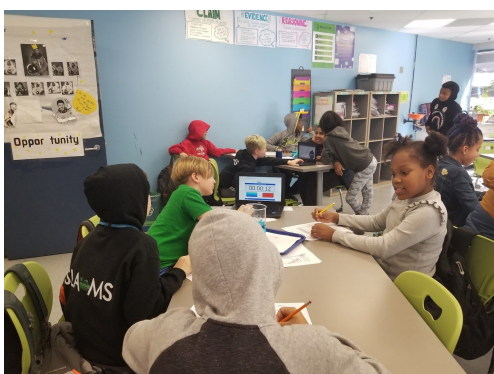
## Science Updates

by Eunice Ko

Pathfinder scientists have been learning about the Earth's atmosphere. This is a special unit written by Ms. Potts as a part of her Ph.D. studies. I'm excited to say that our students are among the first to be receiving instruction in this way and hope that you would allow them to participate in the study. Through this research, other schools will be able to benefit from the learning tools which we are implementing at SLAMS. You can fill out a permission form [here](#).



This unit we will explore how the atmosphere keeps us alive and the convection currents that maintain a climate where we can survive. The focus of our unit is to develop scientific writing skills through a claim, evidence, and reasoning. We are using the core value of research through lab activities, videos, and readings and presenting this research through our writing.



What we think or assume may not be true: through this unit, our goal is to see students using facts and data to prove their point of view to others. This is an important skill for communicating with others, but for students to start making claims about their opinions and perspectives on real-world problems.

---

## Recess Options

by Cheeto Phan, Kamyla Aponte, and Sam LaBlanc

During recess, students are encouraged to take a break and get rid of all their energy to get ready for the classes to come. Recess is 30 minutes long along with lunch that is also 30 minutes long. Unlike other schools, our school lets us have a 1-hour break. If students have things to catch up on they sometimes choose this time to do it. Some kids use this time to release any energy that they have.

Common things that people or students do is put their hands on other people. That has started problems at school and it is something that people shouldn't do. A lot of times at recess people play with a football outside and they get too aggressive and others get hurt. This is something we shouldn't do at recess. When we are at recess everyone is supposed to have fun

and get their energy out, but we can't if we aren't doing the right thing. Remember that this is time for students to talk and relax. Keep it kind and positive.

The following are some things that students can do to relax and spend time with friends during recess:

- Bring in games and activities for people to do to with others.
- Draw or color
- Play a game together on a Chromebook.

## SLAMS Girls Basketball: Our Undefeated Season

by Stella Vicelli and Sydney Ramseur-Williams

### **About Us**

Hello, we are Stella and Sydney and we are part of the SLA-MS girls' basketball team. Our teammates' names are Sydney R-W, Stella Viscelli, Marissa Phann, Maya Phann, Ahderah Plowden, Ciani Carter, Symphany Hinson, Zayeriah Davido, Naomi Goins, and Carryn Ealsey.

The teams that we played are Greenfield, Penn Alexander, MYA, OEC, Friends Select, The Philadelphia School, Fell, Shipley, and Penrose. After facing these teams, we won against all of them, we are 11-0. The way we get to these games is we take public transportation like the subway, and bus or even walk.

### **Why we like to play on the girls' team?**

We love playing on the girl's basketball team. It is so much fun! We all play and have a great time when we are playing. All the girls on the team are great. They are all pleasant to be around.

### **About Coach G**

Coach G is also our health/gym teacher. He also coaches the boy's team. He comes to all the games. He is really happy the girls have an undefeated season. He is an awesome coach/gym/health teacher. He also has two awesome cats, named Weasley and Minerva.

# Rover Collaborations

by Manny Wright, Julius Pommels and Elijah Alexis

## What is a rover project :

Hi, we're SLAMS students and we're going to tell you what Rover is all about.

In Rover, we do projects on things and that we are interested in learning about. We also get to learn how to cite where we got our information and pictures from.



## Pros and cons in rover:

Rover is awesome. Nothing is perfect though. There are some hard things in Rover class. There are also some easy things in Rover. I will give you a list of pro and cons.

### Cons:

- ❖ Reading
- ❖ Some presentations
- ❖ You can't eat in class

### Pros:

- ❖ You can choose your own topic
- ❖ Some presentations
- ❖ You can write your own stories
- ❖ You can work in groups.

## How to make a good rover project

To make a good rover project you need to:

1. Have a rover question a rover question is a question that is based on your the topic you are going to study and research.
2. You will also need some way to present the project. Some ways to present a project are by doing a poster, slideshow, or documents.

These are ways to make good rover projects.

## **Rover project shoutouts:**

Here are some of the Rover projects that students have completed:

1. The Mandela effect
2. Parakeets
3. All about Marcus Perez
4. Evolution of video games
5. Why does soda have bubbles?
6. Can you die from a paper cut?
7. Why do we snore?
8. Wolverines (not the superhero)
9. What is scratch?
10. The Mueller Investigation