



Middle School Newsletter

Engagement, Assessment,
and Reflection—



creates the pathway to our
learning success!

From: Dr. Flaherty
Week of: December 10, 2018
dflaherty@masconomet.org

December 2018

<i>Monday, December 10</i>	Delayed Opening; 10:05 a.m. F Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, December 11</i>	A Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. STEM Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 12	B Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. MS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m./Auditorium
Thursday, December 13	C day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Math Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Holiday Movie Night 6:30 p.m./Auditorium
Friday, December 14	D day	

Messages from Principal Flaherty: Join Us on Twitter @Masco_Principal

MS Student Council Toy Drive

The Middle School Student Council is currently collecting toys for their annual **Holiday Toy Drive!** Students are working hard to collect as many toys as they can to donate to the **Pathway's For Children Head Start Program**. In addition, the Student Council members will be hosting a **Holiday Movie Night on December 13th** to raise money and toys for the event. The movie night will take place in the Masco Auditorium from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and admission will be \$5 or a toy of similar value (preferably a toy!). All proceeds will go towards purchasing toys to donate to the Pathway's school in Beverly.

Thank a Teacher with a Recognition Certificate

Did a favorite teacher make your child's transition to Masco an easy one? Did your child land on just the right team for his or her needs? Thank your favorite teachers and staff members with a Recognition Certificate from Masconomet Education Foundation (MEF). For a \$10 donation to MEF, your favorite Masco staff member(s) will receive a personalized certificate(s) with a message from you. And all proceeds will go to granting teacher requests for curriculum enhancements. It's a win-win!

To purchase certificates, go to <http://masconometeducationfoundation.org/recognition-awards/> Order by December 14 to ensure that the certificate reaches your teacher(s) in time.

MS Musical

Please see below for the audition information for the MS Musical coming up in early January!

2018 Holiday Gift Book Recommendations

See the attachment below for Mrs. Green's recommendations for great gift book ideas for all the young people on your holiday shopping list. Help raise our Masco Million numbers by giving the gift of a book this year!

Math Team

The Masco MS Math team had their second meet at Rockport this past Thursday. The two starting teams entered came in first and second in the meet. Team 1 scored a total of 184 points, which is a Masconomet record! Team 2 got a score of 160 points for a 2nd place finish. There were two 8th grade top scorers at the meet Evan Zeltsar and Henry Liu both scoring 18 points! The top scoring seventh grader was Joey Ellard with a score of 16 points. Congratulations Masconomet math team. The next meet will be January 17th at Hamilton Wenham!

Washington DC Trip

The Washington, DC trip returns in 2019! We are excited to announce that the class of 2024 will have the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia and Washington November 20-23, 2019. On December 18, before their field trip to see *A Christmas Carol*, 7th grade students will be introduced to the trip and will bring home an information packet. There will be a parent meeting January 7, 2019 in the Auditorium to outline the trip and address any questions. Mark your calendars!

Team Time

The 8 White Team had the students write holiday cards to someone that may not receive a lot of holiday mail. They could write a card to one of the following people. They will be delivering the cards to their respective places by the end of the week.

1. Troops overseas
2. Underprivileged children
3. Sick Children
4. Elderly
5. Teachers



Register Now for Tribal 2019 Spring Lacrosse

Do not miss out! Register now for Tribal Lacrosse (Boys and Girls, grades K -8, from Boxford, Topsfield and Middleton). While best efforts will be made to accommodate all players who register prior to the January 15, 2019 registration deadline, we strongly encourage families to register early, as we will be closing registration for age groups as they become full. After January 15, 2019, a late fee of \$50 will be applied to all registrations and players will be waitlisted if teams are full. To register, go to www.triballax.org

Private School Applications

Any student applying to a private school should stop by the Guidance Office to pick up a packet outlining the Masconomet guidelines for the application process. This packet contains a checklist, a student activity form and the Masconomet deadlines for return.

Masco Millions:

Great job teams on posting pages this week! Teams have been wonderful at entering pages from all types of reading and it shows in our weekly results. Please continue to encourage your child to enter pages read from their textbooks, short stories, or any other reading they do in class.

Our school goal this year for Masco Million is to read collectively 1,000,000 pages. These figures represent the numbers logged in by 3:30 PM Thursday, December 5, 2018.

Team	Week Total	Total
7 Blue	1,222	76,327
7 Red	2,323	96,961
7 White	1,321	106,923
8 Blue	451	78,693
8 Red	3,546	79,446
8 White	0	73,411

Upcoming Dates of Importance

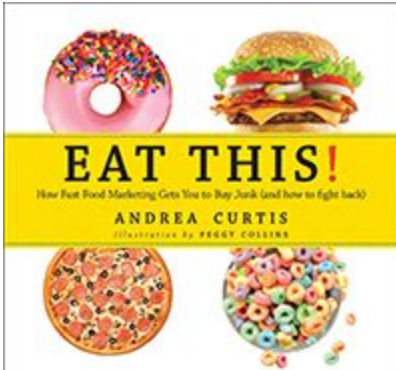
December 21,2018	School Closes at Regular Hour
December 24,2018 - January 1, 2019	School Closed for Holiday Vacation HW FREE VACATION
January 2, 2019	School Reopens
January 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Day, No School
January 22, 2019	MS Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.

January 24, 2019	Trimester 2 Midpoint
January 25, 2019	Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
January 28, 2019	Staff Work Day, No School for students

2018 Holiday Gift Book Suggestions

(Reviews are from professional journals on the Barnes & Noble website.)

Non-Fiction



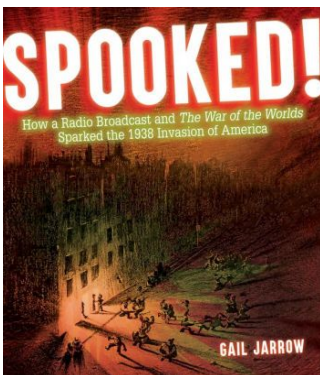
Eat This! – Curtis, Andrea (2018) **Advertising, Food Labels**

“Tackling everything from sports figures on cereal boxes to product placement, this slim volume serves up easily digestible chapters to get readers thinking about how ‘kidvertising’ impacts their choices, health, and wallets. Addressing labels, serving sizes, false claims, and movements such as junk-food-free checkouts, the book will help tweens and teens become better consumers of both facts and food.”



The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot To Kill Hitler - Hendrix, John (2018) **World War II, Spies, Biography**

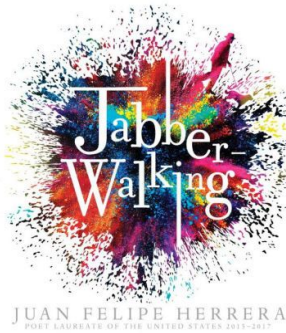
“This boldly colorful, highly graphic hybrid piece of nonfiction is at once a biography of the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, an account of the Nazi rise to power, and a scathing look at the German church and its response to Hitler’s tyranny. Hendrix brings Bonhoeffer’s words and teachings to life for a new generation of young people concerned with moral authority and justice for all.”



Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America. - Jarrow, Gail (2018) **Radio Broadcast, H. G. Wells, Fake News**

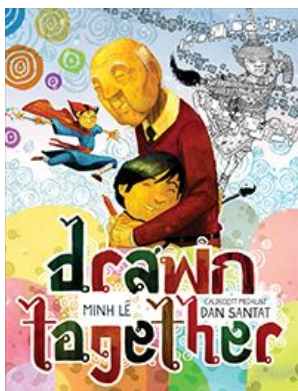
“On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was in fact a radio drama based on H. G. Wells's ‘War of the Worlds,’ performed by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre players.

Some listeners became angry once they realized they had been tricked, and the reaction to the broadcast sparked a national discussion about fake news, propaganda, and the role of radio. In this compelling nonfiction chapter book, Gail Jarrow explores the production of the broadcast, the aftermath, and the concept of fake news in the media.”



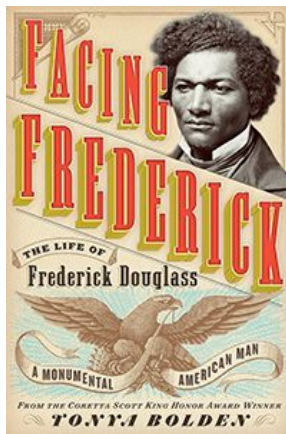
Jabberwalking – Herrera, Juan Felipe (2018) **Poetry, Adventure**

“Herrera summons the figure of the Jabber Walker, the scribble-happy bard ‘with eyes of fire’ in this dynamic, poetry-filled, autobiographical exercise in being a bona fide poet. Through tactile and sensory language, which begs to be read aloud or even performed, he offers guidance by example on how to craft poetry and ‘make all life so beautiful your heart becomes a diamond-galaxy that shines out fast flickering, moving, turning on lights everywhere.’”



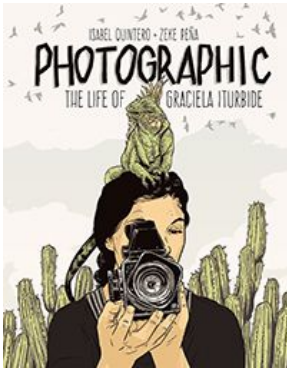
Drawn Together – Minh Lê, illus. by Dan Santat (2018) **Art, Storytelling, Family**

“Despite the many things that separate an elderly man and his grandson - age, language, food, and culture - the barriers dissolve instantly once the art supplies come out. Through their shared love of drawing and storytelling, the pair happily create new worlds and explore ways to communicate beyond words. This dynamic and fun-filled intergenerational story blends old-school and modern drawing styles and techniques to tell a whopper of a tale.”



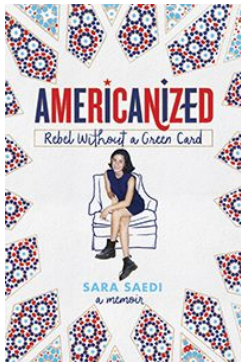
Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, a Monumental American Man – Abrams, Tonya Bolden (2018) **Biography**

“In examining the life of the most photographed man of the 19th century, author and historian Bolden goes beyond traditional accounts of the orator, abolitionist, newspaperman, women’s rights activist, and statesman, offering a full picture of a long life of accomplishments and a few notable failures. Bolden also shines a light on the paternalistic, often patronizing treatment of Douglass by some Northern abolitionists, and the man’s debilitating bouts with depression. An array of archival photos illustrate this meticulously researched book.”



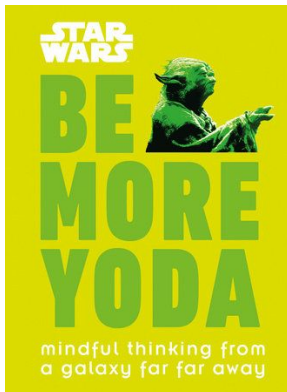
Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide – Quintero, Isabel, illus. by Zeke Peña Getty (2018) **Graciela Iturbide, Artist, Photojournalism**

“In this boldly imaginative, lyrical tribute to the life and work of the renowned Mexican photographer, Quintero explores the artist’s search for the ‘many angles of truth’ and the recurring images and symbols in Iturbide’s sometimes disturbing, always intriguing, intimate, black-and-white photos, ‘where unknown worlds, real and imagined, intersect.’ Monochromatic graphic panels mingle with Iturbide’s photos in a commanding examination of a restless spirit’s artistic vision.”



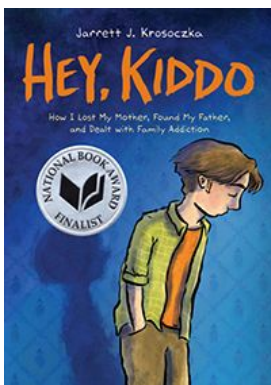
Americanized – Saedi, Sara (2018) **Memoir, Immigration**

“Saedi chronicles her long and winding road to U.S. citizenship: her family’s flight from Iran, her realization as a teen that they were undocumented immigrants, and the triumph of finally taking the oath of allegiance. Her self-deprecating memoir captures her adolescent angst, dispels pervasive myths about undocumented immigration, and evokes the joy and heartache of attaining the American dream.”



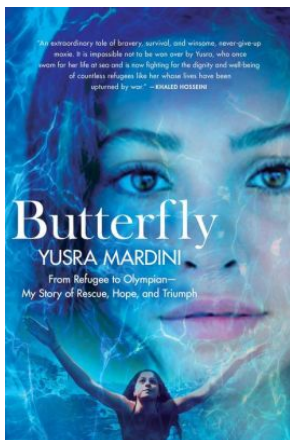
Star Wars: Be More Yoda – Blauvelt, Christian (2018) **Mindfulness**

“Pursue a more mindful life with words of wisdom from esteemed Star Wars™ mentors Yoda, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Luke Skywalker. A balanced mind. Inner calm. A positive influence on the world. A Jedi must embody all of these qualities in order to master the Force, but these same self-enlightenment skills can also help you to master a chaotic life in a galaxy much closer to home.”



Hey, Kiddo – Krosoczka, Jarrett J., illus. by author (2018) **Graphic Memoir**

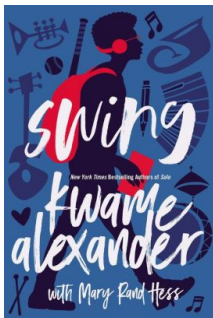
“After his family is split apart by his father’s alcohol problem, Louis tries to adjust to his new life of being shuffled back and forth between his parents, all the while searching for the courage to speak to his crush, a girl named Billie. Beautifully illustrated by Krosoczka, this graphic novel poignantly deals with topics such as divorce and alcohol abuse in an age-appropriate manner, perfect for middle grade readers, and portrays a young, male character with sensitivity, a welcome take on masculinity.”



Butterfly – Mardini, Yursa (2018) *Swimming, Memoir*

“Syrian Mardini was passionate about swimming and dreamed of becoming an Olympian. Her dream came true, but, as she recounts in this moving memoir, to achieve it, she had to follow an unlikely path. Growing up, she was coached by her father, idolized Michael Phelps, and was inspired by Malala Yousafzai. Then everything changed when she learned from her girlfriend on the school bus that protests were erupting, and cities across Syria were under siege. In 2015, when Mardini was just 14 years old, she and her sister, Sarah, fled their homeland and embarked on a harrowing journey through Turkey, Greece, Hungary, Austria, and Germany, where they were granted asylum. Their ordeal included crossing the Mediterranean in a faulty boat, forcing them to jump overboard and swim for more than three hours in frigid water. With remarkable perseverance, the sisters navigated their journey with the help of smugglers and a few journalists. In Germany, she renewed her focus on swimming and was named to the IOC Refugee Athletic Team for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.” “Teens who enjoyed reading, *I Am Malala* will find another heroine in this inspirational memoir of a Syrian swimmer who became an advocate for refugees.” —Brenda Barrera

Fiction



Swing - Alexander, Kwame and Mary Rand Hess (2018) *Realistic Fiction*

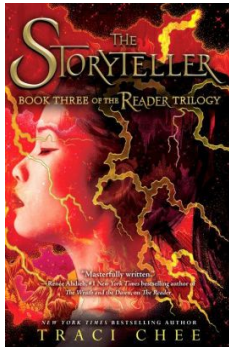
“When America is not so beautiful, or right, or just, it can be hard to know what to do. Best friends Walt and Noah decide to use their voices to grow more good in the world, but first they’ve got to find cool.

Walt is convinced junior year is their year, and he has a plan to help them woo the girls of their dreams and become amazing athletes. Never mind that he and Noah failed to make the high school baseball team yet again, and Noah’s love interest since third grade, Sam, has him firmly in the friend zone. Noah soon finds himself navigating the worlds of jazz, batting cages, the strange advice of Walt’s Dairy Queen-employed cousin, as well as Walt’s ‘Hug Life’ mentality.

“Status quo seems inevitable until Noah stumbles on a stash of old love letters. Each page contains the words he’s always wanted to say to Sam, and he begins secretly creating artwork using the lines that speak his heart. But when his private artwork becomes public, Noah has a decision to make: continue his life in the dugout and possibly lose the girl forever, or take a swing and finally speak out.

At the same time, numerous American flags are being left around town. While some think it’s a harmless prank and others see it as a form of peaceful protest, Noah can’t shake the feeling something bigger is happening to his community, especially after he witnesses events that hint divides and prejudices run deeper than he realized.

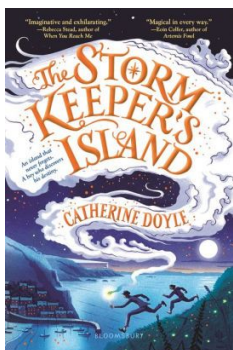
As the personal and social tensions increase around them, Noah and Walt must decide what is really true when it comes to love, friendship, sacrifice, and fate.”



The Storyteller – Chee, Traci (2018) **Fantasy, Mystery, Adventure**

“Sefia is determined to keep Archer out of the Guard's clutches and their plans for war between the Five Kingdoms. The Book, the ancient, infinite codex of the past, present, and future, tells of a prophecy that will plunge Kelanna in that bloody war, but it requires a boy - Archer - and Sefia will stop at nothing to ensure his safety. The Guard has already stolen her mother, her father, and her Aunt Nin. Sefia would sooner die than let them take anymore from her, especially the boy she loves.

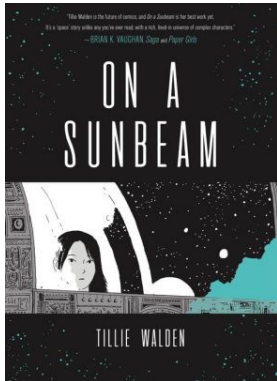
But escaping the Guard and the Book's prophecy is no easy task. After all, what is written always comes to pass. As Sefia and Archer watch Kelanna start to crumble to the Guard's will, they will have to choose between their love and joining a war that just might tear them apart. Full of magic, suspense, and mystery. ” **This is the thrilling conclusion to *The Reader*, *The Sea of Ink and Gold* series.**



The Storm Keeper's Island – Doyle, Catherine (2019) **Ancient Magic, Family Bonds, Bravery**

“Fionn Boyle comes from a long line of brave seafarers, people with the ocean behind their eyes, but he can't help but fear the open sea. For years, Fionn's mother has told him stories of Arranmore Island, a strange place that seems to haunt her. Fionn has always wondered about this mysterious island, and from the day he arrives, he starts noticing things that can't be explained. He can sense the island all around him, and it feels like the island is watching him, too.

Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come for his grandfather, a secretive and eccentric old man, to step down, but as Fionn and the other descendants of Arranmore's most powerful families fight to become the island's next champion, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling a long-ago war and changing Fionn's life and the island's future forever.” **For fans of *Harry Potter* or *Percy Jackson* series.** Pre-Order, book will be released on January 22, 201

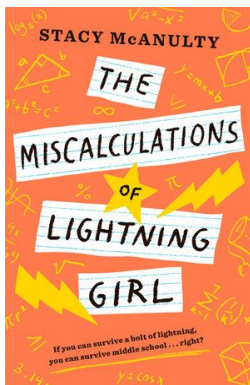


On A Sunbeam – Walden, Tillie (2018) **Science Fiction, Adventure, Graphic Novel**

“In this sprawling, wonderfully original space jaunt, the depicted characters are all female or gender non-binary, and the diverse protagonists inhabit cluttered and homey quarters aboard a fish-shaped starship.

Teenage Mia joins the close-knit crew of the spaceship *Aktis*, who travel the galaxy restoring old buildings that float untethered in open space. Flashbacks chronicle Mia’s freshman year at boarding school - bullies, sports, and all - and her doomed romance with the mysterious Grace. When Mia discovers her crewmates’ unexpected connection to Grace, the crew embarks on a

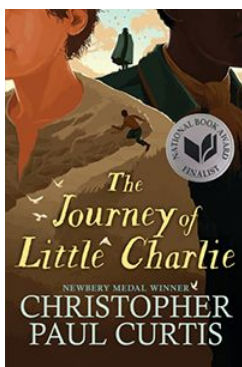
dangerous mission to a forbidden planet to find her.”



The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl – McAnulty, Stacy (2018) **Realistic Fiction, Math**

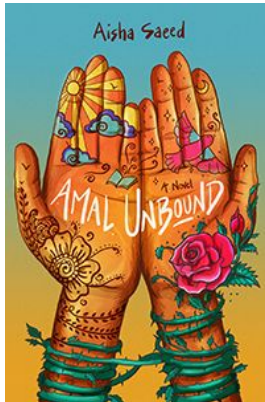
“You know how your parents tell you not to go swimming during a lightning storm? Apparently no one ever told Lucy not to go climbing any chain link fences, either. One minute she’s a normal 8-year-old and the next she’s been struck by lightning. The good news is that she survived it. The odd news is that it gave her superpowers. Okay, not really. She got left with a lot of neuroses and maybe some obsessive-compulsive disorders, but there was one upside. Lucy is now a certifiable math genius. Heck, she’s already passed the GED at home. With that taken care of, Lucy is ready to apply to all the best colleges. There’s only one snag

in the plan, Nana. Nana is convinced that Lucy needs some socialization, so the next thing she knows, she’s being packed off to the local middle school. As expected, it’s awful, but there are a couple silver linings. There’s Windy, the social activist with a big mouth who takes Lucy under her wing. There’s also Levi, the cynical photographer who can keep a secret. Math is easy for Lucy. Middle school is hard, friendships (and betrayals) harder, and ultimately deciding to stay or to go? That may turn out to be the most difficult problem of all.”



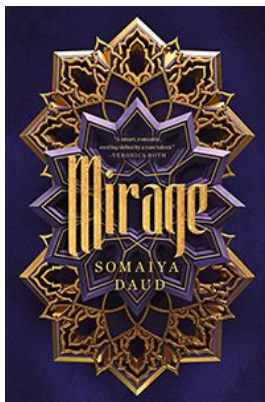
The Journey of Little Charlie - Curtis, Christopher Paul (2018) **Historical Fiction**

“Set in 1858 South Carolina, this stirring work follows Little Charlie, a young white boy who’s forced to help the sinister Cap’n Buck in his pursuit of several formerly enslaved individuals. In Curtis’s capable hands, what could have been a simplistic tale becomes a complex story of a boy’s moral awakening.”



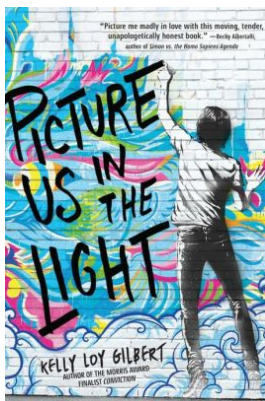
Amal Unbound – Saeed, Aisha (2018) **Realistic Fiction, Family, Pakistan Culture**

“Amal is an aspiring teacher in a Punjabi village in rural Pakistan, but the tween has to stay home to run the household while her mother recovers from postpartum depression. When she angers the local landlord, Amal must pay off her father’s debts by becoming an indentured servant to the corrupt man. Saeed’s rich, complex middle grade debut takes a nuanced look at the socioeconomics of modern Pakistan while sharing an empowering message about family, literacy, and culture.”



Mirage - Daud, Somaiya (2018) **Science Fiction, Fantasy**

“Romance, double identities, and political intrigue all combine in this hard-to-put-down debut. Through her incredible world-building, Daud explores space travel, the pervasive effects of colonialism, and the revolutionary power of indigenous poetry, language, and tradition in the face of an empire. Lyrical prose and fully developed characters will enrapture sci-fi/fantasy fans.”



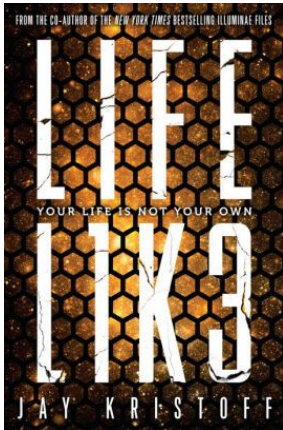
Picture Us in the Light – Gilbert, Kelly Loy (2018) **Art, Realistic Fiction, Romance**

“Danny Cheng is an artist and one of the least wealthy kids at Silicon Valley High School; when he gets a full scholarship to RISD, he pictures his ‘whole life radiating like a sunbeam out from this one point.’ But the sunbeam is shadowed by the guilt and grief that Danny, his best friend Harry, and Harry’s girlfriend feel about their friend Sandra’s death, and it fades entirely when his father’s job loss forces the family to move. The move dredges up secrets that Danny’s Chinese immigrant parents have been keeping and even threatens his college future. And the love story? It’s there, too, in the interstices, another secret that Gilbert handles subtly and surprisingly.”



People Like Us – Mele, Dana (2018) **Mystery, Psychological Thriller**

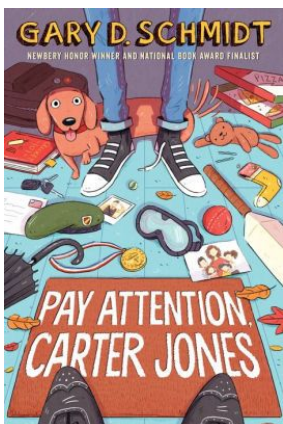
“Soccer captain Kay Donovan gets caught up in a game of murder and revenge in this sharp psychological thriller, Mele’s debut. Kay is at the center of a group of seniors who rule their girls’ boarding school. The girls find the body of fellow student Jessica Lane in a nearby lake, and as the school reels from her death, Kay receives an email, purportedly from Jessica, that forces her to expose her friends’ sins in order to keep her own secrets buried. As evidence mounts against Kay in Jessica’s apparent murder, the school turns against her, and Kay learns that cruelty does not go unrepaired. Feeling unmoored, Kay turns to Nola, a former target of the group’s bullying, but none of Kay’s relationships is without an agenda, and Kay finds herself in the killer’s sights.”



Life Lik3– Kristoff, Jay (2018) **Adventure, Fantasy**

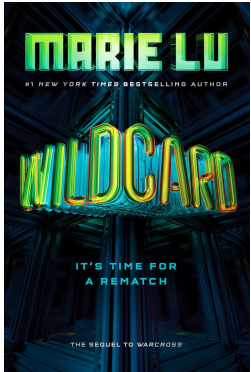
“Eve is a 17-year-old girl living in a post-apocalyptic world after a failed robot uprising. She spends her days working on fighting robots in an organized ‘robot wars’ competition. The teen is on the run from gangsters and loan sharks while trying to care for her ailing grandfather. The memories of her past are murky; all she knows is that the robot uprising changed her life forever. After a particularly brutal robot war battle, Eve and her best friend Lemon Fresh discover a handsome android named Ezekiel in a pile of rubble. Ezekiel is a special android called a ‘LIFEL1K3’ because they look exactly like humans.

Much to their surprise, the android comes to life and starts to interact with them, despite the fact that androids have been outlawed since their unsuccessful attempt at taking over humankind. Ezekiel holds the truth to what really happened with the robot uprising and may hold the key to Eve's lost memories. Kristoff has crafted a fast-paced adventure full of energy and verve that will leave readers breathless. Fans of such popular sci-fi movies like *Blade Runner* and *Mad Max: Fury Road* will devour this series opener and will wait on the edge of their seats for the next installment.”



Pay Attention, Carter Jones – Schmidt, Gary D. (2018) **Humorous, Family Life**

“Young Carter Jones opens the front door one morning to find an English butler on his doorstep. Sent to the Jones family by his late grandfather, Mr. Bowles-Fitzpatrick reforms the household with his wit, precision, and commitment to decorum. As Carter deals with his father's deployment, Mr. Bowles-Fitzpatrick also takes on the role of emotional caretaker and support for Carter. Together, they play cricket and learn that the rules of the game are also the rules for a healthy and happy life.” **Pre-Order**, book will be released on February 5, 2019.



Wildcard - Lu, Marie (2018) **Adventure, Technology**

"In the sequel to *WarCross*, Emika Chen, exempt from Hideo Tanaka's unleashed algorithm thanks to a lucky accident, is reeling from Hideo's betrayal and the knowledge that Zero, the hacker whom Hideo hired her to neutralize, is Hideo's long-missing brother, Sasuke, whose disappearance drives Hideo to create Warcross and the algorithm.

Having realized that the algorithm, meant to eliminate violence, may be causing people to commit suicide, Emika enters a tenuous partnership with Zero and the Blackcoats, a secret organization working to destroy the algorithm, and attempts to gain access to it by winning Hideo's trust. Though Emika maintains her moral center, she struggles to do right as the virtual world crosses into reality and becomes personal: 'There's a point where the lines start to blur, and I am standing in that place now, struggling to see through the gray.'" **WarCross Series #2.**



Black Wings Beating – London, Alex (2018) **Fantasy, Romance, Falconry**

"The people of Uztar have long looked to the sky with hope and wonder. Nothing in their world is more revered than the birds of prey and no one more honored than the falconers who call them to their fists.

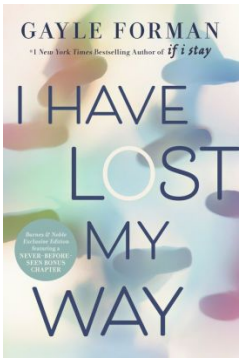
Brysen strives to be a great falconer, while his twin sister, Kylee, rejects her ancient gifts for the sport and wishes to be free of falconry. She's nearly made it out, too, but a war is rolling toward their home in the Six Villages, and no bird or falconer will be safe.

Together the twins must journey into the treacherous mountains to trap the Ghost Eagle, the greatest of the Uztari birds and a solitary killer. Brysen goes for the boy he loves and the glory he's long craved, and Kylee to atone for her past and to protect her brother's future, but both are hunted by those who seek one thing: power."



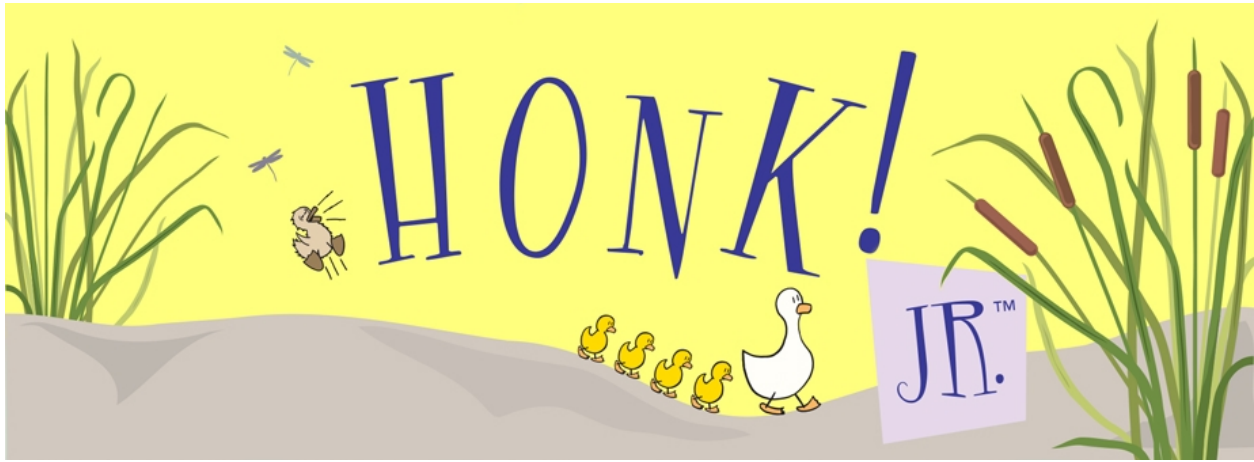
What If It's Us – Albertalli, Becky and Adam Silvera (2018) **Realistic Fiction**

"Arthur and Ben have the ultimate meet-cute at a post office where Ben is mailing out his boyfriend's things and the two of them get separated after a crazy flash mob takes over, but the universe gives them a chance to meet again, which makes them wonder if it's fate telling them to get together or not."



I Have Lost My Way – Forman, Gayle (2018) **Realistic Fiction**

“Around the time that Freya loses her voice while recording her debut album, Harun is making plans to run away from home to find the boy that he loves, and Nathaniel is arriving in New York City after a family tragedy leaves him isolated on the outskirts of Washington state. After the three of them collide in Central Park, they slowly reveal the parts of their past that they haven't been able to confront, and together, they find their way back to who they're supposed to be.”



PERFORMANCES

Friday, May 3, 2019 7 pm
Saturday, May 4, 2019 7 pm

AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Workshop

Tuesday, January 8, 3-4:30pm
Thursday, January 10, 3-4:30pm

Students are required to attend ONE of the two workshops listed above. At the workshop, students will learn about the show and the rehearsal process, as well as learn the music and scenes required for the audition.

Auditions

Monday, January 14, 3-5pm
Tuesday, January 15, 3-5pm
Thursday, January 17, 3-5pm

Students must sign-up for ONE of the above dates on the sign-up sheet outside my office, C1501 (next to the middle school chorus room). Auditions will consist of singing a selection from the show, performing a scene or monologue, and a short dance audition. Students will be at the audition for the entire time, ending at 5pm.

Students must bring the following to their audition:

1. Clothes they can move in.
2. Completed and signed audition form.*
3. Completed and signed medical form.
4. Completed and signed activity registration (if not already done).
5. \$100 activity fee (if not already paid).

*Audition form should **list ALL known conflicts** for the entirety of the production (January 22-May 4).

*Audition form should be **signed by both student and parent.**

ABOUT HONK, JR.

Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters and finds out being different is not a bad thing to be.

Honk! Jr. is a heartwarming celebration of being different that is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit, unique charm and memorable score. Witty and hilarious, but also deeply moving, *Honk! Jr.* will treat you to equal amounts of laughter and tears.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

LEADING ROLES

Drake

Ida's husband. Drake is a sarcastic character. He is the stereotypical sitcom father - often shirking his parental duties. Drake finds Ugly quite repulsive and isn't afraid to say it to anyone, including his wife. He should have good comic timing and a strong singing voice. Drake opens the show singing "A Poultry Tale."

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: Baritone/Tenor/Medium Low

Ida

Ugly's mom. Ida is extremely protective of her son and committed to his safety. She is sweet but feisty, and she knows how to handle her husband, Drake. After Ugly is lured away from the barnyard by the Cat, Ida is determined to find him. Ida and Ugly's relationship is a key ingredient of the show. She is the one who teaches him that it is OK to be different. Ida sings several solos.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: Mezzo-Soprano/Middle Low

Maureen

A moorhen and Ida's best friend. (Originally found on the moors, a moorhen is a hen that lives near the water.) Maureen genuinely loves Ida, but she can't resist a bit of good gossip. To the little ducklings, she is the typical annoying and overly affectionate "aunt." Maureen sings "The Joy of Motherhood" with Ida.

Gender: Female

Vocal range: Mezzo-Soprano/Middle Low

Ugly

The ugly duckling and the main character of *Honk! Jr.* Innocent, easily confused and very impressionable, Ugly doesn't understand why it's wrong to be different. However, their insecurities melt away as they gradually change from a gullible duckling to a wise swan, filled with self-esteem. They are the heart and soul of the show.

Gender: Any

Vocal range: Tenor/Mezzo-Soprano/Medium High

The Cat

The sly, cunning villain of the show. All of the other animals are deathly afraid of them. They are manipulative, cunning, witty and above all, HUNGRY. The Cat pretends to be Ugly's friend so they can eat him. The actor playing this role should bring a sense of fun to the character and have a good sense of comic timing. They sing a few songs, but the character allows for many of the lyrics to be "talk-sung." Improv skills are a plus.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: Baritone/Alto/Middle Low

Greylag

A somewhat pompous goose and washed-up British military type, Greylag tends to over glorify his mundane activities (i.e. migrating South) to the level of military operation status. Only his wife, Dot, truly knows how to handle him. He sings a solo in "Wild Goose Chase."

Gender: Male

Vocal range: Baritone/Middle Low

Dot

A motherly type, she is genuinely concerned with helping Ugly find his mother. Dot doesn't think that Greylag, her husband, is an entirely capable leader, but she kindly humors his "over the top" actions. She sings solo as well as with Greylag in "Wild Goose Chase."

Gender: Female

Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano/Middle

The Bullfrog

A laidback, self-confident frog with whom Ugly comes into contact in the second half of the show. The frog cheers Ugly up with their song, "Warts and All." Optimistic and funny, they're a stand-up comedian type of character, well-suited to someone with good improvisational skills and comic timing.

Gender: Any

Vocal range: Baritone/Mezzo/Middle

SECONDARY ROLES

Beaky, Fluff, Billy, Downy

Beaky, Fluff, Billy, Downy are Ugly's siblings. They are among the "popular" ones in the duck yard who enjoy making Ugly feel left out. They sing as a group.

Gender: Any

The Turkey

The headmaster of the ducklings' school. The Turkey is a bit snobbish and joins in the fun of teasing Ugly. There is of course one word that sends shivers down their spine - THANKSGIVING! The Turkey sings with a small group in "Look at Him".

Gender: Any

Grace

The most distinguished duck on the lake. Very aristocratic, she is considered the queen of the duck yard. All of the other animals look up to Grace and respect her. She, of course, is quite aware of this and is therefore a little bit haughty. Grace sings with a small group in "Look at Him".

Gender: Female

Henrietta

A hen and another of Maureen's friends. Henrietta and Maureen gossip about the goings on in the duck yard. She takes great pleasure in making fun of Ugly. Henrietta sings with a small group in "Look at Him".

Gender: Female

Jay Bird

An investigative reporter. A very "in your face" bird, all they care about is getting a good story. They are the typical TV news personality who one would find on a reality TV show like "America's Most Wanted." They report a story about Ugly's disappearance.

Gender: Any

Barnacles, Snowy & Pinkfoot

The geese in Greylag's "squad." They join in singing "Wild Goose Chase."

Gender: Any

Penny

The young, beautiful swan that Ugly saves from a tangled fishing net. They are able to see beyond Ugly's looks and loves them for who they are. They do not sing a solo.

Gender: Any

Mother Swan

Penny's mother. She helps to console Ida when she thinks her son has died, and offers to take Ugly with them when they migrate. She does not sing a solo.

Gender: Female

Father Swan

Penny's father. He helps to console Ida when she thinks her son has died, and offers to take Ugly with them when they migrate. He does not sing a solo.

Gender: Male

Bewick

Penny's sibling. They help to console Ida when she thinks her son has died, and they offer to take Ugly with them when they migrate. They do not sing a solo.

Gender: Any

Boy/Girl

Two of three humans in the show. They are never seen by the audience, only their voices are heard. These voices may be pre-recorded or said live from backstage during the show.

Gender: Any

The Farmer

One of three humans in the show. They are never seen by the audience, only their voices are heard. These voices may be pre-recorded or said live from backstage during the show.

Gender: Any

Ensemble

Throughout the action of the play, ensemble members take on roles as barn yard animals, geese, children at play, froglets, and are part of the Blizzard scene.

Honk! Jr. Audition Form

Please bring this completed form and accompanying documents to your audition.

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Student Phone # (if applicable): _____

Primary Parent/Guardian Contact Name: _____

Primary Parent/Guardian Phone #: _____

*Email: _____

*EMAIL MUST BE RELIABLE. Casting, rehearsal schedule, and other important notices will be sent to this email address and should be checked regularly.

Auditioning For:

- ☐ All Roles
- ☐ Lead Role Only (Will not be cast unless given a lead role)
- ☐ Ensemble Role Only (Will only be given an ensemble role)

Past experience, if any. (Theatre, Dance, Voice, Gymnastics, Cheer, etc.)

If you have ANY known conflicts (doc. appointments, vacations, weekly practices, etc.) please list them below:

Honk! Jr. Student/Parent Agreement

Schedule

January 22 – April 26: Rehearsals

The first rehearsal will be held Tuesday, January 22, from 3-5pm. Rehearsals will generally be held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3-5pm, with the exception of January 28, February vacation, and April vacation. Detailed weekly schedules will be emailed no later than the Friday prior to the address provided on the audition form, handed out to cast members at rehearsal, and posted on the Drama Club's website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/masconomet.org/msdrama/>. Please note that not all students will be called to all rehearsals, depending on the roles in which they are cast.

April 28 – May 4: Tech Week & Performances

During tech week, rehearsals are MANDATORY for all cast members, and will be held Monday through Thursday from 3:00-6:00pm. Performances will be Friday, May 3rd at 7:00pm and Saturday, May 4th at 7:00pm (students will be called at 5:30pm for 7:00pm showtime).

Activity Registration

Students are required to fill out the 2018-19 activity registration form (attached to this packet) and submit their fee of \$100 at their audition. Refund policy is as follows:

All Roles – If the student selects this option on their audition form and they decline their role, a refund will not be available.

Lead Role Only – If the student selects this option, they will not be cast unless given a lead role. If they are not cast, a refund will be given.

Secondary Role Only – If the student selects this option and declines the role they are given, a refund will not be available.

Attendance Policy

Like any team sport or group activity, participation and attendance are essential for a successful production. Any conflicts not listed on the audition form that a student performer may have must be brought to the director's attention within 24 hours of the rehearsal they will miss, be tardy to, or have to leave early from. If a student is late or absent from a rehearsal without being excused 3 times, they risk having their role changed. If a student is late or absent (unexcused) more than 3 times, they will be removed from the production. Students are also expected to arrive to rehearsal prepared (just as they would a class) with any materials (script, pencil, water, etc.) necessary for that day. Arriving unprepared/unable to participate will count as an absence.

****Please note that any additional conflicts that arise during the production must be given to the director, Ms. Rachael Furguele (rfurguele@masconomet.org) at least 24 hours prior to the conflict, or it will be counted as an unexcused absence.*

Respect Policy

School rules still apply. The expectation for drama club members is that they will treat each other, drama club property, and themselves with respect. If a student is disrespectful or does not follow the school rules as outlined in the Masconomet Middle School Calendar Handbook 2018-2019, they may have their role changed or be removed from the production depending on the severity of the transgression.

I have read and agreed to the *Honk! Jr. Student/Parent Agreement*, have listed all known conflicts, completed the attached Medical Form, and have either pre-registered/paid for the club or have attached the registration form and \$100.00 payment to this audition form.

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

MASCONOMET REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
2018/2019 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM
(Due October 5, 2018)

Name of Pupil _____ Year of Grad. _____
 Age _____ Student I.D.# _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Town _____

Students participating in the Co-Curricular Program are required to pay a fee. The following co-curricular activities with accompanying fee are available to Middle School students.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (payment for the entire 2018-2019 school year)		
ACTIVITY	FEE	MINIMUM NUMBER
Drama/Musical	\$100	25
Masco Excels	\$ 65	110
Math Team	\$ 65	40
Newspaper	\$ 65	
STEM (Prev. Future Prob. Solvers)	\$100	10
Yearbook	\$ 65	15

Write in the option(s) you are selecting:

If there is more than one child in a family, a separate Registration Form should be filled out for each child.

Forms are located at www.masconomet.org

ACTIVITY	FEE

Please enclose a separate check for each activity. The check (for a specific activity) will be returned to you if there is not sufficient enrollment for an activity to run. Because of the above, checks may be held for six to eight weeks before processing. The Registration Fee is non-refundable.

CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE MASCONOMET REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE, 20 ENDICOTT ROAD, BOXFORD, MA 01921 PRIOR TO 10/5/2018.

POLICY ON REFUNDS: The full amount of the specific activity fee will be refunded if (a) the student tries out and is 'cut' from an activity, or (b) the student paid but never participated in the activity. Prorated refunds are available to a student who is unable to participate in an activity because of illness or injury. (A physician's statement is required for this refund.) No refund is available to a student who (a) becomes ineligible for academic or discipline reasons, or (b) moves out of the District, or (c) 'drops-out' of an activity.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION: Located at www.masconomet.org "Extracurricular Activities".
Scholarship Application Form is Due October 5, 2018

I hereby give my consent for my child to participate in co-curricular activities. I understand the school does not provide medical payments insurance coverage for students involved in co-curricular activities and it is my responsibility to pay all hospital and physician bills for school-related injuries. I assume responsibility for the transportation of my children to and from co-curricular activities if a bus is not provided.

Signature - Student _____

Signature - Parent/Guardian _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Extra-Curricular Emergency Medical Information Form

(to be turned in directly to the appropriate club advisor)

THE SCHOOL NURSE IS NOT PRESENT DURING BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Activity: _____ Adult Supervisor _____

Student Name: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

My child has the following medical conditions that may require immediate attention during extracurricular activities. Please check those that apply.

☐ Asthma ☐ Diabetes ☐ Seizures ☐ Severe allergy to _____
(prescribed Epinephrine autoinjector)

☐ Other: _____

After-school emergency action plans (please note students are responsible for carrying their own inhalers, glucose tabs or snacks and Epinephrine auto-injectors and/or providing back-ups to the advisor):

Allergic Reaction: One or more of the following symptoms may occur after being exposed to the allergen; difficulty breathing, wheezing, difficulty swallowing, hives/rash, itching or tingling of mouth or throat, swelling of any body part.

Action: Assist the student in administering the auto-injector and then call 911. Staff may directly administer the auto-injector if trained.

Asthma: Student feels short of breath, has difficulty catching their breathing, is wheezing, or complains of feeling chest tightness.

Action Plan: If the student has their inhaler, allow them to use it. If no relief of symptoms in five (5) minutes, call 911. If no inhaler available, call 911 immediately.

Diabetes: Low blood sugar reaction- hunger, sweaty, pallor, feels shaky, headache.

Action Plan: Allow student to drink a juice box or regular soda, or eat glucose tablets or a snack from their emergency snack pack. Have student test their blood glucose level and record number. If no change in symptoms in five (5) minutes - call 911 and have child repeat all of the above.

Seizure: Altered consciousness, involuntary muscle stiffness or jerking movements, drooling or foaming at the mouth, temporary halt in breathing, loss of bladder control.

Action Plan: protect student from falling, call 911. Never put anything into the student's mouth.

Parent/Guardian child specific instructions: _____

Authorization for Treatment

I hereby give permission to Masconomet appointed personnel and emergency responders to provide first aid and emergency transportation to my child (named above) in the event of sudden illness or injury.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Tri-Town Samba Drum Ensemble

is looking for Middle & High School
TEENS to serve as **MENTORS**!

Fantastic opportunity for teens in grades 7-12!

Mentors (no musical experience needed) will be creating positive and meaningful connections with participating students.

Program facilitated & supervised by Andrea Monty,
Director of Spofford Pond Band & Rock Band.

Interested candidates contact amonty@boxfordschools.org ASAP
to set up an interview (required).

An ideal mentor will:

- **Be empathetic & comfortable helping others (who may learn, think or act differently) express themselves.**
- **Support the participants as they learn and play music successfully and joyfully.**
- **Help Tri-Town Samba Drum Ensemble participants develop confidence, make new friends and gain skills all while having fun!**



Mentors must be able to commit to Tuesday rehearsals from Jan 8th – June 4th 3:15-4:15pm @ Spofford School, Boxford plus any performances, dates TBD.

Interested candidates please contact amonty@boxfordschools.org ASAP to set up an interview (required).

GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!!

www.tritowncouncil.org

Tri-Town Samba Drum Ensemble Winter/Spring Session!

open to tri-town youth in grades 3-12

part of TTC's Horizons Programming

New Participants are Welcome!

An inclusive* & mentored performance percussion program currently open to tri-town youth in gr 3-12.

**Program facilitated and supervised by Andrea Monty,
Director of Spofford Pond Band and Tri-Town Rock Band with the**

Program Details Winter/Spring 2019:

- Weekly after-school rehearsals at Spofford School in Boxford on **Tuesdays, Jan to June 3:30pm-4:10pm starting 1/8/19-6/4/19 (20 weeks).**
- Parents provide transportation to Spofford.
- NO prior music experience needed.
- **Participation fee \$350 per term due after consultation with instructor.**
- Fee includes instruction, mentoring and performances.
- **Registration required [HERE](#) (new & returning students)**



Interested? Want to learn more? Please contact amonty@boxfordschools.org or register [HERE](#) by 12/14/18.**

Program start date is 1/8/19. Students will be accepted pending suitability and space availability.

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF AN INCLUSIVE MUSIC PROGRAM
AND HAVE LOADS OF FUN!**

***Up to 6 spots will be held for students with disabilities**

****Mrs. Monty will be in touch with parents to discuss program and expectations.**

www.tritowncouncil.org (978) 887-6512