



Summer 2022

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Mansfield Middle School's *Lion King, Jr.* Engages Students School-Wide



Timon (Alice Klassen), Simba (Sophie Marcus), and Pumba (Asher Heumann) plus their jungle friends celebrate no worries with "Hakuna Matata" at the *Lion King, Jr.* performance May 21

Seventy-three Mansfield Middle School (MMS) students took to the stage to perform *Disney's Lion King, Jr.* on Saturday, May 21. Staff and students have worked for months behind the scenes to broaden the experience beyond a one-day theatrical performance. In keeping with the school district's focus on student-centered learning, the presentation of this popular story represents a school-wide effort to empower students as they direct their own learning.

Under guidance from Life and Consumer Sciences Instructor Nora Dickinson, students created the costumes for the cast, developing design and sewing skills. Students also researched sweets and treats from Africa, then baked and packaged them in class for sale at the performance.

In addition to on-stage actors, MMS students served as production assistants to Director Ryley Zawodniak by making stage notes shared with the cast after each rehearsal, operating the soundtrack, working the spotlight, plus other support roles. Enrichment Teacher Doug Perkins engaged students across the school in the creation of a design of a Lion King

(See LION KING pg. 4)

Teachers Awarded Fellowship to Study Waste Reduction and Sustainability

Mansfield elementary teachers Jennifer Zugarazo and Michelle Mather are headed to Denmark for 14 days this summer as Fund for Teachers Fellows.

Jen is an ELL/Spanish Teacher and Michelle is the Enrichment Teacher at Annie E. Vinton Elementary School. They describe that their goal for this fellowship is to learn about sustainability and zero waste by visiting four schools and various companies in Denmark, bringing these experiences back to the district's new Mansfield Elementary School, and facilitating positive changes toward creating a zero waste and sustainable school.

They are eager to see garden-to-table food production by students, energy conservation managed by a student-based "energy patrol", intense waste management systems and energy generation. Two of the schools they will visit are also located in ecologically sensitive locations and incorporate conservation and eco-friendly practices into the school's curriculum.

In their fellowship proposal Michelle and Jen expressed, "We hope we can help guide our own students to make changes in our school and our community beyond."



Jen Zugarazo and Michelle Mather will study sustainability and bring their learning back to Mansfield Elementary School.

KNew Mansfield Elementary Building Delayed: School Will Begin in Two Locations

The Superintendent and Town Manager announced in early May that Newfield Construction Company, contractors for the new Mansfield Elementary School, revised the schedule and that the building will not be completed prior to the start of school on September 6. Newfield has indicated that delays in the delivery of essential mechanical and electrical equipment, and uncertainty about the site completion, have impacted the completion date.

The school administration team had already begun creating a "Plan B", prepared in case a delay occurred. The plan works to ensure the district fulfills its goal for the new school by creating community among all students and staff, and continuing to provide the depth and breadth of programming that is experienced now. Southeast School is scheduled to be demolished this summer, and therefore, Plan B will have all students begin the year at the remaining two elementary schools. Children in grades PreK, K, and 1 will open the year at Vinton School while children in grades 2, 3, and 4 will begin the year at Goodwin School. Although staff and students will be located across two buildings for a few months, they will be a single Mansfield Elementary School. Students will retain the same teacher and classmates throughout the year and will experience the move-in to the new school together.

Bus routes will not exceed the length of ride time experienced by students currently and will allow



Windows and siding are being installed on the new school, and interior work is progressing quickly now that the building is fully enclosed. Hold-ups in essential mechanical and electrical equipment delivery will delay the completion schedule.

siblings to be on the same bus even if they are attending different schools. This will allow for pick-up and drop-off times to be the same for all children in a household.

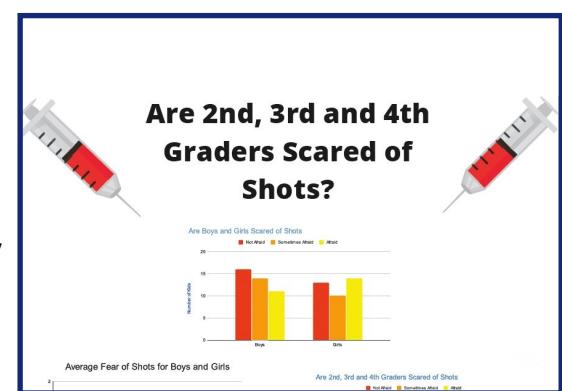
Mansfield Schools families will receive detailed communications over the summer, and the district plans to host family conversations to provide the opportunity to ask questions and provide input to some of the finer details.

Goodwin School Winners in State Data Visualization Contest

Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School was well represented among student winners in the Connecticut Division of the American Statistical Association's Annual Data Visualization Contest.

Grade 3 students earning first place are Naomi Tzingounis and Jayden Chen presenting the topic, "Are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders Scared of Shots?" (poster shown at right). Jayden Song and Jerry Liu earned second place by portraying, "What are the 3rd and 4th Graders Favorite Subjects?" A project by Lu Feng, "Heights of Apple Trees," captured a third place honor.

Fourth grade student Mubashir Ariyan placed second in the grades 4 to 6 division with his project, "Reading Habits of Elementary School Kids."



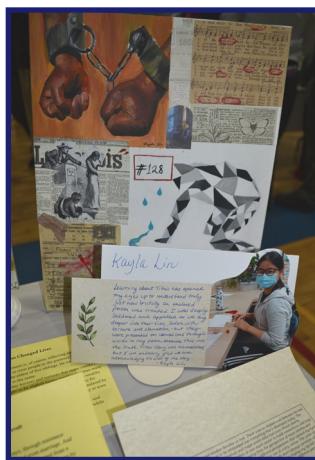
Witness Stones Project Honors Titus, an Enslaved Man Who Lived in Mansfield

Mansfield Middle School grade 8 students are participating with the Witness Stones Project which “seeks to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.” Begun in Guilford, CT, Witness Stones across four states now memorialize enslaved people who lived and labored within local communities.

Mansfield Middle School students are unveiling a stone at Mansfield Public Library on June 13 at 5:00 PM, a result of their research and creative expression on the topic of slavery. The project centered on identifying an enslaved person from Mansfield, and students learned about a man named Titus who lived in this community in the mid-1700s.

The year-long project started within the Social Studies curriculum then evolved into an English Language Arts project. In Language Arts classes, students invested up to three months working from their Social Studies research notes, first to create written pieces, and then interpreting through art. A “gallery exhibit” in May was powerful – students’ learning through the project yielded collages, videos and cards displayed along with personal writing such as letters, newspaper editorials, essays, and poetry.

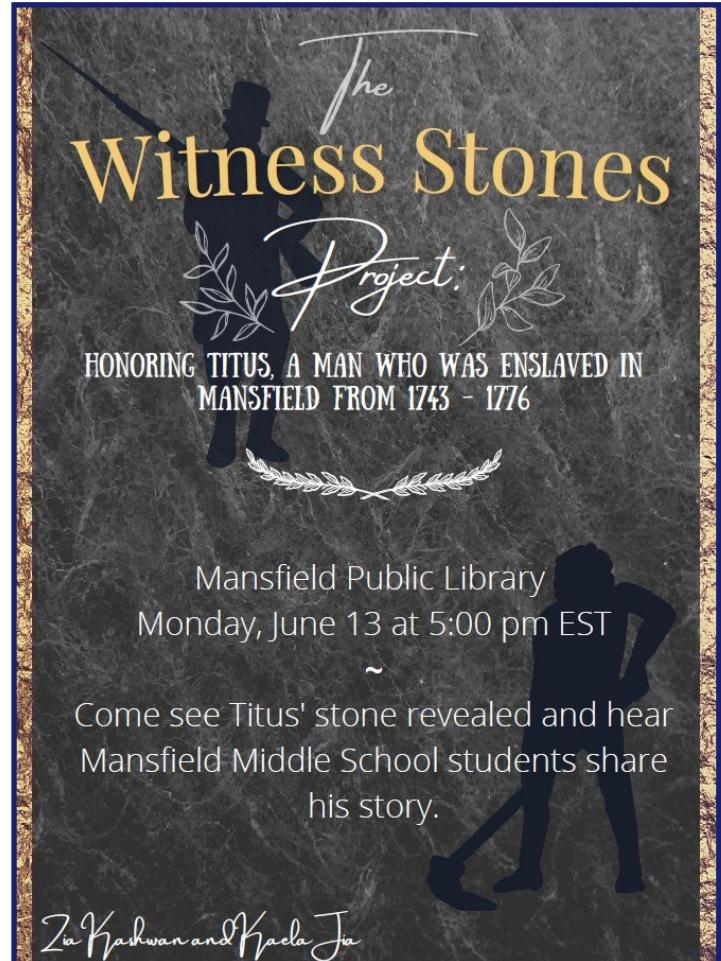
Teacher Rochelle Marcus explains, “We encouraged students to consider what they wanted their audi-



Students reflected on slavery and Mansfield's history with it through creative art and writing.

ence to think and feel, and how their artwork could be unique. Often students were surprised at what they were able to accomplish given their hard work.”

A compilation of the project and the students’ body of work will be shared on the MMS website. Student representatives also summarized their project before the Mansfield Town Council in May. The Witness Stone unveiling will include student performances and readings.



New Assistant Principal Named

Rebecca “Becky” Granatini will be joining the district as the assistant principal for Mansfield Elementary School.

She comes to Mansfield with 18 years of teaching experience, the last five as an elementary curriculum specialist in the Wethersfield Public Schools. More information on Becky’s professional career is available at mansfieldct.gov/mboe.



Rebecca Granatini will assist Principal Lauren Rodriguez in leading Mansfield Elementary School next year.

Lion King at Mansfield Middle (cont. from page 1)

Mosaic as a school-wide enrichment project. He organized and trained students how to create pixelated squares that were then carefully assembled into a mosaic that spells out "Lion King, MMS Community, 2022." Other staff members supported the production with sets, masks, costumes, and sound.

Ms Zawodniak, a Grade 5 Language Arts, Reading and Social Studies Teacher with tens years of professional experience in musical theater, has directed several student productions at MMS. "Theater was my sport. Acting did so many things for me as a young student," says Ms Zawodniak. "Being a part of a production like this adds another layer of confidence for these young performers. It's a big responsibility for students to take on this time commitment, too, but that's part of the learning. Students may struggle with balancing their schedules—academically and socially—but this is how they learn to take control. An experience like this helps them to build confidence."



Students took the lead on designing and creating costumes for the characters.

Teaching/Learning Director Appointed



Michael R. Seal will be Mansfield Public School district's Director of Teaching and Learning, beginning July 1. Mike has served as Principal at Annie E. Vinton Elementary School since 2016.

Under his leadership, Mansfield's exceptional

learning practices can progress to the next level. Mr. Seal has 26 years of teaching and administrative experience in Connecticut, New York, and California. For more information on Mike's background and skills, visit mansfieldct.gov/mboe.

A Farewell from Superintendent Lyman

It is widely understood that when choosing to end a career it is best done when you are at the top of your game. I can certainly say that the past seven years in Mansfield have left me feeling that I am at the top! This amazing, supportive community has trusted me with the education and care of its children, and in so doing, has allowed us as a school district to do wonderful things for its young people.



Superintendent Kelly Lyman

I am proud of all that has been accomplished as we together have supported children to be happy, engaged, thinkers and learners. The Mansfield Portrait of the Graduate and our Board Core Beliefs are the drivers of our work. Our wonderfully talented and committed staff have continually challenged themselves to deliver on the promises of those drivers. I am in awe every time I visit a classroom and see what is happening for our students. I see happy, engaged, thinkers and learners — whether it is a group of preschoolers exploring the woods, a first grader learning to read, or a middle schooler tackling the challenges facing our world.

It is because of all of you, the entire community of Mansfield, that I am leaving my time in public education at the top. I have learned so much from and with you all. You have given me the gift of cherished memories that will stay with me for a very long time.

I know that I am leaving Mansfield in the most capable of hands. Our Board of Education understands how to set direction and provide what is needed for the professionals to do their jobs. Peter Dart and his administrative team are the best around. The leadership of our Board and administrative team combined with our superior teaching and support staff will continue to grow our practices. And of course, I have no doubt that our students, their families, and the community will continue to be there supporting, nudging, and together creating magical experiences for Mansfield's children.

All the best in the years to come!



A Message from the Board of Education

Throughout this school year our work has been focused on managing transitions. These transitions have involved moving back to full in-person learning after a year of adjusting to teaching and learning in a pandemic. We continue to celebrate the resilience of our students and staff members as they push forward despite these challenging times in school.

Another transition is moving three elementary schools, and distinctive school cultures, into one school. This change is emotionally and physically challenging, and supporting staff members and students will be a priority in the coming year.

The third transition we have worked to manage is the move to new leadership, searching for the next Superintendent to lead Mansfield Schools. We have full confidence that Peter Dart is the person to continue our trajectory into 21st century learning, consistent with our Mission and Core Beliefs.

Our Mission:

It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

As the Board of Education, we feel such sincere appreciation for Superintendent Kelly Lyman as she retires from public education into her next leadership chapter on July 1. We have been so fortunate to have her here in Mansfield! Superintendent Lyman has guided our district with a vision of how children can bring joy to learning, and led our community's journey toward the completion of the new elementary school. We wish Kelly good luck and continued success in her path as one of Connecticut's exemplary educational leaders.

To all of this we add a fourth transition: the end of another school year! Promotion ceremonies, plays, concerts, awards, field days and fun – these celebrations never get old. We hope all of our families enjoy a safe and healthy summer!

Celebrating 2021 and 2022 Teachers of the Year



National Education Secretary Miguel Cardona met with Mansfield and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Kim King when she visited Washington, D.C. with other honorees from across the country. President and Dr. Biden also celebrated the teachers at the White House.



Mansfield and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Kim King (front row) was a featured speaker at the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford at the annual Teachers of the Year Celebration in May. Ashley Rancourt, (second row) Mansfield's 2021 Teacher of the Year, was also among those honored at the celebration.

Goodwin School Student Selected for National Invention Convention

Dorothy C. Goodwin School fourth grade student Omar Mosa is traveling to Dearborn, MI to participate in the National Invention Convention competition after his project was named Eversource's "Best in Show" at the Connecticut Invention Convention.

Omar's invention is the "Power Outage Saver," a solar-powered device with a rechargeable battery that can provide light and heat in the event of an outage or in places lacking infrastructure.

The invention earned him acknowledgement as a "Recognized Inventor."



Omar Mosa explains his award-winning invention, the Power Outage Saver.

Important Dates

June 8	Southeast School Promotion	5:30 PM
June 14	Vinton School Promotion	6 PM
June 15	Goodwin School Promotion	6 PM
June 17	Mansfield Middle School Promotion	6 PM
June 20	Last Day of School for Students	
July 11-Aug 4	Summer School (by invitation)	
September 6	First day of school for 2022-23 School Year	

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Mansfield Public Schools

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