



# CONNECT CONNECT!

Hayhurst Connect Newsletter

January 2018

## Introducing Connect Coordinator Beth Szczepanski



Starting this month, I am the new coordinator for the Hayhurst Connect program. I have been a teacher since 1999, when I went to the People's Republic of China to teach English to college students. Since then, I have taught music courses at colleges in Ohio and the Great Northwest and been a teaching assistant at a preschool. I am impressed with the creativity and dedication of staff and students taking part in project-based, community building Connect activities. I am excited to take on the challenge of coordinating this great program. Right now I'm working on learning names...Damian, Juanily, Scout....Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about Connect!

*"Oh the thinks you can think  
Think and wonder and dream  
Far and wide as you dare  
When your thinks have run dry  
In the blink of an eye  
There's another world there.  
If you open your mind,  
Oh the thinks you can think."*

*- Dr. Seuss, adapted by Lynn  
Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty*

## Upcoming Events

February 22, 6:00-7:00: Hayhurst Connect Family Night

February 27-March 1: Term break, no Connect



Miss Terra's nature class: Evan, Gabriel, Violet, Sophia, Lucien, Finley, and Daniel with their Smudge Sticks

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Photo Caption

## Teacher Profile: Mr. Swake

A little bit about me. I've lived in Oregon my entire life. I'm currently in my second year of teaching 4th grade. Some of my hobbies include skateboarding, reading comics, and playing video games.

This is my first year with the Connect program, and it's amazing. The students get to engage in project based learning, which has shown to be very successful with young learners. You get to see their creativity and excitement when they get to steer the ship. I love seeing what these students produce, and how they incorporate themselves into their projects.

## Magazines

Under the direction of Miss Escovedo and Miss Melton, Connect students are working hard to create their own magazines. Students have been working together to brainstorm topics, research ideas, and write up individual pieces that will fit into the Magazine's overarching topic. This project lets students work independently and collaboratively, and gives them the chance to write about something they are excited about

You can expect to see crossword puzzles, jokes, and articles about video games, historical events, and current fads. Magazines will be published as a blog and in print, and we will also post the final products on our Connect website at <http://hayhurstconnect.weebly.com/>

### Wednesday Group: *Pop Culture Daily*

Students in Wednesday's magazine writing groups are focusing their issue on popular culture. They are writing articles, opinion pieces, how-tos, and reviews of popular culture and lifestyle themes from movies, TV, video games, as well as animals and cooking.

### Thursday Group: *The Latest Buzz*

Thursday students are writing about current events and issues such as sports, as well as creating advertisements and other creative and/or fiction content.

## Escape Rooms

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Mr. Swake and Miss Williams have been challenging Connect students with Escape Room puzzles.

Students race against the clock to solve word puzzles, math problems, and even chemical conundrums as they try to escape from imagined dangerous scenarios.

Now that students have practiced solving escape room puzzles, they are beginning the process of creating their own.

Be on the lookout for new escape rooms requiring quick thinking to escape from haunted houses, nuclear reactors, and other frightening places, courtesy of the creative minds of our Connect crew.



Hayhurst Connect students Morris, Damian, Juanily, Aniah, Issa, Yorleny, Melisa, Amiah, Lincoln, Dominic, and Marvin give their all performing their Dr. Seuss Musical Revue while stage manager Lovey looks on from the wings.

## Dr. Seuss Musical Revue

Tuesday theatre Connect students have been working hard preparing to perform a Dr. Seuss Musical Revue. Their efforts resulted in two well-received performances of the play, one for Hayhurst students at 1:30 and one for family and friends at 6:00. The show, adapted from the Broadway hit *Seussical the Musical* by theatre teacher Arianne Melton, features messages of love and perseverance in the face of adversity. After all, a person's a person no matter how small!

Connect students took part in all aspects of the production, from costume design to stage managing to choreography. And, of course, they acted and danced their hearts out, portraying The Cat in the Hat (Morris), Horton the elephant (Damian), JoJo the Who (Dominic), and all sorts of colorful Dr. Seuss characters.

After the show, each student received an award and a rose in recognition of their hard work. They also took a moment to share how they felt about the process of learning and performing the show in a talk-back. Students said that the performance was scary, and difficult, but also great fun because they got to inject their own personalities into the characters they portrayed.

Tuesday January 23, theatre students will begin a storytelling workshop that will become a collaborative musical/storytelling theatre performance piece at the end of the year. This project will be a pilot of a theatre program curriculum design that Miss Melton is designing as the creative portion of her Senior Capstone/Thesis for her Theatre Design major at Lewis and Clark College. The curriculum aims to give students an opportunity to learn about stories that they can relate to, and in turn create an opportunity for them to find and use their own voice to tell a story that they create together. They will begin by exploring several children's books and Broadway musical songs, and then creating a performance based on the story the students choose to tell.

# Coming Soon: Family Night

On February 22, the Connect community will come together for an evening of fun, prizes, and getting to know each other. The gathering will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Hayhurst cafetorium. We welcome family members and Connect staff to mingle, eat, and celebrate our students' successes.

## Tips and Announcements

- Students in the Tuesday Nature class will be going outside to explore, rain or shine. Miss Terra reminds you that they will need appropriate clothing for these expeditions. Expect muddy shoes, wet clothes and happy kids!
- Remember that Connect students are expected to attend Connect if they attended school that day, unless they have a documented excuse.

## Contact Us

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