

## Teaching & Learning

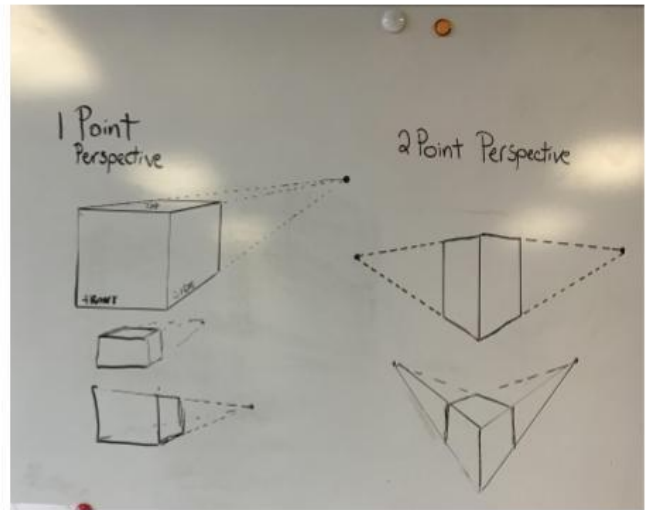
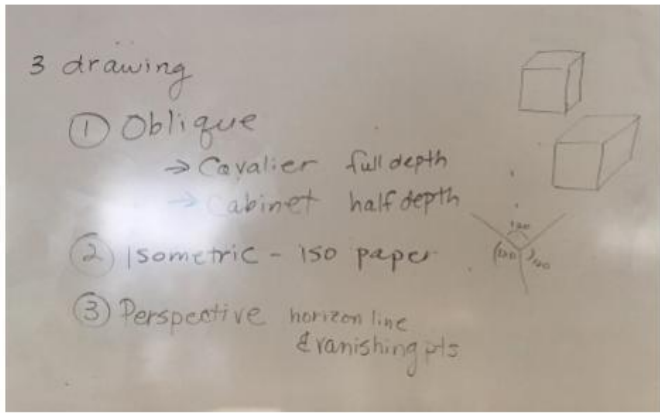
January, 2017

1. **Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Information Night** - WPS hosted our annual Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Information Night last Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at our three elementary schools. Parents/guardians of children entering Pre-Kindergarten and/or Kindergarten in the fall of 2017 were invited to attend this informational meeting. **Pre-K registration** will take place at the Early Steps Preschool beginning January 19, 2017 and **Kindergarten registration** will take place during the week of January 23rd, 2017. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to have registration packets completed (information and 'packets can be picked up at your child's school or downloaded from the Watertown Public Schools website, <http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us>
2. Beauty abounds in **Ms. Calleja's visual arts classes** in Art Room 171 - [December Gallery](#) Ms. Calleja shared that her inspiration to create a blog came from Haein Kim at Hosmer. You can see [Haein Kim's wonderful classroom blog](#) at [hosmerart.blogspot.com](http://hosmerart.blogspot.com)
3. Take a peek at **WMS Makerspace**:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/watertown.k12.ma.us/wmsmakerspace/>
4. **My Recent School Visits-**



**Mr. B's fine woodworking class at WHS**

**Talented WMS Musicians at Winter Concert**



Two different white boards... one was in a high school engineering classroom, the other was in a middle school art room.

- Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation** - Watertown Parents and Community Members were invited to register for the first introductory community course in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation training. This 16-hour course will be taught by our very own certified trainers, which include youth trainers from WMS & WHS, as well as trained officers from the WPD. They are excited to share with community members this fun and interactive curriculum created by Dr. Bernard LaFayette, which is designed to teach how Dr. Martin Luther King’s philosophy and methodology can be applied to our present-day conflicts, on both personal and societal levels. The course will be held at the Watertown Middle School Library on Saturday January 28th and Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration is closed. There are parents from Hosmer, Lowell, WMS, and WHS, as well as representatives from over ten different community organizations here in Watertown who registered. We offer a heap of gratitude to WMS Spanish teacher, Ruth Henry, for leading this powerful training. *This course is made possible through the Watertown Public Schools, the Watertown Police Department, and the Unity Breakfast Planning Committee.*

Below is a link to a feature article that was in January 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Globe West Section featuring our Kingian Nonviolence Program. It highlights that we are unique in our approach to building a true sense of community, understanding, and empathy.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/west/2017/01/13/stop-violence-start-listening/tbsoxtnWiX3hAoYlzaKYCJ/story.html>



**The Lovely 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity Breakfast  
on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the  
Hellenic Cultural Center**

**Top:** Some of our WMS students and staff members presenting on the Kingian Nonviolence Project.

**Bottom Right:** WHS *Watertones* singing at the event, directed by Director, Dan Wulf.

**Bottom Left:** Colby Swettberg, Ed.M., LCSW, presenting information about LGBTQ transitioning to our K–12 mental health staff at our Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> professional development day.

*A couple of interesting perspectives on public education...*

**Maybe instead of looking at Finland for educational excellence, people should look at Massachusetts.**

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding\\_common\\_ground/2016/12/maybe\\_instead\\_of\\_finland\\_we\\_should\\_be\\_more\\_like\\_massachusetts.html?cmp=e-ml-eb-popweek+12162016webmch](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding_common_ground/2016/12/maybe_instead_of_finland_we_should_be_more_like_massachusetts.html?cmp=e-ml-eb-popweek+12162016webmch)

(These data are referenced in the article below.)

**The Real Crisis in Education: An Open Letter to the Department of Education -**  
<http://wp.me/s75RjU-1112>

***For your planning purposes...***

- Jan 25                      Early Release Day, K - 12 Professional Development
- Jan 28 & Feb 4          Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Resolution Training
- Jan.30 - Feb 2          WHS, Midyear Exams
- Feb. 20-24              No School - February Recess

*That's all for now, folks!*

Keep each other well,

*Theresa*

**Theresa McGuinness, Ed.D.**  
*Assistant Superintendent*