

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

# Home-School Connection #25

4/9/15

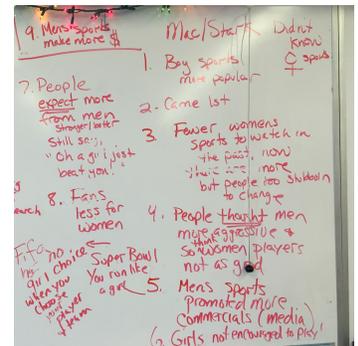
Write at least one discussion question per topic

## MATH: MARCH MADNESS AND EQUALITY:

In math, our class looked at the March Madness Basketball brackets. You learned how they are organized (by region) and then you began to do some math as you figured out the average spreads between teams and some other number observations. For example, you heard that last year, a man named Warren Buffett offered 1 BILLION dollars to anyone who predicted who would win each game in the bracket. No one won. That was no surprise because the chances are so very small. Some of you tried to figure out the odds. If you want to know the answer, you can see the article here: [Loongg shot to win 1 Billion](#). You can also see the attached sheet on our webpage if you are interested in more math around the basketball brackets. [Perfect Bracket Math](#)



The next day I told you a story about how my sports oriented sons and husband knew a ton about the men's March Madness but did not know about the women March Madness teams. We began to talk about why that is. You made an excellent list of why. There's a picture of your list on this sheet. Your list was really close to an article in CNN magazine about why more people pay attention to men's March Madness. The article said, "The average salary for a WNBA player is \$72,000, while the average salary for an NBA player is around \$5 million, or about **70 times** what the average female basketball player makes. The Final Four teams for the men's NCAA basketball tournament got front page attention in Monday's New York Times. The women? A story without a photo deep in the sports section." [If you want to read the whole article, it is on our webpage- Click Here](#)



Talk to your parents about why there is a gap between the attention women and men get in sports.

Also, as I mentioned, I heard that Boston's Mayor Walsh is looking into the gap in pay between men and women in Boston. For example, a study says, "In Boston, white women make 83 cents for every dollar that men make. The gap is far worse for women of color. Nationwide, women make 78 cents per every dollar a man makes." You can see the attached article on our class webpage. Ask your parents if they see any differences in their work or experience between how men and women are treated. Do you think you have the power to change this in any way? [You can see the Boston Globe article about Mayor Walsh's plan - Here](#)



**ALSO IN THE NEWS- BIRDS:** We have been noticing the return of birds and thinking about how the hard winter affected them. Here is an article.

<http://wqbnnews.org/post/think-you-had-it-rough-winter-imagine-you-were-red-bellied-woodpecker>

How much have your parents noticed birds around? What kinds of birds do you think had it the hardest with no snow?

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**MORE MATH :** How did you do on the decimal quiz? Are you getting the hang of what to do with remainders while doing division? How are you feeling about the mcas review and how to write a math open response question?

**2nd WEEK of BOOK GROUPS:** Discuss your book with your parents. Describe what you are learning or thinking about the book **based on the discussions you are having**. Describe the system we have for book group. Are you getting better at the entrance section, the discussion and the exit section? How so?

**MORNING MEETING TOPICS & ACTIVITIES:** This week, our Morning Meeting topics showed, once again, your super imaginations. Risa had you do another round of group storytelling. You learned that one of the biggest rules of improv is to always say, "yes and..." rather than 'no because...' " if you say, "Yes and", the story has a chance to move and shift and go to funny and unpredictable places. Nora had you act out an invention you would want to create. Again, you saw how important it is to think of a key movement to help your peer guess. You also did Noah's cool meeting topic where each person gives an answer to something someone might have asked in order to teach the class something about yourself. Explain this to your parents. In fact, try it out! You also did Nina's morning meeting topic where you shared why you like living in Brookline. Your list was so good, Ms. Meader and I both thought it would be good for our class to write your ideas down and share them with the Brookline Tab. Last, but not least, you did Laura's game of spelling Sparkle with favorite animals.

**MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD:** I started to read you the historical fiction book about the start of the American Revolution. I will not finish the book. I will start it and some others and you can decide if you want to finish these books as part of your 45 book challenge.

**OTHER:** Google docs and sharing work, book group reflections, Library and the books you got out about your colonial trades, our river table town of Riverton, recess, Mission Blue, Web-Nes-Day, poetry, Something else? Write what you picked to talk about.

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Due: Monday: We made a time to do this on: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature & Comments

Student rating (1-5) Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.