

IN THE NEWS

West Brook Middle School



Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be West Brook

October 2021

5th Grade Happenings

5th Grade Ice Cream Social

Everything is “falling” into place for the 5th graders here at West Brook Middle School.

(cont'd page 2)

6th Grade Happenings

6th Grade Math

The mathematicians of Ms. Bussanich's 6th Grade Math class are investigating ratios to compare quantities!

(cont'd page 4)

7th Grade Happenings

7th Grade Social Studies

During the first days of school, Mrs. Morrisette/Ms. Ross and Mrs. Burke/Ms. Diorio's Social Studies classes learned about symbols.

(cont'd page 5)

8th Grade Happenings

8th Grade Math

Mrs. Tomaskovic's and Mrs. VanVleet's 8th grade math students started the year with a challenge.

(cont'd page 7)

Hello



Principal's Pen

October is a full month for us at West Brook School. We celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, Italian-American Heritage Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, and National Pizza Month. Picture day was a great success with students dressing for success. As it is National Bullying Prevention Month, October 18-22 is School Violence Awareness Week. Each day we plan to show our awareness and school spirit by wearing crazy socks on Monday (Sock It to Violence), wearing your favorite hat on Tuesday (Put a Lid on Violence), Wednesday, wear your favorite team Jersey (Team Up Against Violence),

(cont'd page 2)

Principal's Pen



(cont'd from page 1)

Thursday Wear Boots (Give School Violence the Boot), and finally Friday *Stand up Together to Make a Difference Day*. We also look forward to ending the month with our costume contest on the 29th. Remember to be kind, be respectful, and make great choices!

Dr. Deirdre Spollen-LaRaia

5th Grade Happenings

(cont'd from page 1)

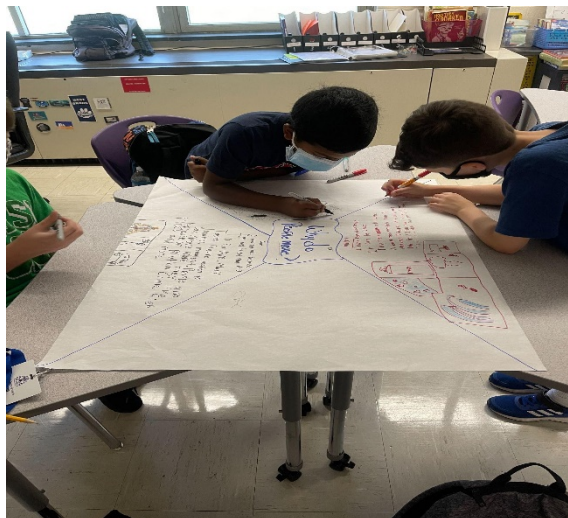


5th graders enjoy their ice cream and some time to socialize with their peers!

Our readers and writers are immersed in the world of nonfiction and are learning how to navigate through Expository, Narrative and Hybrid text structures. We are studying how to close read nonfiction texts and are taking a closer look at how nonfiction text features help us to better understand what authors are trying to teach! We are also learning many different note-taking strategies that will target the skill of identifying key ideas and details in the texts we read.

Our historians are studying about the earliest English settlements of Roanoke, Jamestown and Plymouth and how settlers moved onto these Native American lands! Next, we will take a closer look at the original thirteen colonies of the United States with a focus on the New England, Middle and Southern colonial

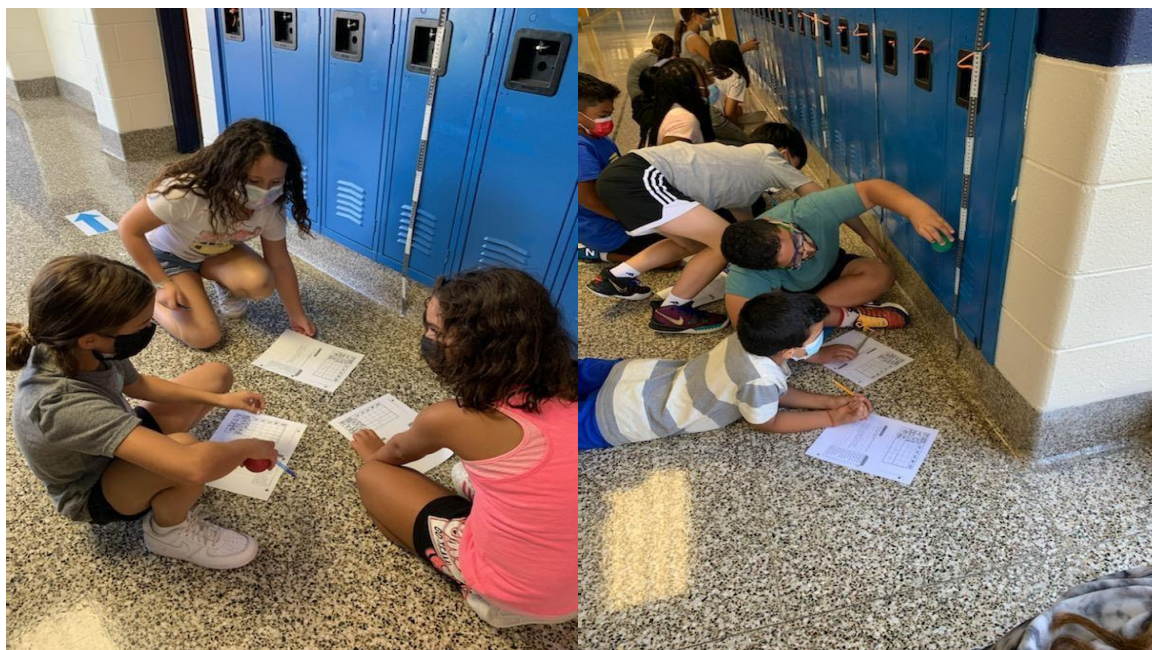
regions. We will learn about the differences of the three regions that drew settlers to those locations. We will better understand geographical features and resources found in these regions that contributed to the building of economies that helped our country to flourish and thrive!



5th graders explore the question “Why Do People Move?” as they brainstorm ideas while completing a placemat group activity.

In math, students have found that the factors of a number are also the dimensions of a rectangle that can be made using that number of square tiles! Students are using this knowledge to explore multiplication of large numbers. Also, do you know the value of $3 + 4 \times 2$? Did you guess 14? If so, you are not following the order of operations! Ask your child about the order of operations today!

Our scientists are developing definitions of matter and designing their own tests to determine whether or not something can be classified as matter. If it takes up space and has mass, it's matter! We wondered... does air really take up space and have mass, even though we can't SEE it? Students were involved in designing thoughtful experiments to answer their curiosities. We look forward to learning about physical and chemical changes and properties of matter soon!



5th graders participate in a “ball drop lab” to experiment with potential energy.

Contributor: Mrs. Nicole Tomasella

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE OLD MARKERS



Miss Roccanova's fifth grade homeroom is currently collecting used up markers from all over the school to donate to the Crayola ColorCycle program. ColorCycle is set up to collect old markers of any brand and repurpose the plastic into new objects including construction materials like roof tiling! This repurposing keeps the plastic markers from being thrown away and ending up in landfills or the ocean. Although the program is currently paused due to COVID-19 restrictions,

Miss Roccanova's class is going to collect and hang onto the markers until the program reopens!

6th Grade Happenings

(cont'd from page 1)

To begin the unit which is called Comparing Bits and Pieces, students found ratios around the room and documented their findings on a shared Jamboard (see image). Learning about ratios will continue using our math program, called CMP3, and websites like Desmos and Khan Academy.

Ratios

four blue tiles to four yellow tiles

three red blocks to one green block

The ratio of orange notebooks to red notebooks on the table is 3 to 1.

The ratio of red blocks to blue blocks is 2 to 3

10 boys and 9 girls 10:9

the ratio of orange blocks to blue blocks on my desk is 3:2 and 2:3 Sarina

5 blue: 10 purple purples

four orange highlighters to two blue on my desk

theratio to orange blocks and green is 3 to 6

The ratio of red stools to blue chairs in this room is 5:24

What other ratios can you find around the room?

Add your ideas on a sticky note. Try to come up with new ones.

the ratio is 6 yellow blocks to 3 orange blocks

sticks: 4 yellow sticks: 4 red sticks, 4 red sticks: 2 orange sticks: 4 red sticks: 4 red sticks: 4 purple sticks: 4 red sticks: 4 green sticks: 4 green sticks: 4 red sticks: 4 red sticks: 3 blue sticks: 4 sticks: 3 blue sticks: 4

the ratio of 16 yellow highlighters and 4 blue highlighters are 16-4

the ratio of 3 blue baskets and 1 red is 3-1

Aila - the ratio of 5 pink highlighters to 2 blue highlighters is 5-2 and 2-5

I used the september calendar and my example is 7 yellow days to 8 red days/ 7:8

five protractors to 3 angle things

the ratio of red pencils and black pencils on my desk is 3:2 Sarina

the ratio is 6 blue flat blocks to 1 red flat blocks

I used markers and my example is 1 red to 3 pink/ 1:3

the ratio of 3 black markers to 2 orange markers on my desk

the ratio of 5 small brushes to 2 big brushes on my desk

9 red: 6 green

the ratio of 3 yellow color pencil to 2 red color pencil on my desk

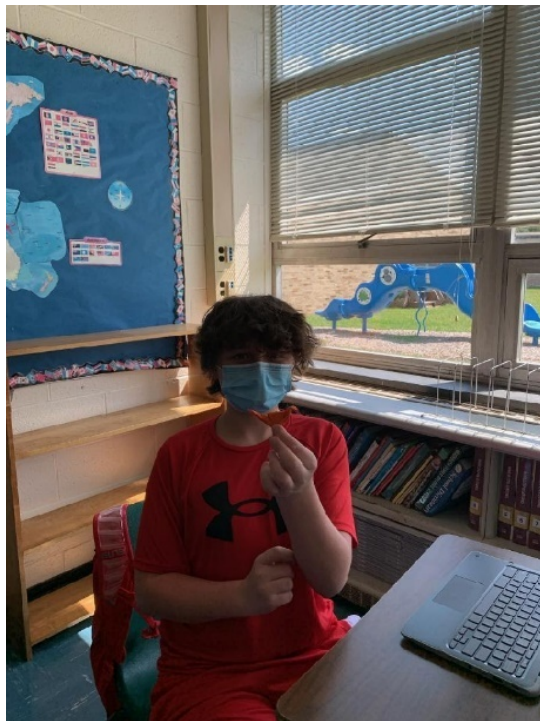
7th Grade Happenings

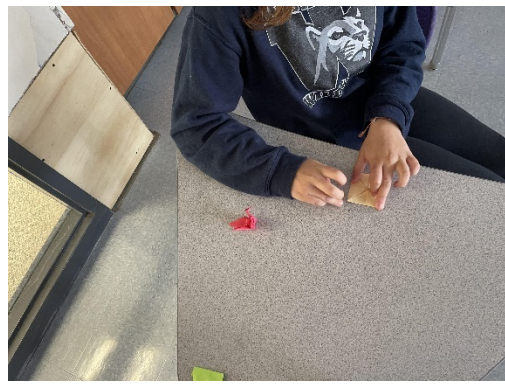
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There was a discussion about 9/11 and how after the terror attacks in New York City, people left paper cranes at the fence near Ground Zero. Students from Japan also made thousands of origami cranes that were added to the 9/11 Museum and Memorial. According to Japanese culture, origami paper cranes are a symbol of healing. Students were interested to learn that the 9/11 Family Association gifted Japan an origami crane made from steel recovered from the World Trade Center as a symbol of hope in the face of disaster after a tsunami struck them in 2011.

Students were also encouraged to read *How Paper Cranes Became a Symbol of Healing in Japan*, the story of Sadako Sasaki.

Japanese legend has it that if you fold 1,000 origami cranes, you will be granted a wish 😊.






Contributor: Mrs. Mi Burke and Mrs. Carolyn Morrisette

8th Grade Happenings


(cont'd from page 1)

31-DEFTUL

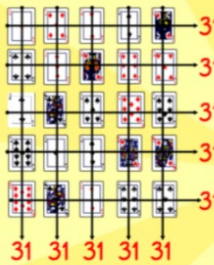
TO PLAY:
Arrange 25 cards in a 5 x 5 pattern



THE GOAL: Create rows and columns of cards with a sum of **31**




TO WIN: Each row and each column needs to add up to exactly **31**



Card Values

Number on Card



We had many students who were able to solve the puzzle! Here is one result:



We challenge you to try it at home!

Contributors: Mrs. Tomaskovic and Mrs. VanVleet

Halloween Jokes for Kids



- Q. What does a skeleton order for dinner?
- Q. What is a ghost's favorite dessert?
- Q. What is a witch's favorite subject in school?
- Q. Which monster is the best dance partner?
- Q. How do monsters tell their future?
- Q. What type of pie do ghosts like?

[Click here for answers to Halloween Jokes for Kids](#)

FOLKLORE FOR OCTOBER

- When deer are in a gray coat in October, expect a hard winter.
- Much rain in October, much wind in December.
- A warm October means a cold February.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/month-october-holidays-fun-facts-folklore>

How Often Do We See a Full Moon on Halloween?

A full Moon only occurs on Halloween about every 18 to 19 years.

The last full moon was on Halloween night in 2020, so we won't see another one on Halloween for a while.



**WELCOME BACK TO MRS. AHRENDT'S
INSTRUMENTAL BAND LESSONS AND BAND ENSEMBLE**



Lessons began the week of September 20th

Band rehearsals will start on October 5th for 7-8 band and October 6th for 5-6 band.

I am very excited to have started our in-person program this year!

It was amazing to meet with my students and make LIVE music!

Activities and Events to look forward to:

- **Practicing and performing with Smart Music technology**
- **Recording our music with Flipgrid technology**
- **Creating music with Soundtrap technology**
- **Jazz Band Club To be announced soon!**
- **Flute Choir Club To be announced soon!**
- **Winter Concert**
- **Region and County Band auditions for advanced students**
- **Tri-M Music Honor Society To be announced soon!**
- **Spring Concert!**
- **And MUCH MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Bergen County Cereal Challenge

West Brook Middle School participated in the First Bergen County Cereal Challenge. For the past 16 months, our food pantries have seen a surge. Bergen County's pantries need our help to serve those most in need. Boxes of cereal were collected by the Student Council from September 14th - September 23rd. Mrs. Burke's 7th grade class came in third place with 20 boxes collected. Mrs. Guroian's 6th grade class came in second place with 56 boxes collected. Mr. Roumantzas' class won with 93 boxes and created the pattern and idea for the domino run. Thank you to all who donated. The cereal was donated to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. [Click here to watch the video of Mr. R's class who set up the boxes in a domino run down the hallway.](#)

Flashback – First Day of School – Woo Hoo!!!!



Contributor: Vice Principal, Mr. L. Calenda



PICKING A PUMPKIN FOR CARVING

Whether you're visiting the pumpkin patch or perusing the produce section, it's always fun to find that "perfect" pumpkin.

Here are 5 easy tips for selecting a winner!

1. Look for a pumpkin that has a deep orange color.
2. Knock on the pumpkin to check that it is hollow (and therefore ripe).
3. Make sure the bottom of the pumpkin isn't soft and mushy! Also, the bottom should be flat, so it doesn't roll.
4. Check that the stem is firm and secure. Never pick a pumpkin up from the stem! It may break, which leads to faster decay.
5. Avoid bruised pumpkins and look for a smooth surface if you're carving. It will be much easier! <https://www.almanac.com/5-tips-picking-perfect-pumpkin>

Ice Cream Social

On Friday, September 17th, the West Brook PTA planned an ice cream social for our 5th and 6th grade students. Students were greeted by the PTA as they were served with ice cream treats. After the students received their ice cream, teachers and students enjoyed some social outdoor time while eating their refreshing ice cream cups.

Once again, thank you to our wonderful West Brook PTA!








Contributor: Mr. L. Calenda

Featured Pet by Vanessa C. 7th Grade

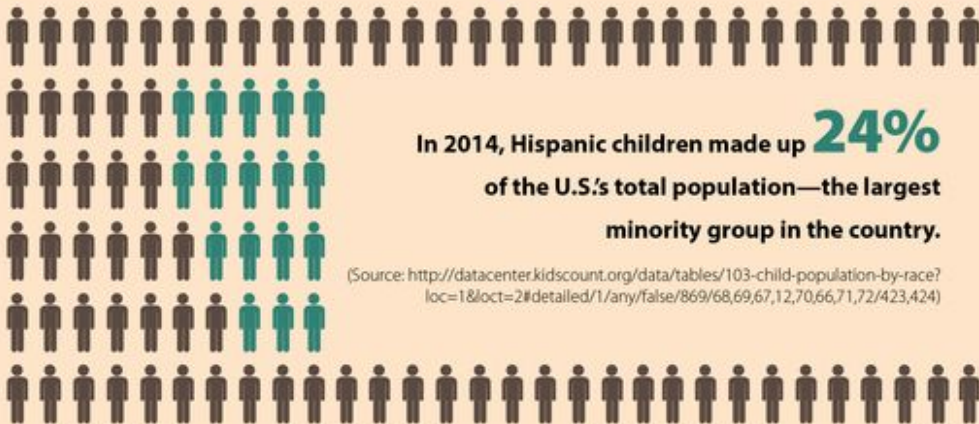


My dog's name is Lordi. He is one year and five months old. His favorite food is everything (he isn't picky), but he does love chicken. He loves to go on long walks and play catch with his frisbee. My dog can sit, stay, shake both paws, give high fives, jump, give kisses, and he can even take selfies (see the photo). My dog's naughty habit is eating anything he can get his paws on (even inedible stuff!). I love my dog because he is sweet and full of life and energy.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th to October 15th


 <p>I come from a neighborhood where they say, "Don't talk about it, be about it". - Pitbull</p>	<p>"SUCCESS IS A MATTER OF ONE'S OWN FEELING ABOUT ONESELF."</p> <p>Edward James Olmos</p>	<p>«Hacer es la mejor manera de decir»</p>  <p>José Martí @Culturizando</p>	<p>Sonia Sotomayor First Hispanic Supreme Court Justice</p> <p><i>"It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand."</i></p>
<p>Ellen Ochoa World's First Hispanic Female Astronaut</p>  <p><i>"Don't be afraid to reach for the stars."</i></p>	<p>"Every day begins like a blank chalkboard, on which each one of us can write the poem of our present and our dreams for the future."</p> <p>RICKY MARTIN</p>	<p>"We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live, not just to acquire things. That is what we are put on the earth for."</p> <p>DOLORES HUERTA</p>	<p>"No matter what race or color you are, you can aspire to do something great."</p> 
<p>"The more you speak more languages, the more you understand about yourself."</p> <p>SANDRA CISNEROS</p>	<p>"The United States gave me opportunities that my country of origin could not: freedom of the press and complete freedom of expression."</p> <p>JORGE RAMOS</p>	 <p>"Life is a challenge that you need. There's things in life that are going to throw you into the ground, but if you learn how to get up, that means you are not a quitter."</p> <p>— David Ortiz — AZ QUOTES</p>	<p>Laurie HERNANDEZ Puerto Rican American Artist, Gymnast and U.S. Olympian</p>

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 101




In 2014, Hispanic children made up 24%
of the U.S.'s total population—the largest
minority group in the country.


(Source: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/103-child-population-by-race?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/1/any/false/869/68,69,67,12,70,66,71,72/423,424>)





Do you know why Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15 – October 15?


We begin celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on **September 15**, which is the anniversary of independence for 5 countries:



 Costa Rica


 El Salvador


 Guatemala



 Honduras


 Nicaragua






Mexico's Independence Day is September 16 and Chile's is September 18.

We extend into October because **October 12** is known as "**El Día de la Raza**," or "The Day of the Race." It is a day celebrating the many nationalities present in the history of Mexico, Central America, and South America including Native Americans such as the Mayas, Aztecs and Incas; and European nationalities such as Spanish, Portuguese, and French.



What is the difference between Hispanic and Latino?


The U.S. government distinguishes Hispanic and Latino as terms to define regions of origin and not a person's race. (source: <http://womeninbusiness.about.com/od/businessetiquette/a/pc-hispanic.htm>)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, being **Hispanic** refers to someone whose origins are from: Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America and the countries of South America where Spanish is the primary language.

Latinos are considered individuals from countries (or cultures) within the bounds of Latin America.

Brazilians are considered to be Latino, but are not considered to be Hispanic. Latino has come to be used interchangeably with Hispanic in the United States. Neither term should be used to describe a person's race.



National PTA
everychild.onevoice

National PTA® Every Child in Focus

Join the **#EveryChild** campaign all year as we focus on the importance of diversity in the classrooms and our school communities. Participate in the conversation, tell us why diversity matters in your school using **#EveryChild** & follow us on social.

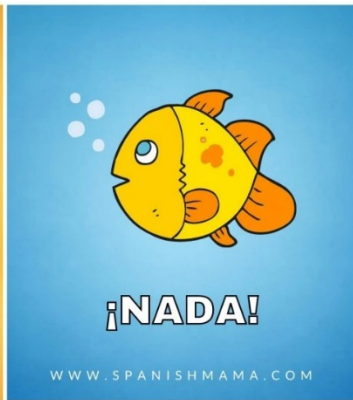
Facebook.com/ParentTeacherAssociation

Instagram.com/NationalPTA

Pinterest.com/NationalPTA

Twitter.com/NationalPTA

Contributor: Ms.Jaclyn Caceres Tarantino and Ms.Cristina San Roman



**¿Cómo se siente un oso
enojado?**



FuriOSO.

WWW.SPANISHMAMA.COM

**What did the chair say when
it left the room?**



- Silla.

WWW.SPANISHMAMA.COM

Contributor: Ms. Jaclyn Caceres Tarantino and Ms. Cristina San Roman

[Click Here to Visit the Virtual Library](#)



The library would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure your Paramus Public Library card is in good standing. In this time of remote learning, it is more important than ever to have access to e-resources the Public Library provides.

Here is the link to the [Library Card Form](#)



Tech Tip!

Chromebook not turning on?

Can't connect to the Wi-Fi?

Keyboard not typing?

Don't worry Ms. Skrezec is here to help and get you back on track.

For any and all Chromebook problems simply fill out this form and she will answer you.

No need to find her, she will find you.

<https://forms.gle/42fjcmKWnFbtk3LP8>

Fall for Apples!



Students in Mrs. Kim's Beginning ESL class have learned about apples. They identified different kinds of apples and labeled the various parts of an apple. Students practiced saying out loud each part of an apple with an actual apple. Also, they discussed the meaning of the expression, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." They learned very useful adjectives describing apples with all five senses.

Students were amazed that there were so many different types of apples in the world. The most popular apple among the entire ESL student groups was the Fuji apple. Have you tried Fuji apples? They are crunchy and super sweet! What is your favorite apple to eat?





School Counseling Department
"Be Kind. Be Respectful, Be West Brook"



Welcome back to school!

We are so thrilled to see everyone's smiling faces in the hallways - even behind the masks! We are happy to continue serving as your School Counselors and meet with you in person this year. As a reminder, you have the same counselor throughout your years at West Brook.

Mr. Engber	Grades 6 & 8
Mrs. De Jesus	Grades 5 & 7
Ms. Alicastro	Student Assistance Counselor to all grades

We interact with ALL students throughout the year on endless topics! You will see your School Counselor in many capacities:

- In the hallways and cafeterias
- In the classrooms during Counseling Classroom Lessons
- In the counseling office for individual appointments
- On Google Classroom
- In your inbox!

It's important to check your emails every day during homeroom to see if you have an appointment with your School Counselor. Your appointment time is reserved just for you, so it's super important to attend your appointment. If you'd ever like to request an appointment, you can email us directly. We're thrilled to speak to you and support you with anything related to school, home, friends, or whatever is on your mind!

We wish you all a safe and successful school year!

Warmly,

Mr. Engber	mengber@paramusschools.org
Mrs. De Jesus	vdejesus@paramusschools.org
Ms. Alicastro	aalicaastro@paramusschools.org

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