



NYCDOE

Highlights of Community School District 5 Harlem Schools

Special points of Interest:

- TCCS (PS 517)
Afterschool Program
- PS 194 Million Father
March
- PS 318 Parent Engage-
ment Night
- PS 36 Dads Take Your
Child To School Day
- Rugby Great Waisale
Serevi with CSS Students
- TCCS (PS 517) Ms.
Yi's Strings Class
- MoSLAC Math and Art
Festival at CSS

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Superintendent's Message

"Teachers who inspire realize there will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how we use them."
- Anonymous

Welcome back to the sixth volume of our Community School District 5 newsletter and our first for the 2014-2015 school year. For the past five years we had overwhelming support from schools, parents and community alike in creating a newsletter that highlights the accomplishments of our students.

For this coming year we hope to continue the success of our newsletter and ask that you continue to submit and share your school highlights with us. We continue to work to transform the lives of our students through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative and welcoming schools. We hope to enlighten and engage our students through creative and progressive programs so that they will become productive and industrious global citizens.

I have visited most schools during the first two months of school and applaud the smooth opening. This school year staff and administrators are planning new and exciting ways to engage our families. As you read this issue, please pay attention to some of the innovative ideas shared.

Please join us me in welcoming Carla Tenorio our new District Family Advocate and Melisha Jackman, Principal (IS 286) to the District Five community. Congratulations are also extended to our new Presidents' Council Executive Board: Salima Cassanova, *Co-President*, Danielle Sullivan, *Co-President*, Keisha Cole, *Recording Secretary*, Patricia Welch, *Treasurer*, Levon Smith, *Title I Representative*.

Sincerely,

Gale



*Community
Superintendent*

P.S. 194, Countee Cullen's 2014 Million Father March

In support of the Million Father March, fathers of P.S. 194M, Countee Cullen Academy showed their solidarity and commitment to their children's education as they escorted them to school on their first day. Participants included fathers, grandfathers, big brothers, uncles and other significant male caregivers.

The Million Father March at P.S. 194M was part of a national initiative, which was created by the Black Star Project to increase parent involvement of fathers, and improve educational outcomes for our children. According to a study conducted by "The Parent Institute," children whose fathers take active roles in their educational lives, earn better grades, score higher on



tests, enjoy school more, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. The smiles on the faces of the children as they entered the school with their fathers showed the positive impact of this initiative.

In celebration the P.S. 194 Million Father March, the principal, Ms. Bazan, and other staff members welcomed fathers with a breakfast reception, photographs with their children, and raffle prizes. The fathers mingled and networked with each other, and completed volunteer forms, so they can continue to be active members of the P.S. 194, Countee Cullen

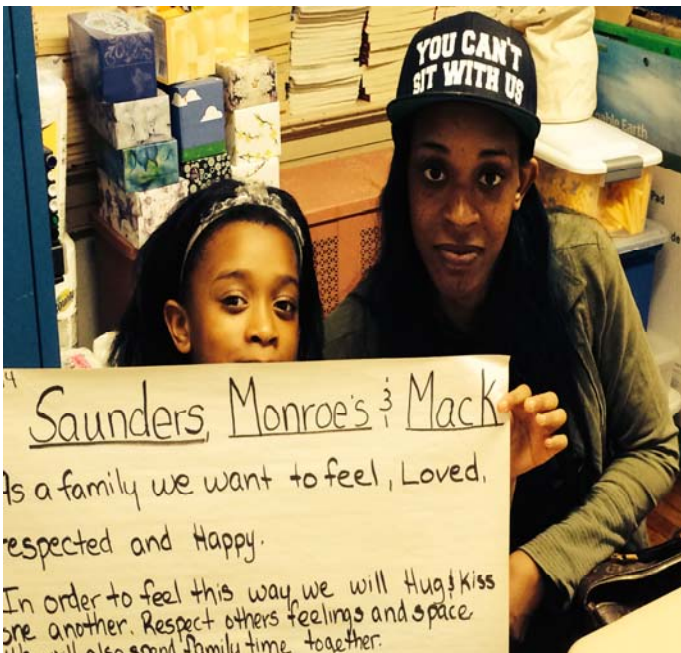
school community throughout the school year. In fact, the following week several fathers honored their commitment to volunteer and assembled needed classroom equipment, which will be used to enhance the technology in our school.

Once again, thank you Mr. Blanding, our Parent Volunteer, and all of the fathers who participated in the Million Father March. It was a huge success, and the perfect way to start the new school year! We look forward to continuing this partnership with our fathers and school community.

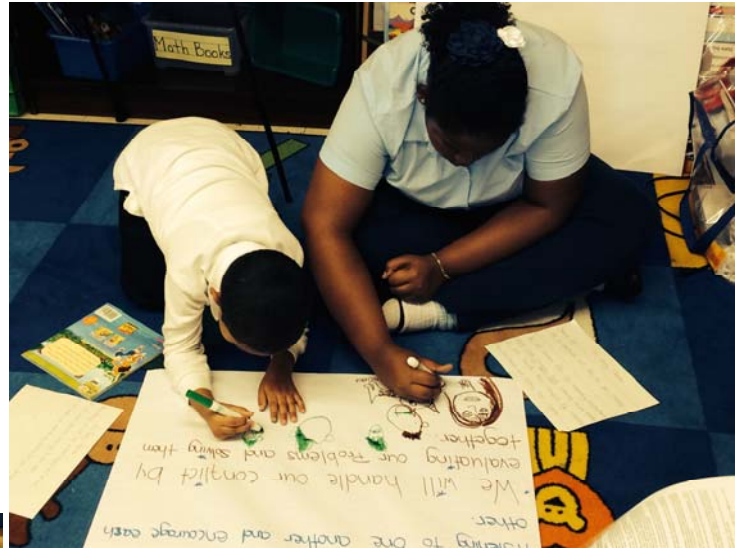


P.S. 318, TMALS Parent Engagement Night

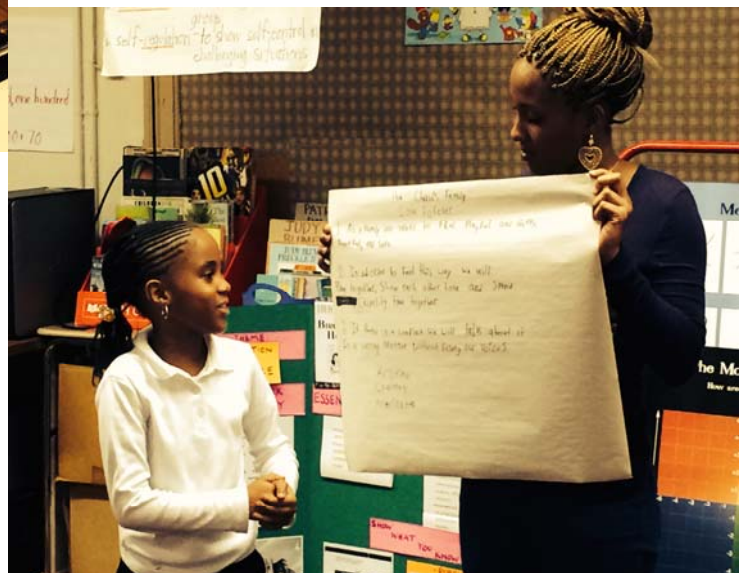
We hosted our Parent Engagement Night on September 16th. The topic for our Engagement Night was a component of a program that we have implemented in the school that comes from Yale Institute. The program we are implementing in school is The Ruler Approach which stands for Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating Emotions. We firmly believe at TMALS that Emotions matter and affect our everyday experiences, interaction with other and the overall learning environment. At our Parent Engagement Night we presented RULER for Families which is being launched for the first time in NYC at



house at TMALS. All classrooms were buzzing with families working together writing charters and talking together in ways they hadn't before. Children and families are still sharing how they have posted their charters up at home. Parent leaders were amazing in their new Parent Leader roles co-teaching with teachers. They can't wait to start working on the next component of RULER.



TMALS. Prior to the event we trained a group of parent leaders in the first component of the RULER Approach which is the Charter. Each class has written a Class Charter together on how they want to feel in the classroom, what they will do as a class community to feel that way and lastly how they will handle conflicts if they arise. The Parent Leaders facilitated a workshop for parents and children co-presenting with their child's teacher for all of the families. Mothers, fathers, grandparents and children wrote charters together on how they want to feel at home, what they will do to feel that way and how they will handle conflicts. We had a packed



*PS 36
Margaret
Douglas School*



PS 36 first initiatives for the school year was a great success! The event was spearheaded by Parent Coordinator Lisa Flores. The Dads Take Your Child to School (DTYCTS) campaign promotes father involvement by encouraging fathers and other significant male caregivers to take their children to school or Head Start at the beginning of the school year and remain actively involved throughout the year.



The turnout was great considering the inclement

weather. The fathers were greeted by the current Principal Ms. H. Baptist. Guest Speaker for the event was former Principal, Ms. Cynthia Mullins-Simmons. She spoke to the fathers about an ongoing collaboration in the education of their children. There will be meetings and workshops for the men throughout the school year. The men were very responsive and enthusiastic.

Following, the men were treated to a continental breakfast. Then, they visited the students' classrooms.

PS 36 looks forward to continued growth and collaboration with the fathers moving forward.



Rugby Great Waisale Serevi with Columbia Secondary Students

Amidst rising concern over the physicality of the game, rugby is seeking the right kind of contact with the players of tomorrow. On an unseasonably warm Monday morning in Harlem, in a small park at the junction of West 123rd Street and Morningside Avenue, swarms of New York schoolchildren picked up rugby balls and ran. Probably to the relief of parents familiar with the increasing trauma over trauma affecting another contact sport, American football, they did not then run straight into the nearest similar kid. Waisale Serevi, the Fijian rugby union great who was overseeing the day's events, explained: "A lot of kids, at our first training session they say 'When are we doing tackling? When are we running straight at each other?'" Clapping his right fist into his open left hand, with a laugh, he continued: That is normal, because that's what they see in football, running straight into each other, and they think that is rugby. And we tell them that is the easiest way to play rugby. But our thing is that we are trying to get kids to get used to using the space; trying to evade the defenders, trying to create the space for another friend to score.

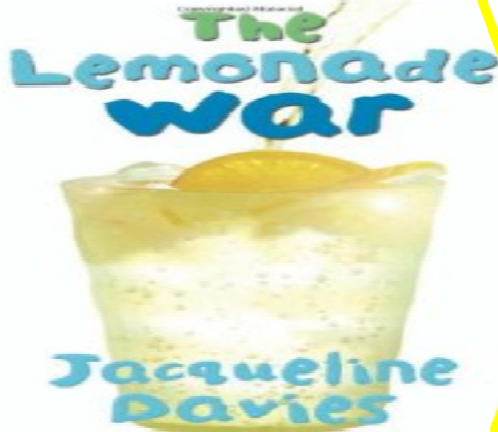


The events are aimed at children who have never picked up a rugby ball. In Harlem, thanks to teacher and former New York Rugby Club captain Harold Delucia, Serevi, USA sevens star Matt Hawkins and women's Eagle Phaidra Knight were partly preaching to the converted. The next day, however, the show would move to less-explored territory, in Queens, and complete a first New York mission projected to reach close to 2,000 children.

On Monday the coaching ran in shifts, one tide of white t-shirted kids succeeding another to sprint, dodge and tag. Oval balls were passed and kicked across asphalt perhaps used to a more regular bounce – "They have the skills because of basketball," Serevi said, "and rugby's like that, you have to catch, you have to run, you have to see and use the spaces" – and locals paused at the chain-link fence to watch. Listening from the 125th Street subway, a couple of blocks away, whistles, laughter and applause could be heard. "For me as a little kid," Serevi said, "I was hoping for this kind of environment. When I played for Fiji I found my own way to get there – I didn't have top rugby players to teach me a few basic skills. That was the goal with Serevi Rugby, to give back to rugby, to try to help kids make a pathway to international level, maybe."

Serevi played international 15-a-side at three World Cups, and was employed by clubs in England, France and Japan. He shone brightest, however, in sevens, leading Fiji to world titles in 1997 and 2005. He is widely considered the greatest sevens player of all time. Played drastically short-handed on a full-size field, sevens is the quickest and most open form of rugby. Contact still counts – as football convert and "fastest man in rugby" Carlin Isles has found out over two fascinating seasons in the American game – but space and speed count for more. "This is how I used to play rugby," Serevi said. And this is what we are trying to teach the kids now, whatever grade we go to – here or in high school or college. We try to tell the players, 'Use the space, use the players to score the try.' As debate increases over the fractures, concussions and even paralyses that can be caused by rugby, it is a lesson worth remembering. This may be a contact sport, but that does not mean contact should always be sought.

Bringing Books To Life @ PS 197M



In connection with the third grade Ready Gen Curriculum, teachers taught the importance of the setting and a character's motivations in a text by orchestrating a class verses class Lemonade War. Students selected details from the book to utilize to see who would sell the most lemonade. Tactics from the book such as nail and face painting were used. Students took it a step further by including a testing of four different lemonades from home-made recipes. They then decided which setting/location would be best for their lemonade stands. Here are some pictures from the event.



Families brought their homemade recipes.



Students were waiting for taste-testing to begin.



Parents let the students paint lemons on their faces.



The Clean-Up Crew



This student didn't believe that a lime was just as sour as a lemon.

PS 30M: A Professional Learning Community

By Brenda Shufelt

The school year at PS 30M got off to a great start, even before the students came in, with two days of Staff Engagement. Acting on Chancellor Fariña's discussions about the great professional development that can be given by teachers within their own school we engaged in professional development sessions facilitated by both our seasoned and new teachers!

In welcoming us back the first day Principal Stinson wrote a letter, which was read aloud, emphasizing the value of the staff and the work we have done. The letter read in part: "You should be proud of how you intentionally set out to better your teaching practices through sharing with your colleagues; working collaboratively through your inquiry teams; attending professional development as well as implementing what you learned; being risk takers by opening yourselves to different ways of implementing instruction; and taking ownership for delivery of instruction. Because of your willingness to change, we have begun the work of building a strong Professional Learning Community through your effective, focused effort. Our work is not done so we must dig our heels in deeper so that the understanding of our students is raised to higher levels."

And, soon after we did dig in deeper with the day's first professional development given by the fourth grade inquiry team on the process of developing the fourth grade curriculum map with many practical tips as well as pedagogical discussion. We also heard a presentation by a newly assigned teacher on using meaningful read alouds for first day/ritual and routines lessons in which a selection from *The Moon and I* by Betsy Byars was read (this session was deemed a success by the school librarian who spent the rest of the day fielding requests for the book!). Then a teacher reflected on a personal experience that had her understand how we are role models to our students for good or ill. Finally, it was Teacher Team Time to hone first day lessons. The atmosphere was energetic, thoughtful and, at times, quite a bit of fun.

The big take away? There were two. First of all, as teachers we have knowledge and strength that can very valuable to share with colleagues and, secondly, a simple conversation in the principal's office may end in being asked to lead a professional development session so, be careful!!

As we sat together as a staff and watched Chancellor Fariña's live streaming talk to NYCDOE administrators and teachers the PS 30M staff had a renewed sense of dignity and true professional importance. We look forward to the year's work and the time we now have in our day for professional learning and growth, for encouraging each other's strengths and developments, and for developing an excellent Professional Learning Community at PS 30M.

Teachers College Community School After-school Program

Teachers College Community School launched the TCCS After-school Program on Monday, September 29th, 2014. With a roster of 140 students and a team of dedicated staff, the after-school program is in full swing. In collaboration with Veggiecation, Kasparov Chess Foundation, HYPOTHEkids, Global Language Project, Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation and Teachers College, the after-school program is proud to offer Mandarin, Chess, and Karate classes to name a few. The TCCS after-school program, designed mostly by the TCCS parent body, aims to cultivate and develop well-rounded students that are prepared and equipped to thrive in a 21st century society.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

During **National Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Below is a list of famous Hispanic people and their profession:

Rita Moreno

Rita Moreno broke new ground for Latinas in the entertainment business. Moreno became the first Latina to win an Oscar for best supporting actress and was also the second Puerto Rican to win an Academy Award.

Sonia Sotomayor

Sonia Sotomayor has served as a judge in United States Court since 1998. President Clinton appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and she was the first Latina to serve that court. Of course, she is best known for becoming the first Hispanic woman named to the Supreme Court.

Mel Martinez

First Cuban-American Senator. He is one of only two Hispanics in the U.S. Senate (the other is Democratic Senator Ken Salazar of Colorado).

Adriano Espaillat

Member of the New York State Senate and a former member of the New York State Assembly. He is currently Ranking Member of the Senate Housing, Construction and Community Development Committee and Chair of the Senate Latino Caucus. He represents the neighborhoods of Marble Hill, Inwood, Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, West Harlem, and the Upper West Side in Manhattan and the Bronx.



Highlights of Community School District 5

Teachers College Community School Ms. Yi's Strings Class

Teachers College Community School is proud to offer it's first ever Strings class! Under the direction of Ms. Tammy Yi, Teachers College, 3rd grade students will learn the basic foundations in reading, writing, singing, performing and composing music on the violin. As part of the general music education and performance class, students will work as an ensemble in rehearsals and performances to learn compositional writing and performing. Each student has an important mission to make his or her ensemble successful, which includes taking care of their instrument, following directions, respecting each other and becoming the next music virtuoso!



Columbia University to Host MoSAIC Math + Art Festival at Columbia Secondary School

Columbia University hosted a festival celebrating the connections between mathematics and the arts on Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26, 2014, from 10 am to 5 pm each day. The festival was held at Columbia Secondary School (425 W 123rd St between Amsterdam & Morningside Ave.) and was free and open to the public.

The MoSAIC Festival included a variety of hands-on workshops, lectures, a mathematical art exhibit, short films, and an area for informal exchange. It is designed to be easily accessible by audiences high school age and up.

MoSAIC stands for Mathematics of Science, Art, Industry, Culture. The purpose of the MoSAIC project, which holds festivals at several universities each year across the United States, is to promote awareness and interest in mathematics through its connection to the arts. MoSAIC is a joint venture between The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and The Bridges Organization.

"Mathematicians see math as art, and many artists love math. At a MoSAIC Festival these usually separate worlds can unite! The sparks generated will be inspiring," says David Eisenbud, Director of MSRI. "A student who is engaged in mathematics through the arts may be hooked and go on and explore further on their own," adds George Hart, Bridges board member and MoSAIC Director.

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Publisher: *Gale Reeves*
Editor: *Nadine Edwards*

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