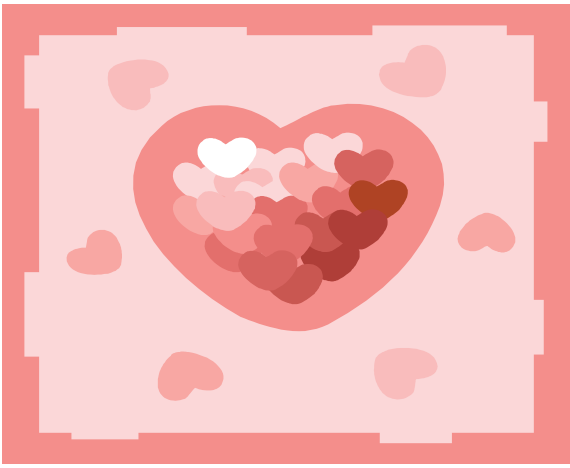




NYCDOE—Community School District 5

Highlights of Community School District 5 Harlem Schools

Special points of Interest:

- *New York Cares Literacy Event at PS/MS 123*
- *PS 92 Hosts Read Out Loud Literacy Festival*
- *Holiday Canned Food Drive at MS 410*
- *PS 123 Second Graders in Colgate Women's Games*
- *Coffee with PS 92 Principal*
- *Harmony Program Winter Performance at PS/MS 129*
- *District 5 Fund*
- *FDA Students Performs Iliad at the Onassis Center*
- *Facts about February*
- *Accountable Talk inside a Dance Class*
- *PS 154 Celebrates MLK Jr. Day*
- *Celebrating Black History Month*

Message From The Community Superintendent

As we continue to work together to meet today's challenging standards, we must make sure that we are doing all we can to encourage children to make education a top priority.

Each month through the **District Five Newsletter** I have the opportunity to dialogue and challenge parents to develop viable home-school connections by becoming actively involved in our schools.

This month as we celebrate the richness of our heritage, our children must be challenged to reach for academic excellence. We must endeavor to set goals and encourage our children to be visionaries, to dream big and aspire to greatness.

We are also celebrating Valentine's

Day this month. As such, it's a perfect time to express our love through establishing high expectations, setting clear goals and providing the help our students need. It's also a good time to encourage them to write notes of appreciation to those who have positively influenced their lives.

Please be reminded that the deadline for grant application to the Fund for District Five is Monday, March 7, 2011 (see page 6). I urge you to avail yourselves of this opportunity.

We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely Yours,

Gale Reeves



***Community
Superintendent
Gale Reeves***

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New York Cares Literacy Event at PS/MS 123

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On October 6, 2010, Ms. Santini and Ms. Atkins' class, 3-301 participated in a Literacy and Craft Project with New York Cares' staff members. The event was held in the school library.

The students, teachers, Ms. Carillo, Librarian, and volunteers from New York Cares began the day with an icebreaker to become acquainted with one another and to feel comfortable in their cooperative groups.

Each New York Cares Volunteer read a book of the students' choice related to the solar sys-

tem. The book was collaboratively discussed with the students as they read and posed questions to ensure understanding of the text. Students also created their own "planet" in correspondence with the books read. The students used clay, glitter, construction paper, paint, confetti and glue to create their planets. Each group was provided an opportunity to share their experiences and present their planet. During lunch, the volunteers engaged in conversations with the students about their favorite books and authors. The pizza lunch was sponsored by New York Cares.

This event provided a productive learning experience for our youngsters. The students were able to share with their classmates, Dr. Lewis, Principal and the volunteers what they had learned about the solar system. Students also created their own planets enhanced with various features, such as individuals walking on the moon, other constellations, the environment on their planet, aliens, etc. The students were assigned homework to reflect and describe in writing their learning experiences.



On Saturday December 4, 2010, Mary McLeod Bethune/PS92 was a buzz of activities as over five hundred children and their parents were treated to a variety of Literacy activities at the biggest "Read Out Loud" event organized by Morningside Alliance (MAA).

The grand literacy feast included Art and Craft projects facilitated by Sesame Workshop, workshops by a popular cartoonist,

PS 92 Hosts the Biggest "Read Out Loud" Literacy Fest

parent workshops facilitated by the Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center, helpful hints on life insurance and investment session facilitated by New York Life Insurance and book readings by popular children's authors and illustrators. The highlight of the event, however, was the opportunity for children to meet authors and receive a signed book.

Read Out Loud provided an atmosphere for the community as a whole to experience literacy in a relaxed but informative setting. Families moved from one activity to the next and at each stop there was something to add to the very trendy tote bag given to each parent upon registration.

The family fun-filled literacy experience came to a climax as families listened to see if they would be a recipient of one of the many raffle prizes that MAA awarded. As the buzz hushed and children counted the number of books they received, positive comments were made by parents of the wonderful day they had and that they simply can't wait to participate in this event again.

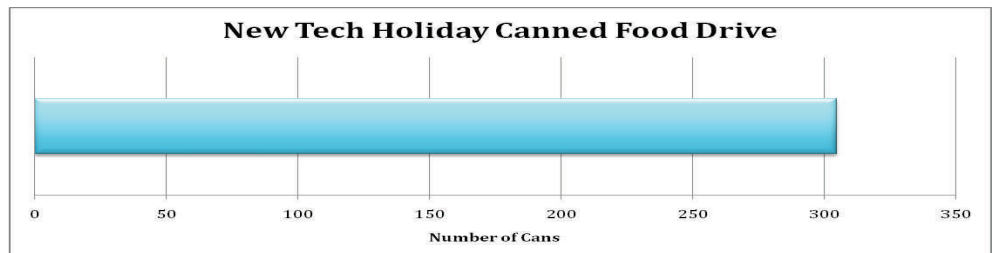


Holiday Canned Food Drive

The Holiday Canned Food Drive at the Urban Assembly Institute for New Technologies (MS 410) took place from December 13 - December 23, 2010. This great initiative was undertaken to support City Harvest. This wonderful organization's mission is to end hunger in communities throughout New York City by food rescue and distribution, education, and other practical, innovative solutions. Each week, City Harvest helps over 300,000 hungry New Yorkers find their next meal. For more information about City Harvest, please visit their website at www.cityharvest.org.

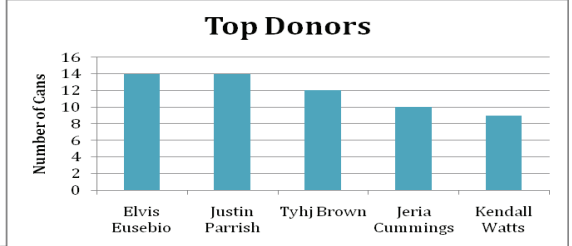
By collectively donating 305 cans – over 6 full boxes of food! – to our Canned Food Drive, New Tech scholars actively displayed one of our school's core values: integrity. As young citizens of an increasingly global society, it is important that our scholars become aware of the community in which they live and the great positive impact that each and every person can have. The Canned Food Drive and accompanying homeroom competition served as a fun way for students to begin their community service. Next year, we look forward to collecting many more cans for our beloved city!!!

Between December 14 and 23, 2010, New Tech collected canned food for City Harvest.

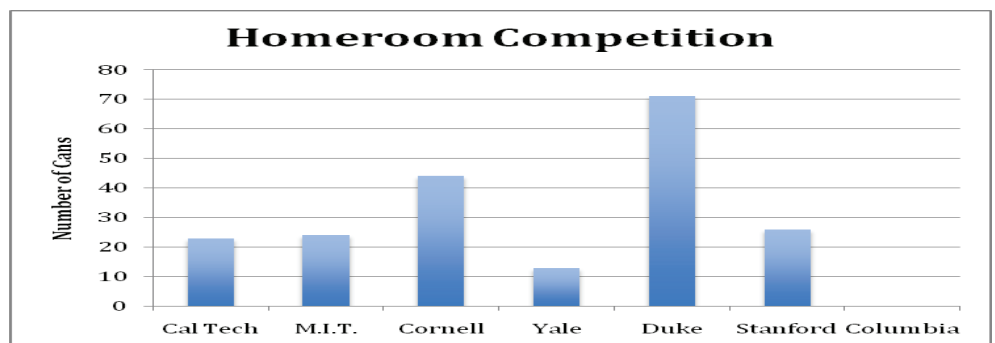


Above: Our community goal was set at 300 cans... our New Tech scholars brought in 305 cans!

Below: Between December 13 and 17, 2010, New Tech homerooms competed against each other to see which homeroom could bring in the most cans. Duke won with 71 cans!!



Above: These students brought in the greatest number of cans!



PS123's Second Graders are Tops in the Colgate Women's Games

The Colgate Women's Games is the nation's largest amateur track series open to all girls from elementary school through college. Held at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, competitors participate in preliminary meets and semi-finals over five weekends throughout January, 2011. The goal is to provide an athletic competition that helps the participating young girls and women develop a strong sense of personal achievement, self-esteem, instill the importance of education and provide a training ground for those who might not otherwise participate in an organized sport.

We have three young students that are taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Aniyah Pough (2nd grade), Kayla Williams (2nd grade), and Nwanny Zapata (2nd Grade). This is the first time these girls have raced competitively. They were a little nervous at first but once they were comfortable with their surroundings, they fit right in.

Their first race was on December 19th 2010; Aniyah came in 4th place in the 200m and 5th place in the 55m. Kayla placed 3rd place in the 200m and 4th place in the 55m. Nwanny came in 3rd place in the 200m and 5th place in the 55m. Their second race

was on January 2, 2011. Aniyah came in 5th place in the 55m and 5th place in the 200m. Kayla came in 4th place in the 55m and 5th place in the 200m. Nwanny came in 5th place in the 55m and 4th place in the 200m. These girls have a lot of heart and ambition. They told the coach that they want to come back next week and do better.

The next meet is January 9, 2011 and the whole community is cheering for them. We are so proud of the girls.



Coffee with Principal of PS 92, Rosa Davila

What began as a tentative gathering several years ago with an attendance of 10, has blossomed into a warm, informative, insightful, discerning and successful home/school collaboration with the whopping attendance figure of 60 at the last session. Parents and guardians of Mary McLeod Bethune/PS 92 meet once a month to share breakfast with the principal, Ms. Rosa Davila and talk about their children's experiences at the school. This forum has been a significant factor in defining the role that parents/guardians play in their children achieving academic success.

The "Coffee with the Principal" gatherings present a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere that allow parents/guardians to comfortably share ideas, give suggestions and ask questions. Ms. Davila expertly guides the conversations in the areas of advocacy, decision making, volunteering and 'at home teachers'. These conversations provide insights into the strengths, areas of need and possible areas of contribution of our families. The knowledge acquired enables the principal to skillfully provide guidance and support to parents who need it so that they can become increasingly involved in home/school activities.





A bit of Info from your CEC Dist 5 VP Ta-Tanisha Rice

How did we come to celebrate Black History Month in February?

According to the Library of Congress, Black History Month had its birth from Negro History Week. In 1925, Dr Carter G Woodson an African American historian who founded the association for the study of Negro Life and History, proposed Negro History Week as a way to encourage people to learn more about Black History. February was selected because of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and black abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The first Negro History week was celebrated in 1926: according to the archives it was a success. Black History clubs were cultivated, teachers wanted materials to teach their students and many whites stepped forward to endorse this effort.

In the early 70's Negro History Week was rechristened Black History Week because of the changing language and ways we describe African Americans.

In 1976 as America celebrated its bicentennial, Black History week was expanded to Black History month.

To date each President has continued to follow tradition to declare February as Black History Month.

Do you know your History? Visit a library, or book store today to learn about present/past African American's who have and are making a difference. You never know, we could be reading about you sometime in the future during Black History Month.

According to the Georgian calendar, February is the second month of the year, and also the shortest month. February has 28 days

Facts About February

until Julius Caesar gave it 29, and 30 days every four years. According to tradition, Augustus, the Roman emperor, took one day off to add one day to August, the month named after him. We now have February with 28 days, and 29 on leap years. In the northern half of the world, February is a very cold month. There are usually sunny days that show Spring is not too far off. The Southern hemisphere usually enjoys midsummer weather during February.

The second day of February is often referred to as *GROUND HOG'S DAY*. The old stories told are that the ground hog comes out of its burrow on February 2, to look for its shadow. If there is sunshine and he sees his shadow, then he goes back to sleep and there will be more winter time. If he doesn't, then the spring time will begin. This is a superstition.

Nevertheless, people on 2/2/11 Staten Island Chuck (ground hog) emerged from his burrow, there was no shadow - *"forecasting an early end to what has been an incredible winter."*

Frederick Douglass Academy Upcoming Adventure to Japan



SPONSORED BY SUMITOMO-MITSUI BANK CORPORATION & JAPAN AIR LINES

A very fortunate group of 8 students from FDA will have the opportunity of a life time to visit Japan and to practice their Japanese language skills. Every year for the past 10 years FDA has visited Japan thanks to the outstanding support of Japan Airlines and SMBC.

The exciting itinerary is noted below.

Wednesday, February 9th

Arrive in Tokyo

Thursday, February 10th

Tsukiji Fish Market, Hato Bus Tour (Imperial Palace, Tokyo Tower, Asakusa)

Friday, February 11th

Jogan-ji Temple for Zen Meditation and Tea Ceremony, Tokyo Municipal Building tour

Saturday, February 12th

Harajuku, Meiji Jingu, Dinner at Nangokusha

Sunday, February 13th

Day trip to Kyoto to visit SMBC Offices

Monday, February 14th

SMBC HQ visit, Sony Building, Akihabara (Electric City)

Tuesday, February 15th

School Visit, Shibuya, Sumida River Boat Cruise, Tokyo Edo Museum

Wednesday, February 16th

Depart to NYC

left to right rear row: Mas Ichida (chaperone), Kwame Felix, Marcus Bazemore, Tarik James, Gerard Cruz, Paul Rivers, Nahtique Guillory, Fayne Sheperd, Amir Sa-laam, Russell Wasden



Accountable Talk inside a Dance and Movement Classroom Dance and Movement Class Celebrates Black History Month

Monique Greene, Dance / Movement Teacher—PS 36



As part of a daily lesson in the dance room, the students of a fourth grade class were engaged in a discussion about the Nigerian born singer, composer, musician and human rights activist, Fela Kuti. Although this topic had begun three weeks ago as part of our new unit of study (African/African American influences and contributions to dance and music), the conversation that occurred during this enrichment period reminded me of why and how I fell in love with teaching.

"One of Africa's most acclaimed musicians, Nigerian Fela Anikulapo Kuti is "a peculiar late-twentieth-century mix of shaman, politician, ombudsman, activist and musical genius," according to Gene Santoro in the Nation. Kuti, or Fela, as he is popularly called, writes and performs political protest songs that have won him a large following both at home and abroad, to the frequent chagrin of government authorities. His music—dubbed "Afro-Beat"—is an amalgam of American blues and jazz blended with African rhythms, while his pointed lyrics—in pidgin English and African—confront government corruption, multi-national corporations, and police brutality.

Larry Birnbaum in Spin describes Fela's sound as "hypnotically persuasive."

In a career that has spanned four decades Fela has recorded over 50 albums and performs frequently in concert.

After reading this brief description about Fela Kuti and noticing some confused looks, I meticulously began to decipher, with the students, the author's intent. From each sentence I gathered vocabulary words, context clues and the sense of emotion the author may have intended for the readers. After defining such words as protest, activist, chagrin, shaman, pidgin and ombudsman, through either a formal definition or a simple synonym, each sentence was read again and again providing more clarity and meaning.

The information they gathered was no longer an obscure piece of history. It was now information that had transformed into an interesting story about a singer and his people. They understood this new information, and could connect to it. The students became intrigued about this time in Nigeria's history when a man sung songs about the mistreatment of people. They became puzzled about

this place called Nigeria that was, and is being victimized by big corporations for it's natural resource – oil. They'd been taught about slavery and its roots but seemed confused about the police brutality that the Nigerians faced. One student asked, "Why don't the people tell the President (of Nigeria)?" Instead of answering I referred back to a line in the story I shared- "*Kuti, or Fela, as he is popularly called, writes and performs political protest songs that have won him a large following both at home and abroad, to the frequent chagrin of government authorities.*" After briefly explaining the correlation between a country's president and it's government, I asked him the same question. Although the student looked saddened by this revelation, he demonstrated to me that he understood why Fela sang political protest songs. It 'clicked' for him and most of his classmates as to why Fela Kuti was a human rights activist. They seemed to have a better understanding about this man named Fela Kuti. As one student stated as he looked at a picture on the wall, "Just like Martin Luther King Jr., Fela Kuti believed all people should be treated fairly."

Then we danced...



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at PS 154

It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. We Kindergarten and Pre-K students learned about Dr. King by listening to non-fiction books about him. Dr. King was in jail because he wanted people to be treated the same. We talked about what we learned at a birthday party for Dr. King. We wore birthday hats. Ms. Burns, our librarian, let Justis Ward blow out the candles. We ate cake and drank juice. We were dancing to the music. We were in the library. We liked the music. We were having a celebration. We had fun! We said "Goodbye."



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Publisher Gale Reeves
Editor Nadine Edwards

"Leadership We Can Count On"



We're on the Web!
<http://csd5.nycdoe.org>

Celebrating Black History Month

Many of the country's best and brightest black advocates, artists, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals moved to the New York City neighborhood of Harlem.

Thanks largely to the efforts of these residents, Harlem became both the cradle of a cultural revolution and the heart of the civil rights movement.

Meet some of the many people who gave--and continue to give--this neighborhood a voice, simply by calling it home: *Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Maya Angelou, Louis Armstrong, James Baldwin, Count Basie, Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Cecil B De Mille, Suzanne De Passe, P. Diddy, WEB DuBois, Ralph Ellison, Althea Gibson, Marcia Gay Harden, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, Langston Hughes, Charlene Hunter-Gault, Zora Neale Hurston, Samuel L. Jackson, Alicia Keys, Alain Locke, Joe Louis, Thurgood Marshall, S. Epatha Merkerson, Arthur Miller, David Paterson, Mekhi Phifer, Sidney Poitier, A Philip Randolph, Charles Rangel, Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, Norman Rockwell, Dinah Washington and Malcolm X.*

www.biography.com

Harmony Program Winter Performance at PS/MS 129M



Harmony Program students held their annual holiday concert on Friday, December 10th at PS/MS 129M. The auditorium was full of teachers, family, friends, and supporters, and the children performed beautifully! The students of PS/MS 129M many of whom are beginners this year, performed two choral pieces in addition to a selection of holiday songs and musical presentations. This was a beautiful holiday concert that included the following presentations of clarinet, percussion, trumpet, flute, general music and violin.

District 5 Fund—Apply for Grants

The *Fund for District Five* seeks to fund projects that create new opportunities in NYC Community School District 5 for teachers, parents and students to learn through innovative projects.

The mission of the Fund for District Five is to help make innovative ideas become reality in schools.

You can download an application from <http://csd5.nycdoe.org> or www.morningsidealliance.org

Are you a teacher, school, staff or parent in District 5 schools?

Do you have an idea that would benefit students or parents in your school?

Apply for small grants up to \$1,500

Application accepted January 10 - March 7, 2011

Apply for funding in these areas:

- *Class projects*
- *Parent resources*
- *Parent workshops and events*
- *Innovative learning opportunities*
- *Curriculum enhancements*
- *Other areas of educational interest*

Grant workshops and tips:

For parent leaders:

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 **4:30-5:30 PM**

Harlem Renaissance Technology Center (in PS 125)

425 W 123rd St. - 6th Floor

For teachers and school staff:

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 **4:30 – 5:30 PM**

Thurgood Marshall Academy

200 W 135th St. - Smalls Café (Basement)

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 **4:30 – 5:30 PM**

Harlem Renaissance Technology Center (in PS 125)

425 W 123rd St. - 6th Floor

FDA Students Performed the Iliad at the Onassis Cultural Center

On December 15, 2010, at 700 pm eleven FDA students had the opportunity to perform Homer's *Iliad*: Book One at the Onassis Cultural Center in mid town Manhattan to a distinguished audience including dignitaries and diplomats from Greece and America.

The cast included: Carla Agbodjan 10th grade played Athena; Kimani Howard 10th grade played Chryses, Zeus; Majeed Lawal 11th grade played Calchas; Brian Nieves 12th grade played Hephaestus; Hilary Nixon 12th grade played Nestor; Qadeera Seabrooks 12th grade played Athena (understudy); Keyarra Seymoure 11th grade played Hera; David Sherman 12th grade played Agamemnon; Malik Toure 9th grade played Chryses, Zeus (understudy); Vasco Wellington 10th grade played Achilles and Bleu Zephra Santiago 11th grade played Thetis. The performance was a huge success and the FDA lead teacher, Ms. Winkelsas was delighted by the students hard work and personal commitment to the program.

This performance by students from the Frederick Douglass Academy is the culmination of an innovative educational program created by Aquila Theatre, in which students develop style and technique by learning and performing the works of ancient Greek drama. Both the program and this performance are sponsored by the Onassis Foundation (USA), the second such program they have sponsored. The first concluded in a production of *Antigone*.