

Community School District 5
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November/ December 2015
Volume 7, Issue 2

Superintendent's Message

"In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future."

-Alex Haley

One of the central tenants of the Chancellor's *Vision for School Improvement* and the *Framework for Great Schools* in New York City is Strong Family and Community Ties.

Every day, we work together to ensure that all of our students will be ready for the next stage of their education and, ultimately, for college, a career, and a future as a productive adult. The role of family engagement in our work is a vital component to our collective success.

Throughout District 5 we have multiple opportunities for parents to engage with schools and the district. From parent events, to leadership opportunities within each school and at the district level we encourage all families to work with us. Our recent Parent Institute for Diverse Learners on Saturday, November 21st demonstrated the strong planning and collaboration between parents and staff. My thanks to everyone. Throughout the district we have staff dedicated to working with families to ensure you have access to vital information and that all student needs are met.

On page 4 of this newsletter you will read about the strong family and community ties between Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School and varied arts institutions. This demonstrates how combined resources serve to enrich the lives of our families, staff and students. Individual school based parent coordinators, the district based Family Leadership Coordinator, Ernest Clayton, and Family Support Coordinator, Carla Tenorio are always available to support. Please continue to work with them in support of our schools and children.

Families should have received invitations to monthly Open House opportunities. This affords parents time to participate in monthly learning opportunities in their child's classroom. I am continually thankful for our partnership as we build strong family and community ties throughout the district. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy start to the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gale Reeves



***Community
Superintendent
Gale Reeves***

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- CS 154 Will Receive A New Playground
- UFT Joins Cancer Walk
- TMA Lower Collaborates with MoMA
- Kappa IV Hosts Basketball Clinic
- Parent Volunteers

Did you know that CS 154 will have a new playground?

Students from CS 154, Harlem Children’s Zone and Democracy Prep, who all use our building, are designing the new playground, with help from a team from the Trust for Public Land. On Friday, 11/6, students from each group visited the playground of PS 111 to try out a playground designed by the team and children from that school.

On Thursday, 11/12, all students got the opportunity to vote on what features they want to see on our new playground. Students on the planning team are learning how ecology, architectural design and scientific research fit into the process of developing a first rate playground. They will work for ten weeks on the design.



Funds for the playground project were given by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer’s and Councilwoman Inez Dickens’ offices.



First Grade classes at CS 154 enjoyed the Tenth Annual Apple Tasting in the school library on October 22nd.

Students tasted four different types of apples and voted for their favorites. They also wrote about their opinions. Honey Crisp apples won the vote for favorite in all classes.

First Graders also received gifts of books from Ms. Faye Fisher and Ms. Suri Harris of the Gift of Books Foundation.

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Harris read books to the students and allowed them to choose three books to keep in their personal home libraries. In the spring, they will invite the first graders to Barnes and Noble Bookstore to buy more books for their personal libraries.





UFT JOINED THE BREAST CANCER WALK

UFT members including District 5 chapter leaders and our district representative joined the fight against breast cancer by raising funds for and walking with American Cancer Society Making Strides of Central Park.

They joined more than one million people each year who are helping to end breast cancer.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks are the largest network of breast cancer awareness events in the nation, uniting nearly 300 communities with a shared determination to finish the fight.

UFT members participated in one of the noncompetitive, three- to five-mile walks, by joining everyone in every community touched by breast cancer.

Every Making Strides event is an incredible and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor and celebrate breast cancer survivors, raise awareness about the disease, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives by funding groundbreaking breast cancer research, providing free comprehensive information and support, and helping people take steps to reduce their risk of the disease or find it early when it's most treatable.

THURGOOD MARSHALL ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL COLLABORATES WITH MOMA

With a long standing history of collaboration between Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School, MoMA and The Studio Museum in Harlem, the Museum Cultural Ambassadors Program began as a way to connect parents with the work being done in their children's classrooms.

Through joint programming, we provided training for parents who were interested in finding new approaches to education and the arts for their children.

The program stressed literacy, and allowed parents to learn what their children were learning in school, and how to supplement these lessons with arts-based interdisciplinary activities and projects.

In our second year of the program we continue to expand our reach to more parents with the theme "Art Is.." in which parents reflect through discussion in the galleries how "art is for everyone" and "art is everywhere" in their Harlem community.

KAPPA IV HOSTED A BASKETBALL CLINIC



On September 26, 2015, in partnership with Generación DirecTV, KAPPA IV hosted a basketball clinic for middle school and high school scholars with former NBA player Felipe Lopez.

Felipe Lopez is a Harlem native who attended and played at Rice High School and St. Johns University before being drafted in the first round of the NBA. Students had the opportunity to run drills with Mr. Lopez as well as have some open gym time to just shoot around with the former NBA player.

Mr. Lopez also took time to speak to the students from KAPPA IV, Eagle Academy and Mott Hall High School about the necessity of hard work and dedication to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves. Through the generosity of Generación DirecTV and its volunteers, school supplies were also given to the students to support them in the upcoming school year. Be on the lookout for more KAPPA IV and Generación DirecTV events this school year.



Mission Statement

The District Five School Community, inclusive of parents and staff, collaborate to ensure high academic standards are set so that our students achieve excellence both academically and socially in order to be productive and industrious members in our global society.

**“One village,
One community,
One voice”**

**“Leadership We Can
Count On”**

We're on the Web and twitter!

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District 5

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DISTRICT FIVE PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FAMILY INSTITUTE OF DIVERSE LEARNERS



District 5 held its Second Family Institute for Diverse Learners on Saturday, November 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ralph Bunche Complex.

The following workshops were provided to parents: *Building Bilingual Communities*, *Childhood Development 411*, *Common Core Learning Standards for Lower Grades K-5*, *Common Core Learning Standards for Upper Grades 6-8*, *Creating a Culture to Support Students with Dyslexia*, *Evaluation and Re-Evaluation: Navigating the Special Education Process*, *Testing Accommodations & Section 504*, *Helping Parents and Caregivers Manage the Behavior of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, *Helping Parents and Caregivers Manage the Behavior of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, *NYSESLAT Strategies for English Language Learners (ELL)*, *Parenting a Child with Learning Differences*, *Response to Intervention/Understanding (RTI)*, *The RULER Approach: Helping Parents and Caregivers Manage Challenging Behaviors*, *Changing the Culture of Success* *PASS NYC: Promoting Access to Specialized High Schools and A Rising Tide Lifts All Ships: School-wide Enrichment*. Each workshop was an hour and three sessions were provided to give parents a chance to attend three workshops during the institute.

There was a plenary/panel discussion held with Yolanda Torres, Executive Superintendent of FACE, Angelica Infante-Green, Deputy Commissioner of NYSED and Lissette Colon-Collins, Assistant Commissioner of NYSED.

Frederick Douglass Academy Chorus also sang and interacted with the parents and children during their performance.

Over 100 parents attended the institute and it was a complete success. All participants received a giveaway bag with books for children. The parents in the picture above volunteered on Friday to stuff the giveaway bags and to fold the programs. A special thank you to all panelists, presenters, participants and parent volunteers for their time and commitment to making this event a complete success.