

NYCDOE - Community School District 5

Highlights of Our Schools

Special Points of interest:

District 5 gearing up for the State Exams

- * New Community School **District 5 WEBSITE!!**
 - * **Poetry Month**
Celebrate this genre with a child.
 - * **District 5 Student**
gets his own book **Published!**
 - * **Spring Break**
 - * **Test Taking Tips!!!**
- Welcome to the second issue of our Community District 5 Newsletter! I would like to thank everyone that shared the highlights of their schools. We are receiving very positive feedback.
- As you know,, we also launched our website in January 2010 which provides information about our schools and is accessible in over 35 languages. Here you will find the latest and greatest of what our schools provide for and with the community. Please visit our website at: <http://csd5.nycdoe.org>. April marks the beginning of state assessments starting with ELA on April 26, 2010 followed by Math State

assessments on May 5, 2010. The New York State Education Department's website at www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/eigen.htm has helpful information for parents to assist in preparing your children for the state assessments. Please continue to work with your child's school to gather helpful resources as our school staff members are busy preparing each student to excel. April is also National Poetry month and we ask you to join us in celebrating a few of Harlem's poets especially Langston Hughes, Helen Johnson, Walter Dean Myers and Gwendolyn Bennett.



*Superintendent
Gale Reeves*

As each of you moves through this month, please share your favorite poems and poets with our students to immerse them in this genre.

Inside this issue:

IS 195 Spring Break in Florida!!	2
PS/MS 129 Bridges Home - School Connection	2
Kappa IV student publishes Book	2
FDA Exchanges Cultures with the Germans	3
Reach the World at PS 175	3
MS 344 First Annual Career Day	3
Community School District 5 Website!!	4
Testing Tips Parents can share with students	4
Poems of Harlem Poets	4

Super Saturday!!! FREE FAMILY EVENT!!!

*District 5 STEM EXPO
Free Information and Resources.*

*Super Saturday! Is a hands-on
Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math Expo!!*



**Saturday, May 22, 2010
11:00am—3:00pm
PAL Harlem 369th Armory
One West 142nd Street
New York, New York 10037
Call (212) 749 - 1570 or (212) 769 -7500 ext.236**

Super Saturday is a hands-on, interactive and experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo. This is a free, all-day event open to parents and children (Grades Pre K-12) with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities and demonstrations. Come see our children showcase their skills, talent and creativity. This opportunity is to inspire, excite and motivate students and parents to consider the wide possibilities of STEM careers and education. District 5 schools will exhibit student projects at this district-wide FREE Family event. There will be FREE giveaways, hands-on, interactive projects and resources for parents. Projects will demonstrate a principle or theory of Science, Technology, Engineering or Math. Students are the primary docents or "explainers" of the projects and are trained and prepared to interact with other visiting students and their parents.

This is FREE FAMILY FUN Sponsored by District 5 and Morningside Area Alliance. Organizations that will be in attendance: **American Museum of Natural History, BioBus, Bank Street College, Teachers College, Harlem Hospital and many more.**

I.S. 195 Seeks out the “Florida Gators” for Spring Break.

By Keith Robinson

*Just relaxing and
spending time in
the sun*

At Roberto Clemente I.S. 195, spring recess was about much more than just relaxing and spending time in the sun. 20 students from Mr. Keith Robinson's "Gator Nation" 7th grade classes traveled with 4 teachers to the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL to see first hand what the college experience is all about. Mr. Robinson, an alumnus of the University of Florida, has themed

his classroom around the University of Florida in an effort to get his students interested in and motivated towards college. They were able to raise nearly \$20,000 for the trip and along with all the activities they had scheduled came a good amount of media coverage. Visit the Web for more from “The Gainesville Sun”. See page 4 for website.



PS/MS 129M

Fostering a Strong Home-School Connection

During Expansion By Roxieann Johnson

PS/MS 129 had over 250 parents attend their annual “Family Night” on Thursday, March 25, 2010. High parent attendance is a true testimony of parent interest especially as the school has expanded to include a seventh grade class. Food, Family and Fun were on the menu for the evening as students performed, parents laughed and felt proud and staff gathered to share the pride of community students. PTA and SLT meetings were conducted in “Town Hall” Fashion before the festivities. What a great opportunity for parents and staff to mingle! The A.S.P.I.R.A Program which provides Academic, Arts & Cultural Classes and much

more brought on the performances. The Urban Scholars Program (City College) also enhanced the program by hosting a table with student tutorials and college services. A buffet of food, including vegetarian and kosher meals was served. Free giveaways were “all the rage” as parents loved receiving free items of their choice. Concluding the evening, parents filled out the Parent Learning Environment Survey. “Family Night” was a “Win-Win” for parents, students and staff alike. Special guest appearances: Mrs. Gale Reeves, Community School District 5 Superintendent and Iris Gersten STH Content Expert, Manhattan ISC.

PS/MS 129M
Fostering a Strong
Home School
Connection ...
“parents laughed and
felt proud”

AN AUTHOR FROM KAPPA IV

BY Dr. J. Vives Jr.

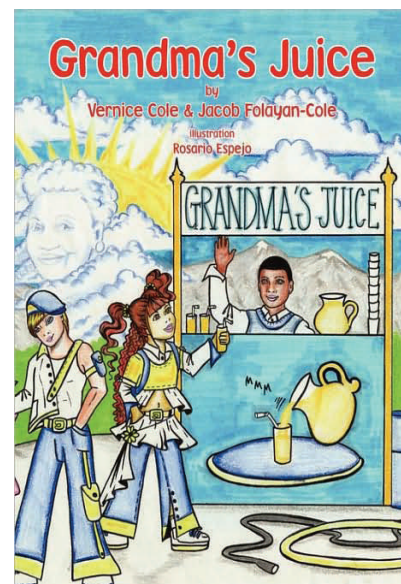
Jacob Folayan-Cole is an inspiration to others and, at his young age, has managed to be recognized as an aspiring magician, a committed scholar and a published author. Jacob is a native of Atlanta, Georgia who relocated to New York City in the summer of 2004.

In early 2005 Jacob and his mother Vernice Nia Cole began the process of writing “Grandma’s Juice” a wonderful children’s book. The story is a labor of love and tribute to the memory of Jacob’s grandmother Mrs. Bernice K. Cole (wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, teacher, educator, and community activist) who devoted thirty years to The City of New York Child

Care Services Agency. She began in the forefront of Head Start, Family Day Care and was the Director of Duffield Children’s Center.

In 2009, “Grandma’s Juice” was published. This beautiful story touches the hearts and lives of all who read it. It is available at Barnesandnoble.com, Amazon.com, and Xlibris.com. The success of “Grandma’s Juice” has been phenomenal.

Jacob understands that life is a blessing and continually strives to strengthen his talents in order to make a positive contribution to society. We wish him much success and encourage you to support his endeavors.





German Student Exchange Cultures with FDA

By Laura Guerriero Bronx Times Reporter/CNG

For two weeks, from Friday January 22, four Oranienburg High School Students immersed themselves in the life and culture of Harlem, USA. The visiting students attended classes at FDA and lived with FFDA Host families. In May, four student and a chaperone from the Frederick Douglass Academy will travel to Berlin, Germany, live and attend school with their German peers in Oranienburg. The exchange program is designed to overcome racial stereotypes and to broaden the minds of young people on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The exchange program is or-

ganized by Kennedy Williams-Benjamin, CEO of the Raina Storm Agency, sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany and the generous support of Lufthansa, who sponsored the tickets. During the week of January 25, Ms. Williams' student ambassadors met with some of New York's highest elected officials: Gov. David Paterson, City Comptroller John Liu, Public Advocate Bill De Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, and Harlem Assemblyman Keith Wright.

(article continued on page 4)

Reach The World at PS 175 By Natasha Spann

The students and teachers of PS 175M participate in a program called *Reach the World*. This program uses interactive technology resources that link our students to travelers and bring global environments and cultures to life. Students have participated in SKYPE sessions through which they have communicated with travelers in Cameroon, Africa; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Shanghai, China. Reach the World provides opportunities for real-life application of mathematics, literacy, science, and social studies skills and concepts. Our students have been able to make connections between the classroom and the real world that extend their learning beyond the limits of a textbook, thereby

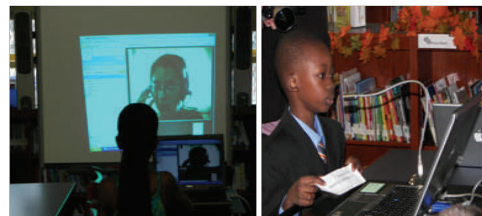
making it more compelling and meaningful. Below are some examples of activities aligned with the major mathematics strands and travelers' journeys:

- * calculate rates, such as miles traveled per week, use maps to measure distance and make to-scale conversions.
- * use the travelers' longitude and latitude measurements to plot points on a grid.
- * The Logbooks and Travelers' Journals on Reach the World website make excellent read-alouds because of their unique combination of content and narrative form.

As the school year progresses, we look forward



to our students becoming increasingly literate in technology and enhancing their higher-order critical thinking skills as they discover the world beyond PS 175.



"Fostering positive goals and a vision of their future in the work place"

First Annual Career Day Held at The Academy of Collaborative Education/Middle School 344 By Ginger Williams

The Academy of Collaborative Education/Middle School 344

hosted its first

Career Day on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Our presenters were Phillip Alexander, Computer Specialist; Crystal Fairweather, Hip-Hop Journalist; Tim Gittens, Professional Basketball Player; Robert Moore, Editor, NY Daily News; Lawrence Phil-

lips, Musician; Robert Ross, Fine Arts Artist; Michael Schiffres, Attorney, Citicorp; Manny Torres, Fireman, NY Fire Department and Dorwin Worrell, Reporter, NY1, Channel 12. At a sumptuous buffet breakfast, Rashaunda Shaw, Principal greeted and welcomed our guests and proclaimed "this Career Day event was the first of many and would help foster among the students positive goals and a vision of their future in the work place". Our experts were well prepared and gave the student body an appreciation for the various professional

possibilities. We thank them for their time and effort. Students greeted, hosted and guided our career presenters to their assignments. A "Dress For success" initiative was also in place for the day. Students were allowed, for the first time (no uniform requirement) to dress in attire that represented the workplace. Many students and staff members used this opportunity to be wonderful models of appropriate business or professional dress.

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Http://csd5.nycdoe.org



"Leadership we can count on"

Test Taking Tips for Students and Parents.

TIP # 1 Know the TIME FRAME of the TEST

TIP # 2 Read ALL Directions Carefully.

TIP # 3 Know and UNDERSTAND the QUESTIONS

TIP # 4 SCAN the Entire Test and Answer Sheet

Remember Get Plenty of Rest and Trust Yourself.

Websites to assist with ELA and Math State Test:

<http://www.frontiernet.net/~mblow/nysela.htm>

<http://www.powertolearn.com/parents/index.shtml>

<http://www.teachersnetwork.org/ntny/nychelp/literacy/prepela.htm>

(page 2)Roberto Clemente I.S. 195, spring recess, visit <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100331/ARTICLES/3311006>

(page 3) German Student Exchange...., The exchange program fosters global understanding and enables four students to spend two week in New York/Berlin with a host family. This year, the German students will attend classes at German students will attend classes at FDA, tour Harlem and the City, and experience life in New York. Conversely, the American Students will visit the city of Orangeburg where they will attend English classes, tour Germany and Share a new experience with their German peers.

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

Poets of Harlem



Quatrains by **Gwendolyn Bennett**

Brushes and paints are all I
have To speak the music in my
soul- While silently there
laughs at me A copper jar
beside a pale green bowl.

How strange that grass should
sing-
Grass is so still a thing ...
And strange the swift sur-
prise of snow
So soft it falls and slow.



Dreams by **Langston Hughes**

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-
winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren
field
Frozen with snow.

A Southern Road By **Helene Johnson**

Yolk-colored tongue
Parched beneath a burning sky,
A lazy little tune
Hummed up the crest of some
Softs sloping hill.
One streaming line of beauty,
Flowering by a forest
Pregnant with tears.
A hidden nest for beauty
Idly flung ny god.
In one lonely lingering hour
Before the Sabbath.
A blue-fruited black gum,
Like a tall predella,
Bears a dangling figure,—
Sacrificial dower to the raff, Swinging alone,
A solemn, tortured shadow in the air.



Walter Dean Myers



*Strange fruit hanging, high in the big oak tree
Strange fruit hanging high in the big oak tree
You can see what it did to Willie,
and you see what it did to me.*