



# Highlights of Community School District 5

## Special points of Interest:

- Citywide Health Campaign at PS 197
- FDA Lacrosse Team
- Literacy Teachers Initiative
- PS/MS 123 Attendance Award Ceremony
- CS 154 Sixth Annual Literacy
- Harlem Then and Now
- Chess Club News at Kappa IV
- Kappa IV Debate
- PS/MS 123 Raises Funds for Heart Disease

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## Superintendent's Message

*"A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart."*  
~Author Unknown

As the 2011-12 school year draws to a close, I want to express my appreciation for the commitment of District Five's students, teachers, administrators and support staff in making our mission, to "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" a reality.

It is clear to see that the teachers, principals, support staff, students, parents, and community members make our district very special in so many ways. The commitment of staff members to provide a quality education to every student in caring schools should be a source of pride to all stakeholders. It is evident when visiting schools, talking with staff, students, and parents - we are making progress during difficult times in New York City.

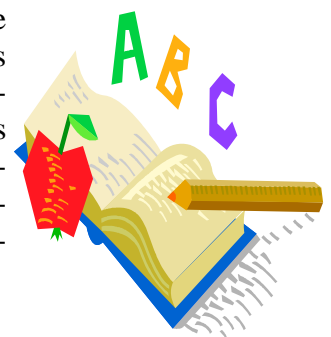
Undeniably, working in public education is particularly challenging right now with state and federal budget cuts that impact us at the local level. Although budget cuts are a reality, a standard-based education is still the solution to ensuring our prosperity and well-being in a rapidly-changing global marketplace.

As we head into summer, let us take time to reflect and renew our commitment to our students. We must continue to create vibrant, rigorous learning opportunities and work towards eliminating achievement gaps in all grades and classes. Our students must be prepared well for college and for future careers that will allow them to reach their full potential. We need everyone's support! The journey to educational excellence is difficult, but well worth the investment in our society's most valuable resource - our children.

Have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer of fun, relaxation and learning! We look forward to seeing you next school year.



*Community Superintendent*





**We Want Water!**  
Touro College launches citywide campaign !

**PS 197**

**Special Assembly**

**Thursday, May 3, 2012**



**New York City Water**  
**The Solution**  
**TAP INTO IT!**

On May 3, 2012, Dr. Jeff Gardere, media personality, fitness guru SusieQ, and Touro College of Pharmacy Professor Deborah "Dr. Deb" Williams were special guests at our **We Want Water!** Assembly. Water bottles decorated with award-winning logos created by Scrubs Club fourth-graders **Demi Peace** and **Mohaghany Johnson** were distributed throughout the school. The message on the bottle will be used to initiate a citywide school-based campaign in the fall to combat obesity by reducing the consumption of calorie-dense beverages and replacing them with NYC tap water. All students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 were deputized as **WATER PATROL** deputies and brought home the message to their families that they want everyone at home to drink more water to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Children's Health Education Foundation is currently seeking funding for this citywide school-age campaign. Please contact Stephen Phillips at [stephen.phillips@touro.edu](mailto:stephen.phillips@touro.edu) or Dr. Nicholas Aiello at [naielo@touro.edu](mailto:naielo@touro.edu)



### *HLL Boys Happy to Host Concord-Carlisle (MA) Lacrosse Program Brings Boys to Harlem*

HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY - Kids in Carlisle and Harlem have more similarities than differences—that is one of the insights gained in an ongoing exchange between the Concord-Carlisle Youth Lacrosse (CCYL) program and Harlem Lacrosse & Leadership. During the weekend of March 30, approximately 24 eighth-grade members from CCYL traveled down to the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, New York City, for a spring “athletic leadership” exchange. The FDA team visited Concord and Carlisle last October, staying with local host families. “It brings out the best in our community,” said CCYL head coach Tim Dibble of the recent event. The weekend represented the continuing partnership between Frederick Douglass Academy and CCYL. The CCYL boys traveled by bus on Friday, March 30, and played numerous lacrosse games with players from Frederick Douglass Academy. “I’m so impressed with all the boys,” Dibble said. “Concord-Carlisle (CC) carried themselves incredibly well.” When they first gathered together, there was a brief moment of social awkwardness, but it did not last long. “After about 90 seconds, the boys were like best friends...they were swapping jerseys and wristbands,” Dibble added. The Concord-Carlisle boys paired with their Harlem counterparts and shadowed them in class at Frederick Douglass Academy.

After playing a few games on Friday, the CC boys were each partnered with a boy from Harlem. They shared personal information, and then described five facts about their partner to the whole group. “It was so great,” said Dibble, “because the process highlighted the players’ common interests and concerns.” Dibble added that one of the major highlights of the visit was the two teams’ community service work for a nearby homeless shelter. The boys put together over 1,200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. “The activity was inspirational,” Dibble said. “The boys were told that it wasn’t an exercise . . . that what they were doing was putting into the bag someone’s meal for the day. I was so impressed . . . in one second, these guys got it.”



### ***Literacy Teachers Initiative (LTI) Project***

The Literacy Teachers Initiative (LTI) project is a partnership between the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) of Teachers College, Columbia University and Community School District 5 of the New York Department of Education. The first cohort of Teacher Fellows was selected in January, 2012 after they submitted applications and participated in interviews with Superintendent Reeves, Dr. Jodene Morrell (LTI Project Director), and Dr. Ernest Morrell (Director of IUME). Nine Teacher Fellows were selected and for the next four months, worked closely with Dr. Jodene Morrell and graduate students in the Literacy Specialist program and professional certification program in Elementary Education from Teachers College, to develop collaborative action research projects based on the Teacher Fellows' pedagogical concerns and interests.

The LTI project was developed with the goal of deepening teachers' pedagogic content knowledge and fostering powerful literacy practices that meet the demands of standards as well as the needs of diverse students and communities at the dawn of the 21st century. We believe that the answers to the most pressing challenges in education are in the classrooms with dedicated, inquisitive teachers. The Teacher Fellows selected for the first cohort are invited to continue to work with the project as long as they desire and to present their research to local and national audiences through written publications and presentations.

Six of the Teacher Fellows will be presenting their research in a formal event, "Powerful Literacy Pedagogy through Action Research in K-8 Harlem Classrooms" on June 13th at Teachers College. The Teacher Fellows and their research projects are as follows:

- ♦ Pamelyn Williams (Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School): *Identifying Characteristics of Student Engagement through Poetry*
- ♦ Marie Clevering (New Design Middle School): *How can conferencing help comprehension and metacognitive strategies in book clubs and independent reading?*
- ♦ Siobhan Gordon (Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School): *Oh, the Questions They'll Answer: Unwrapping Multi-layered Questions in First Grade*
- ♦ Danielle Del Gatto (Ralph Bunche): *Parental Involvement: The Key to Improving Literacy?*
- ♦ Alison Stroud (Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School): *Effective Uses of Technology During Literacy Centers to Enhance Student Engagement and Learning*
- ♦ Rachael Cooper (Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School): *Increasing Comprehension of Third Graders through Multi-level Questioning in Guided Reading*



### ***PS/MS 123's May's Attendance Awards Ceremony***

An Attendance Awards Ceremony held on Friday, May 25, 2012 was a great success. Staff and parents recognized students with improved, perfect and excellent attendance. Mr. Ken Lowenstein, Director of Youth Services, Network 203, described the school's attendance improvement plan by highlighting strategies used to improve student attendance. We are also proud to announce that PS/MS 123's attendance rate improved from 87% to 91% this school year. Many parents attended the attendance awards ceremony.

Both parents and students were presented an attendance certificate in special recognition of PS/MS 123's improved attendance. The Attendance Committee Members are: Ms. Cruz, Attendance Teacher, Dr. Figueroa, Assistant Principal, Ms. D. Greene, School Aide, Ms. Fox, School Aide, Dr. Lewis, Principal, Ms. Lovell, Social Worker, Mr. Lowenstein, and Mr. Reid, Social Worker Intern. The attendance committee members were applauded for their hard work and commitment to PS/MS 123's youngsters.



*CS 154 Marked National School Library Month*

By Carla Burns



CS 154 marked its Sixth Annual Library Celebration with a variety of activities. Among them were a reading marathon to raise money for children from around the world who cannot afford to go to school, and a “Come Dressed as Your Favorite Book Character” party. Students in the photo above pose “in character” like their favorite characters from books they have read. At the party each student made a presentation explaining why he or she liked a particular character. During the Read-a-thon, students read all (school) day without looking away from their books for more than five seconds; they stopped only for lunch. This was the first year that first graders were allowed to participate, and three first graders completed the read-a-thon with their older schoolmates. Read-a-thon students raised over \$300.00 to buy farm animals for needy families abroad. Our National School Library Celebration is always enjoyable and purposeful.



## “Pig Foot Mary Comes to Harlem”



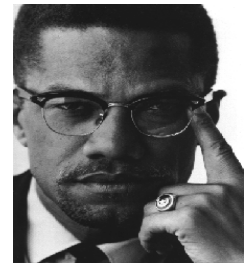
**Regina Abraham - Author**

Pig Foot Mary: The Saga of Lillian Harris

PS/MS 123 is extremely proud of Ms. Regina Abraham's recent publication of *“Pig Foot Mary.”* Ms. Abraham is the Academic Intervention Coordinator at the Mahalia Jackson College Preparatory Academy (P.S. 123M) in District 5. She is also an Educational Consultant and Author at Chocolate Fudge Books where she published her first book, *Pig Foot Mary: The Saga of Lillian Harris*. It's the first release of The Harlem Legends Book Series, a ground breaking Harlem inspired children's book series created to educate, inspire and empower children with the knowledge of the people, history and culture that is uniquely Harlem. *Pig Foot Mary: The Saga of Lillian Harris* (released February 2012) is the true story about a little girl from the Mississippi Delta who with five dollars, courage, determination and a dream, became one of the wealthiest women in Harlem in the 1920's selling pig feet at the corner of 135<sup>th</sup> Street on Lenox Avenue. Ms. Abraham created a variety of instructional activities by using *“Pig Foot Mary”* to motivate even reluctant readers to read. Students are currently preparing for a play in honor of Ms. Abraham's publication. *Pig Foot Mary* is also a part of the Accelerated Reader Program; Quiz 919 EN, Level 2.5 LC, Points: 05.



### **Harlem Then and Now— Students' perspective Semefa Agbokou, Jacob Folyan, Seande Wynter Kappa IV**



*Harlem Then and now* is a program in which we learn about the history of Harlem throughout the decades. It's an educational inspirational program designed to inform students in the school community as to where they live and where they come from. It's a good way to educate and prompt the community in regards to culture and influential people. It provides a learning basis on Saturdays to educate us and inform us about Central Harlem. We work in small groups focused on either literary, musical or political aspects of Harlem history and tradition. By exploring Harlem history past and present we are able to make connections about how what we see and experience today is rooted in the rich history, events and experiences of the past. As we explored more about Harlem, it wasn't always predominant to African Americans. The Dutch were the first settlers who called what they established *Nieuw Haarlem*. We also learned that a majority of African Americans lived in downtown Manhattan. When Caucasians left Harlem African Americans moved to what is called “Uptown”. Caucasians now predominately live in downtown Manhattan. So far, we have learned about the Harlem Renaissance, the New Negro Movement, The Great Migration, and Jim Crow Laws, and The Civil Rights Movement through the study of authors, musical styles as well as political thought of the time. We have been on numerous trips such as to Hamilton Grange, Apollo Theater, Strivers Row, and Schomburg Center---historical landmarks in Harlem. Strong-minded figures such as W.E.B Dubois, Marcus Garvey, Fredrick Douglas, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Hubert Harrison, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington among others, influenced many people to help resolve the racial conflicts that were going on in that era to help African Americans establish who we are today. To further honor these leaders, street names and schools are dedicated to their memory and hard work. This excellent learning experience helps us visualize our dreams and goals to become successful, educated individuals and future leaders.



***PS/MS 123's Mother's Day Tribute***

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.

On Friday, May 11, 2012, in honor Mother's Day; PS/MS 123's school community honored our mothers. Students and staff's emotional-filled performances created a heartfelt appreciation for PS/MS 123's mothers. Through song, dance and poetry mothers celebrated an intense emotional experience. It was heart warming to observe over 100 mothers walk the path of motherhood: hard work, dedication and commitment to receive a rose from administrators. Special recognition and congratulations to PS/MS 123's mothers on Mother's Day.

***Chess Club News at Kappa IV***

On June 8, 2012, Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy IV participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Percy E. Sutton Educational Complex building-wide chess tournament. Annually, all three schools in the building ranging from junior high school to high school participate in the tournament. This year, from KAPPA IV, Angel Lopez placed second and Dajuan Daniels placed third. Bread and Roses High School Willie Foster returned this year and was the tournament winner. Willie is coached by Mr. Emmanuel W. Cooper

Professor David Martinez and Professor Patrick Prophile enjoy teaching and playing chess with the KAPPA IV scholars every Thursday and Friday. The chess program at KAPPA IV continues to help students become critical thinkers, build concentration, problem solve, analyze situations, and exercise many other life long skills. In addition, to continue the success of the program, resources have been given to the school community from Chess In the Schools and they provide other tournaments for children to compete in throughout the five boroughs during the year.

KAPPA IV looks to continuing its participation in the Chess In The Schools tournaments for the 2012 – 2013 school year and also anticipate being part of another successful building-wide tournament.

***KAPPA IV SCIENCE Exposition***

On May 24, 2012 and May 25, 2012 KAPPA IV held its first Science exposition. The exposition was open to students, parents, and the community at large. The projects submitted for the display comprised work from sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. The displays covered a variety of topics such as plants, animals, aerodynamics, chemical reactions, etc. Overall the expo was a success and we look forward to repeating the success next year.

***KAPPA IV Bazaar***

KAPPA IV held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bazaar on Saturday, May 12, 2012. With over 300 guests in attendance the Bazaar included music, a bounce house, sporting events, and other activities which proved to be a successful day of fun for all who attended. The event was sponsored by our PTA and other local businesses and organizations. The outpouring of support for the event was exceptionally positive and we expect next year's event to be even better! The KAPPA IV community publicly thanks all constituents who were involved in helping to make the event memorable!

***Youth Create Media***

KAPPA IV scholars were involved with the FHI360 Network Youth Create Media Project from October to May of 2012. The project is a middle grade youth leadership program which teaches students how to create short films that investigate school or community-related issues. Under the guidance of our math and technology teacher Ms. M. Laks, the students created a film highlighting the various resources and highlights of the Harlem community which was shown to the public on May 24, 2012. The film was entitled "***What Does Harlem Mean to You?***"



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### ***PS/MS 123 Battles Heart Disease***

On Thursday, May 31, 2012, PS/MS 123's second-graders and their teachers, Ms. Schuman, Ms. Capers, and Ms. Spain-Brandon, took a stand to fight heart disease. Our second-graders learned about ways to stay heart healthy. They engaged in various jump-rope activities to exercise their hearts.

In addition, students performed songs, poems and participated in several contests. Our second graders worked hard to raise money for children with special hearts and raised \$500.00! Their donation was matched by Silver Star Motors, and P.S. 123 second-graders contributed a total of \$1,000.000 to the Jump Rope for Heart Event for the American Heart Association.

We are extremely proud of our second graders whose kindness will long be remembered.

## **Kappa IV Debate Team**

During this year, scholars took Debate as an educational course. During that time, some students were chosen to partake in a "Youth for Debate" competition at Columbia University on April 28. As first-time debaters, we didn't expect to have a thrilling experience. We were nervous but ecstatic to learn that our hard work and debating skills had paid off. Since we were chosen to be in the "Youth for Debate" competition, we prepared for the competition for weeks, learning how we could format and debate better.

After much preparation we were ready for what the other schools had in store. When we first arrived to Columbia University we saw all these unfamiliar faces with our families by our side. It was time for us to show all the work that we put into the program this whole semester. When they called our names to go into the debate rooms we were nervous but we knew it was time for us to shine.

The nervousness we had in the beginning quickly turned into an adrenaline rush. With each word we grew more confident in our abilities. We knew if we didn't win, we would nevertheless put all of our effort and time into these debates and the reward was being able to be chosen for this great program. Much to our surprise we did better than we could have thought. As it turns out, one of the teams in our group, Jacob Folayan and Semefa Agbokou, placed first as a team in the debate competition, and Jacob had placed 2nd in speaking. As a school we placed second overall - a success by any measure. On that day we had become true debaters and for as long as we live nothing could take that away.



### **PS/MS 123 Honors Lieutenant Cory Goines** **"One Person Can Make a Difference"**

Lieutenant Cory Goines formerly of the 32 Precinct was saluted on Friday, June 1, 2012 by PS/MS 123's students, faculty and parents for his hard work and commitment to the Harlem Community. The highlights of the tribute included inspiring speeches, the presentation of a variety of poems; musical salutes by the Mahalia Jackson's children and faculty choirs.

Mr. Glenis Pole, Manhattan Director of School Safety recalled how Lieutenant Goines provided outreach to our youngsters by creating positive student relationships with, the police and the community. A plaque was presented in honor of Lieutenant Goines' promotion from sergeant to lieutenant due to exemplary service. Following the event, a delicious luncheon was served in the library in honor of Lieutenant Goines' tribute.