

Community School District 5
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Superintendent's Message

You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. **Clay P. Bedford**

Spring is a season of growth, and across the country it is also the season of measuring a student's academic growth. One way in which schools measure growth is through standardized exams. Recently the state also made several adjustments to the state exams to be administered this year in support of students. These updates to the historical exam and administration guidelines will enable students to work at their own pace, since the exams will be untimed and should alleviate testing stress for students and parents.

The 2016 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Tests will have one less reading passage and fewer questions to answer. The 2016 Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests will also have fewer questions. As has been recent practice in New York City, a student's test scores will be only one of a number of factors that evaluate his or her academic progress and these scores will not be weighed more heavily than other factors such as class grade, projects, and classroom activities. As we enter the assessment season, it is important to be supportive of each child's efforts on standardized tests and help each child do his/ her best.

Some ideas to assist in making this a positive experience include: make sure each child gets a good night sleep and eats a healthy breakfast either before arriving at school or upon arrival; ensure your child arrives to school on time each day; remain positive. It is important that we continue to work together in support of all children and encourage them to put forth their best effort at all times.

Sincerely,

Gale Reeves



***Community
Superintendent
Gale Reeves***

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- District 5 Parent Coordinators Workshop
- 9th Annual STEM Expo
- Building and Sustaining Leaders from Within
- College Awareness at RLA
- School of Commerce Dominates Robotics Competition
- PS/MS 123 Resource Fair

Parent Coordinators' Professional Development

On February 10, 2016 - District 5 Family Leadership Coordinator, Ernest Clayton and the Family Support Coordinator, Carla Tenorio organized a professional development workshop entitled “*Understanding Various Data Sources*”.

The session was geared for our District 5 Parent Coordinators to provide information that would help support the work they are doing in their schools. The presenter for this session was Ms. Roxan Marks, Field Support Liaison District 5.

The goal of this session was to increase the capacity of Parent Coordinators in supporting parents to read and interpret reports, including NYS Parent Report which enables families to understand how they can gauge their child's progress toward mastery of standards. Other areas covered were the differences between summative vs formative assessments and changes in the NYS Common Core English language arts and math tests. We engaged our parent coordinators in discussion during this informative learning session.



Parent Coordinators were guided through the NYS Common Core Parent Report. Ms. Marks discussed the different types of data sources available including demographic, perception and achievement data linking them to re-



ports currently available by the NYC Department of Education, including looking at how the School Survey can inform their work. The professional development session ended with Parent Coordinators feeling confident in delivering this information to their parents at their respective schools and supporting families in understanding data.

We thank those parent coordinators who were in attendance: Makeeba Testamark PS30, Lisa Flores PS36, Lelia Green PS92, Griselda Hernandez PS125, Gwendolyn Rowell PS/MS129, David

Alleyne CS133, Monique Kennedy CS154, Tameeka Benjamin PS175, Clara Pena PS194, Craig Frierson PS318, Christopher Graham MS148, Andi Velasquez MS/HS362, Yvette McKenzie MS/HS499 and Lynda McDougald MS/HS670.

District 5 Annual STEM EXPO

Super Saturday!

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo!!

(Grades PK – 12) Schools have the opportunity to exhibit STEM projects!

***Saturday, May 21, 2016
11:00am—3:00pm
PAL Harlem 369th Armory
One West 142nd Street
New York, New York 10037***



“Building and Sustaining Leaders from Within”

“To improve teaching and learning, districts need visionary superintendents and principals.” ~ Richard Lee Colvin

The NYC Department of Education in collaboration with the **Wallace Foundation** and the **NYC Leadership Academy** hosted a multi-school visit to showcase the Principal Supervisor Initiative (PSI) work in New York City on Monday, March 14, 2016. The City hosted approximately **170 participants** which included **principal supervisors and members** of their staff from Wallace school districts nationwide. District 5, under the leadership and supervision of **Ms. Gale Reeves**, was **one of the seventeen districts** selected to host district administrators from across the United States to share, learn, and reflect about promising practices - as part of the Wallace Foundation’s work with NYC districts. The purpose of the visit was to visit classrooms, offer feedback, engage in reflection, and glean promising practices the school/district has to offer.

The chosen school was PS/MS 161 – Don Pedro Albizu Campos (DPAC) School. Principal Price-Haynes incorporates feedback from visits, is reflective and fosters an inclusive culture for learning and organizational improvement. The school’s leadership team is presently designing strategies to **support teachers’ content knowledge in mathematics** so that teachers deepen their understanding of the connections among learning activities, objectives and goals of each unit. The goal of their focused work is to **build capacity and promote instructional coherence** across the school so that teachers plan engaging standards-aligned lessons. DPAC has many partnerships and programs including Connect Ed, Apple, Carnegie Hall, City College of New York, New York Horticultural Society, ASPIRA, Harlem Dowling, Young Eisner Scholars (YES), and the Harlem Education Activities Fund (HEAF).

The visit was quite successful as principal supervisors shared what they considered to be effective teaching practices and had an opportunity to review meaningful artifacts that support learning and pedagogic development. Principal supervisors remarked that Superintendent Reeves dedicated her time to *helping principals grow as instructional leaders, coach and support principals and engage in effective professional learning strategies* and use evidence of *principal effectiveness to determine the necessary improvements* in principals’ practice to foster a positive environment that *supports the diverse culture and learning needs of students*. According to the visitors, District 5 has the **right vision** and the **right visionary leaders** to improve teaching and learning.

CSD 5 Superintendent, Gale Reeves addressing district administrators from across the country.



PS/MS 123 Resource Fair



On Thursday March 3rd, 2016 all families of the PS/MS 123 Mahalia Jackson were invited to participate in the Resource Fair/ 2nd Parent-Teacher Conferences. Taking place on the PS/MS 123 school grounds, it was a unique opportunity for families to collaborate with school staff on their child's progress, receive information and referrals on a number of community partners, and link school day instruction to hands-on at home support strategies. The purpose of the event was to engage in student led parent conferences while also increasing parent engagement by way of offering services aligned to student and parent needs. The needs were based on multiple conversations held with school personnel during Community Engagement team meetings, parent surveys, parent association meetings and Graham-Windham family coaching and wellness counseling meetings.

Designed in a carnival style with the aroma of hot dogs and popcorn, this opportunity allowed the school community to reach out to service providers such as The Mayors Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Homebase- homeless prevention program, HipHop4Life, Greenhope Services for Women-substance abuse program, NY Public Library, League of Women voters for voter's registration, Graham Family Success Parenting programs and IDNYC. Ongoing community based organizations including YMCA, Graham Windham Wellness, Preventive and Beacon programs were also on site to offer information and sign up families for summer camp, mental health, family support and immigration services.

Shedding light on the multitude of services available to families at this Community School provides a perfect balance to the social emotional and academic support of the school community while receiving feedback from teachers. Rebekah Myatt Hammond, AmeriCorps Success mentor distributed Target gift cards every 15 minutes to those families who demonstrated improved attendance.

PS/MS 123 would like to take the time to both celebrate and congratulate all of the families, staff and partners who participated in this event. The school look forward to continue engaging and supporting the school community.

RLA would like to thank Maria Tetzlaff and the staff from Columbia University, Double Discovery Center for their awesome presentation to our students. They shared information about Columbia University, Barnard College, and a few others in the tri state area. They also served as Judges for our College Door Contest. RLA looks forward to our continued partnership.



Again RLA wants to thank all staff members who made this day the success that it was. A special shout out goes to Ms. Maria Brown and Mr. Paul Mayers for being the winners of our College Door Contest, and Ms. Spears and Ms. Rodriguez for coming in second place. Congratulations!

Renaissance Leadership Academy I.S. 286

COLLEGE AWARENESS AT RLA

At RLA we understand that college preparation should begin at an early stage of one's life. It's with this in mind that during the month of January, students were engaged in weekly conversations that increase their understanding about what college is and how it's important for their own success. Students were encouraged to research colleges of their choice, including the college their leadership teacher attended. During their Leadership session, students and leadership teachers worked on how to best display the information for RLA's First College



Door Contest. It was really exciting to see students' energy. They took great care in completing their individual task and then worked collaboratively to produce their final product.



On January 27, the teachers of RLA highlighted their alma maters during our amazing College Awareness Day. Teachers represented their schools by wearing their schools' apparel. In rotations, teachers presented to students about their college experiences. They spoke to students about their own educational journey and answered questions posed by students. Students were very enthusiastic and several faculty members vowed to plan a second college event and follow up with a college trip. Kudos to RLA Staff and Citizen Schools.



"WE ARE EXCELLENCE"

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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Urban Assembly School of Global Commerce RoboSquad 5891 dominated this year's FIRST Robotics Competition!

66 other HS teams from NYC and around the world (Brazil, Holland, Ecuador, England, China) competed in the championship this weekend.

After day one, they ended in 10th place with a record of 3-1! As a rookie team, this was an amazing accomplishment.

On Sunday, March 13th, they lost the first two matches, but not without a good fight. They regained their awesomeness and won the 3rd match. However, the losses caused them to drop down to 27th place at the end of qualifying matches, which was still very impressive considering it was out first year!

Due to their strong performance and team spirit, they were selected by one of the top 8 teams to play with them during the quarter-finals where they made it all the way to the Semi-Finals!

Although the team did not win the Championship, they were recognized by the judges for all their efforts and was awarded the **All-Star Rookie Team Award!** The Rookie- All Star Team Award is given to the rookie team that embodies the spirit of FIRST Robotics competition and encourages STEAM to others within the community. They heard about the struggles as a team and amazed at the way they overcame them. They showed team spirit, dedication, knowledge and collaboration throughout the competition and was graciously named the Rookie All-Star. They beat out 7 other rookie teams to win this award.



This means they will automatically get to go to Nationals in St. Louis, Missouri!



District 5 Upcoming Events

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

- *Spelling Bee Competition—June 8, 2016*
- *Family Day—June 11, 2016*
- *CEC 5 Education Summit—June 25, 2016*

Please spread the word and encourage families to attend.