Rockwood Park News

Winter 2024
Edition No. 12

By Sal Mazzola

WE ❤ 207

Students of 207 embrace LOVE and RESPECT FOR ALL with the NYPD this February!

Student Council hosts Valentine's Day Sale

207 celebrates their LOVE for reading!

207 Art Contest Winners!

By Anthony Gulluscio

Thank you to all of our talented students who participated in the 207 Art Contest!
Here are all of the winners who received a “Twist It Top It” gift card!

Christopher Gulluscio- 303

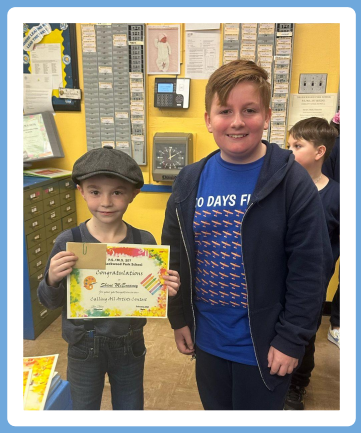
Peter Saputo & Tommy Dwyer 501

Thomas Marlow
4-228

Angelina Caputo-801

Ava Veluya
K-122

Special thanks to Ms. Carcione, Ms. Nevins, and Ms. Cuadrado for the help choosing winners and organizing the event!



Shane MCeneaney- 2-214

Joseph Caputo- 602

Sophia Cardona
1st grade

Inside Broadway

By Giuliana Falcone and Victoria Fuccillo

Inside Broadway is a non-profit theater company that brings the magic and profession of Broadway to public school students throughout New York City. Inside Broadway came to PS 207 thanks to Councilwoman Joann Ariola, and performed *Land That I Love* for our students. The musical tells the story of three young immigrants, new to America, and the struggles of surviving in New York City.

The play depicted scenes of immigrants struggling to find jobs, language barriers, and discrimination while searching for better opportunities in America. The themes and messages conveyed in the play went hand-in-hand with our **Respect for All Week**, where we learn empathy, patience, anti-bullying, and understanding of others.

Respect For All Week

By: Sophie Rosemond and Zareen Zaman

Monday

Be The Light Against Bullying

Tuesday

Remote Learning

Wednesday

Valentines Day

Thursday

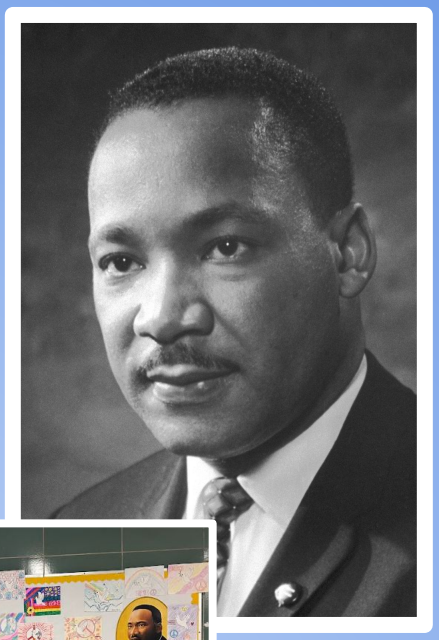
NYPD Anti-Bullying

Friday

No One Eats Alone Day

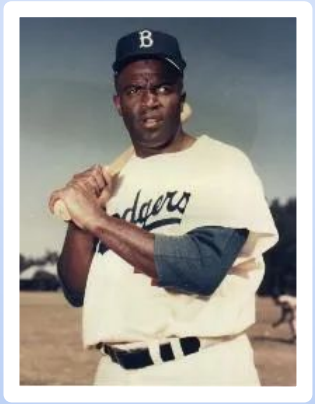
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. had a huge impact on the world. Born January 15th 1929, his goal was to end racism and dismantle racist systems in America.. He made many speeches including his most famous one, "I Had A Dream." He was assassinated on April 4th 1968. Despite racism being an ongoing fight, he did end up making a permanent impact on the hearts and minds of people across the world.

Jackie Robinson



Jack Roosevelt Robinson was an American professional baseball player who became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball. Robinson broke the color barrier making all African Americans free to play baseball professionally. Robinson started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947 making his debut.

Henrietta Lacks

Henrietta Lacks was a black woman born August 1st, 1920, who endured and died of Cervical Cancer. Our 8th graders are learning about her cells, which completely changed the face of science and medicine. Her cells, known as "HeLa Cells" are considered "immortal", undergoing endless mitosis. Her valuable cells were used in the development of many vaccines and cancer treatments without her or her family knowing, consenting, or being compensated for it.

Article by:
Demetri Zerilli and John Paul Mangieri

By Anthony Gulluscio

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Images by Julia D.

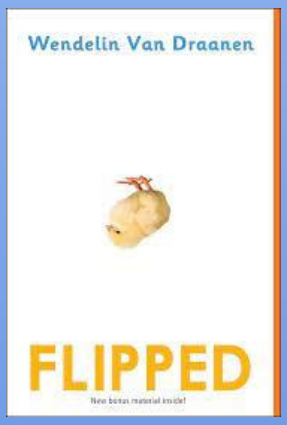
On November 7th, 2023, Councilwoman Joann Ariola was elected by New Yorkers on voting day for her second term as representative for N.Y.C. Council District 32, assuming her position originally won in January of 2022. In the 2021 primary election, 82% of all votes for the role went to her! Believe it or not, Councilwoman Ariola attended P.S. 207! Joann Ariola was under the impression that she was coming to talk to students about a separate topic. She was shocked to learn that she would be arriving to her own celebration, where students from across the District, including our own 207 student council members, swore her in. Councilwoman Ariola has been swearing in our own student council members for years now, so we returned the favor! Many people, including members of the NYPD, FDNY, and even New York City Mayor's assistant were in attendance! 207 was honored to be chosen to host this important event for the Councilwoman who does so much to support our school community.

SPELLING BEE

By Giuliana Falcone and Victoria Fuccillo

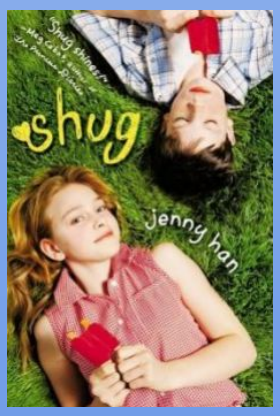
Our school hosted our 2nd Annual Spelling Bee on November 22, 2023 for grades 5-8. The winners were Lucas Piciri formerly of 801 who came in 1st place, Kenneth Oviedo of 602 who came in 2nd place, and PJ Sassone in 601 who came in 3rd place! Our school's initiative is to help improve students spelling and help them recognize spelling patterns when they are struggling. The PS 207 family is so proud of everyone who participated if the 2023 Spelling Bee!

5 Star Book Review



The book starts when Juli Baker develops a very annoying crush on Bryce Loski. But through the years the feelings seem to flip towards each other. This book has an amazing plot, switches of perspectives, and very interesting to read

Shug is a YA rom-com novel by author Jenny Han. It's a great read for all ages. It was nominated for ALA Best Books for Young Adults and Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award



OUR FIRST 100 DAYS.

The 100th day is an important milestone because it means students are more than halfway through the year, as most schools have 180 days in their calendar year. Our wonderful school P.S/M.S 207 celebrates this achievement by asking all students to show their engagement by wearing something creative with 100 items on it, or even dressing like a 100 year old. Students in all grades embraced the spirit of the day.

3-K celebrated the 101st day of school by dressing up as the 101 dalmations!

Vincent.M, Joe.B

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Pre-K Hosts Fashion Show!

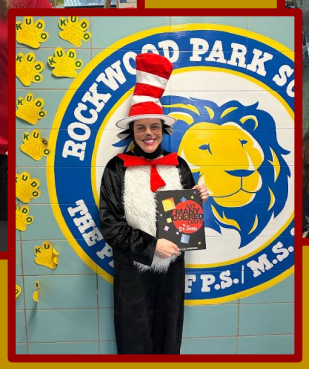
Pre-K is following the **Creative Curriculum**, where they are learning to "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle". They recently focused on sustainable fashion choices while learning to design, sew and finally model their own clothing lines! Families visited to watch and cheer the models on!

By Gia F, Cloee B and Madison B

Ms. O'Brien hosts sewing workshop for the kids!

Dino, Penelope, Kyro and Alessia said they had a great time at the fashion show and like dressing up with their friends!

Read Across America



Mrs. Scarpa, Mrs. Tagliani, and Mrs. Reisig embrace Dr. Seuss' influence on young readers by dressing as Things from Cat in the Hat, and students were surprised by a visit from a "Mystery Reader"

SCHOLASTIC Book Fair

Our amazing PTA helped us celebrate Read Across America by putting on our annual Scholastic Book fair! There were many different genres of books for different ages. There were even books that came with a toy. Before you checkout you can even pick out a pretty bookmark for your new books!
By Ava D'Amelio and Vanessa Dibona

Department of Education

Composting Bin

By Sal Mazzola

207 is now a composting school! Composting is a controlled, aerobic process that converts organic materials into a nutrient-rich, biologically-stable soil amendment or mulch through natural decomposition. The end product is compost. Microorganisms feed on the materials added to the compost pile during the composting process. They use carbon and nitrogen to grow and reproduce, water to digest materials, and oxygen to breathe.

Climate Action Day #2: Waste

By: Victor Pavis and Robert Giallanzo

On Wednesday, February 7th, our school celebrated our second Climate Action Day which focused on waste. 207 introduced new garbage cans and signage, which encourage both proper recycling habits as well as composting, eliminating excess waste. An adult was there to correct and help the students dispose of their waste properly. You also had the option to wear orange on this day, which represents garbage and waste. The system is still ongoing and has helped the school and cafeteria in a positive way.

207 Climate Summit

Our 8th graders came together to conduct research in ELA on climate-driven issues impacting the Jamaica Bay area. Ms. Brandt broke students into teams focused on themes such as flooding, urbanization and wildlife, and pollution and ecology,

Students honed their presentation and oral speaking skills as they presented their own version of a TED Talk for their classmates, parents, and a panel of judges that included an expert from the Littoral society, staff and administration. They presented both problems and solutions impacting our local area,, which tied in nicely with our Climate Action Day goals.

Way to go Ms. Brandt and all of our 8th grade presenters!

The Littoral Society Northeast Chapter Director Alexandra Kanonik gives feedback to students on their Ted Talks

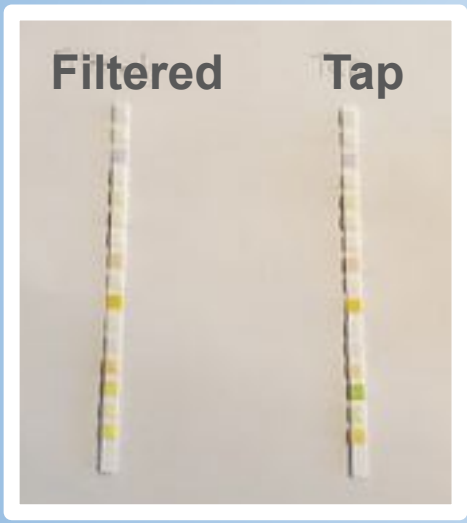
Water Refill Stations Finally Come to 207!

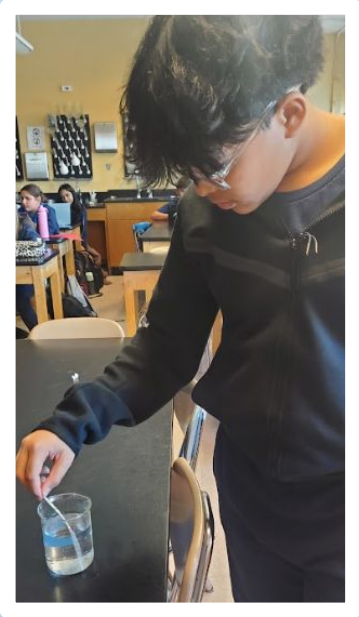
Thanks to Councilwoman Joann Ariola, 207 students and staff can now pack less liquids to school each day, since they will be able to refill their bottles at our schools three new filtered water refill stations. We also tested the tap water in the building vs the filtered water and did find some slight differences in water quality. Our school's sustainability initiative aims at reducing waste and plastic use, and refill stations help us do this Here are three benefits:

Minimizes Plastic Waste: Single-use plastic bottles have a major negative impact on the environment and pollution. Refilling bottles helps cut down on the quantity of plastic trash that ends up in landfills and the ocean, as well as the demand for fresh plastic production.

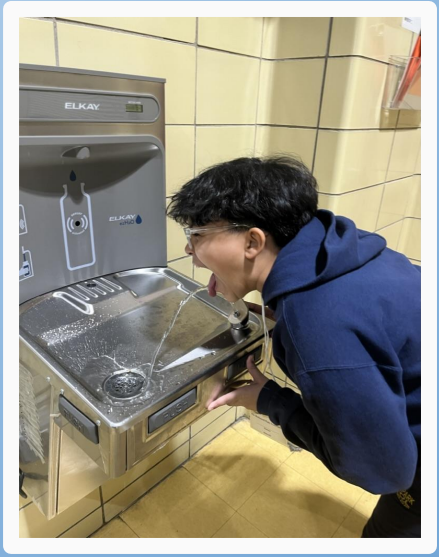
Conserves Resources: Energy and natural resources like oil are needed in the production of plastic bottles. Reusing bottles can help preserve these resources and lessen the negative effects that raw material extraction and processing have on the environment.

Energy Savings: The energy used in the production of new plastic bottles adds to greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing the need for single-use bottle production, shipping, and disposal, refilling bottles helps save energy.





Our newspaper staff conducts water quality tests on filtered vs tap water samples.

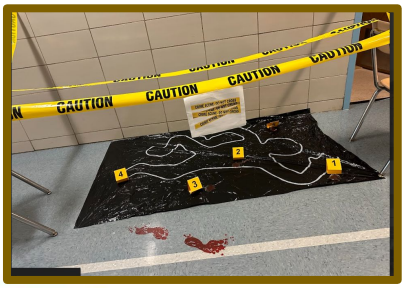


IT'S GAME ON for the 7th Grade PBIS Trip!

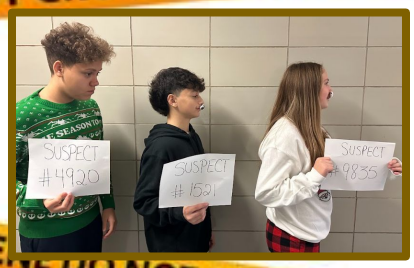
By Annette Loia & Giada Cucinella

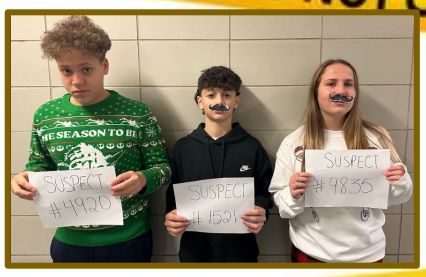
The seventh grade went on a PBIS trip to Dave & Buster's on January 25! A special thanks to Ms. Verdino for organizing this trip for the 7th graders who have been displaying positive behaviors! We had so much fun and loved going to Dave & Buster's. We were able to have the whole place to ourselves, play games, win prizes, and eat!

8th Grade Lab!



Students solve a crime while learning about DNA Transcription + Translation and DNA evidence in a forensics lab



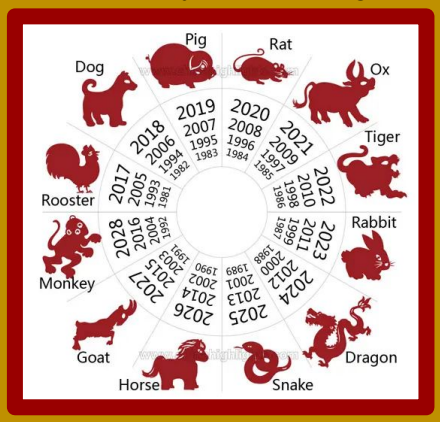


Students learn to test samples for starch and glucose using different indicators

Students learn how to extract DNA from an organism using household products!

The Year of the Dragon!

The Chinese zodiac is a tradition based on the Chinese calendar that assigns an animal and its attributes to each year in a repeating twelve-year cycle. Chinese folklore holds that one's personality is related to the attributes of their zodiac animal. This year is the year of the **DRAGON**! People born in Dragon years are said to possess natural courage, tenacity, and intelligence, as well as enthusiasm and confidence. The Dragon symbolizes power, nobility, honor, luck, and success. 2024 is forecasted to bring about opportunities, changes, and challenges. If you're seeking a shift in your current lives, this year might offer a favorable chance.



One of our students, Zhenxi Chen (704) celebrated by going to a parade in Brooklyn and eating Moon Cakes, a traditional Chinese bakery product and dumplings.

Congratulations!

3rd grade teacher Mr. Podias is getting married on March 16! His class threw him a shower to celebrate. Mr. Podias was surprised his whole class kept the party a secret!

207 Basketball Season Over

By: Tahsin Khan Sal Leo and Pj Dwyer

The 207 Lions finished their season 8-3 including their tough playoff loss at Scholar's Academy (64-57). Even though the team played outstanding they came up a bit short. It was a great season with so much excitement and energy. Josh Vasquez, the team's top scorer, played very well during the game in the playoffs. He scored 22 points. But sadly they lost in the first round of the playoffs. We had an amazing season and hope to get a championship next year!!

♥VALENTINES DAY TREATS♥

By Ava D'amelio and Vanessa Dibona

Ingredients

- Pretzels
- Chocolate- Milk chocolate or Wilton Candy Melts
- Sprinkles
- Wax paper

Instructions

- Melt chocolate in microwave or double boiler saucepan
- Dip pretzels in chocolate, top with sprinkles
- Place on parchment paper and let dry

Ingredients

- 15.25 ounce box strawberry cake mix
- ½ scant cup vegetable oil, or TB melted butter
- 2 large eggs
- White chocolate melting wafers, optional
- Heart sprinkles, optional

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350 F
- Combine the cake mix, oil and eggs in a large bowl and stir until combined
- Scoop dough onto a piece of parchment paper on a tray
- Place tray in the oven for 9-11 minutes
- (Optional) decorate with sprinkles and melted chocolate

JOIN US AT RUSSO'S ON THE BAY FOR

Adults' Night

DETAILS:

- $100 PER TICKET
- MAXIMUM 12 PEOPLE ARE EACH TABLE
- LOCATION: RUSSO'S ON THE BAY
- DATE: TUESDAY APRIL 9, 2024
- COCKTAIL HOUR, SIT DOWN DINNER, DJ, DANCING, PHOTO BOOTH, RAFFLES, AND MORE!
- EMAIL PTAOF207@YAHOO.COM FOR MORE QUESTIONS

Secure your table now!