

Community School District 5
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Superintendent's Message

"When we commit to bringing our deepest selves to the table we are transformed by the act of creating something that we cannot create alone." Peter Block

As I've visited schools and engaged stakeholders in countless conversations, it is clear to see our district's continued work so that each of our students achieve success. The collaborative learning efforts include our families coming together to understand pathways to college and careers, teachers focused on teaching for understanding, assistant principals and ongoing principals professional development reflecting the focused urgency on building the needed capacity and coherence to ensure excellence for our students. For our district's Theory of Action to make that kind of lasting impact requires a high level of commitment, engagement and collaborations from each of us. I am grateful for your learning stance and partnerships.

As we continue through the holiday season, I am reminded of how grateful I am to this community of staff members, families, partners, and supporters who dedicate themselves every day to the mission and the work of District 5. We are "One Village, One Community, One Voice". Our collective achievements within the district are not possible without the countless hours our students dedicate to learning in and out of school; the school administrators and staff dedication to their craft and sacrifice away from their families and parents/ guardians dedication to meeting the needs of their children in all aspects of life.

This season is a perfect time to reflect and vocalize our appreciation to those around us. It is an opportune time for all to come together and relish in the rich diversity within our community and the many cultures and traditions celebrated during this time of year.

I want to extend my warmest wishes for a joyful, peaceful, and delightful winter break. May your holidays bring good health, the pleasure of spending special time with family and friends, and a New Year filled with hope and optimism. I look forward to the year to come which offers tremendous possibility for all.

Sincerely,

Gale



**Community
Superintendent
Gale Reeves**

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Special points of interest

- CSS Senior Project
- CSS Receives Blackboard Award
- PS 197 Lets Off Steam After a Quality Review
- PS 175 Various Events
- PS 175 Mannequin Challenge
- CS 154 Receives New Playground
- PS 92 Christmas Tree Free Giveaway

Future Egg-gineers Take A Stab At Crowdfunding to Support Their Senior Capstone Project



Seniors from Columbia Secondary School's senior capstone engineering class didn't let a lack of funds stand in the way of their plans to design and build a sustainable winterized chicken coop, complete with solar-powered doors, water heaters, and automatic food dispensers. With the help of Columbia University's Stacy Kass, they quickly put together a crowdfunding campaign to raise the \$10,000 necessary for

materials to build the coop. Columbia's Crowdfunding site accepted the submission, and, four successful weeks later, the students met their target amount, and have gained a lot of experience in producing updates and generating support for their project, and for the community garden which houses the chickens, and which the students have developed out of what used to be a vacant lot. You can visit their crowdfunding site and see their updates at <https://crowdfund.columbia.edu/project/3046>. Our chickens are looking forward to a warm and cozy winter, thanks to the work of our enterprising engineering students

CSS Receives Blackboard Award for Outstanding School

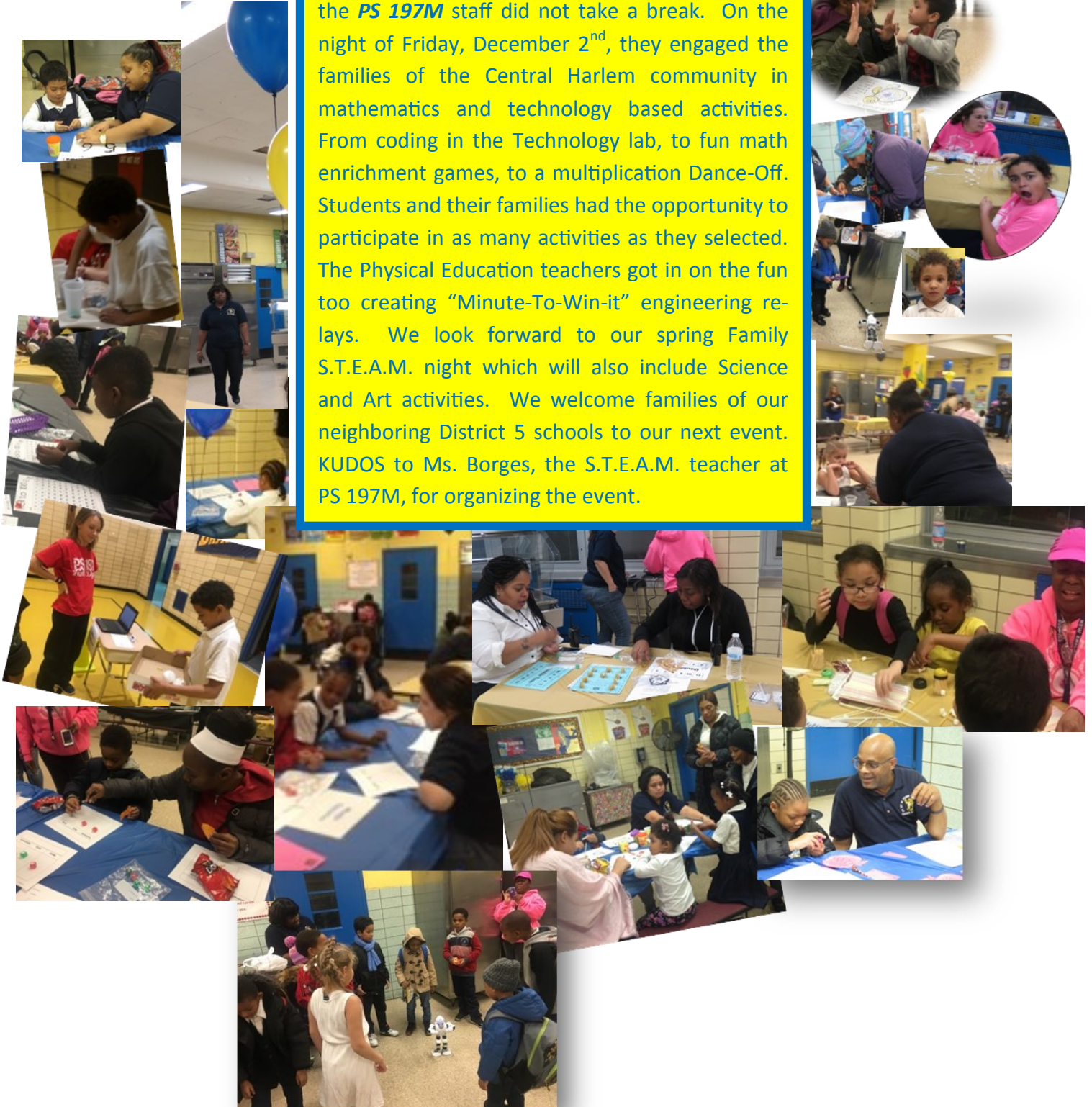
Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Engineering has been selected to receive a 2016 Blackboard Award for Outstanding School. Our award was based on nominations from CSS parents who wrote in to give their perspectives on what made the school such a special place. The Blackboard Awards honor excellence in local education in all sectors (public, private, charter, and parochial), and all grade levels (nursery through high school). All of us at CSS are indeed honored to have the excellence of our teachers, programming, and environment recognized in this way. In 2008, CSS was recognized as a New and Noteworthy school by this same organization. It is so gratifying, 8 years later, to be on the way to fulfilling our mission of serving a diverse community at a high academic level while creating a nurturing community that fosters the potential and interest of each student. Our great thanks to all the members of our community who nominated us for this recognition.





Letting A Little S. T. E. A. M. Off After Our Quality Review

After an intense day of assessment and reflection, the **PS 197M** staff did not take a break. On the night of Friday, December 2nd, they engaged the families of the Central Harlem community in mathematics and technology based activities. From coding in the Technology lab, to fun math enrichment games, to a multiplication Dance-Off. Students and their families had the opportunity to participate in as many activities as they selected. The Physical Education teachers got in on the fun too creating "Minute-To-Win-it" engineering re-lays. We look forward to our spring Family S.T.E.A.M. night which will also include Science and Art activities. We welcome families of our neighboring District 5 schools to our next event. KUDOS to Ms. Borges, the S.T.E.A.M. teacher at PS 197M, for organizing the event.



PS 175 Events



In November, the Presidential candidates were campaigning for votes and so were the PS 175 Student Council nominees. After days of campaigning it was time to vote. Our students understand what it means to have the opportunity to vote and were able to cast their ballots for the best candidate.



On November 15, 2016, PS 175 hosted Moms Take Your Child to School Day. Moms shared the importance of being involved and parents and students completed a project to help show them who their immediate helpers are in life that help them shine.



Super Science Friday: Robotics Edition at PS 175. Parents are invited into the classroom every Friday to engage with their children in science inquiry projects.



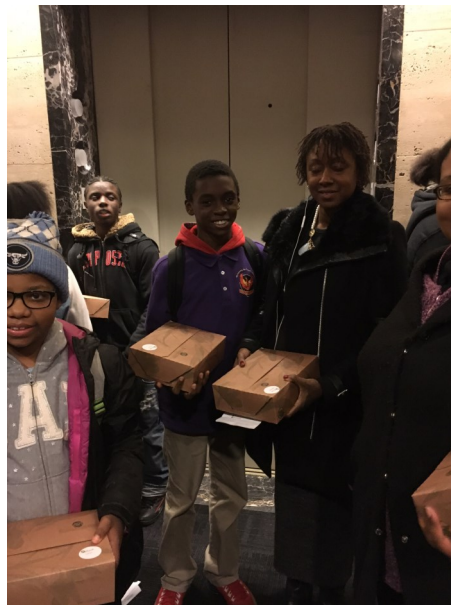
PS 175 monthly Dads Vs. Dads Basketball. Dads come together once a month to engagement in a friendly game of basketball as their children coach and cheer them on.



Before we left for the holidays, PS 175 Pre K students and teachers hosted a Thanksgiving Luncheon with parents. Parents were able to each lunch with their children and build relationships with other parents.

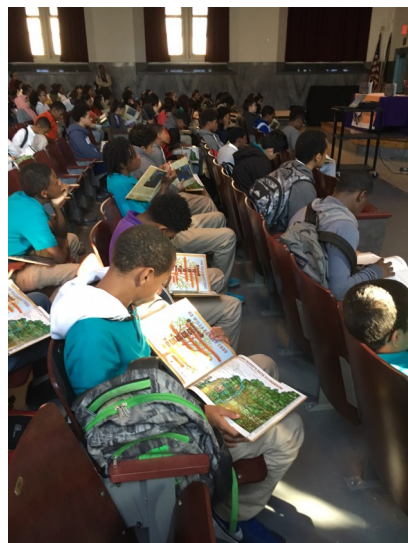


Future Leaders (IS 286) Events



Future Leaders' families enjoyed a wonderful night of dinner and performance at Lincoln Center last week. Partnering with Lincoln Center not only enables Future Leaders' students to enjoy performances and learning experiences from the teaching artists, but families also enjoy a night of a true Lincoln Center experience. A coach bus picked up families from Future Leaders at 5pm and returned at 9pm. It was a night to remember.

The Urban Assembly Academy for Future Leaders enjoyed a powerful visit with author, renowned journalist and broadcaster of News 1, Cheryl Wills. Cheryl Wills shared her journey of learning about her great grandfather who served in the Civil War. Future Leaders' students were amazed and inspired by her message. Even after the Q&A, Ms. Wills spent 1-1 time with two future Leaders young men.



P.S. 125 PRINCIPAL REGINALD HIGGINS RECEIVES THE 2016 WHGA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

During its 45th anniversary celebration at the Grand Hall, the West Harlem Group Assistance (WGHA) saluted three outstanding leaders including P.S. 125 Principal Reginald Higgins, NAACP President of the New York State Conference Hazel Dukes and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins (pictured above). Recognized for their revitalization work in under-invested West and Central Harlem communities, Higgins was the only educator honored.

Since the first-time principal took over P.S. 125, one of the lowest performing elementary schools placed on the state intervention list, Mr. Higgins and his school team, have made significant strides in student achievement, teacher satisfaction and technology upgrades. With improved test scores and positive school culture, the 2016 Cahn Fellow now offers the only progressive program in West Harlem and leads as the top performing elementary school in the district.

WGHA Executive Director Donald Notice said, "With very limited resources, Principal Higgins has implemented innovative approaches to education that will ensure that our young people obtain the keys to a lifetime of success and full citizenship."

P.S. 125 continues to achieve at high levels and make significant contributions to the West Harlem community. The school provides, in collaboration with other organizations, opportunities to use school space to host meetings.

"The Ralph Bunche School has a long and distinguished history of service to children, families and the West Harlem community," Mr. Higgins said. "We are proud of our school. Just as important as academic excellence, a heavy emphasis is placed on civility, character development and citizenship. It is our intent to deliver the very best instructional program to all that enter our school."



CS 154 Fifth Graders Culminating Celebration

Class 5-209 has been studying how scientist observe the world. They use their sense of observation, and investigation to collect data and share that data with others via poster boards, dioramas, research papers and oral presentations. Our school had Parental Involvement Day and the class invited their parents to be a part of the culminating celebration on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.



District 5 Parent Coordinators and Parent Workshop

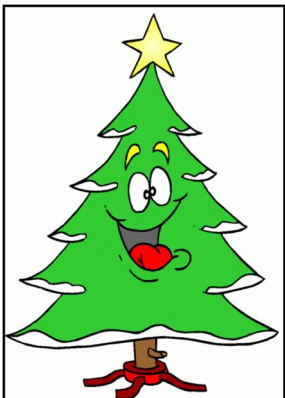
Professional Development session was held for Parent Coordinator and parents on December 8, 2016. Ms. Melissa Koszer, from the George Bruce Branch Library addressed the participants on Family Literacy. She was also passing out library card applications for parents to receive a free "Hot Spot" device for students that don't have internet connectivity at home.

Ms. Morahina Rodriguez, Community Coordinator NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene presented a PowerPoint presentation on "Healthy Homes". Parent Coordinators were surprised that so many household products are poisonous and harmful to children. The presentation was meaningful and participants were well engaged in the discussions.



The Trust for Public Land and the New York Road Runners are helping to make CS 154's dream of a new playground a reality!

On November 1, 2016, representatives of the Trust for Public Land, the New York Road Runners and the Manhattan Borough President's Office gathered on the playground of CS 154 in Central Harlem to symbolically break ground for a new playground. The event culminated an eight-year effort to renovate this dilapidated play area. Structural and funding concerns have made it difficult to get the job done, but the Trust for Public Land announced that work will begin this spring. This is due largely to a donation by the New York Road Runners Club, who donated the balance of funding to make this a reality. The students who helped create the new playground design, as well as students from the school's Mighty Milers and Girls on the Run were on hand, and they were very excited to meet international and Olympic marathon champion, Meb Keflezighi who came to help us celebrate the happy event.



PS 92 Christmas Tree Giveaway

PS 92 in collaboration with Faith Church hosted a Christmas Tree Giveaway on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the school yard. 300 trees were given away for free to families.

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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Attendance message:

As a district we must focus our attention on student attendance. School success goes hand in hand with good attendance! Each month we highlight practices that help build good attendance early. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Set up regular morning and evening structures for children of all ages.

This includes (1) setting a regular bed time and morning routine, (2) preparing for the next day the night before by laying out clothing and preparing backpacks, (3) leaving home with ample time to arrive a few minutes early.

Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

PS 175 Students and parents participated in the popular mannequin challenge.

