

P.S. 119
THE AMERSFORT SCHOOL



BARBARA SNOW
Principal

SHAROD CLARKE
Assistant Principal

April 25, 2003

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for supporting our P.S. 119 School News: What's Your Story? We have enclosed for your review and reading pleasure our April Second Edition.

Without your generous support, these editions would not be possible. Our hope is that the publication will highlight our readers, writers, and artists. In addition, this spotlight will motivate our students to be interested in the world around them. In our little world here at P.S. 119 there are stories to tell, 5W's to answer and fellow students, staff and parents to interview. That's a reporter's job. Report the facts, fact check when uncertain of those facts and interview others to get perspectives. These interviews can lead to a deeper understanding of a topic or a person. But importantly these interviews promote curiosity and wonderings about the world around your child. Encourage these conversations and wonderings as you ask your child about their school day. So much is happening here at P.S. 119. Encourage your child to write: a book review, a report on our concerts, their cultural heritage, a recipe or even a poem. Encourage your child to prepare questions and interview a relative and then take notes on the interview or tape record it to replay and use quotes to write an article. There is so much we can do when we choose to write about the world that is right before our very eyes.

Again, thank you so much for your support. We hope that you can take time to read this and all publications with your child. It takes a village. Thank you for being a valued member of ours.

Best,

Mrs. Berretta, Ms. Snow, & Mr. Clarke

PS 119 SCHOOL NEWS: WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Barbara Snow: Principal

Sharod Clarke: Assistant Principal

Second Edition

P.S. 119 Amersfort School: Magnet School of Global & Ethical Studies

April 2023

The Trips are Back in Town

Canarsie Pier Cleanup by Alexander Weekes

In February my class took a trip to the Canarsie Pier for a class trip. Our mission was to clean up marine debris on the shoreline. By doing this cleanup we are helping marine life survive. We walked along the beach to pick up debris and place it in trash bags. My partner Aiden had a good eye. He saw marine debris everywhere. We collected lots of glass bottles. We found some unusual things like a jacket, blanket and a big red ladder. We finished our trip eating our lunch and chatting with friends. We looked out at the bay and we took class pictures. I thought the trip was pretty good. Everyone was happy and it felt good to clean up and help marine life survive.



Our Trip to the Environmental Center: Class 1-103 and 1-102

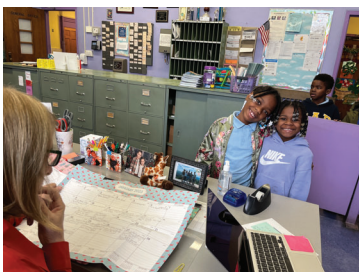
On January 30th, Mrs. Moran's Class 1-102 and Mrs. Gilbert's class 1-103 along with Ms. Marshall hopped on a yellow school bus and visited the Environmental Center. Mohammed Taha had this to say: "The class went to the Environmental to learn about plants and amphibians."



As we travelled in the center Augustus Gretzinger saw: fish, frogs, turtles, snakes and wild turkeys. Lyric Morgan saw a blue fish that looked like Dory and the orange and white clownfish known as Nemo. Mekell Haynes saw a shark. Joel Gonzales said the amphibians are cold blooded which means they cannot make their own heat. Some amphibians live on land and water. We saw a frog in a tank. Plus, we got to pet a turtle. Nyah of 1-102 was scared of the turtle because it had sharp nails.



Madison Clark learned that plants need water and sunlight. Avery added that apple seeds put in the soil can grow if they have



water and sunlight. Kyran told us that soil is another word for dirt. Lyric added that plants can grow in water also likes in our Aquaponics lab in the library.

Our visit to the Environmental Center was "crazy amazing!" said Avery. Plus, "pretty awesome" agreed Lyric. Keyaan Irfan said, "I want to go again!"

Fact checkers from Class 1-103 confirm date of trip to the Environmental Center with Ms. Gaby.

The Atlantic Ten Tournament: A10 In conversation with:

Roy Tyson, George Hinkson and Bentley Raphael

On Wednesday March 8, 2023 about twenty students from P. S. 119 grades: 3rd, 4th and 5th grade attended the A10 Tournament. Students were selected because of their stellar behavior and outstanding classwork. Students travelled by train to the Barclays Center.

It was the St. Bonaventure a/k/a the Bonnies vs the Davidson Wildcats. Roy Tyson said, "the seats were those perfect middle seats," which George added, "gave us a perfect view." George continued and said, "my favorite move was the spin move to the hoop and then...slam dunk the ball. The crowd was yelling and I joined in cheering with my red pom poms." Bentley Raphael said, "as the game continued there were some fouls. Points were scored. Good music was playing but my favorite move was the Wildcat dunk, layup and three pointer. Roy stated, "Number thirty-two, Chad Venning, from the Bonnies was moving at lightning speed and shoots a three pointer from the right side of the mid court and makes it. The crowd cheered and a guy with his humongous Bonaventure flag waved it wildly while leading us to cheer and clap: DEFENSE! DEFENSE!"

The audience behaved gratefully because the Wildcats won: 65 to 54." It was a great trip and we are all following the Atlantic 10 college basketball teams as the season comes to an end. Let's hope we can attend next year.



Scan the QR Codes below, created by Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Field's class, to get a peek inside our classrooms!



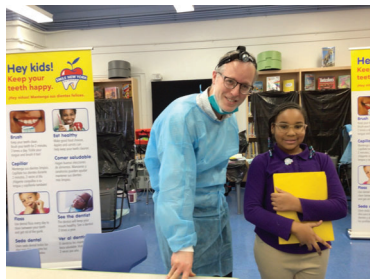
The innovative use of QR codes in this issue, which allows us to take a peek inside the classrooms, was initiated and inspired by Mrs. Yolanda Fields. Thank you Mrs. Fields

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Dental Care

by Rhylee Ward, Emily Bourne, Giovanna Jeanty

Every year the dentist visits P.S. 119. This year Dr. Eric was joined by Team leader Ms. Lashawn, Ms. Toi and Louise Raiola, registered Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienist, Charmaine Davis to provide dental care for the students February 8th thru the 15th. This is a free service



provided to students with the permission of their parents. Lourine of class 4-203 said, "the dentist is important for your teeth to be healthy." The visit with the dentist teaches us about hygiene for your teeth. For example, in the morning you should brush your teeth after you eat and in the evening after you eat. When you brush you should scrape your tongue because germs are there and you could have bad breath so brushing your tongue stops that. You should also floss to get the food that is stuck between your teeth.

The dentist...everybody is nervous about their teeth. They are scared head to toe. When their teacher calls their name to visit the dentist at our school, they don't want to go but they have to. In the library, everybody waits and tells other kids to go in front of them. To make you less afraid, the friendly dental care staff hug you and tell you: "don't be afraid you can do this." But then they are brave enough to go and at the end...it wasn't that bad. You sit in the chair and they give you sunglasses so the light does not hurt your eyes. The dentist uses a mirror and a tool with a hook to clean in between your teeth. The worst part was the grape flavored tooth paste that is still in your mouth but Marly Thomas said: my favorite part is when they put the fluoride on my teeth. Lily Singh said: "I like getting a purple toothbrush and stickers when I leave."

We interviewed some members of the Dental Care team to ask them what was the best part and Dr. Eric said: I like that I can help children." Ms. Lashawn, the team leader said: "working with the kids is my favorite part. I do the paperwork and keep the program running!" Ms. Charmaine Davis concluded: the best part is working with the underserved, the uninsured and the underrepresented populations."

I hope that you understand how important dental hygiene is for your teeth. Make sure you sign up for next year's dental care visit. Beg your parents to sign the forms. It's healthy and it's fun.

Champs by Laurine Debrosse & J'Scion White

Hello. Today we are going to talk about the Champs. Champs is an afterschool program run by Ms. Marshall, a paraprofessional at P.S. 119 for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. In this program we have free play. We have choices and we can choose: basketball, soccer, relay races, jenga, or just sitting with friends eating a snack and talking. When asked what he thought was the best part of Champs J'Scion said: "just chilling with your friends." Laurine's favorite part is, "eating tortilla dipping chips and drinking water." Champs is the best afterschool program. Teacher, Ms. Kaitlin Marshall, who runs the Champs program commented: Champs is a great program for students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth. This afterschool program provides children with a great opportunity to strategize through teamwork. They learn how cooperate, take turns, enjoy each other's company and just have fun."



Ms. Marshall, Champs Director is joined by J'Scion and Laurine.

Aquaponics at P.S. 119

In conversation with:

Carson Thomas, Grace Jean Pierre and Jayden Murphy

At P.S. there was an aquaponics presentation. All five grades attended the aquaponics presentation on in the library. Parents attended as well.

Students learned about how plants can grow without soil. The fish waste gives nutrients to plants. In the library there was a fish tank with: catfish, goldfish and shrimp. The tank was decorated with plastic f/c. Attached to the tank were white tubes that allowed water from the tank filled with nutrients that carry the food to the plants. Jayden Murphy said, "I think it is cool that plants can grow without soil." Grace Jean Pierre added, "it was a fun activity because we got to place small plants in foam to hold them up and then place the plants in the tube." Carson concluded that, "The foam can absorb the nutrient water and hold the plant up." The next activity was tasting smoothies with the following ingredients: bananas, blueberries, black berries, peppermint leaves, and chia seeds. Students also were able to taste blood oranges. Carson said it was, "sweet and sour," and Grace thought it tasted like a peach."

Grace, Carson and Jayden all agreed that, "The Aquaponics presentation was: awesome, excellent and...fun because everyone was learning!"



Parent's Association President Natasha Crawford is joined by parents for the Aquaponics presentation in the library.



Community Service by Jada Jeanty and Daena Staples

I know that you are looking at the heading and thinking: "What is community service?" Let us tell you. Community Service is a program at P.S.119 where 5th grade Seniors go and help lower grade students during after school. We help students in first through fourth grade with their homework and we guide them during activities. Luckily, we have counselors for each grade who guide us as we work to help the children. Ms. Sara and Ms. Jody at Bergen Beach have worked with Seniors on Community Service projects for years. They say it is important for 5th graders to spend their last year at 119 helping others. We are so happy that before we graduate, we get to help the lower grades and set a good example.

Music Medley by Nawal Choudhry

Who is in the Music Medley? The people in music medley are: Ms Larossa, Paulie Z, Arisha Islam, Deshyro Corley, Jimmy Weekes, Kioni Johnson, and more! During Music Medley we make music. we start lyrics and we keep on adding on until we get the chorus and lyrics just right using rhyme and repetition. We meet every Thursday at 1:15 in room 309. Our mission is to create a music video for graduation. Every week we create small recordings and writing/typing the lyrics and chorus. Then we put it together with the music and little by little we will create a video. The theme will reflect how our school is a cultural mosaic blended together with the many cultures within the school. We are still working and making music. See you at graduation!

Drumline by Kristian Fletcher Ross

In Drumline we play on the drum pad and we learn discipline so that we can play on the real drums. Our drum line teacher, Mr. Sammy is being fair to all of us. When it was our first day, I liked it because we watched Drumline videos. Also, we learning how to spin the stick so we practice away from everybody because someone could get hurt by a flying drumstick. We have drum line on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Wonderful Winter Wonderland Concert 2023 Wows!



A collaborative piece of writing by Newspaper Club Members: Afiya Simms, Jiayu Wu, Hassnain Shakeel, Malia Morris, Laurine Debrosse, Emily Bourne, Pavel Lefontant, Kalia Johnson and Alex Weekes

This year's Winter Concert was the first since 2021 due to Covid 19. Malia Morris of Class 4-203 said, "It felt brand new to see it actually happen." Kalia Johnson added, "It was really exciting." Talking and chatting was in every inch of the gym as everyone waited for the Winter Concert to begin. Music was playing as the band members practiced their chords. Was this the start?

The first performance was Chorus. For the first time ever, the rock band made up of: Giovanna Jeanty on drums, Ethan Edwards on electric guitar, Roy Tyson on bass, and Chayana Marotiere of on electric guitar, accompanied Chorus. Chorus all dressed in pink, sang three songs: I Hope You Dance, Brave and Unstoppable. The audience applauded after each performance and many students like Pavel Lafontant were dancing in their seats. Kristian Fletcher Ross exclaimed, "the singing is fabulous! My classmate J'Scion is a great singer."

Next up, the Steel Pan Groups: A and B. One of the songs was When the Saints Go Marching In. Kristian Fletcher Ross thought the sounds sounded like sleeping beauty sleeping music. Listening to the sounds made me feel like I was in heaven." Hassnain Shakeel thought, "Steel Pans rhythm was soothing." They also played Red, Red Wine Alex of 5-310 observed that "they are playing perfectly with a great rhythm"

Stepping was up next. Afiya Simms had this to say: I can't describe just how good they were. Every move they made, they put all of their strength into it. I loved Mr. Mitch's solo. I loved his facial expressions."

Finally, the dancers took to the stage. Flashes of hot pink and sky blue began dancing back and forth across the stage. Afiya Simms stated, "the dancers' performances were amazing. The dancers showed a lot of emotion as they danced. I could watch them dance over and over again" Kristen Chalumeau of class 4-203 said this about her performance, "I had stage fright but I had to BELIEVE in myself and I danced bravely in front of the crowd." J'Scion White added, "Being on stage was very scary but when you do it more it gets less scary." When Rush by Ayra Starr came on the audience went wild cheering for classmates.

Behind the Scenes: Chorus Director by Nawal Choudhry

What is a chorus director? A chorus director is a person/people who directs the chorus. Being a chorus director means that you have to make sure everyone is singing and that they are on the same beat. The hardest part of being a chorus director is that if anyone is on the same page then you have to restart the whole song. You also have to know every word because the younger kids will follow you.

Behind the Scenes: Ms. Francis: P.S. 119 Music Director

Interviewed by: Daena Staples and Jada Jeanty

When asked what inspires her to produce the school performances, she has put on for over twenty-five years, Ms. Francis, our Music Teacher said: "I just wanted to make sure the children had a variety of ways to showcase their talent. I wanted the children not only to learn how to play the instruments but through performance have an audience to perform for." So, through song, dance, stepping, drums, guitars and more she has grown her program tremendously over her twenty-five years. Thank you, Ms. Francis, for your passion and commitment to the P.S. 119 community.



Our Cultural Mosaic



The Spanish Club with Guadalupe Morales Interviewed by Saniyah Torres

Saniyah Torres met with Guadalupe Morales to discuss Guadalupe's dream of a Recess Spanish Club. Saniyah Torres came armed with lots of questions written down for the interview and came up with even more as she actively listened to Guadalupe's responses. When asked why she started the Spanish Club she said: "I like how I feel like a real teacher because I sometimes have a dream to be a real teacher and that why I started the Spanish Club. Saniyah also asked Guadalupe: How would you handle a student who only speaks Spanish? Guadalupe responded: "I would speak with them to see if first they understand Spanish. When I was in first grade, I worked with a student by the name of Carlos who only spoke Spanish and I would translate English to make sure he understood the work." Today Carlos speaks both English and Spanish and Guadalupe helped him learn. Guadalupe teaches Spanish to a lot of her friends. No one helped Guadalupe learn Spanish because Spanish is the only language spoken in the home. Guadalupe had an idea to make a Spanish Club to help other children understand her first language: Spanish. When asked what her favorite word or phrase is she stated: Buenos Dias: Good day! Finally, great job Saniyah for asking lots of great questions and to Guadalupe who wants to share her language with others.

Chinese New Year by Jiayu Wu

Oh hello there! Did you celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year? You DIDN'T?! Wait...but you still have time to learn about it. What is it you may ask? It is a special time to spend hours or even the whole holiday which starts on Sunday January 22nd . YOU can celebrate with your entire family. Come on! Lets go and decorate the front of our house How about you take a toothpick and I get some fruits? And now.. PLOOP... fruit on a stick. Tastes amazing. Wait a second.. it is not food to eat! It is something to decorate with. Guess what it does? The fruit brings LUCK! Are you hungry from the fruit hanging? Lets make some allergy cabbage but wait it takes WAY too long so let's eat some biscuits? Chinese New Year is like a time to be vegan and take a break from meat. Say goodbye to that taste of meat for fifteen days! At P.S. 119 Mrs. Judge Patton also made lanterns and dragon art to celebrate. Way to have fun. Wasn't celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year fun? What holidays do you celebrate?

Pakistan's Food by Fatimah Bibi

What is my favorite Pakistani food? My Favorite Pakistani food is Briyani. It is wildly enjoyed in Pakistan. You can eat it in any country! You can eat it for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. This is my favorite Pakistani food because it is rice blended with a lot of spices and it has chicken. To make it you have to Put one or more glass of rice in water hot, cold or warm! Neatly cutting onions and tomatoes and then cook them. Then putting the rice in and putting a lot of spices and putting chicken that was cooked before the rice. Then just wait for it to be cooked. Last, when it is cooked put orange food coloring and mix it and enjoy.

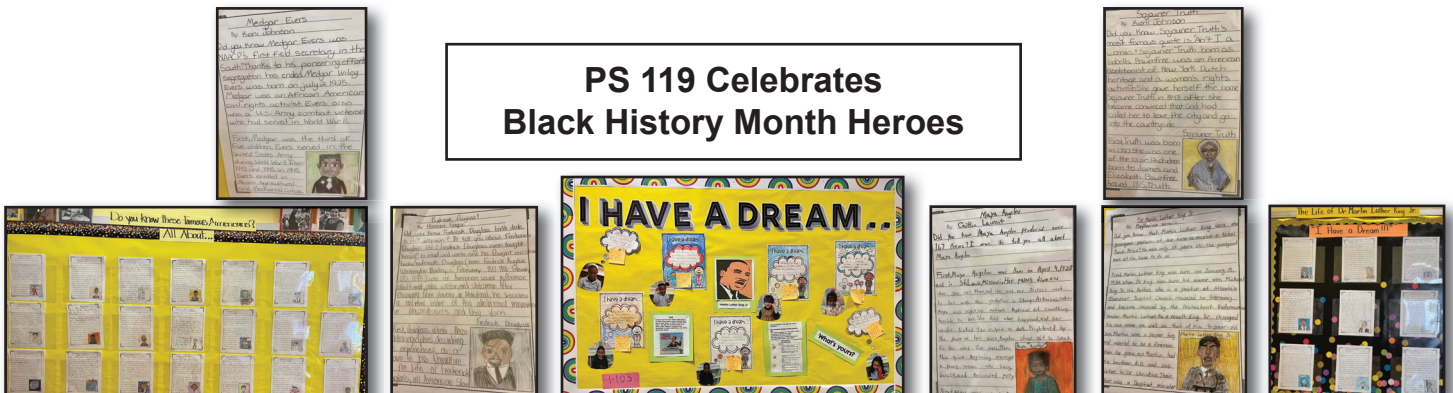
Pakistani Culture by Hassnain Shakeel

Hi I am Hassnain Shakeel. I am from Pakistan. Pakistan is an ISLAMIC country found on the continent of Asia. The official language spoken there is Urdu. In Pakistan almost all of the people are Muslim and we pray five times a day. In Pakistan there are many tasty foods such as: biryani samsa, samsa rolls, helam and kebab. These foods are made from: goats, cows, chickens and more. Also, there are many delicious deserts such as: kheer, jalbee and rasmali to name a few. PAKISTAN has a lot of clothing options such as: shalwar, kamezz and the sharwany. What can you tell us about your culture?

Ramadan Written in conversation with Class 3-210 and lunch time fasting students


As per Google: "Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community." It is considered the season to of giving to poor people. Ramadan is celebrated to be grateful that we have food and water because so many people in the world do not. To fast begins at the age of ten and when you fast you cannot eat or drink until the sun sets at approximately 7:11. Several students are fasting at P.S. 119 and during lunch time under the supervision of Social Worker, Marie Claire Nardulli, students are creating art that celebrates Ramadan. Armham, Munif, Tariq, Aya, Mustafa and others are fasting during lunch. Then you can break your fast after the sun sets with a date or any type of fruit. After you break the fast with a fruit you can eat any food that is halal. Halal is a type of food that does not include gelatin or pork. Some examples are roti, halal chicken, bryani, and more. Before the sun rises between 4:00 and 5:30 am, you can eat a meal that will energize you so that you will not get hungry during your fasting. A traditional Muslim greeting is: May peace be upon you. How do you celebrate your culture?

PS 119 Celebrates Black History Month Heroes

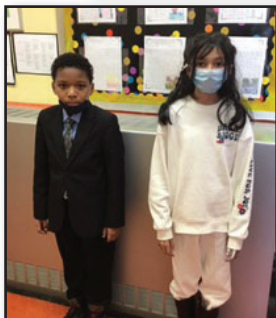
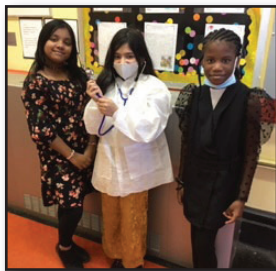


Not Enough
by Trishelle Carter

Not Enough....
Sometimes you might
look at yourself in the mirror.
Feel insecure.
and say.....



Not Enough
Not talented enough
Not pretty enough
Not strong enough
But.... Then
MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL
WHO'S THE MOST POWERFUL
OF THEM ALL?
WHO'S MORE THAN ENOUGH?
The mirror looks back at me and
says...
"You are more than enough."
And then....
SMILES RIGHT BACK AT ME,
MAKING ME FEEL...LOVED.



Career Day by Daena Staples

What do you want to be when you grow up? Well, 5th grade had Career Day as a Senior Specialty! Before I go on about the Career Day let me tell you about the Senior Specialty!

What is a Senior Specialty? Senior Specialty is a SUPER Special Day that seniors have, but only the seniors! Seniors get a piece of paper that shows what SPECIAL day that they have each month! And... On December 9th, fifth graders dress up as the professionals that they would like to be when they grow up!

On Career Day I dressed up as an actor because I enjoy acting! Guess which actor I was? I was Kevin Hart. He inspires me in movies and it's amazing how he makes me crack up. It's kind of like a superpower because, whether it's voice acting or physical acting he always has a way to make me laugh. He makes me laugh so much that I have tears in my eyes. To represent as Kevin Hart, my outfit was a black beret with a black dress, red and black plain pattern with my favorite combat boots and my favorite sunglasses. When I stepped out the door, I looked like a girl version of Kevin Hart. I was now known as Ms. Hart.

As I entered my classroom I was in complete shock! There were costumes better than I had anticipated! Right before my eyes I was seeing real fifth grade professionals. There were police, firefighters, astronauts, racecar drivers basketball players and more! Jada Jeanty and Chayan Marotiere were dressed up as business women, Trishelle Carter was dressed up as an orthodontist, Roy Tyson was dressed up as an astronaut, and Catlin Laurent was dressed up as a voice actor!

In my opinion, Career Day is super special to me and other students because we get to dress up as who we want to be in the future. And maybe, just maybe... if we work hard enough... our dreams will come true.

The Tryout: A Book Review by Afiya Simms

Wow have you ever read a book that made you sad that it ended? Well, I recently read a book called THE TRYOUT. I purchased it from the book fair and it's about this girl named CHRSTINA. She wanted to join the cheerleading team but if she really wanted to join, it meant risking it all and was that really worth it? But the real wonder is...did she make it? If you'd like to find out more you should buy this book. Do you have a favorite book that you never wanted to end? Tell us about it.

Wakanda Forever: A Movie Review by Jada Jeanty

In my opinion I thought the movie Wakanda Forever was emotional and thoughtful. I thought this because the message or lesson of the movie. To me the lesson was telling people to stick together, never fight and never have war. When asked what Trishelle Carter thought about this movie she said, "the movie reminded me of myself when I have to make my family proud." In the end when I walked out of the theater, I was happy that I got to experience this movie with my class.

Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild By Mohamed Sarr

Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild is my favorite book. It's my favorite book because he is the greatest cop that fights criminals even though he named Dog Man he is not entirely a dog because he is half man and half dog. One criminal he fights is Petey the Cat. Petey the Cat is Dog Man's sinister enemy who is really good at building evil robots. He tried to create a robot who was sinister just like him but instead created a goodhearted cat called Li'L Petey. He also created a robot named 80-HD. He tried to make him evil but 80-HD took out the missiles and put solar panels in. Dog Man has other awesome partners like Sarah Hatoff who is the world's greatest reporter and she reports on Dog Man's adventures. He also has a boss who is named Chief and he is the Chief of Police. I learned that when good vs evil and good wins then everything goes back to normal. This book is funny and that's why it is my favorite book to read. What's your favorite book?

Opinions...we all have them...

Students in Ms. Haynes Class 3-210 have strong opinions on various topics. We all have opinions and we are entitled to them. Please read on and see where you stand. Having an opinion allows us to start a conversation with others and see all sides to a topic. Do you an opinion on a topic? Submit your opinion to: P.S. 119 School News.

Kallum Gilbert

March 1, 2023

"Ewww," I thought as I walked into the boys' bathroom in the gym. "I think I would rather hold it until I get home." I looked around and the boys' bathroom was a total mess. There was dirty water all over the ground and also tissue everywhere. "Yup!" I said out loud, "I'm definitely going to hold it until I get home", and I walked right out. We should do something to keep the boys' bathroom clean. I have an idea, let the students do it.

The boys' bathroom in the gym is a total mess. The main reason for the mess is caused by male students. They do not seem to follow the rules and respect keeping the bathroom clean. I think my school should have students help out when cleaning the boys' bathrooms to improve the school.

My reason to have students help clean the school bathroom, especially the boys' bathroom in the gym, is because in the boys bathroom it is always dirty and the sink was broken, this made the ground wet and when you walk in there was dirty water. Sometimes, there is toilet paper and paper towels left on the floor. I believe that this is done by students who use the bathroom and do not care about being keeping the bathroom clean.

I think that having students help clean the bathroom in the gym, would make them responsible for making the mess. They will be able to see the hard work it takes to clean the bathroom and maybe they would learn to keep the boys' bathroom clean. Therefore, I think that if the school makes students help clean the boys bathroom, it will really help to show them responsibility and keep the bathroom clean. This may also teach them to keep the rest of the school clean.

Sanjera Rahaman

March 1, 2023

Have you ever gotten hurt while playing in a school playground? Well, that's why I would like to make the playground safer and better for kids! building a better playground will improve kid's safety. Less kids can get hurt whenever they play outside on the jungle gym and I remember one time that a kid jumped off the webs and got hurt. There are so many benefits for building a safer place where kids play most of the time.

One reason to build a better playground in the school yard is that the monkey bar isn't that safe because some kids bump their head on the bar and get hurt, and like I said before in the beginning about the spider webs that kids climb on and they sometimes jump off the webs and get hurt, in my opinion they should make the webs a little lower so if the kids jump off the webs they won't really get hurt since it'll be lower than how it is right now.

But the webs can become a pretty major problem because the material that they used for the webs can make our hands hurt and might give us blisters if we keep that type of material. It might be strong but it's painful. My plan is that we use a softer type of material but also it has to be sturdy enough to hold more than three people, if it's soft the children's hands won't hurt.

The second reason is about the slide. The slide we have now doesn't even look like a slide! The slide that they should build should be a proper slide because the slide we have doesn't have a bottom



part where you sit and actually slide on, it's just that kids could easily fall and get hurt so a much better slide would be much better and safer.

I know building a new playground can take a whole lot of time and a lot of money too. But kids' safety in our school is very important to us and it will make our playground safer. So, do you agree that we should build a new playground? Or do you think we should keep the playground?

Trisha Nath

March 1, 2023

Homework! When we hear this word, we all get the same feeling, the feeling of stress. I know homework is important for every student to improve their skills and help them gain more knowledge. However, too much homework can be harmful for students as well, it takes away students' free time to do any other activities and gives them stress.

So, less homework will give the students free time to do extracurricular activities which will help them become an all-rounder student. Also, too much homework will make students become more stressed due to the load of homework, which will even take their family time away from them, along with giving them mental stress. This will decrease students love for studying, which is an important part of our life. So, less homework will not give them as much stress.

One of the important reasons why I think school should give less homework because having less homework is better because when you have a heavy workload of homework you will have less time for doing extracurricular activities. Doing a lot of homework for all different subjects everyday will take away more time and there will not be enough time to do any extracurricular activities after school. Moreover, doing extracurricular activities is very important because during that time you can explore your own interest and passion, which can help you know what career field you want to go to. According to the world school.com, it says that "Extracurricular activities are an integral part of your high school experience. Besides boosting your admissions profile, they help you pursue your interests while discovering things not covered in a classroom." Here, it shows that extracurricular activities will help students to understand their interests outside of school, because some interests are not only found in books such as drawing, sports, and many more interests.

Another reason why I think less homework is better because more homework gives students stress and the stress make students not love studying. For example, in the oxford learning it said "The effects of too much homework can include higher levels of stress

and frustration for students." Here, it shows that how lots of homework can be harmful for students' mental health. That is why I think school should give less homework.

I know homework is important but less homework saves more time, gives you less stress, makes more room for new things. So, less homework is best for students in my opinion.

Ayesha Noor

March 1, 2023

Play is our brain's favorite way of learning". Playing on a playground during school can help kids with their health. Moving around with their friends is a fun way of exercise. It can also help them learn a lot. I believe schools should have better playgrounds. There should be more equipment for kids to play in playgrounds.

There are many reasons schools should make their playgrounds better. More equipment in the playground can help kids relax and it gives them a break from their school work. Moving around and playing with their friends is a great way of exercise. This physical activity makes kids more active. Also, exercise makes muscles and bones stronger. Playgrounds are good for kids health.

Playgrounds help kids learn a lot. It helps them with their mental health. Children learn how to wait patiently in line for their turn. Playing together helps them make new friends and share with them. Play helps reduce stress levels. This way their mood is happier. Kids learn many different skills by playing together.

School work can make kids tired. Playing and taking a little rest from reading and writing will help them to be stress free. Also, they will become more energized. Sliding, walking swinging and all other activities that the kids will do in the playground is a very good exercises for their bodies. Better playground with more equipment gives kids more options of playing and learning many different skills. So, playgrounds are helpful for these important reasons. Would you like to have a better school playground?

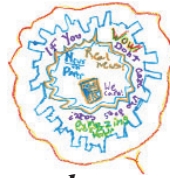
Oops...we ran out of space but not out of our opinions...

Ask: Ayesha Jalal her opinion on creating a school garden. Emaan Cheema would like to see healthier lunch options. She researched that: Improved nutrition in schools leads to increased focus and attention, improved test scores and better classroom behavior. Kymirah Francis would like to see gluten free lunch options and options for those who are lactose intolerant. Lots of students had opinions on the playground. To start, Tabsheer Bhatti agrees we should get a better playground as it improves the physical health of kids but it also helps grow your motor skills. Saihaan Ehan agrees and would like to see more exciting options added to the jungle gym. Mahad Hassan is also interested in the playground and making is safe for kids. Ayesha Noor states "Better playground with more equipment give kids more options of playing and learning many different skills." Heela Mahas believes that we should have a study room. Sherelle Fraser agrees with Raffay Anjum that students should have halal food options. **FACT CHECK: Halal food options are offered in the cafeteria upon request.** Mohammed Fazeel thinks we should have a coding team. Shatha Kassem believes that we should have more after school options for kids. What's your opinion? You're entitled to it?

PS 119 SCHOOL NEWS: WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Special Alumni Page 2023

Special Alumni Page 2023



"PS 119 creates a place where you can become...Keshon Blackman Class of 2014"

Barbara Snow: Principal

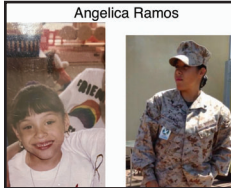
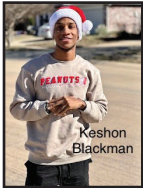
Sharod Clarke: Assistant Principal

Second Edition

P.S. 119 Amersfort School: Magnet School of Global & Ethical Studies

April 2023

Looking Back to See Our Future



Keshon Blackman

When I came into P.S. 119 in the third grade, it was my third elementary school. I wasn't quite the best behaved student. However, when I got to P.S. 119 there was a shift. I wasn't perfect but I got better over time. And I believe a part of that is due to the environment and relationships that were fostered at P.S. 119. This school created a place where one can "become". Opportunities such as the Magnet Expo made me more aware of different cultures. It's actually where I discovered one of my favorite countries up until today: Brazil. Rock Asylum was another impactful experience. I can't forget the rounding song as it still helps me as I do math problems in college. After graduating from P.S. 119 in 2014, I attended Andries Hudde where I graduated in 2017. From there, I attended Medgar-Evers College Preparatory School up until 2019 where I transitioned to McKinney, Texas. I graduated from McKinney North High School in 2021. I am currently pursuing a degree in Business-Management at Collin College. The path ahead for me is bi-vocational ministry as a pastor and entrepreneurship. Outside of the school I spend most of my time serving at church, and spending time with the United Youth where I am a state representative. I love ministering to others and watching them grow and walk in their purpose. Some advice I would leave for students is to take advantage of learning all you can. Ask a lot of questions! Every part of today is beneficial for your future, even the things that seem insignificant. But be careful, although we learn from our mistakes, not all of our mistakes are necessary. Listen to your teachers, parents, and coaches. They've been there before and can save you lots of time. And one last thing I would like to share is, which may not be new advice to you, don't follow the crowds. I promise you it's okay to be yourself, it's ok to be different, it's ok to seem "weird". In the real world it doesn't matter who's cool or who's not cool. After high school all of that fades away. Find your purpose in life and walk in it unapologetically! Some advice I would leave for teachers is to invest intentionally! The future of this world is in your hands. It may be a difficult and tiring classroom. What I remember most from K-12 are the experiences and relationships I've had with teachers. Teachers often spend more time with students than parents. I'm grateful to have had some wonderful teachers that were not only great educators but great motivators. You never know what a student is going through at home. Choose to be a light and look past the kid you see presently. Chapter One may not look so good but Chapter Fifteen...may be awesome! It would be awesome too that when that kid grows up and can say that you really helped them.

Victoria Wolff-Guadagno

I attended P.S. 119 from 1964-1970, and later studied at Brooklyn College, Pace University, and Hofstra University. After some years in retail and advertising, I finally fulfilled my dream to become a teacher. Now living in East Tennessee with my husband, I am also the author of the new award-winning middle-grade novel, "The Princess, the Knight, and the Lost God: A Chess Story" under my pen name of Victoria Winifred. One sweet memory I have from my days at P.S.119 happened when I was in sixth grade. My teacher was Miss Guinan, later to be known as Dr. Lunney, and my student group was giving a presentation. It was the first time I can remember being in front of the room "teaching" other students. I was so inspired by the feeling that it motivated me to become an educator. A bit of important life advice I'd like to offer can be found in this quote that is sometimes attributed to my favorite author, C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream."

Rabia Ashraf

Rabia Ashraf is a Class of 2005 alumni. She graduated summa cum laude from Kean University with a BA in writing and a minor in biology. Previously published in Hamline Literature Link, The Silent World in Her Vase, and Beyond Words, she hopes to use her writing to shed light on controversial issues and give a voice to other POC, People of Color. My advice to the younger generation is to never give up on your dreams and to chase what you love. Work hard and follow your passions!

Justin Manon

Hello P.S.119, my name is Justin Manon. Currently, I am a physical education teacher from Brooklyn. When I was younger, I attended P.S.119 from 2nd-5th grade. It was a great experience and I loved every second of it. I remember all of my teachers and have a relationship with a couple till this day. P.S.119 definitely has a huge impact on the person I am today. I would not be where I am today if it was not for P.S.119. Word of advice I have for you students is to always be kind and work towards your goals!"

Chad Williams

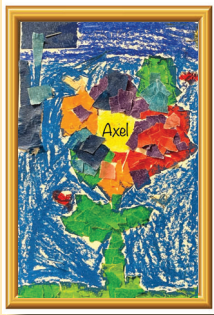
Chad Williams is a Brooklyn native who graduated with a Bachelor's of Science from Buffalo State College in 2020. Chad attended P.S. 119 for elementary school, Andries Hudde for Middle School, Midwood for high school, and Buffalo State College. He is the founder of social-justice based start-up dooProcess, a streetwear clothing brand with soul. Driven by his love for social justice, he takes pride in running and growing dooProcess. As a founder his goal is to grow dooProcess while also keeping his mission-driven focus. In addition to his primary job functions, Chad has been recognized by Forbes and countless other esteemed publications for his extraordinary commitment to growing social-justice based brand dooProcess. Chad currently works at Launch NY, a non-profit venture capital firm and the founder of dooProcess, Advice for current students - "Never underestimate how much more important the execution is than the idea"

Angelica Ramos

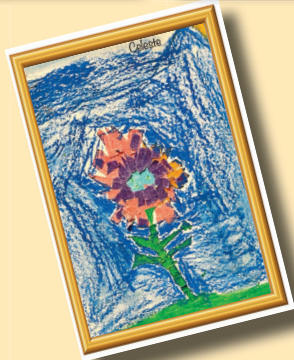
I graduated from P.S. 119 in 2003. During graduation, I found myself on the stage of the auditorium, greeting the audience and introducing the administration. While that may seem like a frightening task for a twelve year old, my teachers at the time such as writing teacher Mrs. Berretta, and then assistant principal, Ms. Snow, made sure that I was prepared with their guidance and encouragement. Additionally, I was grateful for the years of practice that P.S 119 offered me through its countless extracurricular activities. Fast forward twenty years later and I find myself using the skills that I learned at P.S. 119 on a daily basis. Throughout my academic career, seven years in the United States Marine Corps, and in my current position as a Program Director, I continue to address large crowds to relay information and I regularly think back to that time on stage. I am thankful for that block in my foundation and I encourage all students who walk the halls of P.S. 119 to challenge themselves and step out of their comfort zone.

Sofia Mejia

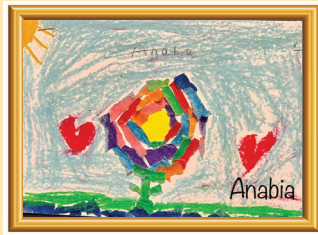
My name is Sofia Mejia and I am an alumni of the great P.S.119: Class of 2012. I was taught by the best teachers from the likes of Ms. Leslie, Ms. Brownfeld, Ms. Francis, Ms. LaRossa and had the amazing Ms. Fernandez as my principal. The Amersfort School emphasized the importance of education, being the best student and, the best human being you can be. I took this piece of advice along with me as I grew older and furthered into my academic career. This brought me great rewards in my life, such as enrolling at Medgar Evers College at sixteen years old, graduating with an Associate's Degree at eighteen years old and later earning my Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Brooklyn College at nineteen years old. I am currently twenty-one years old and a dual-degree graduate student at the University of Phoenix, studying Healthcare & Business Administration (Class of 2024). I currently work as a Student Services Coordinator at the Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai and also an Emergency Medical Technician. I aspire to become a President, Director or Administrator at one of the many hospitals and health systems here in New York City. I have accomplished so much in my life so far and I couldn't have done it without the help and preparation from P.S. 119 and all its staff. The best advice I can give to anyone is to be brave and be resilient. I honestly am just a black girl from Flatbush who has entered into a field that does not have a lot of leaders who look like me. I was able to learn this early on and dedicated my career to taking risks for the furtherance of my community and the field of healthcare. Do not be afraid to be different! Do not be scared to be the first. It will take time, but know that you must endure short-term suffering for long-term comfort. When you reach the light at the end of the tunnel, all your hard work and bravery will be totally worth it!



Welcome
TO
ART★



Perspective
Grade 1 explored new materials as we learned about Alma Thomas for Black History Month. Using tape and pastels students created flowers.
NYS Learning Standard(s):1.2. ART with Ms. Judge Patton

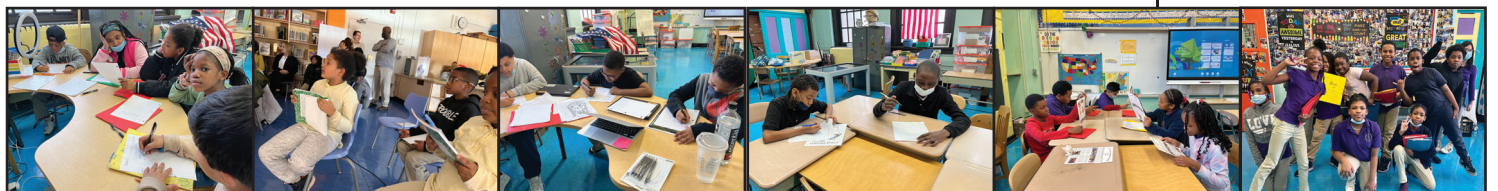


Puppetry in Practice

by Jason Noel Mortlock and Alexander Weekes

Are you creative? Do you like puppets? Would you like to create puppets that represent your culture or a personal interest? Well then, this class is just for you! This class worked with Mr. Jason to create puppets based on our cultures or on personal interests. Fifth grade classes met with Mr. Jason once a week for several weeks to create puppets. Mr. Jason allowed us to make the decision as to whether we wanted to use our own imagination puppets or to create puppets that reflected our cultures. Mr. Jason provided us with the following materials: colored papers of different textures, glue sticks and glue, scissors and more. Some people went all out and added small details like: hats, jackets, teeth, eyes, suit jackets, ties, flowers and even vines. Everyone had fun creating our own personal puppets.

Thank you to the Parents' Association for supporting our next generation of readers, writers and artists!



My Hair is My Crown

Written by Giovanna Jeanty

My hair is my crown
No one can take it
I love my crown
From the roots to the ends
From the color to the style
My crown is my identity
My crown flows in the wind
And you can see my crown is me
Nobody can dim my light
I love my hair
I love my face
I love my body...
And that is me...



The Last Word...Barbara Snow, Principal



Emily Bourne

Dear Families,
Happy Spring! This edition of our school newsletter is even more jam packed than the last issue. I recommend that you take this edition outside and enjoy it on a nice sunny day. Maybe go to the park or your yard to enjoy all the articles. I know the writers and photographers have worked very hard to bring you this issue. I have learned so much from the children - they are very observant and informative. Big thanks to Mrs. Berretta for her publishing skills. I am also thankful to Joe D'Amato, our Print Manager and the Parent's Association who fund this project. We are so fortunate to have so many magnificent partners - it's what makes P.S. 119 GREAT!

Important Dates

- May 5th: Fun Day
- May 18th: 119 Expo
- May 19th: Expo Rain Date
- May 25th: Spring Concert

P.S. 119 School News: What's Your Story Treasure Hunt: April 2023

1. What are some unusual things that Alexander Weekes found on the Canarsie Pier Cleanup? What did his partner Aiden have? Why did they go on trip?
2. What classes went to the Environmental Center? Why did they go?
3. What was the final score of the Atlantic 10 game? Who won? Who were the teams? What was George's favorite move?
4. Who inspired the use of QR codes on page 1? Hint: Look at the caption.
5. What does the dental staff do to make you less afraid during your dental visit? What did Lily Singh like receiving at the end of her visit? What does dentist Dr. Eric like about visiting schools?
6. Who runs the Champs afterschool program? What did she say about the program? Factcheck: Ms. Marshall is a teacher not a paraprofessional!
7. What did students learn about Aquaponics? What did Jayden Murphy say about the experience? Who is the Parents' Association President?
8. What is Community Service at P.S. 119?
9. What is the theme of this year's music video that the Music Medley group is putting together with Ms. LaRossa?
10. Who are the members of the rock band? What did Afiya Simms love about the Stepping presentation? What did Kristen Chalumeau say about performing? What inspires Ms. Francis to produce school performances?
11. What is fruit used for during Chinese New Year? What does fruit represent?
12. What is Fatiha Bibi's favorite food? What continent is Pakistan found on? Why is Ramadan celebrated? What are a group of students doing at lunch time during Ramadan? When is the fast broken?
13. What does the poem: *Not Enough* by Trishelle Carter say to you?
14. Who did Daena Staples dress up as on Career Day? What is Kevin Hart's superpower? What did children dress up as? What would you dress up as for your career?
15. What was the lesson of Wakanda Forever?
16. What did Mohamed Sarr learn about good vs. evil?
17. Choose a topic, any topic you have an opinion on: Introduce topic, support the topic and conclude the topic. It's your opinion. Make it count. Can you give glow comments to the writers of the opinion essays? Did they convince you?
18. What is an alumni? What advice did Keshon give to students? Teachers? What books did Victoria Wolff-Guadagno write? What is Justin Manon's advice? How many years did Angelica Ramos serve in the military? What branch of the military did she serve in? Where does Chad Williams currently work?
19. What are your thoughts on Jiovanna's Poem: *My Hair is My Crown*?
20. What artist did first graders study for Black History Month?
21. Read like an editor: find our mistakes. First class to submit gets a prize!
22. Make a list of things you can write about. Submit an article to your teacher!