FOURTEEN NEWS

Thank you for an amazing year full of joyful rice cooking, students’ and schools’ success, and the community coming together on so many occasions.

Enjoy your summer vacation.

I am looking forward to working with all of you on many more D14 inspiring endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

Alicja

On May 31, 2014 District 14 and the greater community came out in full support of the American Cancer Society
On May 31 we showed up at the Relay for Life event and demonstrated what one strong school community can achieve when joining hands, forces, and creative ideas behind an important cause.

As we lined up behind the District 14 banner and to the marching tunes of the PS 257 band, we were joined and applauded by our elected officials and community representatives who are always there for us: Assemblyman Lentol, Assemblywoman Davila, Evelyn Cruz from the Office of Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, and Tesa Wilson, the D14 CEC President. The Greenpoint Lions, the MS 126 Leos and St. Nick’s Alliance were also there to support our efforts and participate in the event with us.

Relay for Life brought our district schools together with local high schools: Grand Street Campus with Dr. Jusino and Tommy Torres, donated the space, while a dynamic dean and the Greenpoint parent, Kelly Witkowski, led the cheerleaders from Williamsburg Prep High School.

Thank you to all the Principals, Assistant Principals, Parent Coordinators, teachers, staff members, PTA presidents and parent leaders who made this district-wide initiative a success. As I said on Saturday, we are a community that gives back and we believe that this is part of our character education to teach our students what the words service, compassion, citizenship, responsibility and respect mean.

I am also grateful to the American Cancer Society for bringing our district schools and the Wyckoff Hospital together, so we can foster a new collaboration that can benefit our students and their families.

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support, amazing ideas for fundraising, and for generously donating your weekend time to be with our District 14 community and working towards "finishing the fight".
THANK YOU DISTRICT 14!
RELAY FOR LIFE

“It was my pleasure to participate yesterday in the Relay for Life. My family and so many others have been touched and experienced loss by this disease. Cancer does not discriminate. I am inspired by brave fighters and survivors as well as those who lost the fight. It was wonderful to come together as a community for this amazing and necessary cause.” —Kimberly Helsing, PTA President PS 34
Adam Aftyka, 9, lost an eye to cancer, or retinoblastoma

Aftyka and his grandmother came to the U.S. from Poland for medical treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

“We are so proud of Adam. He’s our best boy in school. He survived and thrived,” assistant principal Maria LoRe told PIX11. “He and his grandmother are amazing.”

“Aftyka’s grandmother is also a fighter. She’s now a mission. It’s possible for him to gain back his eyesight.” - Superintendent Alicja Winnicki
The ballroom dancers at PS 19 have outdone themselves this year! As two-time gold medal winners, The Roberto Clemente Ballroom Dance Team entered the competition held on May 21, 2014 in escort position, demonstrating their professionalism. Their hard work and focus was evident as they won the gold for the third year in a row following performances of a variety of dances including Swing, Fox Trot, Merengue and Bachata. Not only did PS 19 win the gold medal this year, but they also won the silver medal! According to their instructor, there was so much talent amongst this group of students that he decided to bring two teams to the competition. He shared in PS 19’s pride when these two teams won first and second place. Individual students were recognized for outstanding technique, and awarded scholarships to prestigious dance programs throughout the city. PS 19 is proud to announce that Orlando Baez has been honored with the Ballet Hispanico Scholarship Award for his performance in the Bachata. Most importantly, PS 19 gracefully and humbly accepted their awards, and demonstrated sportsmanship and appreciation for the performances given by all dancers during this wonderful event. PS 19 is very proud of all our ballroom dancers, and we look forward to sharing in their continued development as performers!
PS 380
Diane Vitolo, Principal

We offer our school community various parent workshops including cooking, as pictured above with Mrs. Viars and Ms. Camporese.

Our graduating class got dressed up to go to their prom where they danced and ate a delicious lunch!

P.S. 380 participated in The Rachel Cooper Foundation’s Heal-A-Heart Walk-A-Thon. The entire school community worked hard to raise nearly $10,000 in support of this organization.

P.S. 380 -
May & June School Events

Career Day was once again a success with various speakers including District 14’s very own Melvin Martinez. Fourth and fifth graders participated in this exciting event.

Carnival Day was once again a huge success! The students and teachers enjoyed a day full of fun times despite the early morning rain.

Every year our third, fourth, and fifth grade students attend an award ceremony where they are honored for their achievements throughout the year.
PS/IS 157
Maribel Hulla, Principal

P.S./I.S.157 EVENTS

CAREER DAY

We ended the school year on a high note! As a culminating activity we hosted our annual Career Day where an array of 25 distinguished professionals dedicated their time to speak with our students about their career path.

NATIONAL RUNNING DAY

As a wellness school we exceeded our goal for Mighty Milers and ran over 60 miles.

OUR FUTURE DANCE STARS AT THEIR BEST AT OUR ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL
Go Green Sustainability Challenge!

M.S. 126 was proud to take home the prize for Middle/High Schools in this year's Go Green Greenpoint! Sustainability Challenge. Sponsored by ExxonMobil, competing schools were invited to use imagination, artistry, and scientific knowledge to create exhibits of art and science representing this year's theme of "Greening our Urban Environment." The winning projects creatively addressed STEAM concepts and emphasized school-wide participation in creating and enjoying them! The beautiful trophy, donated by the Greenpoint store From-the-Source is made from sustainably harvested tree roots from Indonesia.

Second Annual Environmental Engineering Expo

On Friday, June 20th the gymnasium at M.S. 126 was transformed into a hall of mystery and wonder. This "Exploratorium" showcased students’ science experiments and special exhibits such as recycled materials electronic art, robotics, the annual art show, and the 6th grade’s innovative “kite engineering” project. Elementary students from P.S. 23 toured the “Exploratorium” and watched the “NAO Robot” demonstration alongside M.S. 126 students.
Night of the Future J.E.M.S!

Students and parents from various District 14 public and charter elementary schools joined the M.S. 126 family for an evening of dinner, dancing, games & prizes on Thursday, June 12th. M.S. 126 administrators, staff, and students hosted the “Night of the Future J.E.M.S” to welcome and celebrate the class of 2017!

Eagles Explore the Great Outdoors

M.S. 126’s environmental engineers had the opportunity to explore the wonders of nature on overnight camping trips earlier this month. Sixth graders visited Ramapo in Rhinebeck, NY and seventh grade students traveled to the Greenkill Retreat Center near Huguenot, NY. Students hit the hiking trails, went rock climbing, and challenged themselves on high ropes courses!
I.S. 318 Book Club

The I.S. 318 book club led by parents Kate Ryan and Seiko Williams initiated a book club that consisted of 8 six grade students. They read 6 books which consisted of mysteries, comedies and realistic fiction. The students had a great time and are sharing their experience with other students and family.

Book Swap

We hosted our first ever book swap Friday June 20, 2014 where our students had an opportunity to trade books of many different genres which will ultimately enhance their reading and promote stimulating classroom discussions.
I.S. 318 Debate Team
The I. S. 318 Debate Team participated in the MSQI Debate Championships held on June 13 at Teachers College. Regardless of each student’s placement in the competition, the I.S. 318 debaters were all winners by engaging in a text-based, rigorous, academic activity. Debate has been shown to improve students reading, writing, speaking, listening, research and critical thinking skills.

Specifically, the following accomplishments:

Congratulations to the team of Valerie Peralta and Stacie Melendez for taking 7th place overall. Congratulations to Valerie Peralta for taking 3rd place speaker overall. Congratulations to Kristyn O’Reilly for a year of passionate and dedicated coaching.

2014-2015 will bring another year of exciting MSQI debate tournaments with resolutions drawn directly from the Word Generation curriculum. The I. S. 318 debate team look forward participating again.

I.S. 318 Baseball Team
The I.S. 318 Baseball took 2nd place in the New York City Middle School Baseball League!! The championship game was held at Columbia University.
First Graders at Brooklyn Arbor have spent the spring immersed in a project based learning unit on nutrition and community. After walking around our school neighborhood looking for a place to buy vegetables for a class recipe, students noticed that there are few stores selling lots of healthy options. They took it upon themselves to become the Brooklyn Arbor Super Sprowtz- a band of superhero vegetables whose mission is to teach the community about healthy eating and help our community become healthier!

Students brainstormed many ways to share all that they have learned with the community, but the one they were most excited about was going to teach a Pre-K class about healthy eating! This led to a partnership with Nuestros Niños, a community based center for child development. To prepare the first graders bought ingredients with money from the NYC DOE Service-Learning Grant. They then learned how to make Avocado Quesadillas from Brooklyn Arbor’s Pre-K class and taught them how to make Garden Fresh Salsa. Finally the first graders brought the healthy goodies to Nuestros Niños. After performing a student created skit teaching about the importance of healthy eating, the first graders passed out the quesadillas and salsa for the Pre-K students to enjoy.

We were impressed by the little ones’ enthusiasm and willingness to try new things and hope to continue this relationship with Nuestros Niños in years to come!

By: Lizzie Smith, First Grade Teacher
On May 21st Brooklyn Arbor School hosted the first-ever District 14 Art Festival – conceived as both a district wide celebration of students’ learning in the arts and also as a networking event for District 14 Visual Arts Educators. The Art Festival was planted to bring the district together through a celebration of student artwork. The event was also designed as a way to recognize the work District 14 art teachers do year round as they cultivate young artists’ creativity.

Participating schools were represented by three artworks produced by current students within the 2013-2014 school year. There was a range of work including paintings, drawings, collages, constructions, prints, sculptures, masks and models.

After hanging their students’ artwork on sleek display panels art teachers were invited into the library for a pre-opening networking session and an “Art Teacher Appreciation Dinner” hosted by Brooklyn Arbor. Arbor parents, Louisa Pregerson and Anne Kenney organized a lively presentation. First Ms. Taub, Executive Director of Materials for the Arts gave an overview of her organization and the role it plays in reducing waste while supporting creative programs in the NYC public schools. Then Louisa and Anne described their project, The Materials Depot, a mini version of MFTA that they created within The Brooklyn Arbor School. It functions as a teaching tool as it deepens young student’s awareness of the importance of recycling while providing a context for them to understand viable options for reuse. After students bring in their weekly recyclable trash and parents sort it into elegantly arranged bins the materials become available for teachers and parents to use for projects and art. The presentation was geared to inspire art teachers to use the rich resources of the MFTA as well as encourage them to consider the possibility of starting a “Material’s Depot” in their own schools. The Materials Depot was available for District 14 art teachers to tour.

The festival took place between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. Excited student artists, their proud parents, arts educators and administrators had a chance to marvel at the richness and variety of the artwork displayed. It was a memorable celebration of the importance of the role the visual arts play in District 14. As well as displaying the creativity of the students it also highlighted the dedication of art teachers and administrators who provide rich, hands-on, creative curriculum for students. President Obama said, “The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create”. District 14 students are fortunate to have both imagination and creativity included in their curriculum by dedicated arts educators and administrators who value the arts. As evidenced by this rich display of student creativity, the future does belong to them.

By: Laurie Marcus, Art Teacher
On June 7th, PS 414/ Brooklyn Arbor Parents’ Association hosted their 2nd annual PLAYground festival community event on the school’s own playground in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Given the small size of Brooklyn Arbor’s parent body, the parents involved were particularly excited by the success of the event which brought together families from the diverse surrounding neighborhood, in addition to those from Greenpoint, Bushwick and other parts of Brooklyn. Brooklyn Arbor was proud to have community leader and councilman Antonio Reynoso’s office attend the festival as well as congresswoman Nydia Velazquez who spoke on behalf of the community.

The festival was fun for all ages, with free admission and various craft activities, such as build your own stomp rocket or musical instrument from recycled materials to a costume photo booth and a “magical dream quest” by which children choose from various mystical treasures to put in a small bag that were then empowered by a costumed woman (a Brooklyn Arbor parent) within a beautiful hand-woven fabric teepee.

Music was a highlight of the festival- the Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra headlined with trumpet player Lew Soloff and The All-City marching band led a parade around the periphery of the playground every hour. Other musicians included Rene Lopez, Lily Virginia, The Good Ms. Padgett, and Kayce Laine. New York City legendary drummer and percussionist, Mathias Kunzli, also conducted an impromptu percussion demonstration for children.

The festival also hosted a used book sale as well as many first-class food vendors from local Williamsburg establishments, such as Allswell, Il Passatore, Alchemy Creamery, Nitehawk Cinema, The West coffee and many more.

By: Phoebe Flynn Rich, Parent
THAT’S GREAT NEWS!

PS 257
Brian Leavy De Vale, Principal

The Champion Ballerinas of PS 257, Congratulations!

Kindergarten students from P.S. 147 performed El Colas, a traditional folk dance from Mexico. The students worked with Ms. Cecilia Ortega, a professional dancer from City Lore, an arts-in-residence program at the school.
MS 50
Denise Jamison, Principal

MS 50 achieved the following accomplishments at the MSQI Debate Championships held on June 13th at Teachers College:

Congratulations to the teams of Denisha Martin and Janelis Estrella and Syani Perkins and Taralina Vasquez for winning team awards!

Congratulations to Syani Perkins for taking 3rd place speaker overall!

Congratulations to Mr. Warren for a year of passionate and dedicated coaching!

Thank you to Ms. Eaddy for assisting Mr. Warren with the team at the debate!
Mrs. Malgorzata Balaz Reichert’s second grade students at PS 17 have just completed their Library research project on New York City, as part of a second grade Social Studies Unit. Using titles from the Library’s print collection and online resources they did some general fact finding about New York’s history. When their graphic organizer was completed they broke up into groups representing the five boroughs. Each group continued with independent research on a specific borough. The class celebrated the completion of their project by taking a trip to the Queens Museum. Before visiting the Panorama of the City of New York, they took part in a City Blocks workshop. Here they were able to construct their own models of New York City by creating three-dimensional city blocks. When they came back to school they put it together for their own New York City in the classroom. It was a great experience for all!
It was standing room only at PS 17 when the Learning in the Library students and their families gathered for their year-end celebration. Learning in the Library is an after-school program for third, fourth and fifth grade students. This year they focused on “Fifty Years Ago.” This included President John F. Kennedy’s Peace Corps, Civil Rights and the Space Program initiatives. And of course, The Beatles’ arrival in New York City. The students used the Library’s print and electronic resources for research. When their fact-finding was completed, it was time for the creative process.

Using their facts as a base, the students composed an original historical fiction story, with a little bit of time travelling thrown in. In order to give the students a deeper appreciation for original documents we visited the National Archives at New York. It was a great experience, and the students chose documents and photographs to create an original wall mural at the National Archives.

The last step was to plan our video, and every student was given a section of our story to read. We used historical photographs and video clips to help tell our story.

Finally at 3 o’clock on May 29 we were ready for our premier. Families crowded into the Library to watch and enjoy our video. It was a great success! The students learned about an important era in American history, and we were able to make it a little more personal for them.

Ms. Janice Lange, Librarian
Ms. Marisela Ruiz, Educational Assistant
The school community was inspired by the artistic interpretations that students displayed during the PS 34 Annual Art Parade. Each year the children are invited to create costumes inspired by the famous artists which are a part of their Art Curriculum. The event was organized by the school’s art teacher, Lisa Summa. Parents look forward each year to watching the children walk in the parade which is held in the Eckford St schoolyard. Many children dressed as artists such as Frida Khalo and Andy Warhol. Others preferred to dress up as the subjects of many famous works of art such as Warhol’s Campbell Soup cans or images from Keith Harding paintings. Winners were selected for the best costumes by special guest judges and received $25 dollars gift cards to Barnes and Noble.
PS 34 Celebrates 65th Annual Flag Day

PS 34 held its Annual Flag Day Celebration on Friday, June 13, 2014. Rain forced the celebration to be moved inside the school where parents were invited to see the children’s performance. The children performed dances which were specially choreographed by Ms. Lakey Evans Pena from Williamsburg Movement. The audience was moved by the children's reflections, poems and tributes to the American Flag. Special Guests Richard Mazur of North Brooklyn Development, PS 34 teacher Iwona Borys, and Lexi Woodrum Parent and co-founder of the school’s Environmental Club were honored with plaques for their support and work with the children and community of PS 34. The celebration was repeated on Monday June 16 in the schoolyard for the parents and Greenpoint residents.
Chess club members were challenged to a special chess match by National Grand Master John Federovich. Children were invited to play the grand master all at the same time. Mr. Federovich played all 30 students in the school cafeteria June 24th. The children were amazed as he walked from one side of the cafeteria to the next continuously playing each student in this exhibition match. The chess club is comprised by students in grades 1 through 4th, who were taught to play chess this year by MS 126 chess teacher Phil Rosado. While the match was intense, the games were over in an hour where the Grand Master defeated all 30 students. However the Grand Master was impressed by the last two students who played hardest until the end, Brent Anderson and Anthony Nunez.
P.S.16 student, Jesse Han-ton, volunteers his Saturday morning to help decorate our garden.

On June 9th Teachers, Students and Parents at P.S.16 enjoy our annual Dance Festival
Community School District 14

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