



P. S. 98 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Home School Connection

Spring 2024

Principal Chan's Message

Dear P. S. 98 Families,

I am proud to announce that we have been recognized as a Respect for All school! Thank you for your partnership in conflict resolution and fostering respect for all.

I am also proud of all of our Stock Market Game Teams. Two of our teams placed 2nd and 3rd for elementary schools. The students participating in the Stock Market Game have learned valuable investment skills, critical thinking, decision making, collaboration, and financial literacy. All teams gained equity in the game and that's an incredible accomplishment! All classes are learning financial literacy so they can make smart choices about money management.

Get ready for a fun-filled day of celebrating cultures around the world at PS 98's PTA World Fair on Saturday, June 1st 12:00-3:00pm in the PS 98 track yard. There will be dancing, food, activities, art showcase, singing, other performances and so much more! Please join in the festivities and purchase your tickets [here!](#) Thank you to our fabulous PTA and parent volunteers for planning and bringing this event to life every year!

Our Broadway Theater students have been working hard all year to perform their production of Newsies. Flyers to purchase tickets have been back packed home and will be included in PS 98 email blasts. There are two showings, Friday, June 14th at 6:30pm and Saturday, June 15th at 1:00pm. "Seize the day!" and buy your tickets while they last!

Students have been engaging in STEM activities all year long utilizing our new STEM Lab. Students have been creating with LEGO robotics, researching using virtual reality, exploring circuits, coding, and so much more! They are preparing for the technological advancements of the future while fostering their creativity, curiosity, and love of learning.

We can't wait to see what learning adventures your children will engage in next school year! I wish all of our PS 98 families a very happy, healthy, and fun-filled summer!

Warm regards,
Kristy Chan

The Douglaston School Vision Statement: P. S. 98 is a place where school and home come together to promote learning to meet standards of excellence. Our students will become self-disciplined, creative and independent learners. We believe every child will succeed in ways that reflect his or her own aptitudes and interests. We

value student and community voice and collaboration. P. S. 98 encourages a strong partnership between school and home to support leadership, promote good citizenship and build a strong sense of community.

Instructional Focus: P. S. 98 ensures high expectations and rigorous instruction for every student across interdisciplinary content. We implement inclusive curricula and assessments. Our curriculum includes diverse perspectives that reflect and affirm all students' identities, lived experiences, and cultures. We foster students to be independent lifelong learners.

School-wide Instructional Priority: P. S. 98 develops and strengthens a welcoming and affirming school environment by fostering communication between school and home and attending to the social and emotional needs of all students.

Social Emotional Learning Mission Statement: P. S. 98's goal is to provide evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) as part of our instruction. We believe in educating the whole child, equipping students for success in school and in life by fostering positive relationships, self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making. We strive to know our students well, collaborate with families and support SEL to build supportive relationships between students and between students and staff.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy: At P. S. 98, we strive to create a diverse and inclusive environment that values the experience, perspective, and contributions of all students, families and faculty. As a result, we seek to foster an inclusive environment where the individual differences among us are respected, understood, and recognized as a source of strength that enriches our school community.

Pre-K News

Mrs. Tulimieri

Our Pre-K students are learning about how to reduce, reuse and recycle trash and garbage. Earlier this month, the students started paying attention to the different items that they throw away. They began asking questions about where garbage goes when it is thrown out. We have been learning about the jobs of custodians and sanitation workers. The children have been watching videos and listening to books about recycling facilities.

The Pre-K students have been thinking of different ways that we could reuse junk and create less trash. Our Pre-K families have sent in items such as clean containers, bottles, paper plates, paper towel rolls, egg cartons and magazines. Some of the creations that the children have made out of these items are rain shakers, yo-yos, barbie homes, towers and silly character faces. The children have also been developing their thinking skills by investigating, solving problems, making predictions and testing their ideas. In the Discovery and Math centers, the children have been sorting and counting recyclable materials.

The children look forward to recycling in the cafeteria next year as Kindergarten students. We are grateful to the Pre-K parents for playing an important role in our learning!

Kindergarten News

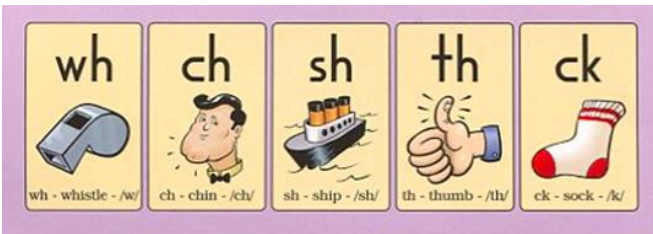
Mrs. Eisenberg, Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Sheridan

Word Work

We have begun our last unit of Foundations. In this unit, students will continue to review sentence structure. They will also begin sentence dictation. We will be emphasizing the fluent reading of sentences, using phrasing. The students will also learn how to proofread their sentences for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. We will continue to review tapping out words with and

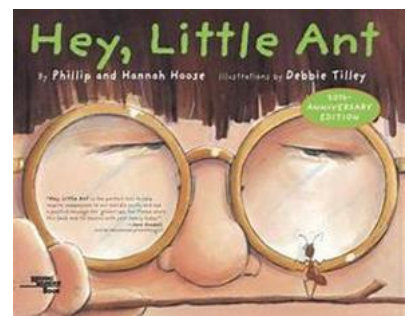
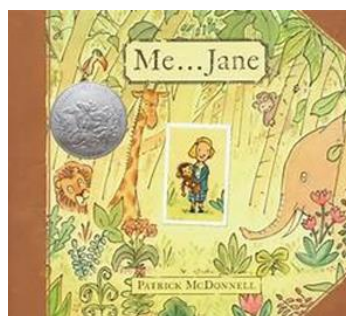
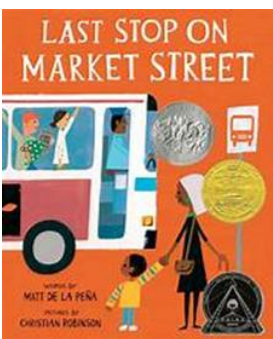
without digraphs. We are also reading and writing trick words. Please continue to practice trick words at home. The children should be able to read and write them independently.

The children love practicing their Heggerty skills each day to practice phonemic awareness. The children are now working on onset fluency for consonant blends. They are isolating the beginning sounds in words that contain consonant blends. We are also working on blending and segmenting words that have consonant blends. The children enjoy learning a new nursery rhyme each week!



Reading

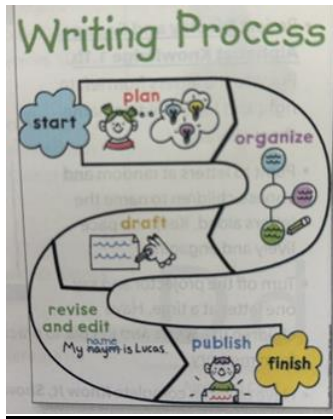
We have been working on Module 7 of the HMH program. Our essential question for this module is "What can I learn when I look closely?" The children have been reviewing and learning many skills such as: how to ask and answer questions, how to actively listen to a story read aloud to develop comprehension, how to discuss responses to questions about a story, how to identify characters, setting and main events, make connections between illustrations and text, pronounce and use vocabulary words, describe a setting using multiple senses, discuss responses to questions about a true story, comparing and contrasting two texts on the same topic, and discuss responses to questions about a persuasive text. The children have also continued to review and learn about print concepts such as reading from top to bottom and left to right. We also worked on recognizing and reading sentences with appropriate intonation by using end punctuation marks. The children continue to identify their trick words in stories and use their Foundational skills to help them tap out unfamiliar words when reading aloud or independently. We continued to work in literacy centers, which the children love! They work in groups to do reading and writing, word work, and reading activities. The children especially love playing phonics games with their friends!



Writing

We continued to use the writing process to learn how to write a creative writing piece. We reviewed how to plan, organize, draft, revise and edit, and publish. We talked about how creative stories can be about animals and are fun to write and read! The children reviewed how to write a narrative writing piece. We reviewed that the beginning of a story tells the characters, setting, and what happened first. The middle tells the action or what the characters do. The end tells how the characters are different than they were in the beginning. Using the writing process, each child chose an animal that they wanted to write a creative story about. The children learned how to use

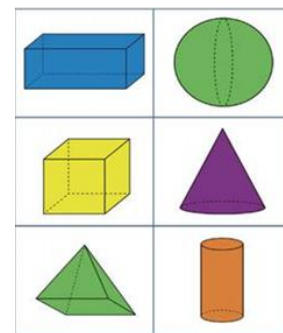
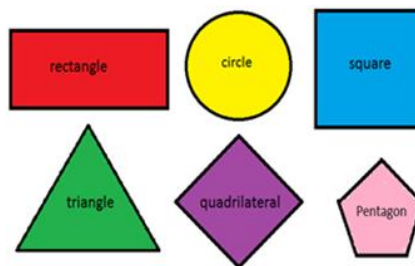
transitional words in the beginning, middle, and end of their stories. They worked hard to plan, draft, revise and edit, and publish a creative writing piece. The children used a checklist to evaluate their work. We are currently learning about poetry and how poems use descriptive words. The children will be working on writing their own poems.



Math

The children have now completed learning counting sequence for the numbers up to 100! We learned about verbal and written patterns in the counting sequence, counting by ones, tens, and by both tens and ones beginning from any number. We practiced these skills by playing math games! During our Financial Literacy lessons, we talked about needs and wants. The children learned that if they want something, they have to save their money. The children had so much fun creating their own banks out of cereal boxes. They were so creative with their designs! We will be starting our next topic, learning about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. The children will be learning about squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres. We will also be learning terms such as above, below, beside, next to, in front of, and behind to describe the relative position of shapes in the environment.

Hundred Chart									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



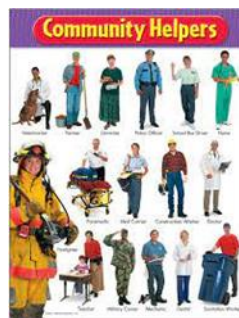
Science

We have been learning about animals and the habitats they need to survive. The children worked in groups to research animals. They had to find out information about what their animal looks like, where it lives, and what it eats. They used a map to record this information. Next, the children used their map to write a research report about their animals. We are now working on creating dioramas to show what they learned. The children are enjoying working on this project!



Social Studies/SEL

In our Passport program, we are learning about geography, people, and the environment. Our essential question is “What makes a community?” The children will learn about the important places in our community and the people that work there. During our SEL lessons, the children learned communication skills, including listening carefully to others. They also learned the respectful patterns of communication and gained positive and effective strategies for asserting their ideas, preferences, and needs. We are starting a unit on problem solving. The children will help Z learn that it is okay to disagree and have different feelings and ideas. They will also help Z learn that it is fair to decide things together and everyone should get to share their ideas and listen to one another.



First Grade News

Ms. Seligson, Ms. Fabiani and Ms. Herrera

Word Study/Fundations

The first-grade students are doing wonderfully in our Word Work. During Fundations, we focused on a new type of syllable! The “vowel-consonant-e” syllable is often found in words with long vowel sounds, followed by a consonant and a silent e. Students have enjoyed learning that the letter e has many jobs to do, including staying very quiet so the vowel sound inside the word can say its own name! Examples of a “vowel-consonant-e” syllable include words such as cake, hope, Pete, rule and pine! Our word workers have been thriving as they compare these syllables to closed syllable words and identify both within their daily reading. We have been focusing on suffixes as well and knowing when a word ends in -es versus -s. First graders are feeling empowered with each new skill they acquire!

During Heggerty, students are beginning to work with the syllables that make up words. As we chop and blend words, we are beginning to move from a focus on each individual sound to a focus on

the syllables and word parts within a word. We are working with multisyllabic words as well as decoding and blending these words. In addition, students are manipulating each word by adding, deleting and substituting sounds. For example, we may begin with a word such as: flower. Students will be asked to change the /ow/ sound to the long /i/ sound, making the new word, flier. Our first graders are especially excited when we do these activities using the names of our students!



Reading

In our reading workshop, students have been working with various texts and identifying the important elements of each text they read. Our current unit of study in the HMH Into Reading curriculum is called, "Tell Me a Story." This unit focuses on fables, stories that have been passed down around the world and across generations. Our students are examining different versions of each fable and discussing the way the author changes or presents their version. In addition, students are analyzing the themes and lessons learned within each fable. As we read classic tales, including *Chicken Little*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Grasshopper and the Ants*, students are practicing skills such as "synthesizing." Students are identifying various ideas found within the text and "synthesizing" by putting the ideas together to find the "big idea," that the author wants the reader to understand. Additionally, we are analyzing each fable's theme and identifying the lesson that the author wishes to convey to the reader. Students are using graphic organizers to dive deeper into each text, while comparing and contrasting themes. We are so proud of our remarkable readers!



Writing

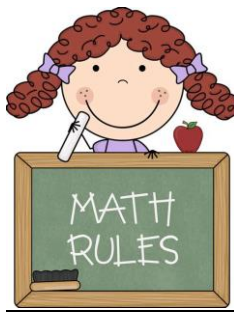
Poetry was the theme of this unit's writing. First graders have been learning about elements of poetry (rhyme, repetition and alliteration) as well as stanzas and how to organize their poems. Students read different types of poems before tapping into their own creativity and expression! In our brainstorming phase, first graders began by creating a circle map. Students chose one word, from there, they found as many rhyme words as they could! They worked with partners to create poems together before writing their own. Their next poem was a free verse, students used their five senses to describe something from nature. They used great detail and imagery! Lastly, students enjoyed creating fun alliteration poems. We started with a sound and from that sound thought of words with similar

beginnings. Students were delighted in creating a class alliteration poem and sharing their own thoughts and ideas with classmates! Our students continue the practice of "peer editing," by working with another student to kindly support one another and make revisions on their final pieces. First graders are proud poets always working dutifully and diligently!



Math

In our math studies, the children have been working with groups of ten in many different ways. Our goal is to equip each child with a wide variety of tools to pull out of their "math toolbox," when tackling any math problem. Students grouped tens by using place value blocks and drawing models. Additionally, first graders used tools such as open number lines, number charts and mental math to group, add and subtract tens. This skill provides an essential foundation for our future math work as each student solidifies their understanding of counting by tens. Next students worked with measurement and time. First graders used classroom objects to compare, order and measure length. First graders learned how to tell time to the hour and half hour. They worked with partners to create word problems focusing on what we do during certain hours of the day. The next unit of focus is money, which we have touched upon during our financial literacy unit! First graders have been eager to learn about spending and saving! We are so proud of our marvelous mathematicians!



Science

In this unit we continued with our title of "engineers". We have been dutifully working with a puppet company, hypothesizing how to create shadows and what materials to use. Next we will be focusing on sounds. Students will learn about vibrations and what makes a sound loud or soft. To begin this section of the unit we went on a sound source hunt around the school. Like all good scientists and engineers, after our hunt we wrote and drew our findings. Our engineers had fun working with partners to discover how to make ordinary objects become instruments. To end this unit the engineers will participate in a "sound and tell" activity. They will bring in an ordinary object from home and present how it makes sound!



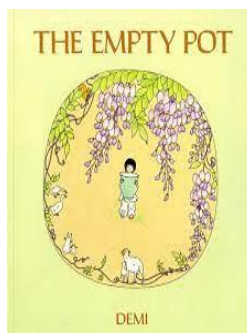
Social Studies

In our units of study, children have been comparing and contrasting the past and now. We have been looking at old photographs of families, transportation and electronics. We shared our thoughts on how transportation and technology have changed and how it impacts our lives. As well as communities and the similarities between families today and in the past. We also participated in Civics For All Week. Students listened to a story about the importance of voting. They created posters about the experience and even voted about what was important to them in our own school community. We learned that our voices make a difference! In March we celebrated Women's History. We learned about important women in history but we also focused on the important women in our lives and how they impact us on a daily basis!



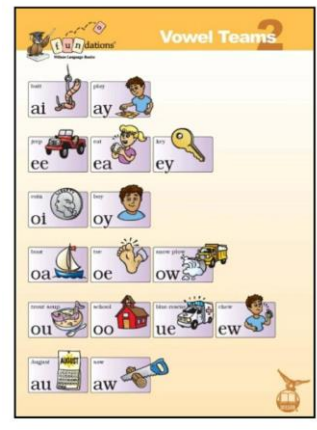
Social Emotional Learning

Students have been making text to self-connections during our Social Emotional lessons. April's book of the month was *The Empty Pot* by Demi. Students enjoyed making predictions throughout the story and watching the main character overcome challenges and, in the end, become the hero! Students have also been working on handling emotions--what to do when they are upset or angry. We've discussed ways to work through our emotions and learn about our own personal strengths. We continue to discuss ways to be a "bucket filler" and how to be kind!



Word Study/Fundations

The end of the year is fast approaching, the children have been working exceptionally hard on learning new concepts in Fundations. We are trying to give the students the skills necessary to help decipher the different vowel teams in words and strategies to help them if they are unsure how to spell a word. Practice is key! Knowing the six syllable types is an important concept for all learners for spelling and reading words. By the end of second grade, we will have focused on all types. Please continue to encourage your children to utilize their Fundations skills while writing and reading new words.

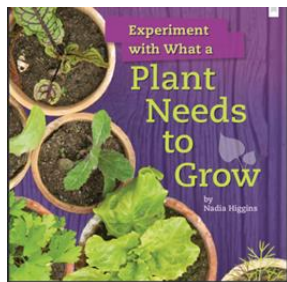
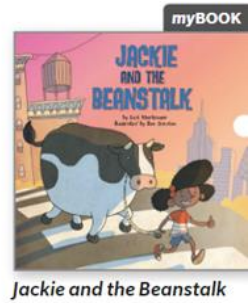
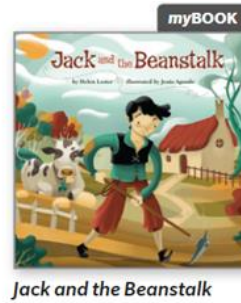
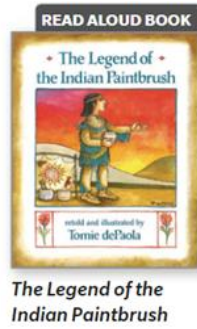
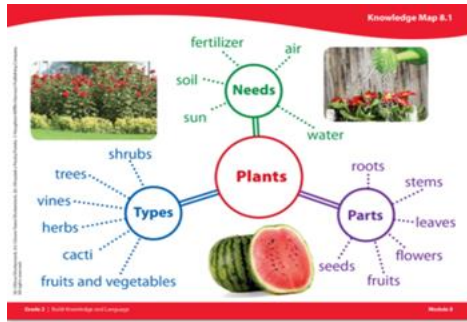


6 Syllable Types		
1	Closed Ends with a consonant 1 vowel that has a short sound	Examples Dog Cat Lid Flip Men
2	Open Ends with a vowel The vowel has a long sound	Examples Go Sky Fly Cry Hi Why
3	Silent e Ends with a silent e that gives the preceding vowel a long sound	Examples Cute Pine Dime Home Ride
4	Diphthong 2 vowels together that make one sound (also called Vowel Pair or Vowel Team) Long, short, or diphthong (ou / ow and oi / oy)	Examples Hound Sail Soy Snow Meat Boat
5	R-Controlled 1 vowel followed by r, ar/ er/ ir/ ur/ or	Examples Horn Start Bird Word Bum Stern
6	Consonant-le Comes at the end of a word. Has no vowel sound (the e at the end is silent).	Examples Waffle Candle Castle Turtle Apple

Reading

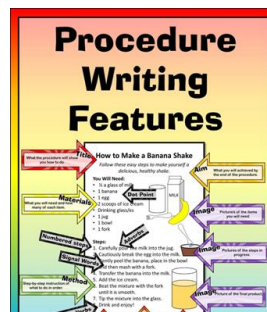
To begin our unit on plant and animal relationships the second grade visited the Queens Farm Museum to learn about bees and how they help contribute to the production of a variety of plant and vegetable life cycles. We learned the value of these amazing creatures in our world. As we continue reading about plant and animal relationships with a variety of fiction and non-fiction books from our HMH reading program, the children have been learning about how plants live and grow, and how animals survive in their habitats by depending on each other in their environment. While reading texts about plants and animals, we are practicing several reading strategies to improve their comprehension and understanding of shared reading texts. Some reading skills we have been practicing are asking and answering questions about the text before, during, and after reading, identifying and interpreting figurative language, creating mental images as we read, and monitoring and clarifying our understanding. The students are also working on retelling the text using their own words by synthesizing and telling the important parts in chronological order.

In our next reading unit, our second graders will read and learn about the many cultures that make up our world. We look forward to learning about and celebrating all of the customs from people's cultures around the world, and even in our classrooms during this unit of study! Our second graders will also explore how their own heritage has contributed to the American culture we all share. Learning from different people and cultures will encourage children's interest in the diverse world around them.



Writing

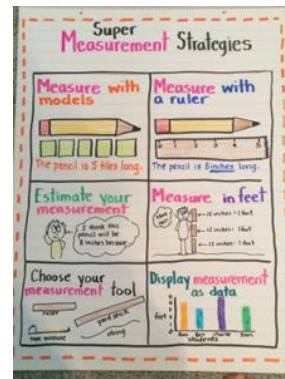
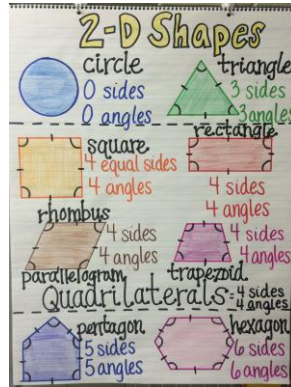
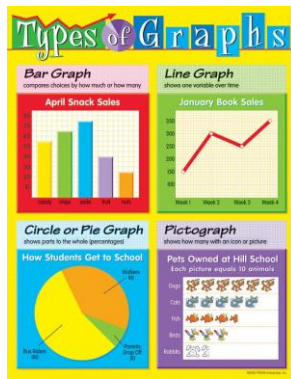
Over the past months, the students in second grade have become poets. They learned how to write through a poet's eyes by using descriptive language to create a mental image. The students also learned how to use poetic devices in their poems such as rhyming, simile/metaphors, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. After that the students began an informational writing unit! They choose a famous woman from history to research and write about. Currently, we are continuing our exploration of informational writing as we write procedural reports and learn how precise directions will help readers understand our thinking and be able to follow directions. When it comes to teaching young writers, procedural writing lessons can be a lot of fun. What child doesn't love the chance to show off something they know how to do? We will explore how authors write procedural reports to teach others and give information.



Math

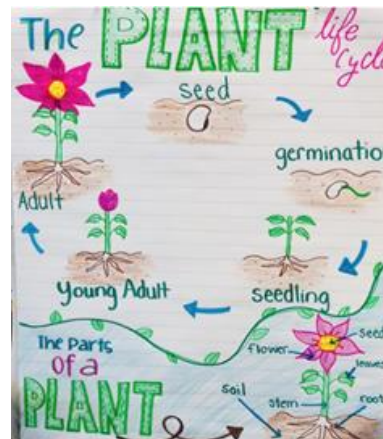
Topic 12 focuses on using appropriate tools to estimate and measure length in customary units (inches, feet, and yards) and metric units (centimeters and meters). Students learn to appreciate the use of standard units to measure length. Topic 13 focuses on students applying their understanding of addition and subtraction to word problems involving lengths. Students solve measurement problems involving lengths by writing and solving addition and subtraction equations using symbols for unknown values. Students also use a number line to represent whole number sums and

differences within 100. Our second graders have been busy measuring and solving real world problems with measurement. As we towards the end of the school year, our second-grade mathematicians will practice gathering and analyzing data on charts and graphs and will solve problems involving geometrical shapes.



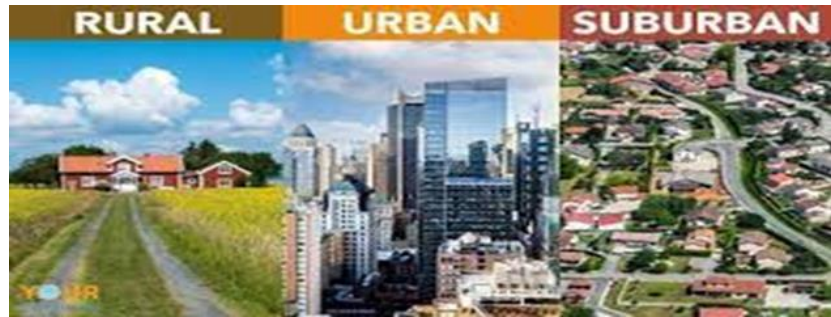
Science

In this unit, students will explore plant and animal relationships. Students engage in identifying concepts that will identify how plants and animals use a symbiotic relationship to survive. Their understanding will help the children be able to take and explore different concepts to understand seed germination and seed dispersal as well as survival of plants and animals in an ecosystem. Through observations and scientific inquiry, the students will use explanations to describe how things work. Through readings and investigations, we will continue to explore the world of plants as botanists and be able to develop conclusions about how plants and animals depend on one another in our natural world. We began this unit with our trip to the Queens farm and continued our research in class with many experiments, readings and discussion about our world.

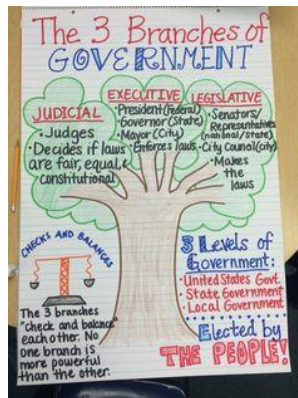


Social Studies

Second grade has been studying urban, rural and suburban communities. We learned that people choose their community based on their needs. As we explore the different communities and their features, we see how different communities have both similarities and differences. As we learn the qualities of each community, we will debate the advantages and disadvantages of living in each community. The children enjoy giving their opinions to tell which community they would like to live in one day.



In our next Social Studies unit, we will be studying and celebrating the democracy and citizenship of our great nation as we study the Government of the United States. We will explore the three branches of government and the importance each person has in our country. We the People have a voice and a vote that can help our country. Second grade will look at the Constitution and discuss the importance of it in today's world. We are all aware of our civic responsibilities to work together to make our world a better place.



Purpose of Government		
Ensure Domestic Tranquility: To keep peace among the citizens. 	Provide for the Common Defense: To have a military that defends our country. 	Promote the General Welfare: Provide services that are important to improving the lives of citizens.
Secure the Blessings of Liberty: To make sure the rights we have today are available for future generations. 	Make Laws: to ensure the protection and safety of all citizens. 	Some of these purposes are identified in the Preamble to the US Constitution. They were used to outline the goals of the Constitution.

Social Emotional Learning

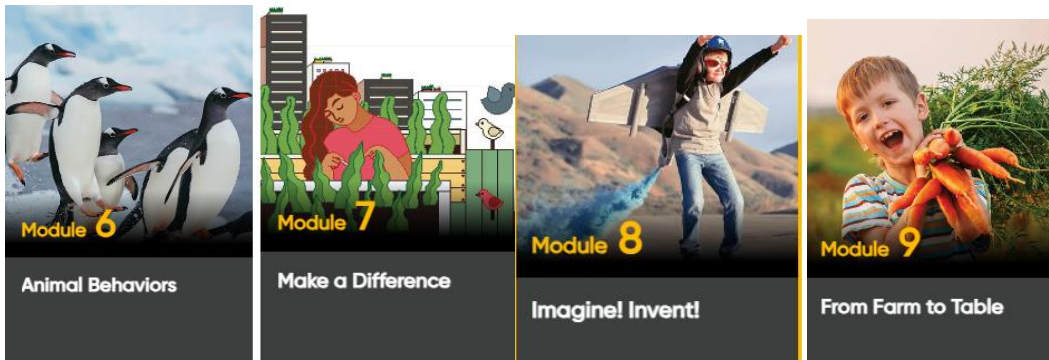
The second-grade students continue to grow into well-rounded students and citizens through our Social Emotional curriculum. Through literature, the students are learning to recognize and control their emotions by talking about their feelings, getting support from family and teachers and taking deep breaths. Students are also encouraged to set goals and have a plan so they can achieve anything they set their mind to!



Reading

The third-grade students have been listening to, reading, and viewing a variety of texts and media

that present them with information about how animal behaviors help them survive, where our food comes from and what it takes to make a great invention. A genre focus on informational text provides students with opportunities to identify text structure, central idea, and text and graphic features to better understand unfamiliar texts. As students have been building their vocabulary and synthesizing topic knowledge, they are learning about survival skills, great things come from a simple idea and that food's journey to our table often begins on a farm. The students also have completed their NYS ELA Exam.

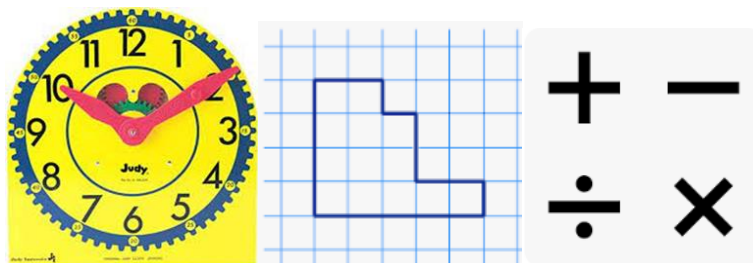


Writing

In our recent units, third grade writers have written informational essays and persuasive letters that build on the theme of friendship and teamwork. Writers are working on their skills to elaborate on the 5 paragraph essay with more description, word precision, and a clear thesis with supporting examples. Students have written research papers on animal behaviors and adaptations, teamwork, women in history, and they are currently working on persuading their readers to advocate for positive changes in our school community.

Math

The third-grade students are finishing up a few units including Graphing, Area and Multi-Step Word problems. They have become quite proficient in determining what a hidden question is and how to identify it in a word problem. They have also been doing well telling time, and finding the area of figures. We are also reviewing past topics to prepare the students for the NYS Math Exams, such as multiplication, division, fractions, and place value, we have completed.



Science

In this unit, third grade students will take on the role of being wildlife biologists. People have many misconceptions about how organisms get their traits and about the role that inherited information and environmental factors play in determining variation in the traits of organisms.

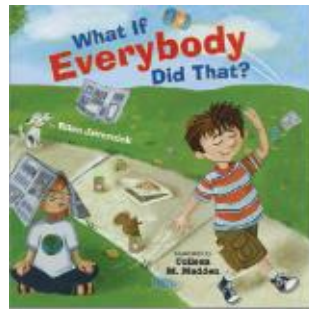
This unit addresses these concepts directly by providing numerous opportunities for students to construct an accurate understanding of the influences that inheritance and the environment play in determining organisms' traits. Through photos, videos and articles students will investigate a family of wolves and determine why the children look both similar and different from their parents.

Social Studies

Third grade is currently studying Ancient Egypt. We have been working together to study the beautiful history of Egypt by reading nonfiction articles and stories about their past. We have also been learning about the Pharaohs that once ruled Ancient Egypt. Through these studies we have uncovered the importance of Egyptian Pyramids as well as the Nile River. Students are learning theories on how these pyramids got there and what is inside these extraordinary works of art. Students are also learning about the impact the Nile River had on the Egyptians' livelihood and survival during that time period; trading and selling goods.

Social Emotional Learning

In our integrated units of study, students have been studying about what it means to be on a team and the true values of friendship. This builds on our SEL curriculum teaching children what it means to be a good citizen in the local and global community, what it means to be a true friend, and how we would like to be welcomed into a community. Students have written essays for Respect for All and persuasive writing that convinces the reader on what a true friend is. In addition, students have drawn illustrations to represent their values.

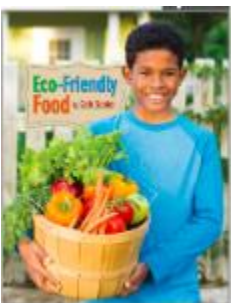


Fourth Grade News

Ms. Fejzullaj, Ms. Camhi & Ms. Healy

Reading

Fourth grade is currently working on Module 8 where we focused on the essential question “What can we do to make more healthful food choices?” During this module, we focused on reading informational texts about how to choose healthy foods that are also sometimes unique. Comprehension skills such as central idea, text structure, asking questions to monitor our thinking, text features, and author's purpose were taught and utilized throughout the module. Fourth graders also learned new vocabulary words to go along with the text and how to use different suffixes and prefixes to help them



identify unfamiliar words. During the next unit we will be reading about the Global Guardians and how to best care for our planet.

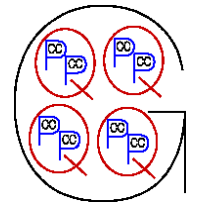
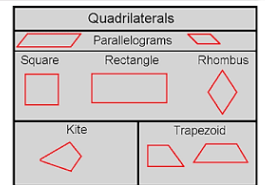
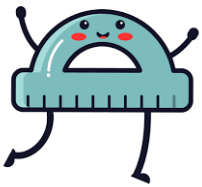
Writing

Our current HMH Module 8 writing piece aims to get students to strengthen their argument writing skills. Fourth graders take on the role of researchers and writers within this unit, starting by researching a unique food that most people might not enjoy eating. After research, students will write an opinion essay to try and convince people to eat this very different and unique food. Students will come up with strong reasons why people should eat this food and find evidence to support each of those reasons. Once done with their initial draft, students learn different revising strategies such as how to create a well thought out introduction using a startling statistic, a vivid image, or quoted fact. Furthermore, they learn how to revise for descriptive and persuasive language, adding higher level transitional words and phrases and how to check for appropriate text structure, how to revise for grammar and punctuation, and how to write a well thought out conclusion paragraph that speaks to readers. Finally, students learn how to peer edit and get ready to publish and share all about their unique food.



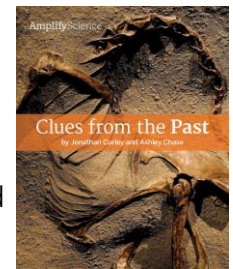
Math

Fourth grade mathematicians are wrapping up our study of lines, angles, and shapes where we spent a great deal of time identifying triangles by angles and line segments, classifying quadrilaterals by using features and logic to do so, as well as using protractors to measure and draw angles. Students are getting ready to start our unit on measurement where they will focus on converting larger units of measurement to smaller units of measurement by working with customary units of length, capacity, weight, and time, as well as metric units of length, capacity, and mass. From there, we will move onto developing our understanding of decimals by connecting fractions to decimals. The school year will end by introducing students to some fifth-grade content.



Science

In our current unit of science, students have been investigating the following question: "How do rocks and fossils tell us about the way Earth changes over time?" We have started by questioning how a certain fossil wound up inside a rocky outcrop. We will explore different key concepts which have provided greater insight into the issue at hand. Students will explore different types of rock and sediment and think about how certain fossils end up in certain areas. We used a simulation to show how sediment builds up over time and fossils form. By the end of the unit students will be able to determine the different environments where fossils could be found.



Social Studies:

Having already learned about what led to the American Revolution, fourth graders are now ready to learn about the purpose of government, the challenges of creating a New Nation, and why new lawmakers of the 1700s placed a high priority on the separation of powers. We start by analyzing the Articles of Confederation- America's first federal laws before they were replaced by the U.S.

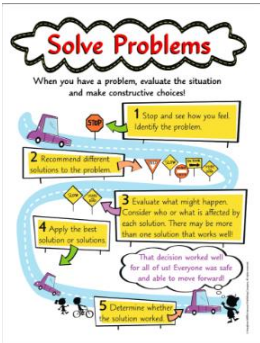


Constitution. We will then take a look at the three branches of government, their functions and how this led to the compromises made at the Constitutional Convention regarding the Preamble, Articles and Amendments resulting from the Convention of 1787. Students will get to analyze the reasons used by both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists to support their arguments for the creation of a New Nation and how documents such as the Constitution and Bill of Rights provide for the common good as well as protect our individual rights. Our study of civics and government will allow students to understand the basic principles and values embodied across our state and federal governments.

Social Emotional Learning

Along with our HMH program in Module 8 we are incorporating Social Emotional elements in our daily lessons. In this module we are focusing on Responsible Decision Making. Responsible Decision Making is the ability to make smart, ethical, and safe choices for yourself and others. When you make responsible decisions you analyze situations first so that you can identify

and solve problems, evaluate any possible outcomes your choices will have, and reflect on how your decisions impact others.



Fifth Grade News

Ms. Barongi, Mr. Grossman and Mrs. Kelly

Reading

In reading, students are working on Module 8, titled, "A New Home". Students listened to, read, and viewed a variety of texts and media related to the experience of moving to a new country. The Essential Question, "How do people adapt to new experiences and make a new place home?" helps us focus on what the characters in the stories are experiencing during their transition. A genre focus on poetry provides students with opportunities to identify elements of poetry and author's craft in order to better understand unfamiliar texts.



Writing

In writing, students have been allowing their creativity to flow. They completed lyric poems that included a variety of figurative language and imagery. Some students choose to use a rhyming scheme while others play with word placement to determine the flow of their poems. Currently, students are working on imaginative stories. They are taking a typical day and putting a fun, creative,

and very imaginative spin to it. Students are learning how to include the narrative elements to assure that the traits they give their characters help determine how the problem is resolved. Students are continuing to use their editing and revising skills to strengthen their writing skills.

Math

As we wrap up our school year, students are engaging in some fun with mathematics. Some of our final units focus on data collection, organization and interpretation, which allow for lots of rich discussions in math. Students have surveyed one another to collect information on a topic and organize this information in a way that is easy to read and understand. We have learned how data can be used as tools in a variety of ways and situations. We have had fun using data points to create images on a coordinate grid and will continue to see math in creative ways as the school year comes to a close.

Science

In addition to preparing for the 5th grade NYS Science Exam, students have been exploring outer space. This Amplify unit focuses on patterns of the Earth and Sun. Students have been exploring the positions of stars in the sky based on the Earth's rotation and orbit around the sun. They learned about where stars are in the sky and what impacts their brightness. Students used a computer simulation to make observations and help build a stronger understanding. Students will continue to explore space through activities, books, and observations.



Social Studies

This month, students learned about Dutch artist MC Escher, who is famous for creating tessellation patterns. Students learned about his life, his contributions to art, and viewed different styles of tessellations. Once this was done, they were able to create their own tessellation pattern in order to create their own piece of artwork.



Social Emotional Learning

With graduation approaching, we will touch on important social-emotional topics such as friendship and starting new. Our fifth graders engage in Restorative Circles at this time of year to talk about their thoughts and feelings both personally, and as a community of students who have grown together through their elementary experience. This is a time to share as a group and support each other, while acquiring new skills for communicating with friends and peers.

As the school year is at the home stretch and the weather is becoming beautiful, our Physical Education program has been focusing on many outdoor activities in our amazing courtyard and playground.

Pre-K through 2nd grade classes have been getting extra preparation for Field Day. We have been focusing on skills they will need to use during this amazing day of competition and fun! Field Day preparation involves many teamwork games. This helps the students understand the concept of working together and cheering for one another. Some things to expect are relay races, obstacles courses and other fun games that involve teamwork and age-appropriate skills.

Grades 3 through 5 have been finishing up their fitness-testing "Fitness-Gram" activities. With these units coming to an end, these grades have shown tremendous improvement. For the remainder of the year, we are speaking about Field Day as well as reviewing skills and teamwork activities that they will need to be successful.



Field day will be held at Alley Pond Park, on June 4th 2024!!!

We are very excited for a wonderful day of fun, as it has been a few years since we have been able to have field day at a different location than P.S 98.

Physical Education is a great way to keep our students active, especially as summer is approaching. It helps them stay mentally sharp in the classroom as well. They get great exercise while learning and having fun!

Pre-K-1

As the year comes to close, students in Pre-K, and Kindergarten have begun to work on their moving up ceremony songs. Students in Pre-K will be singing the songs *We're Moving Up*, *Thank You* and *Ready to Go*. Students in Kindergarten will be singing *Big Dreams*, *Count On Me*, *This Land is Your Land* and *You've Got a Friend in Me*. Please talk to your teachers about accessing the lyrics and practice tracks to make sure your child is ready to sing for the Moving Up



Ceremony! Students in first grade are learning about songs and games from other cultures. We also rewrote the words to the song *Hello to all the Children of the World* to show languages and cultures from our classroom communities.

Grades 2-5

Students in grades 2-5 are continuing to use “orff” instruments (xylophone, metallophone, glockenspiel) to play written music, improvise, and work on music literacy skills. Students have been using these instruments to play patriotic music for the upcoming Memorial Day Assembly with songs like *My Country Tis of Thee*, *This Land is Your Land*, and *The Star Spangled Banner*. Fifth grade have begun to work on their graduation songs. They will be singing *My Country Tis of Thee*, *Sunday Best*, and *The PS 98 Song*.



Technology/Computer Science

Mrs. Mei

We are coding in Kindergarten! In Computer Science, we can code Mouse to move across the board by giving a set of instructions using arrow commands. We worked together as a team where each of us was given a specific job- the Programmer codes using the command cards; the Computer programs the mouse using the buttons; the Constructor builds the board according to the card. We will continue utilizing our coding skills in Kodable, an online platform where students navigate their Fuzz through a series of activities by giving them a set of instructions using certain commands.



In first grade, we started practicing our keyboarding skills using Typing Club. We are also coding in CodeSpark by decomposing a problem by breaking it down into smaller problems, practicing advanced sequencing to solve a problem, and by using loops in our coding program. We will soon begin using Dash and Dot where we will put our coding skills to maneuver the robots.

Second graders are having a blast between being computer programmers using Kodable and being engineers using Snap Circuits. We are gaining an understanding of the electrical world by being introduced to electricity with the components and circuit types in Snap Circuits – switches, motors, fan blades, resistors, LEDs, and capacitors. Some of our projects include showing how a resistor and LED are wired to emit light, and showing how an integrated circuit can be used as a musical doorbell.



In Grades 3-5, students completed STEAM sessions using Lego Education where they worked in groups to create, program, and test their given projects. Students are using Scratch for CS First. For each lesson, students watch a series of videos and create one coding project with

opportunities to personalize their work using "Add-Ons," which are mini-coding challenges that build on top of the core project.

Third's grade unit is about Storytelling. In Storytelling, students use computer science to tell fun and interactive stories. For one of the lessons, students created a dynamic stormy day setting, complete with rain and lightning. After developing the setting, students programmed a stormy day story.

Fourth grade's Friends unit emphasizes teamwork by allowing students to tell the story of how their friendship started and imagine a company together. One of the lessons included students creating a story about how they met their friend while they learned about sequencing code.

In fifth grade, students use computer science to simulate extreme sports, make their own fitness gadget commercial, and create commentary for a big sporting event.

Art

Ms. Klein

Spring has sprung in the art room at PS 98! Flowers can be seen everywhere you look! Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama has spent her career embracing Flowers. The students at PS 98Q focused on her artwork "Flowers that Bloom at Night". Yayoi Kusama reflects that these flowers bloom when everyone is asleep and cannot be seen. "There is beauty to something that you and/or others don't know about or will never see." Yayoi was one of three artists in the world selected to create artwork at Grand Central Station. The mosaic mural of her painting is 120 feet wide and 7 feet high. Many students have gone to Manhattan to have their picture taken in front of this enormous rendering of her work!

Kindergarten and first grade students created paintings with tempera paints looking at Yayoi Kusama's dots. The students spent time learning to blend modeling clay and create the color wheel. The students used their knowledge to create flower sculptures based on Yayoi's flowers. Students are working on collages with mixed media to complete their unit on Asian arts. Lastly, our kindergarten students worked on a group mural!

Second grade and third grade students painted, sculpted, and are now repurposing using coffee filters to create flowers based on their exploration of color and texture. The students are busy creating 3 dimensional flowers influenced by Yayoi Kusama. The students are studying the effects of color blending by using water-based markers with water. Each student has used different color spectrums.

Fourth and fifth grade students delved deeper into Yayoi Kusama's life and modeled their artwork after her exhibits around the world. Students are using all the new supplies which were purchased with the additional money from the Participatory Budget Vote. Fifth grade students are presently working on acrylic paintings on canvas. Fourth grade students will begin their acrylic and canvas painting shortly.

Many students worked on origami and kirigami to make beautiful 3-dimensional cards for spring and Mother's Day!

The students cannot wait till the World's Fair to share all their artwork with their family and friends from the PS 98 Community!



Student Council

Mrs. Kelly and Ms. Roma

It has been so much fun seeing all the school spirit this year! Students have embraced the days by drawing emotional emojis for Emotion Day, showing off their lightsabers for Star Wars Day, and styling their hair for Crazy Hair Day. We have two more Spirit Days left- Stay Tuned!

The Student Council Talent Show will be held on the last day of school this year. Auditions will be held on May 22. Flyers and permission slips have been sent home. Please note that students who want to audition must have a parent or guardian complete the permission slip before May 22. We can't wait to see all of this year's talent!

P. S. 98 Ambassadors

Mrs. Holle

Our Ambassadors participated in Assemblyman Braunstein, Valentine's for Vets Project. Thank you for your donations. Ambassadors also made posters to encourage students to participate in the Read-A-Thon.

Congratulations to our Bucket Fillers

February 2024

K-101 – Trevor Liu
K-102 – Livia Penello
1-108 – Iliana Mkhitarian
1-109 – Kuzey Cetinkaya
2-206 – Chenyi Zheng
2-207 – Mckenzie Morgan

3-201 – Jack Denoia
3-208 – Dylan Pressley
4-203 – Jaden Choi
4-209 – Mirza Cetinkaya
5-202 – Charles Rodriguez
5-205 – Nora Sung

March 2024

K-101 – Darwin Umana
K-102 – Leonidas Katira
1-108 – Junya Li
1-109 – Oliver Melara
2-206 – Irene Lee
2-207 – Bowen Shen

3-201 – Amar Smajli
3-208 – Elijah Chen
4-203 – Zara Wahab
4-209 – Matthew Rodriguez
5-202 – Johan Lee
5-205 – Maya McHale

April 2024

K-101 – Vlada Gofman
K-102 – Penelope Hernandez
1-108 – Aidan Sung
1-109 – Sofia Coutsouvelis
2-206 – Declan Dante Castro
2-207 – Franklin Umana

3-201 – Michael Hassan
3-208 – Lucas Park
4-203 – Alexandra Pantelatos
4-209 – Sebastian Uribe
5-202 – Omid Wahab
5-205 – Sasha Galvin

In, Out and Around The Douglaston School

Mrs. Holle

The students loved having their parent/guardian come in to read to the class on World Read ALoud Day. Motivational speaker Rohan Murphy visited our school and explained to students how he persevered even after losing both of his legs. We participated in Kindness Week with different activities including Kindness Grams. We had fun dressing up for the different Student Council days that included Emotion Day, Career Day, Crazy Hair Day and Star Wars Day. There was also a schoolwide assembly with Sunny Choi, a breakdancer, who will be participating in the Summer Olympics. Our Civics for All Assembly highlighted some of our students reading about important topics to them. The students also loved Career Day. Thank you again to the parents who participated. We had so many fabulous careers presented to our students. The 2023-2024 Year-Long Competitive Stock Market Session Game ended with all of our teams finishing in the top ten. Congratulations to all!!! Two teams came in second and third place. The second-place team students were **Tyler Nemeth (5-205)**, **Charlotte Nemeth (4-203)**, **Noah Browne (4-203)**, **Roland McKay (4-209)**. The third-place team students were **Damon Bird (5-202)**, **Lucian Cruz (5-202)**, and **Sal Luca Zuccarello (5-205)**. Congratulations to **Elijah Chen (3-208)**, winner in the Respect for All Essay Contest and **Evelyn Cho (2-207)** winner of the Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Congratulations to our Memorial Day Art and Essay Contest winners. From second grade, our winners are **Mckenzie Morgan**, 1st place, **Evelyn Cho**, 2nd place and **Pierce Jozefek**, 3rd place. From third grade, **Evangeline Jozefek** came in 1st place. Our Read-A-Thon was a great success. Thank you to all readers and donators. Our students read a total of 55,260 minutes. Ms. Fejzullaj's class (4-203) read 18,558 of those minutes. Our top three readers were **Bryce Lee (4-203)** 12,040 minutes, **Naren Ray (5-205)** 2,515 minutes and **Naya Ray (3-208)** 2,495 minutes. Our top donators were **Katie Tsoumas (2-206)** \$450.00, **Lucas Fields (K-102)** \$375.00, **Menios Gordos (3-201)** \$325.00 and **Olivia Dunnigan (4-209)** \$325.00. Thank you again for all the donations. Donations of over \$4,000 were made. Congratulations to our winners and all participants for a job well done. As the school year is quickly coming to a close, we still have three Assemblies (Memorial Day, Tales from a Bicycle Seat and Canine Customs Demonstration), Field Day and the Talent Show. Our last day of school, June 26, is a full day. Wishing everyone a happy, safe and healthy summer. See you in September.

Dates to Remember

Ms. Diana Gautier, Assistant Principal

May 15 – Safety Meeting
May 22 - Talent Show Auditions
May 24 - Memorial Day Assembly
May 27 – School Closed – Memorial Day
June 1 - PS 98 World's Fair
June 3 - Schoolwide Assembly - Tales from a Bicycle Seat
June 4 - Field Day
June 6 – No Students - Anniversary Day/Chancellor's Conference Day
June 7 – No Students - Clerical Day; End of 3rd marking period
June 11 – Safety Meeting
June 13 - Field Day rain date
June 14 - Broadway Musical Show 6:30 pm
June 15 - Broadway Musical Show 1:00 pm

June 17- School Closed - Eid al-Adha

June 18 - PTA meeting 7:00 pm

June 19 – School Closed – Juneteenth

June 20 - Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony 9:00 am

June 20 - Pre-K Moving Up Ceremony 11:00 am

June 21 - Fifth Grade Graduation 9:00 am

June 24 - Schoolwide Assembly - Canine Customs Demonstration

June 26 – Last Day of School (full day); Report cards available on NYCSA

June 26 - Talent Show