



NYCDOE

Highlights of Community School District 5 Harlem Schools

Special points of Interest:

- *District 5 Annual STEM Expo—May 19, 2012*
- *Literacy Teacher Initiative - A Collaboration Between (IUME) at Teachers College, Columbia University and School District 5*
- *Frederick Douglass Academy Students Make History*
- *Marching Through Women's History!*
- *African-American Inventors*
- *Parental Involvement at Kappa IV*
- *TMA Lower School Various Activities*

Superintendent's Message

"We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet."
- Margaret Mead

The efforts of our school building leaders and staff who are engaged in rigorous instruction and unwavering support of our students deserve acknowledgement. Preparing our students to be lifelong learners and successful members of society is no easy task.

Undeniably, the expected curricula revisions presented at this time and the resulting demands placed on the plates of educators require adjustments on almost every level. Judging from the productive teaching and learning experiences, special events, and creative activities observed and reported, it is clear to see that our District 5 schools are positively responding to the challenge of making adjustments!

Since we want to be sure we are diligently helping each student reach their full potential, as we move through this middle part of the school year, it is imperative that we take the time to revisit and reflect on our goals. Through this process of self-reflection, we can track the numerous efforts being undertaken to continuously ensure our district provides students with the very best educational opportunities we can offer.



*Community Superintendent
Gale Reeves*

Inside this issue:

We look forward to hearing about the many unique opportunities, activities, and accomplishments of our schools in the days ahead as our students continue to make strides towards meeting their goals - collectively and individually.

District 5 STEM Expo Saturday, May 19, 2012	1
Literacy Teachers Initiative	1
Frederick Douglass Academy Students Makes History	2
Marching Through Women's History	2
African-American Inventors	3
Parental Involvement at Kappa IV	4
Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School Theater Experience	4
Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School Gallery Exhibits	4

District 5 Annual STEM EXPO

Super Saturday! Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo!!

(Grades PK – 12) Schools have the opportunity to exhibit STEM projects!

Saturday, May 19, 2012
10:00am—3:00pm

PAL Harlem 369th Armory
One West 142nd Street
New York, New York 10037
(212) 749 - 1570 or (212) 769 -7500 X 236

Literacy Teachers Initiative

The Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) at Teachers College, Columbia University, has partnered with District 5 to begin an innovative program with K-8 teachers that increases knowledge about effective culturally relevant literacy pedagogies and fosters engaging classroom practices and national collaboration among literacy educators.

The following teachers have been selected:
Rachael Cooper, Siobhan Gordon, Pamelyn Williams and Alison Stroud from Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School, Tricia Gordon and Juliet Kissoon-Pietracatella from PS 92, Danielle Del Gatto from PS 125, Joan Stewart from PS 123 and Marie Clevering from New Design Middle School.

Please join me in congratulating them as the first cohort of this project.

Frederick Douglass Academy Students Make History



2nd row (left to right): *Keyron Jarvis, David Adu, Eriberto Guzman*
1st row (left to right): *Malik Perry, Ashante Murray, Dwayne Johnson*
NOT PICTURED: *Brandon De La Rosa*

The Frederick Douglass Academy chess team has won the city championships!!! Competing against New York powerhouses such as Stuyvesant, Edward R. Murrow H.S., and defending national champions Hunter H.S., FDA rose to the occasion and performed with zeal, vigor, and intellectual prowess.

Individually, Ashante Murray finished 5th and Malik Perry finished 6th. Also making significant contributions were Eriberto Guzman, David Adu, Brandon De La Rosa, and Dwayne Johnson.

We challenge anyone to find any record of any high school from Harlem that has ever won the Varsity High School section at the city championships.

In the junior varsity section, FDA finished in 2nd place, with Bou-bacar Barrie going 5-0 and taking 1st place individually. Ismal Ellahi was 12th, with Michael Williams and Tahashim Mahmud making significant contributions.

In the auditorium at the Frederick Douglass Academy, there are words scrawled on the white wall in black ink:

"Without struggle, there is no progress."

Those are the words of Frederick Douglass, who knew that only through hard work and genuine determination can one achieve any real success. His aphorism has been demonstrated through the lives of young men who have been persevering for years, and it has paid off handsomely.

MARCHING THROUGH WOMEN'S HISTORY!

American history has included women from the very beginning! Indeed, their courage, strength and intelligence helped to forge our nation and shape its identity. Although in past years, women were commonly thought of as less deserving of acknowledgement than men, the influence of women on our society has been essential and undeniable! That is why March is a great opportunity to observe Women's History and Heritage and pay tribute to the many women who have shown tenacity, courage and creativity over the centuries.

So where are their stories? Well, until recently women have not been given too much attention in history textbooks, but fortunately, many women's stories and achievements have been recorded in the nation's newspapers. Here are some important events and figures in American women's history, as presented in articles from one historical newspaper archive:

Elizabeth Blackwell – First Woman Doctor in US
<http://www.newsinhistory.com/blog/elizabeth-blackwell-first-woman-doctor-us>

Amelia Earhart—Solo Flight Across the Atlantic
<http://www.newsinhistory.com/blog/amelia-earhart's-solo-flight-across-atlantic>

Christie McAuliffe - Space Shuttle Challenger Explodes
<http://www.newsinhistory.com/blog/students-stunned-space-shuttle-challenger-explodes>

Janet Reno—Becomes First US Attorney General
<http://www.newsinhistory.com/blog/janet-reno-becomes-first-female-us-attorney-general>

There are many more such amazing stories of women's achievements! There are a multitude of resources available from which we can access them - books, Internet, film, etc. So, as we move through the month of March, let's continue to look for opportunities to learn about and celebrate the many contributions that women have made in all aspects of our society.



A. Earhart



E. Blackwell



J. Reno

WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS IT? BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN INVENTORS

"The African-American experience is one of the most important threads in the American tapestry."

~Bill Frist

What does the carbon filament of a light bulb, hair growing lotion, and a Super Soaker water gun all have in common? Believe it or not, these are some of the life-altering past and modern-day inventions of African-Americans! Indeed, the contributions of African Americans can be found in all facets of our nation's past, including the field of inventing! Black History month is a great time to acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of African-American men and women whose bright ideas have collectively served as contributing factors in making our country - the United States of America - a better place.

Without a doubt, African-Americans have played crucial roles in shaping American history and are remembered and celebrated for their labor, intellect and capabilities. Think about what kind of obstacles they may have faced, personally and professionally (for some even hardships faced during times of slavery didn't stop them from becoming great inventors)!

Many people are familiar with famous 19th- and early 20th-century African-American inventors like George Washington Carver and Elijah McCoy. However, most people are unaware of significant contributions by African-Americans in our country's more recent past. Therefore, the following is a list of 6 famous African-American inventors (both past and present) and a brief biography about each one. After reading it, challenge yourself to see how many others you can add to the list.

Lewis Latimer - (1848–1928) invented an important part of the light bulb — the carbon filament. He was a member of Thomas Edison's research team, which was called "Edison's Pioneers." Latimer improved the newly-invented incandescent light bulb by inventing the carbon filament (which he patented in 1881). In 1882, Latimer developed and patented a method of manufacturing his carbon filaments (patent #252,386). Later, the stronger tungsten filament replaced the carbon filament (invented by W. D. Coolidge). Latimer also invented a threaded wooden socket for light bulbs. **Fast Fact:** *Latimer worked in the laboratories of both Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.*

Elijah McCoy - (1843–1929) invented an oil-dripping cup for trains. He was a mechanical engineer and inventor. McCoy's high-quality industrial inventions (especially his steam engine lubricator) were the basis for the expression "the real McCoy," meaning the real, authentic, or high-quality thing. McCoy's first invention (1872) was a revolutionary way of lubricating steam engines without having to shut them down - this automatic lubricator saved an enormous amount of time and effort in transportation and in industrial production. McCoy eventually had a total of 57 patents, and was known throughout the world for his

inventions. In 1920, McCoy opened his own company, the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company. **Fast Fact:** *Other inventors tried to copy McCoy's oil-dripping cup. But none of the other cups worked as well as his, so customers started asking for "the real McCoy."*

George Washington Carver - (1860–1943) developed peanut butter and 400 plant products! He was an American scientist, educator, humanitarian, and former slave. Carver developed hundreds of products from peanuts, sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans. Carver's discoveries greatly improved the agricultural output and the health of Southern farmers. Before this, the only main crop in the South was cotton. The products that Carver invented included: a rubber substitute, adhesives, foodstuffs, dyes, pigments, and many other products. **Fast Fact:** *Carver was born a slave. He didn't go to college until he was 30.*

Madam C.J. Walker - (1867–1919) invented a hair-growing lotion. She was an inventor, businesswoman and self-made millionaire. Walker was an African-American who developed many beauty and hair care products that were extremely popular. Madam Walker started her cosmetics business in 1906. Her first product was a scalp treatment that used petrolatum and sulphur to heal scalp disease and to grow hair. She also softened the hair with an ointment she called Glossine, and straightened the hair with a metal comb. She added Madam to her name and began selling her new "Walker System" door-to-door. Walker soon added other cosmetic products to her line. Madam Walker eventually became a millionaire from her business. **Fast Fact:** *Walker grew up poor. But she became the first female African-American millionaire.*

Lonnie G. Johnson - (1949–) invented the world-famous water-gun, the Supersoaker. For years, Lonnie G. Johnson has been inventing thermodynamics systems for NASA and other organizations; but he has won his greatest fame for re-inventing the squirt gun. Johnson had first conceived his most famous invention in 1982: when a homemade nozzle at his bathroom sink shot a spray of water across the room, Johnson resolved to invent the world's first high-performance, pressurized water gun. **Fast Fact:** *Johnson's company just came out with a new Nerf ball toy gun.*

Dr. Patricia E. Bath - (1949–) invented a method of eye surgery that has helped many blind people to see. Bath's passionate dedication to the treatment and prevention of blindness led her to develop the Cataract Laserphaco Probe. The probe patented in 1988, was designed to use the power of a laser to quickly and painlessly vaporize cataracts from patients' eyes, replacing the more common method of using a grinding, drill-like device to remove the afflictions. With another invention, Bath was able to restore sight to people who had been blind for over 30 years. **Fast Fact:** *Dr. Bath has been nominated to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.*

Truly, the inventions of African-Americans have brought a drastic change in human civilization, development and growth of almost every field of the human life aspect! These inventors took advantage of their talents to create products that simplified the lives of people all over the world. It is inspiring to know that the list of these inventors goes on and on! Many of us possess similar talent that can be combined with energy and creativity to make a difference in our world. Let's keep the list of bright ideas growing!

425 West 123 Street - Room 205
New York, New York 10027
Phone: (212) 769-7500 X 236
Fax: (212) 769-7619

Publisher: *Gale Reeves*
Editor: *Nadine Edwards*
Editor: *Tiawana King*



***“Leadership We Can
Count On”***

We're on the Web!
<http://csd5.nycdoe.org>

***Another Theatre Experience...
TMA Lower School***

This time it was a brisk Saturday in December with Ms. DeCosta, Ms. McDowell, Ms. Butts and Ms. M. Moore. A very special reception and theatre production of “Freckle Face Strawberry” based on the book by actress Julianne Moore.

Tickets provided by Judy and Tommy Parker (Accelerated Reader). It was an exciting day for all of the teachers and children who attended. Thanks to the Parkers for thinking of us!!!!

Parental Involvement at Kappa IV

KAPPA IV is committed to expand its endeavor of working in partnership with the parents. Evidence of the aforementioned can be found in many activities taking place within our school. For example, KAPPA IV held its annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 17th. Many families came to partake in the two hour event. “It is not only important that we come together to celebrate this American holiday, but, that we participate in the act of sharing and do this in the presence of our children”, said Mr. Martinez, KAPPA IV’s ESL provider. This annual event has been in existence since the school’s inception in 2005.

In support of KAPPA IV’s push to get parents and students reading together, we hosted a book fair during the week of Parent-Teacher Conferences in November, in our new library. The book fair featured, but was not limited to, books that are of interest to and at reading level for middle school students and parents alike. The book fair was made possible through our partnership with Scholastic Books. It was such a success, that for the conferences in February, we will again, be hosting the book fair.

At the end of November, parents were invited to workshops detailing how the brain works and what technologies help learning. These workshops were in such high demand that they each were presented more than once. The presenter, Solangel Brujan, PhD., “spoke with such fluidity and at a tempo that made it easy for all to comprehend everything”, said Rosa Jaquez, the Parent Coordinator at KAPPA IV.

In December, KAPPA IV hosted a workshop sponsored by Sylvan Learning Center. Its focus was on strategies that can be utilized and applied at home. Parents were given a list of the strategies that were discussed in the workshop so that they could implement them at home. Those that were present were given the opportunity to vent and dialogue about the methods that they’ve relied on in the past. Spanish-speaking attendees were provided the benefit of a translated version of everything that was presented. Their concerns and questions were addressed and everyone felt comfortable in sharing. Appreciation for the workshop was echoed, by all, with positive commentary at the close of the meeting.

On January 18th, we held a workshop focusing on helping children perform better on State Tests (Part 1). In February, the second part of this workshop was offered. Also, at the January workshop, a member of the medical clinic presented some factual information on puberty and its effects on children. Rosa Jaquez said, “It is important for adults to be reminded and/or understand what our children are experiencing internally. The effects of puberty cause an adjustment to the attitudes that our children display.”

We had 100% turnout from our 6th grade parents for the Family Learning Workshop held at PS/MS 161 on January 28th, 2012. Students that attended were afforded the opportunity to be trained, as well as receive a new desktop computer. This is all made possible through KAPPA IV’s partnership with Connected Learning and Computers for Youth (CFY).

The Exhibit at the Chashama Gallery-Doing Art Together!!! - Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School

An immense success... Well attended and praised. Our first major exhibit of the year. Student docents gave tours, Mr. Sekou’s drummers performed to an excited crowd, a beautiful spoken word/dance performance from Ms. Moore’s students. Many special guests raved about the event. Donated autographed posters from Faith Ringgold raised over \$1,000 for the partnership. Many teachers and TMALS and ADC staff attended.- December 8th. We had an auction of Faith Ringgold autographed posters to benefit our work with Doing Art Together. Over \$1,500.00 was raised through the silent auction.

The Lady Panthers Step Team STOLE the SHOW as usual at the Bread and Roses/TMA Holiday show...and attended a Step Performance this month. Go Lady Panthers and Step Coach Extraordinaire Barbara Jackson!!! Meow