

NYCDOE - Community School District 5

# Highlights of Harlem Schools

**Special points of interest:**

- District 5 Provides relief for Haiti and shows they care
- New Community School District 5 WEBSITE!! Check us out.
- FDA Speaks out in Washington D.C.
- Women's Month Women who lead the way.

## Leadership We Can Count On!

Welcome to the first edition of our Community School District 5 Newsletter! I am committed to transforming the lives of children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with families and the community to infuse within every student the belief that integrity, hard work and perseverance are the real "keys" needed to excel in college, career and life. The District 5 school community is persistently focused towards progressing upward in meeting the urgent challenges that we face in one of the largest cities in the nation. We try to reflect the many diverse voices of families, students, and community members that we hear during numerous meetings and conversations

regarding what they hope to see in our school communities. We are eager to receive staff and community feedback to incorporate swift action needed to accomplish our aggressive agenda. This ambitious set of initiatives cannot be executed without the support and partnership of our families and the community at large. In this issue, we focus on the kind hearts extended by our students, families and staff with regard to the tragedy that occurred in Haiti. We also focus on the many contributions our schools are making to effectuate positive change in our nation through education. In celebrating Women's History Month, District 5 honors strong women whose legacies continue to live on in our schools. I look forward



*Superintendent Gale Reeves*

to hearing your responses and answering any questions you may have. Thank you.

## The Fund For District Five

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In collaboration with Morningside Area Alliance, The **Fund for District Five** seeks to fund projects for New York City public schools in Community School District 5 that create new opportunities for students to learn through innovative projects and for parents to be equipped to successfully engage in their child's education.

Small grants are awarded to projects that will directly impact students or parents at individual schools or for potential projects that have a district wide impact. The mission of the **Fund for District Five** is to help make innovative ideas become reality in schools and to inspire other school faculty and parents in schools to do the same.

**2009 Fund for District Five Awardees**  
**Class Lending Library**  
 C.S. 133 Fred R Moore Academy  
 To spark increased reading at home among children and parents, this

teacher will build a classroom lending library stocked with 160 new multicultural books, Spanish language books, and other high-value, developmentally appropriate book collections.

**Library Media Center**  
 C.S. 133 Fred R Moore Academy  
 To increase students' exposure to the arts, the school's library media center will be a workshop space for visits from visual and performing artists. Students will then take field trips to museums and performing arts venues.

**ALEKS Study/Assessment Tool**  
 M 367 Academy for Social Action  
 To increase student performance in math and better inform parents of their child's performance, the ALEKS Program (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) will customize online programs for individual students to practice and build their math skills.

**Middle School Debate Team**

**M499 Fredrick Douglas Academy**  
 To increase students' abilities in research, speaking, critical thinking and responsibility, and to increase parent involvement in the students' education, students will participate on the school's weekend debate team tournaments.

**Jaguar Journal**  
 P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm School  
 To develop great readers into effective writers and to share the students' work with parents, students will publish their own school journal of student-generated creative and non-fiction writing. (continued on pg. 4)

## PS 125 Cares and Contributes to Haiti

By Michelle King- Huger

The Island of Haiti is connected to the Dominican Republic



A powerful earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, causing widespread deaths, injuries and devastation that have left thousands of residents with inadequate food, shelter and medical attention. It is clear that it will take many months, if not years, for Haiti to rebuild and recover from this disaster. We are calling upon our entire school community to contribute to the UFT Disaster Relief Fund to help finance rescue, recovery and relief efforts in Haiti. Monetary donations of \$1.00 or more were submitted to the Main Office and a Total of \$720.00 was raised toward the Haiti Relief fund.



## Serious, informed, and engaged students, handle a real policy discussion in Washington, D.C. By Dr. Gregory Hodge - FDA Principal

On Sunday December 6, 2009, thirty FDA students and two teachers spent 6 days and 5 nights learning first hand how our government works. Ms. Winkelsas, ELA teacher and Ms. Di Colandrea, Debate teacher led the trip which was funded by the Close Up Organization. Students of the Close Up program asked, "Does Senator Gillibrand feel that forcing individuals to have health care threatens individual autonomy and will be too expensive?" This question as well as other excellent questions were posed. FDA students, together with 100 other students from Hawaii, Florida and the United Arab Emirates all met for the most memorable educational experience. Workshops on political philosophy, a mock Congress, meetings with Congressional staffers,

and a private conference with the United States Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis allowed FDA students to put their tremendous knowledge to use. Questions were framed with background information from research in Mr. Gonzalez's science programs and their AP Government course work.

*Socializing with different people around the country and the world with different opinions and ideas was great. I was able to agree and disagree with different ideas and opinions which opened my mind, and I was able to discover more knowledge about the world. This trip was phenomenal; it was a life-changing experience. I thank Close Up for this opportunity and I hope I can return.*  
—Felix, 9th grader

*In Washington, DC, I learned the true meaning of friendship. I learned that no matter where you come from, you still belong in this world and share things in common! Close Up was an experience that I will never forget! I learned many things about my government and it opened my eyes to beautiful monuments in the US.*  
—Jonathan, 9th grader

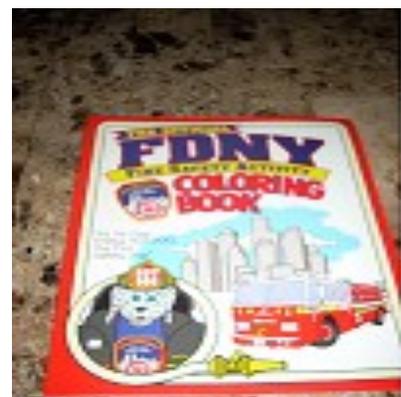


## PS/MS 123 says "Firefighters are our Friends!" By Winifred Jackson

On January 19 and January 22, eight firemen from the Education Department of the New York City Fire Department presented the students of P.S.123/MS123 with interactive Fire Safety Lessons and Fire Safety Tips. To begin the lessons the firemen introduced themselves to the students and asked random questions about fires, matches, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms. The first objective of the firefighters was to demonstrate how important it was for the students to give matches or lighters that they find to

an adult. Firefighter Al told students that playing with matches could cost them their lives and fire drills or a safety plan of exit should be practiced at home. Al brought Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms to show the students how important those items were in helping to save lives. In the month of May 2010, the firemen will return to PS123/MS123 with a Smoke House to allow the upper grade students the opportunity to see simulated smoke and practice the Stop, Drop and Roll drill exercise.

Thank you  
NYC Firefighters!!



## PS 123 Responds to Hope for Haiti

By: Ms. Cheryl Mitchell

On January 13, 2010 PS/MS 123's principal, Dr. Beverly N. Lewis, decided to respond to what she, like many others looked upon as a tragedy of immeasurable proportions. At 9:00 a.m. Dr. Lewis requested that the staff and students of PS/MS 123, Manhattan, observe a moment of silence for the people of Haiti. Dr. Lewis also encouraged us to participate in the relief effort as she announced the "Hope for Haiti Relief Initiative." It was decided that all pledges collected by the school would be donated to the American Red Cross. The Hope for

Haiti Relief Effort commenced on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 and ended on Monday, January 25, 2010.

PS/MS 123 is proud to announce that a total of \$2291.51 was pledged to the American Red Cross as part of Hope for Haiti effort. There was a tremendous response to the effort as the school raised \$686.33 on the first day alone. Staff members contributed generously as students emptied their piggy banks, pledged a portion of their allowances and brought in contributions from their families.

There were children who contributed on a daily basis .50, a \$1 in coins or bills just to be a part of the effort. There were friends who gave group donations all with the intent to help a Haitian child or family in need. Every class in the school participated in the Hope for Haiti effort. There were a number of classes that had over 90% of their students participate. This was a truly a valuable lesson for our students, staff and parents as we learned the importance of giving and were able to see ourselves as part of the world community.

## PS 154 Uses New Technology and Media to Maximize Teaching Effectiveness.

By C. Burns

PS 154 has recently acquired new media equipment to help teachers accommodate the differing learning styles of their students. The biggest acquisition was a new media room which allows classes and entire grade levels to view DVDs, videos, and computer generated materials as well as hands-on presentations. The room has a ceiling-mounted projector and surround sound. This wonderful new media space was funded by a Library Reach Grant from The Fund for Public Schools, which

also equipped the room with digital and video cameras, as well as an Elmo which allows viewing hands-on demonstrations. What do students think of their new space? "It's great!"

*Spike Lee  
Look out!*



## PS 154 Hosts Winners of National "Save the Children" Valentine Contest

Kids from across NYC, Actress, Julianne Moore, newscaster, Cokie Roberts, and American Federation of Teachers leader, Randi Weingarten, came to the PS 154 Library to honor the five children who won the "Save the Children" Valentine Art Contest. The winning artists came from all over the USA,

including Kentucky, Texas, Hawaii, and Washington State, and they were between the ages from seven to seventeen. All the students enjoyed meeting one another over lunch, and New York City children got boxes of the valentines which they addressed to family and friends. The television program, EX-

TRA, videotaped the event. The contest was themed "Uniting a Generation" and was supported by the American Federation of Teachers, which created a set of lesson plans for teachers to help students learn about childhood poverty in the U.S. and values, such as loyalty and compassion. (continued on pg. 4)



**Actress Julianne Moore  
Honors PS154  
"Save the Children"**

## The Fund For District Five continued

Room 205  
425 West 123rd Street  
New York, NY 10027

Phone: (212) 769 - 7500 X236  
Fax: (212) 769 - 7619  
<http://csd5.nycdoe.org>



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### Interactive Science Learning is for Education "Is Life" Science Project

C.S. 133 Fred R Moore Academy

*To increase student performance in science and to increase parent involvement in science, parents will be trained to work together with their children in a series of hands-on, inquiry-based and interactive science sessions.*

### From Cradle to College: A Dream Wall Mosaic

P.S. 318 Thurgood Marshall Lower School

*To start college preparation at the elementary level and increase parent involvement in college preparation, Cradle to College will start a school-wide campaign that includes mentoring, career days, and speakers. In addition, students and parents will co-create series of school mosaics that represent their aspirations for higher education.*

### Visual Arts Program

M685 Bread & Roses Integrated Arts H S

*To provide a rich instruction and to increase students' exposure to visual arts, students will now have access to high-quality supplies and materials to use in a series of drawing and painting projects, including a school mural project.*

### Science Club

P.S.M.S 129 John H Finley Campus School

*To increase parent involvement in science and to increase science instruction for students, the Science Club will provide students with extended instruction three times a week and bi-weekly parent workshops with information about curriculum and activity ideas to show how science is part of everyday life.*

PS 154 Hosts Winners of National "Save the Children" Valentine Contest "The students' work was very creative," exclaimed PS 154 third grader, Erica Wright. "They must have put a lot of work into it." Packs of 25 Valentine cards with student art work are available at K2KUSA.COM for a donation of \$20 to benefit Save the Children's U.S. education and health programs for kids living in poverty. PS 154 Lesson Plans at <http://archive.aft.org/tools4teachers/generation-united/activities.htm>.

**CHOIR ACADEMY OF HARLEM ANNOUNCEMENTS:** College Fair: March 24th in the gymnasium. March is Choral Month and April is Instrumental Month. Spirit Week: April 13th - April 16th Twin Day, Mismatch Day, Career Day, Sports Jersey Day; Calling all incoming Middle School Students!!!! Auditions for the 2010-2011 School Year Have Started!!!! Last Audition Date April 24th. 2nd Annual Art and Science Fair April 2010 - Come out and see over 300 art and science fair presentations and exhibits.

## Remembering The Legacy of Historically Strong Women



Throughout the 1950s, **Mahalia Jackson's** voice was heard on radio, television and concert halls around the world. She performed on the Ed Sullivan show in 1956 where she catapulted gospel music into America's mainstream. She sang for President Dwight Eisenhower and at John F. Kennedy's inaugural ball in 1960. Very close with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she often performed at his rallies--even singing an old slave spiritual before his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington in 1963.



**Mary McLeod Bethune** was born to former slaves in 1875. One of seventeen children, she grew up picking cotton in Sumter County, South Carolina. As an adult, Bethune's influence soon extended far beyond the South. Bethune founded a new umbrella organization in 1935, the National Council of Negro Women. Through this work Bethune became close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, who encouraged Franklin D. Roosevelt to name Bethune Director of Office of Minority Affairs in the National Youth Administration in 1935.



**Harriet Tubman's** name at birth was Araminta Ross. She was a runaway slave from Maryland who became known as the "Moses of her people". Over the course of 10 years, and at great personal risk, she led hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Over the course of 10 years and at great personal risk, she helped more than 300 slaves reach freedom.