

NYCDOE

Highlights of Community School District 5 Harlem Schools

Special points of Interest:

- *Pajama Day at Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower*
- *Columbia Secondary School Participates in United Nations for U Initiative*
- *Frederick Douglass Academy Visits Tokyo, Japan*
- *Kappa IV Participates in the Generations Citizen Civics Day*
- *Columbia Secondary School Presents Annie Jr.*
- *District Wide SLT Training—February 15th*
- *Great News at PS 154*

Superintendent’s Message

This year we have been extremely busy embracing new citywide initiatives. Our staff and students have been exposed to the Common Core Learning Standards. Presently, our teachers are engaged in revising curricula in order to ensure that students are completing rigorous and challenging academic tasks.

Our Read Out Loud! Family Literacy and Book Festival held on December 3, 2011 was an overwhelming success. Approximately 800 attendees participated in an array of fun literacy activities and received new books to support their home libraries.

We are also pleased that over eighty attendees participated in our School Leadership Team Training (SLT) held in November. SLT members were actively engaged in activities that focused on aligning their schools’ data and instructional needs with quantifiable goals that will result in improved student outcomes .

We look forward to SLT members attending our upcoming scheduled training on February 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.



*Community Superintendent
Gale Reeves*

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Pajama Day was a Big Hit!!!!!!- December 23rd at Thurgood Marshall Lower School

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What a great day it was and a beautiful start to our Winter Recess. It was jam-packed with arts and crafts and a cupcake and gingerbread cookie assembly line courtesy of Doing Art Together and their wonderful workers and volunteers!!! The Polar Express with wonderful arts and crafts featuring “A Snowy Day” project done with Ms. Elan from Studio Museum in Harlem, gingerbread men sponsored by Ms. Jo, hand-made pillow activity sponsored by Ms. Dendy, 213 NEW toys given to all the kids by Abyssinian Development Corporation...and much more.

Thanks Ms. Michele Moore for organizing the fun filled jam packed day, full of love and holiday spirit; thanks also Ms. Kym for assisting in the flow of the day. Thank you to ALL of the many parents and grandparents who volunteered and to all of the TMALS staff who came in their pajamas and “loungewear” and made the day so special for our little angels. Special thanks to BJ for the beautiful and magical decorations in the café. It made the day even more fantastic!!!! Thanks Lionel and Mr. Frierson for reminding us about the wonderful donation of decorations from Sandra Parks and the Daily Blossom!! Excitement was high and you have patience for days. Yay!!! TMALS!!!! You guys are the BEST!!!

And we can’t forget the Jazz Assembly courtesy of the UFT and the Harlem Jazz Museum. Thanks Ms. Duke for inviting them. They were a really nice addition to the day. The students enjoyed the live musical performance very much. Arts integration just keeps getting better!!!! Thanks also to Loren and Mr. Barr!!!

Highlights of Community School District 5

CSS Participates in United Nations For U Initiative

Launched in 2008, with the strong support of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UN4U initiative was conceived as a way to reach out to New York City public high school students and introduce them to the United Nations. Since the programme's inception, 15,000 students have learned about the issues that are a priority for the United Nations.

To spread the word about the many ways in which the United Nations makes a difference and touches lives, on Tuesday, 18 October 2011, Assistant Secretary-General Franz Baumann addressed tenth-grade students at Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Engineering located in Harlem, New York. Mr. Baumann was greeted by the school's principal, Miriam Nightengale, Global History teacher Professor Lynn Tiede and approximately 100 students who had gathered in the school auditorium.



"Early next week, the United Nations will be celebrating its sixty-sixth birthday", Mr. Baumann said after having been introduced by Ms. Nightengale. He gave students information about the history of the Organization, its Charter and the growth of its membership over the years. He also spoke about the functions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, telling students that "the United Nations is a forum for discussion and debate. Its purpose and challenge is to restore balance in our world. Member States have to work together to manage and prevent conflict". The students learned about the Organization's core principles of universality and sovereign equality.

The students were asked to imagine what the world would be like without amenities such as access to quality education and clean drinking water, vaccines and medication, basic human rights, postage stamps, regulated air traffic systems, or reliable information and communication technologies. A short video highlighting the work of the United Nations was shown. The students were captivated by the powerful images of civil strife and destruction, disease and poverty, but more so by the help, comfort and rapid response provided by the United Nations to affected communities around the world.

Student Kiambra Griffin noted that "the most important part that I believe Mr. Baumann talked about was how the United Nations touches someone's life in various ways. When you think about this deeply and even the video we watched, you think about people from all walks of

life coming together and creating a sense of hope for those who seem to have lost it". A classmate, Bemedy Burgos, who was equally touched by Mr. Baumann's speech and the video, said that "it made me realize how easy I have it compared to others. It inspired me to want to give back instead of take, take, take. When he played the video at first I teared up and it was really a wake-up call to me. I realized that I want to help and make a difference!"

The students were attentive throughout the one-hour session and were quick to take notes. They were curious about the Organization and its activities and thus participated in a lively question-and-answer session. They asked: What is the most profound aspect of the United Nations? What is the United Nations doing about child trafficking? How does the Organization address power struggles and diplomacy? What does the United Nations think about Occupy Wall Street? How does the United Nations deal with human rights violations? Are voluntary positions available at the United Nations?

Impressed by the depth of all the questions posed and humbled by the students' interest in his involvement with the United Nations, Mr. Baumann narrated his own experience of when he was in the tenth grade and how he knew at that moment in time that he wanted to work with an international organization. He told students that although the United Nations does not offer voluntary positions for high school students, it does offer an internship programme for college students.

Mr. Baumann also said that diplomacy is an interesting concept and that the power of knowledge is incredible. He said the United Nations is the organization with the highest hopes for civilization in the world – how it is impartial and stands for peace, social rights, the environment and other matters that make life worth living. He assured the students that issues concerning human rights violations, human trafficking and child soldiers are on the world's agenda and that these are just some of the issues that the United Nations considers to be a priority.

At the end of his visit, Mr. Baumann said, "This is the first time that I have participated in the UN4U programme and I must say that it has been a very enriching and pleasant experience. I was very impressed with the caliber of the students and I look forward to welcoming them on a tour of the Department, possibly early in 2012".



Frederick Douglass Academy Students Travels to Tokyo, Japan

On November 15, two middle school and eight high school girls (*Jazmin Bramble, Alana Carmona, Aarianna Barnes, Aniya Greaves, Iliana Herran, Chantal Guzman, Ashley Iguina, Elijah McKayle, Cynthia Ortigoza, and Chrissann Wilson*) and three chaperones (*Mr. Ichida, Ms. Nunez, and Mr. Wasden*) from the Frederick Douglass Academy travelled halfway around the world to Tokyo, Japan and spent seven of their most unforgettable days. Sponsored by two major Japanese corporations for the last ten years, this annual adventure was even especially memorable for Mr. Ichida, who has led this trip for the last eight years. One of the major highlights this year was an invitation to Joganji, the most distinguished and historical private temple in Japan, where the head monk gave us advice about life and taught us the basics of Zen meditation. Afterwards we participated in Chado, or tea ceremony, and learned how to make a correct cup of tea. Clad in traditional kimonos, our five instructors had over 100 years of experience between them!

In addition to the major tourist attractions like the Tokyo Tower, the Imperial Palace, the shopping district of Ginza (*where at one time real estate prices were so high that a square foot of land cost about \$100,000*), and Shibuya (*the largest pedestrian crossing in the world*), we spent the day in Harajuku, known to some as the fashion capital of the world, and made friends with some of the locals there. To learn more about Japan's history, we visited two museums, the Tokyo-Edo and the Yasukuni, a museum devoted to Japan's military history. To escape the fast-paced hustle and bustle of Tokyo's lively streets and subways, we took an express rapid train to the countryside, Kamakura, for the day. Kamakura, about 90 minutes from Tokyo, is known for its plethora of historical temples and shrines. Travelling on an old fashioned trolley that ran along the ocean and through the town, we first visited Zeniarai Shrine, where it is custom to wash your money to see it will return ten-fold. Incredibly, after exhausting ourselves from washing our dollar bills we sat on the benches when an elderly man approached us and asked us where we were from. After a short discussion, he handed out shiny new coins to all of us and wished us well on our journey! We also visited Hasedera, a temple devoted to life, and the Daibutsu, the largest Buddha in Japan, where we rubbed Buddha's belly....from the INSIDE!

This trip was a life-changing experience for all our participants. Many of the girls declared that they would like to return to Japan one day to work or study. They are citizens of the world now, and their view of the world around them has changed. We hope that one day, you too, will have a chance to visit this beautiful country. If you want to know more, don't hesitate to ask any of our participants, I am sure they would love to share their experiences!



***Kappa IV Participates in the
Generation Citizen Civics Day***

Broadway's

ANNIE Jr

Friday, January 27th, 7 pm

Saturday, January 28th, 2 pm & 7 pm

SEE PROF. BOSCH in the Main Office to purchase tickets in advance!

\$5 Suggested Donation

**At the Columbia Secondary School
Auditorium**

**425 W. 123rd St., 5th Floor
New York, NY 10027**

**Featuring a Cast and Crew of over 50 CSS
Middle and High School Students!**

www.columbiasecondary.org/Annie

Community School District Five

&

Division of Family and Community Engagement

Cordially Invite ALL SLT Members

To

District Wide School Leadership Team Training

Topics for Discussion

- ◆ ***Supporting Title I Programs***
- ◆ ***Building Team Capacity by Decision—Making & Consensus***

Wednesday, February 15th

4:00 pm—6:00 pm

Harlem Renaissance Technology Center

425 West 123rd Street—6th Floor

New York, New York 10027

On Wednesday, December 16, 2011, KAPPA IV participated in the Generation Citizen Civics day at the Museum of Tolerance in Manhattan, NY. Students, Jose Mendoza, Nicole Polanco, Ivette Brito, Jose Ditron, Bryce McPherson, and Daillyn Vargas of our 8th grade cohort gave a presentation on bullying in school communities and how it impacts student learning and development. The students even engaged in developing an action plan to have a NO bullying Day event. Out of 16 schools who participated in the event, KAPPA IV was one of 6 schools whose students were recognized with an award.

Sarah Andes, the program manager for Generation Citizenship, provided our school with mentor “Britney Collins” who worked with the students during the fall semester. Students became aware and learned about the challenges of voicing their opinion regarding issues that impacted not only their neighborhoods but their school as well.

The program accomplished a number of things that will catapult into their learning in the future. First, it prepared students to learn how to be productive and active participants in their community. Secondly, students learned how the democratic process of government can help them to promote change in their communities. Finally, the program helped our students build on their public speaking, critical thinking, organization and planning skills. The students had nothing but positive feedback to give about the program. Student Nicole Polanco said, “*I enjoyed the program and it helped me to understand the importance of community values.*” Student Jose Mendoza mentioned that the program taught him how to communicate with his peers on issues that were controversial. He also indicated that he enjoyed the program as well.

To continue this great partnership, Generation Citizenship and KAPPA IV will continue working with the 8th grade population in the spring semester. We hope to inspire our students to become positive citizens who will be proactive participants in their communities in the future.



Great News at the Harriet Tubman Learning Center!

By Carla Blanks-Brooks

We are proud to announce that for the third consecutive year, our school is the proud recipient of the **“SAFH Excellence in School Wellness Award”**. This is not only the third year that we have been granted this award, but it is also the third time we have received the Gold!

This year we will receive a cash grant of \$2500 to help with the wellness initiatives for our students, staff, and parents. We will also receive an additional \$500 grant for mentoring other schools that have just begun the journey toward school-wide wellness. Our school display from the June 2011 Expo was featured at the Kick-Off session on November 8, 2011.

As one of only three schools to receive the mentoring grant, we were invited to answer questions and share strategies with the other grant recipients.



C. S. 154M formally receives the Morningside Alliance Grant

During these hard economic times, all grants, whatever the amount; are extremely useful to our schools. Grants can help to provide resources for programs that would otherwise be unfunded. In that vein, our school was also honored to receive a \$1500 grant from the Morningside Area Alliance. We received this grant to help fund the P.B.I.S., (*Positive Behavior Intervention System*), in our school. Ms. Wendy Mejia is the facilitator of this grant.

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The entire school community had the great privilege of experiencing a school-wide day of Tai Chi facilitated by Cari Shurman. It was a peaceful and relaxing experience for all.



Cari Shurman leads Tai Chi with the upper grades in the gym.

Our students were very proud to launch the new Common Core Learning Standards with class presentations at special assemblies.



We want to applaud the leadership of our principal, Ms. Elizabeth Jarrett. Without her support we would not be able to reach these milestones.



“Leadership We Can Count On”

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