



Highlights of Community School District 5 Harlem Schools

Special points of Interest:

- *Partnerships at Kappa IV*
- *Rush Foundation Collaborates with TMA Lower School*
- *PS 200 Students Win Apangea Math Challenge*
- *School Leadership Training May 8, 2012*
- *Mothers' Day Reflection*
- *Parent Teacher Conference at TMA Lower School*
- *District 5 Annual STEM Expo—May 19, 2012*
- *TMA Lower School's Measurement Fair / Math Night*
- *Statistical Significance at PS 175*

Superintendent's Message

"Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs... since the payment is pure love." - Mildred B. Vermont

Welcome back from the Spring Recess and congratulations to our elementary and middle schools who have completed the 2012 English Language Arts and Mathematics testing program! District 5 is fortunate to have passionate teachers, committed support staff, and resourceful administrators. On a daily basis, they encourage and support our students to reach new heights of achievement.

As we move through this quarter of the school year and prepare for a successful end-of-year school closing, it is a good time to review our personal and professional goals and determine any needed adjustments in order to reach them. Undeniably, when we inspire students to think, learn, achieve and care about others, something profound happens. Our students grow into productive citizens who possess the wisdom and desire to serve our community as well.

During the month of May, we wish to recognize an important upcoming event - Mother's Day! This is a day in which we celebrate the contributions of mothers (*who come in many forms of nurturers*) everywhere for their devotion to family. We celebrate the special love they share with their children and the way they support and encourage their children's endeavors in life. Thank you again to all of the mothers of Community School District 5 for helping our students to realize their dreams and for inspiring them to do their best. Best wishes for a Mothers' Day that truly acknowledges the wonderful contributions you make to the lives of others!

Additionally, as we celebrate Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, I would like to recognize our teachers and staff who work tirelessly supporting the families in our school community. *"Thank you"* to all of you who, with your passion and skill, go the extra mile and show your caring and high expectations in a myriad of ways too many to mention. We thank and honor you.

Although the year is winding down, there is still much to accomplish as we offer our students the opportunity to complete this school year with as many new and developing skills they can obtain. Indeed, providing our students with the best educational opportunities will help pave the way to academic excellence.

Sincerely,
Gale



*Community Superintendent
Gale Reeves*

Inside this issue:

Partnerships at Kappa IV	2
Rush Foundation Collaborates with TMA Lower School	2
PS 200 Students Wins Apangea Math Chal-	3
School Leadership Training— May 8, 2012	3
Mothers' Day Reflection	3
Parent -Teacher Conference at TMA Lower School	3
STEM Expo—May 19th	4
TMA Lower School's Math Night	4
Statistical Significance at PS 175	4



Partnerships at KAPPA IV

Debate Supported By Columbia University:

At KAPPA IV students debate about a wide range of topics throughout the course of a year, and must research multiple sides of those topics. They prepare and organize notes for speeches while developing sophisticated critical thinking skills as they research topics of different arguments.

The ELA teacher at KAPPA IV states that one challenge in teaching middle school students is not how to get them to debate, but how to get them to listen. Fortunately, debate does teach students how to be active and critical listeners. Listening skills are increasingly important in New York State’s Common Core Standards. Listening skills are critical to success across the curriculum, because if students do not develop sophisticated listening skills, they will not be able to fully process and engage other aspects of instruction. In debates, students must make arguments and answer the arguments made by the other side. They must organize and structure speeches, and question opponents directly. This creates an incentive structure at KAPPA IV to build listening skills.

Columbia University’s students help the KAPPA IV students incorporate learning tools such as specialized note taking that can help students to immediately focus on listening and critical engagement with an ongoing discussion. This practice for the KAPPA IV middle school children allows them to build skills they will need in high school and beyond. Debating is an active and cooperative learning tool; this can further foster KAPPA IV students in an activity while they reflect critically about what it is they are doing. Active learning strategies help students to master content and develop thinking skills. This skill ac-

quisition means that students are more likely to succeed in classes, particularly smaller and more challenging seminar-style classes, where students are normally called upon to discuss a wide variety of subjects on relatively short notice.

City College Student Teacher Field Work:

City College has partnered with KAPPA IV to help future teachers in the classroom for the first time seeking to develop observation skills, acquire practical knowledge of the design and management of instruction and the classroom environment, and work effectively with individuals and small groups of children. The student teacher’s objective is to transition from pure observation to working with small groups of children. Student teaching is the point in the student teacher education program where the interns at City College get to experience all of the complexities of a real teaching experience, but still have the support of KAPPA IV teachers, and their cooperating supervisors. Student teaching occurs in conjunction with a seminar that is designed to support and enhance the work a student teacher does in the field. We are exceptionally pleased with the work that our student teachers are doing and have currently extended an invitation of full time employment to one of them.

Teaching Matters:

Teaching Matters gives teachers at KAPPA IV various professional development resources designed to assist teachers and teachers-in-training with everyday issues that may arise within the teaching profession. Teaching Matters provide teachers at KAPPA IV with practical down-to-earth solutions and support.

RUSH Foundation Collaboration Still Going Strong at Thurgood Marshall Lower School



Classes are continuing to visit the Corridor Gallery at RUSH and are participating in great art workshops there.

We will have a new installation in the coming months in our gallery on the third floor. We are in the process of fundraising to meet our school match for our RUSH collaboration. Any ideas, grants etc. are more than welcome.

We value our relationship with RUSH, they provide a unique and rich component to our curriculum.



Apangea Math Students at PS 200 Win the First Annual NYC Cup Contest

Apangea Math, a web-based adaptive math solution supporting grades 3 – 12, sponsored a regional motivational contest for all Apangea Math students in New York City.

During the month-long “Apangea Math NYC Cup Challenge” contest, 15 elementary, middle and high schools vied to be “the” Apangea Math class in New York City. Students in Ms. Cheryl Ellis’ math class at PS 200 McCune Smith Elementary school won the regional contest. Ms. Ellis’ class of 17 students completed 4,425 math problems and worked a total of 107 hours on the program outside of their traditional math class. Apangea Math hosted a special event to recognize these students for their math prowess with individual certificates of achievement and celebration at PS 200 McCune Smith Elementary on Tuesday, April 3rd at 9:30 am. McCune Smith Elementary school is located at 2589 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10039.

Students in Ms. Ellis’ class will also be recognized for placing in the top 3 spots in the entire contest for successfully passing the most lessons. Two students passed 23 math lessons and will each be awarded an iPod Shuffle. One student passed 19 lessons and will be awarded a \$25 Best Buy gift card. Hundreds of students in the New York City area competed for honors and prizes by earning points for quality, accuracy, and problems successfully solved. This contest is just another great example of how students can participate in fun-filled competitions that challenge each and every student to reach for new heights of academic success.

**CSD5 District Leadership Team,
Office of School Development
&**

Division of Family & Community Engagement

School Leadership Team District-Wide Training

Topics of Discussion:

- ◆ SLT Bylaws
- ◆ SLT Remuneration Guidelines and 100.11
- ◆ Sharing Best Practices

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

**4:00pm – 6:00pm
Harlem Technology Center (6th floor)
425 West 123rd Street**

(between Morningside & Amsterdam Avenues)

Parent Teacher Conference at TMA Lower School

We had a great turnout at our parent teacher conferences with about 165 parents attending. Many parents filled out surveys. Thank you BJ for organizing the survey collection with help from Ms. Yolanda’s Ameri-Corps staff.



PBS Ready to Learn Grant Coordinator Ms. Seow with the help of Ms. Stroud and 2nd grade parents also helped to engage students and parents in the pbs.org gaming programs at PT conferences and received valuable feedback from parents and students. They also distributed great giveaways.

Expanded Learning Time (*Afterschool Program*) had a table with important test information for parents and Ms. Duke arranged for a local dentist to distribute information on dental care to children and parents.

A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts. ~Washington Irving

As we reflect on the sentiment of MOTHER’S DAY and execute plans that express our love, let us be mindful of those that are not as blessed to have their ‘anchor’ still with them and extend a silent prayer on their behalf.

My mother’s love is timeless and steadfast; boundless in strength and duration. My mother’s love is enveloping, protective and corrective in nature. My mother’s love is irreplaceable, and created the foundation for me to become the mother that I am today.

So, I take this opportunity to thank my mother and all the mothers like her who invest their time, energy and love in their children to ensure that they have the fundamental necessities to succeed. Thanks mom!!

Sonja Jones, CEC President



Highlights of Community School District 5

Room 205
425 West 123rd Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 769 - 7500 X236

Publisher: *Gale Reeves*

Editor: *Nadine Edwards*

Editor: *Tiawana King*



**"Leadership We Can
Count On"**

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

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**

TMA Lower School's Measurement Fair/Math Night Was A Huge Success!!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the hands on gaming aspect to the activities. We also had an art aspect to the math learning provided by Doing Art Together teaching artists and volunteers. This idea stemmed from a need we have seen in the data we have been analyzing from math periodic assessments.

We have found that our children have been having trouble grasping certain mathematical concepts including multiplication, fractions, measurement, use of protractors, rulers, angle measurements etc. The organizing of this event came directly from a need we identified through data.

Teachers created math projects and games in each classroom and our students from grades K-5 moved from room to room throughout the full school day to experience all of the different concepts. AmeriCorps, staff, TMA students and parent volunteers all came to assist. It was a joy to see parents and students playing the math games together during the evening session. Special thanks to Ms. Lucy and Ms. Mc Dowell for the organization of the event.



Statistical Significance at PS 175

The P.S. 175 Data Wall commands a central place in Principal Cheryl McClendon's office at the Henry Highland Garnet School for Success in Harlem, N.Y. It's color-coded, with green and blue signifying proficiency in state math and English language arts exams. Yellow and red indicate failure to meet benchmarks.

Ms. McClendon acknowledges there is far too much yellow on the English scores, but she remains optimistic. The school's schedule now includes back-to-back reading and writing periods, providing more time for literacy training. And according to the sophisticated metric in New York City schools that includes student progress as well as qualitative measures on the school environment, P.S. 175 was rated B — a score better than 51 percent of city schools.

"We progressed from a C to a high B," says McClendon. "It was really, really hard work."

The preeminence of the display on McClendon's wall reflects the burgeoning role that statistical data plays in the U.S. educational system. Over the past 20 years, the accountability movement's reliance on data to quantify student learning has transformed pedagogical practice and opened up educational practice to show the public how well students are achieving — or not achieving — in their public schools.

Statewide standardized tests, mandated by the federal government under No Child Left Behind, have provided mounds of data for educators to analyze. Yet these piles of numbers have left many educators paralyzed and unable to figure out how to use them. Meanwhile, initiatives across the country, sparked by the federal Race to the Top competition, which link teacher evaluations in part to student achievement, have pushed our data-driven system into new frontiers.

