



**NYCDOE - Community School District 5**

*Highlights of Community School District 5  
Harlem Schools*

**Special points of Interest:**

- Meet and Greet  
*(Network Leaders meets Parent Leaders)*
- Read Out Loud!  
*(Family Literacy Festival)*
- Screen Star Michael  
*Kenneth Williams and Actor/Playwright Zeshan Bhatti visits PS 175*
- Frederick Douglass  
*Academy College Fair*

***Welcome back District Five Community!***

Welcome back to the second volume of our Community School District 5 newsletter and our first of the 2010-2011 school year.

Last year we had overwhelming support from schools, parents and community alike in creating a newsletter that highlights the accomplishments of our students. For this coming year we hope to continue the success of our newsletter and ask that you continue to submit and share your school highlights with us.

We continue to work to trans-

form the lives of our students through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative and welcoming schools. We hope to enlighten and engage our students through creative and progressive programs so that they will become productive and industrious global citizens.

In this issue we focus on some of the innovative initiatives evident in some of our schools.

I look forward to receiving your responses and feedback.

Thank you.



*Community Superintendent  
Gale Reeves*

***Community School District 5 Hosted Their First “Meet and Greet” introducing the Network Leaders to our Parent Leaders***

On Friday, October 1, 2010 District Five hosted their first “Meet and Greet” at the Harlem Renaissance Technology Center. Network leaders were in attendance as well as District Five Parent Association Executive Board members. The event was co hosted by the Superintendent, Community Education Council, District Leadership Team and President’s Council. The Superintendent presented

an overview of District Five which included the mission statement, demographic data, review of assessment results, review of DCEP goals and objectives and the parent involvement policy. Small group discussions were held between Network Leaders and Parent Leaders regarding the Children’s First Network structure. Network representatives discussed how they support the

schools, answered questions and listened to concerns.

Although the weather conditions were poor, over eighty participants attended. This reflects the interests and dedication both leaders (*network and parents*) shared for the students in District 5. The event was a success and demonstrates the power of collaboration!

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### ***CS 154, Harriet Tubman Learning Center Launches Their iZone Learning Project in Grades 3 and 4***

Our grade 3 and 4 students are excited and engaged with their netbooks as they access Internet based, personalized learning programs Compass Learning, Odyssey and Pearson Successmaker each day. One 4<sup>th</sup> grade student stated “Ms. Perry, I like the netbooks because they are a fun way to learn reading and math.”

“We are able to differentiate instruction using the iZone scheduled time. Part of the class works on netbooks and part of the class receives direct instruction. It requires a lot of coordination.” advised one of our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers. “I am noticing complete engagement by our students and maturity in how they respect and handle the equipment.” stated one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teachers.

Ms. Elizabeth Jarrett is happy to have Ms. Perry as the Single Point of Contact at CS 154. “Ms. Perry and all the teachers have made the iZone launch a priority in their teaching day, our children are absolutely engaged and we look forward to the data on student growth as the project progresses.”

### ***Accelerated Science Education through Field Trips to the Harlem DNA Lab - IS 195***

Imagine you are in 8th grade about to learn scientific techniques that you have already seen on crime scene investigation television shows!! Our students were provided with this exciting opportunity by going to a science institution right here in New York City.

The Harlem DNA lab (part of DNALC) is a 1,200 square-foot classroom in the John S. Roberts Educational Complex (JHS45) in East Harlem, located on 120th Street and First Avenue. Dolan DNA Learning Center (DNALC) is a science center that focuses primarily on genetics education and is part of the famous science institution, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL).

Our two Living Environment Regents eighth grade classes recently attended this exciting high-school level laboratory at the Harlem DNA Lab. Using state-of-the-art laboratory technology, students micropipetted aliquots of detergent into their samples of banana puree. As they conducted their experi-

ments, they listened to the Harlem DNA Lab Manager/Instructor, Dr. Ileana Rios, explain the dynamic characteristics of the DNA molecule and its composition. Students wrote notes on the basic structure of the DNA molecule and began to understand the importance of the sequence of bases in the DNA molecule.

Students shared their awe as the DNA precipitated into the alcohol layer. Using a thin glass loop, the students carefully removed the precious banana cellular DNA and transferred it into an ethanol-filled Eppendorf tube. Students were able to take the DNA samples home to share the news with their families.

On a separate day, students stepped into the area of forensics. Students revisited the Harlem DNA Lab and conducted another state-of-the-art scientific DNA fingerprinting investigation. This time, the students experienced the loading of restriction enzyme-cut DNA samples onto agarose gels, a step used in gel electrophoresis. The students got so interested in the crime scene investigation laboratory that their enthusiasm could easily be seen from their questions regarding DNA sampling and DNA analysis. For example, students wanted to know if it was possible to completely remove any evidence of DNA.

Here are a few observations/comments from our students:

“Hi my name is A’nisa and my class had the chance to go to the Harlem DNA Lab two times. When I first went to the DNA Lab, I extracted DNA from banana cells and I thought it was really fun. Dr. Rios (our instructor) taught us a few things about DNA extraction and how important DNA is. The second time we visited the Harlem DNA lab, we learned that DNA fingerprinting does not have to do with fingerprints; it has to do with the specific genetic information found on DNA. I had a great time there and I wish I could go back for more DNA experiments.”

“Hi, my name is Genesis. I was privileged to go on a field trip to the Harlem DNA Lab. We went with my great science teacher, Ms. Menon. At the lab, another teacher named Dr. Rios taught us about extracting DNA. We were able to extract DNA from baby banana food; we used detergent in our experiment – the same kind of detergent used for washing dishes. It was fun to see the DNA from the baby banana food. We learned that most of the DNA comes from the nucleus of the cell and the rest comes from the mitochondria inside the cells. The DNA, from my point of view, looked like a bunch of strings made into cotton. We saved our banana DNA in a small tube as a souvenir.”



***It Takes a Village at PS 175....  
Motivational Visit from  
Screen Star Michael Kenneth Williams &  
Actor/Playwright Zeshan Bhatti***

By Chard4

A. Dorns—photographer



On Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> the PS 175 school community received a visit from television star Michael Kenneth Williams and stage actor and playwright Zeshan Bhatti. Both actors took time out of their busy schedules to visit our school, have lunch and conversation with our students and attend an assembly program in which they spoke to students about real life issues.



The assembly program began with two wonderful dance and pantomime performances from the Broadway play, "Annie" performed by PS 175 students under the direction of Felicia Wisdom – Power Academy Afterschool @ PS 175. Mr. Williams, Mr. Bhatti, parents and faculty gave a standing ovation to the outstanding, high-spirited performance.



Michael Kenneth Williams began the motivational session as he talked about his experiences growing up in Brooklyn. He captivated students, parents and faculty with candid anecdotes and good advice about the importance of being a leader; not a follower. Michael talked about how important it is to set goals from a very early age. "Don't just have one thing that you want to be, come up with a few options that you want to pursue", he advised. Both Michael and Zeshan addressed students' questions about what to do if confronted by a bully in school or in the community. Zeshan Bhatti told funny stories about moving from Queens to Albany, NY as a child and having to assimilate to a rural community. Throughout the morning both actors talked a lot about keeping your eyes on the prize, staying focused and enjoying childhood while you can.

***Frederick Douglass Academy College Fair***

On Thursday, October 21, 2010, The Frederick Douglass Academy held our annual College Fair. Over 90 colleges and organizations filled the gym and provided FDA students and students from several other schools valuable information about the college process, admissions and scholarships. Some of the colleges and universities in attendance were Amherst, Assumption Bard, Barnard, Bates, DePauw, Franklin & Marshall, Hamilton, Hartwick Skidmore, Union, Utica, St Bonaventure and representatives from all CUNY and SUNY colleges. Many students were able to obtain fee waivers for their college applications at the Fair. Some were able to register for Multicultural weekend visits. Parents of seniors are reminded to complete their CUNY applications by November 1st, SUNY applications by November 15 and all private and Historically Black colleges and universities by December 1st. Please remember that when it comes to the college process "*The early bird gets the worm*".



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*"Leadership We Can Count On"*

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## Read Out Loud ! *Family Literacy and Book Festival*

*Saturday, December 4, 2010*

*11:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.—Doors open at 11:00 a.m.*

*PS 92 Mary McCloud Bethune*

*222 West 134 Street (Between 7th and 8th Avenue)*

- ◆ *Free gifts for the first 50 families*
- ◆ *Celebrate reading books with authors and illustrators.*
- ◆ *Free books*
- ◆ *Workshops*
- ◆ *Arts & crafts*
- ◆ *Raffle prizes*
- ◆ *Author book signing*

*Something fun for everyone: All free!*

- ◆ *PK— Grade 4: story hour, puppets, theatre performances*
- ◆ *Grade 5—8: poetry slams, creative writings, theatre workshops*
- ◆ *Adults: workshops to help children read, community resources*

## Thanksgiving Wishes and Poems

*Thanksgiving is a feast of happy memories overflowing.  
Even when the sky is gray and endlessly snowing,  
the holiday brings the golden rays of summer to the heart,  
instilling an inner warmth that makes the cold depart.*

*And I'm wishing for many blessings of the harvest for you, and sending my thanks for all the special things you do the whole year through.*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*By Bobette Bryant*



*I hope your Thanksgiving is a day of many graces,  
that come from unexpected places.  
May you experience all of the happiness that can come from living when you join with your loved ones to celebrate Thanksgiving.*

*May the joy you feel on Thanksgiving Day, remain in your heart, and never fade away.  
May you share much warmth and holiday cheer that gives you hope for the coming year.*

*By Bobette Bryant*