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- *PS 129 Makes a big Splash With The Navy*
- *CS 154 School Spirit Day*
- *District Leadership Team SLT Training*
- *Superintendent Parent Workshop Series 2013*
- *CSS Students Starts Water Project for Uganda*
- *CSS Art of Argument Competitive Style*
- *PS 30 forging Ahead With Community Learning Center*
- *District 5 Annual STEM Expo*

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Superintendent's Message

*If your plan is for a year, plant rice.
If your plan is for a decade, plant trees.
If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children.*
-Confucius

February is here and love is in the air! Even amid certain unspeakable tragedies in our recent past like the massive loss of innocence at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, our mission to service our students and spread love throughout the community takes on a special significance. Through acts of kindness and selfless dedication, our school principals, faculty, and staff are continuing to excel and make positive contributions throughout our district. We also recognize and admire our students for their efforts to apply positive character traits (as promoted through some school-wide behavior programs in the district). Indeed, a little love can make a big difference!

February also marks the celebration of Black History Month - bringing to mind many of the invaluable contributions made toward the advancement of humankind by some outstanding African-American men and women. We encourage everyone to take some time to reflect on these contributions and the impact they have made on our lives - not only this month, but also throughout the year.

As a reminder, Midwinter Recess has been shortened and our schools will be open February 20-22, 2013 (due to the loss of school days resulting from Super Storm Sandy). This is an opportunity for our students to gain needed skills and also to prepare to meet promotional criteria for this school year.

As we continue to move through the second half of the year and to reach for successful completion of our long-term goals for this school year, we must continue to support each other, seek collaboration in our search for solutions and to advocate for what is right. By placing our greatest focus on the advancement of our students we will be planting productive seeds and planning for a lifetime.

Gale



*Community Superintendent
Gale Reeves*



Highlights of Community School District 5

PS/MS 129 Makes a Big Splash With The Navy

The project is called, "*SeaPerch New York.*" What is SeaPerch New York? It is an underwater robotics program! An all-volunteer board of New York and New Jersey professionals, supported by area military, civic and business organizations who have come together to work with teachers who have received training on how to assemble Sea Perch - underwater **remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)** and in turn, teach students how to build these underwater ROVs. They have a vested interest in helping to promote and support **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)** education in our schools.

The program is led by Navy City Outreach Officer, Lieutenant Commander Michael Fourte, in coordination with the PENCIL partnership. The goal is to inspire innovation, improve student achievement, and enlighten students about the possibilities of educational opportunities with the United States Department of the Navy by partnering business leaders with public schools. The John H. Finley Campus School (PS/MS 129M) was one of 22 schools from the tri-state area that was fortunate to be selected by Lt. Fourte, in a collaboration with our PENCIL Partner Coordinator, Lindsay Heinlein.

The program began the third week in September and our science teacher, Mr. Stansberry has been working, tirelessly, with some of our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in groups of four. The students are taught how to use tools most of them have never seen before. Students use drills, PVC pipe cutters, soldering irons, as well as how to learn to make certain parts waterproof with electrical tape. The students are learning how to put together, from scratch, the motor and learning how to solder motherboards to make a remote-controlled tethered submarine.

The students are excited and totally engaged in seeing their weekly progress in the hands-on project. It gives students an opportunity to feel a sense of accomplishment; building self-esteem and character. When a few group members were asked how they felt about the *SeaPerch* project, one of the replies was, "I can't believe I actually built a remote-controlled submarine with my bare hands!"



C.S. 154-Harriet Tubman Learning Center—School Spirit Day

THINK QUICK: Which of the following items belong in school at CS 154: students, teachers, administrators, books, and/or pajamas?

We hope you included all of them (yes even pajamas) because our students and school staff were lounging and learning in pajamas on Friday, December 21, 2012 - our Annual Pajama Day! Our students literally jumped out of bed and came right to school (after brushing their teeth of course).

On this special Pajama School Spirit Day (our third annual one), pajamas had the opposite effect on our school environment. Everyone was alive with energy! Right from the outset of the day, our weekly “Zumba Friday” session was electrifying as students, staff and families danced to their favorite Zumba songs wearing their “fuzzy-wuzzy” PJ’s, accompanied by our beloved School Mascot “Starsky.”

The most amazing part of the day was witnessing learning taking place throughout all kinds of classroom activities. In alignment with the Common Core Learning Standards, students were engaged in rigorous tasks that helped them practice and gain needed skills on their road to college and career readiness. Some of these tasks included: read alouds on various genres of books, persuasive writing activities, and following recipes for food items, which required applying knowledge



**District Leadership Team
Professional Development Sessions**

Professional development was offered for middle and high school leadership teams on January 30, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The following session topics were covered:

- ◆ *Progress Report as it pertains to 2013 graduation rates, college and career readiness*
- ◆ *The Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP), budget alignment and the 6-12 SLT*
- ◆ *What every 6-12 School Leadership Team needs to understand about the NYS Accountability Report: District Five Parent Involvement Policy, District 100.11 Plan and Biennial Evaluation, Comprehensive Needs Assessment*

The session for elementary school leadership teams will be held on *Thursday, March 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Technology Center located inside of PS 125 at 425 West 123rd Street on the six floor.*

**Community School District Five
Superintendent Gale Reeves
Presents Parent Workshop Series 2013**

*Understanding the Common Core Standards:
Facilitator: Superintendent, Gale Reeves
Tuesday, February 5, from: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM*

*Preparing for the State Test:
Facilitators: Literacy Coaches, PS/PM161:
Gabrielle Deveaux, Nazda Medina Palchik and
Linda Sherrod
Monday, March 4, from: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM*

*Learning Math can be fun
Facilitator: Gail Jeffries, Math Coach, PS/MS 123
Tuesday, April 9, from: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM*

*Understanding the Middle School Process:
Facilitators: Office of Student Enrollment
Theresa Verderosa and Jenny Liu
Tuesday, May 7, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM*

Site: PS 125
Technology Center
6th floor
425 West 123 Street
(bet, Morningside and Amsterdam)

First Nobel Peace Prize Award Winner

The first African-American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950, was Ralph J. Bunche. He received the prize for mediating the Arab-Israeli truce. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the second African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1964.

First Pulitzer Prize Recipient

Gwendolyn Brooks, was the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry in 1950 for her book *Anne Allen*.

First African-American U.S. Senator

The first African-American U.S. Senator was Hiram Revels, who became the Senator from Mississippi, Feb. 25, 1870, to March 4, 1871, during Reconstruction. There have only been a total of five black senators in U.S. history: the remaining two are Blanche K. Bruce [1875–1881] and Barack Obama (2005–2009).

First Oscar Award Winner

The first African-American Oscar winner for supporting actress was Hattie McDaniel, for her role in the 1940 film, *"Gone with the Wind."*

First African-American Movie Director

Oscar Micheaux, was the first African American director in 1919. He wrote, directed, and produced the feature film, *"Homesteader."*

First African-American Mayor

The first African American mayor of a major American city was Carl Stokes, Cleveland, Ohio, 1967–1971.

First African-American Woman Mayor

The first black woman to serve as a mayor of a major U.S. city was Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly, Washington, DC, 1991–1995.

First African-American to Hold a Cabinet Position

Robert C. Weaver was the first African American to hold a Cabinet position at the national level from 1966–1968, as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Lyndon Johnson; The first black female cabinet minister was Patricia Harris, 1977, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Jimmy Carter.

First African-American to Serve as Local Elected Official

The first African-American to serve as a local elected official was John Mercer Langston, in 1855, who served as the town clerk of Brownhelm Township, Ohio.

First African-American Awarded the Medal of Honor

Sgt. William H. Carney was the first Congressional Medal of Honor winner for bravery during the Civil War. He received his Congressional Medal of Honor in 1900. The first African-American General was Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., 1940–1948.

First African-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was Colin Powell, 1989–1993.

First M.D. Degree

In 1837, James McCune Smith was the first African-American male to receive an M.D. Degree from the University of Glasgow; Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree. She graduated from the New England Female Medical College in 1864.

First African-American Rhodes Scholar

Alain L. Locke graduated from Harvard University in 1907 and became the first black Rhodes scholar. He studied at Oxford from 1907 to 1910.

Highlights of Community School District 5

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"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 ex-
hibit STEM projects!***



***Saturday, May 18, 2013
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***

CSS 6th Grade Starts Water Project for Uganda

When Spera Atuhairwe walked in the door of CSS on October 25, she'd come over 7,000 miles from her home in Uganda. What she spoke about to the sixth grade, though, was the miles and miles children in her country walk every day just to get water. Water's more than a chore in the developing world, it's a problem: unsafe water and poor sanitation cause 5,000 children to die every day.

One of the major themes of Professor Swan's Social Studies curriculum is discussing how we manage limited world resources. After Spera's lively presentation -- and many insightful questions from the students -- the sixth grade put together a campaign to help Water Aid, the organization for which Spera works. The sixth grade has 96 students, and hopes to raise enough money to provide clean water and sanitation to 96 Ugandan children. You can help by contributing to Water Aid at <http://tinyurl.com/csswater>.



The Art of Argument, Competitive Style

Congratulations go out to Aishat Jalloh (10th grade) and Nikolin Baco (9th grade) for their participation in the final round of the Argumentation Negotiation Competition at the New York City Bar Association.



PS 30M Forging Ahead with Community Learning Center

As reported in the last District 5 newsletter, PS 30M received a seed grant from the UFT/ NYC Council/Partnership for NYC to become a community learning school. The model is for the school to serve the many needs of the children: academic, physical, social, and emotional as well as to help improve the community as a whole. The school will function as a hub for many community-based, governmental and faith-based organizations to coordinate with each other and, thus, better serve the community.

PS 30M is in the beginning phase of this process. Already the school-based clinic managed by Renaissance Health Network has expanded hours and services, including weekly Parent & Community Workshops.

Harlem Y is offering adult education classes at the school site; and possible partnerships with other community-based organizations are being explored.

To this end, the school sponsored a faith-based breakfast at which over 20 clergy from various religious institutions discussed with passion their work in the community and how they might partner with the school to strengthen the community. This breakfast highlighted not only the talent and dedication of the participants but how much power exists already in our community. Future meetings to develop the partnerships are already scheduled. By working together the power and knowledge that were evident can be maximized to benefit our students as well as their families and all in the community.



Clergy, members of community-based organizations, representatives from the UFT, and the PS 30M principal, staff members and parents.