



Young Diplomats Magnet Academy

An International Baccalaureate World School

Educating Internationally Minded Scholars

134 West 122nd Street New York, NY 10027

www.ps242.com



Mission Statement

We all have greatness within us and every child has limitless potential that must be nurtured. Members of the Young Diplomats Magnet Academy will draw this potential out of every scholar and continuously strive for success. As a result, each scholar will be equipped with the tools to become responsible citizens in a changing world. Young Diplomats Magnet Academy is dedicated to providing all students with a caring, supportive, and rigorous inquiry-based learning environment. Young Diplomats Magnet Academy is a school in which all students are encouraged to be open-minded towards acquiring a global perspective. Together we will target student strengths and interests as a motivational tool to be reflective risk-takers. Students of different abilities, interests or learning needs will experience equally appropriate ways to absorb, use, develop and present concepts as effective communicators. The entire school community is committed to helping develop knowledgeable, balanced and principled thinkers, skills needed to become socially responsible members of a diverse society.

A Message from Mrs. Desjardin (Ms. D)

Welcome back from spring break. I hope everyone had a chance to rest and relax just a little while enjoying some family time together. Spring is here and excitement is in the air as we continue to have a wonderful year of learning here at Young Diplomats Magnet Academy. As always, we greatly appreciate the combined efforts of all as we support our students in successfully meeting the highest of standards set before them!

Thank you for your continued support of all of the activities we have here at Young Diplomats Magnet Academy. March was a very busy month and the remainder of the school year will also be filled with many activities. Please refer to the important dates in the back of this newsletter. I want to thank all of our families who completed the Learning Environment Survey this year. Your input is very important.

Finally, the month of April marks the beginning of state testing. We will begin administering the ELA state test to our upper grade students beginning on Wednesday, April 11th and Thursday, April 12th. It is very important that your children be at school to participate in this testing. Past experience has shown that students who take the assessments with their class perform at a higher level than those who take a make-up assessment at a different time. If you need to schedule a medical appointment for your child in the next month, please check with your child's teacher to find out what days to avoid when scheduling the appointment.

In the past, accountability systems for districts and schools relied solely on test scores. But one test taken on one particular day doesn't provide a complete picture of all the ways schools are helping students succeed. Think of it this way: You can't drive a car by only watching the speedometer. You also keep your eye on the road, check the mirrors, monitor the gas tank and pay attention if the engine light comes on. Similarly, the state tests provide information on different aspects of student performance, which will give a more complete picture of a school's needs and progress. The state test data results also reports on growth to show a school's trajectory over time.

There are many more events scheduled for the upcoming months such as the Carnival, Art Gala, and fifth grade Exhibition. Please come out and get involved with us. Learning does not end just because the state tests are over. We will continue to involve your child in deep, rich learning experiences. I hope to see you at some of our activities. As always, feel free to email me at dgomez5@schools.nyc.gov if you have any questions.

Pre-kindergarten- Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkiel

Happy Spring! Pre-K Students will be ending the unit of study on Light where we are inquiring and thinking critically about light, darkness and shadows. Currently, we planted beans and are journaling their growth. We also created unique shadows in the sun. We will also begin our next unit of study Water during this month. We will be learning what water does, what happens to water when it changes temperatures, how water helps us and what happens when we put things in water. In Building Blocks Math students are learning Number Jump games for the numerals 6-9. We will also learn and play a game called How Many Now (hidden version), in which numbers are removed from the board and students have to figure out which numbers are missing. Students will be comparing numbers, describing patterns and continuing patterns that have already been formed. In reading, we will continue to learn information from non-fiction books. Many of them have learned how to write their first names and are now working on writing their last names. Continue to encourage your child to complete the homework assignments. These assignments are designed to help develop their fine motor skills. Encourage your child to write his/her name on each handout. This practice will benefit your child over time. We will be taking walking trips searching for water that can be found in our neighborhood and discovering its use. Friendly reminder: sugary snacks are not allowed in the class. However, healthy snacks are always welcome. Ms. Epperson will continue to be available to meet and speak with you about matters of concern, every Tuesday between the hours of 2:30 and 3:10. Please check your child's book bag daily for relevant information. Be sure to provide your child with an appropriate change of clothes that reflects the weather. We will continue to go outside as long as the weather is above 32 degrees. On these days your child will need gloves, a hat and a scarf.

NO SCHOOL-Spring Recess The school will be closed on Friday March 30, 2018-Friday, April 6, 2018. School resumes on Monday April 9, 2018.

Kindergarten- Ms. Akter, Ms. White, & Ms. Cody

We are continuously working on routines, communication and social skills throughout each day. During **Mathematics**, students will represent, count and write 20 and beyond. They will count to tell the number of objects. Know number names and the count sequence. Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent the number of objects with a written numeral. Count to answer, "how many?". Compare the number of objects, by using the terms greater than and less than.

Reading and Writing-Students are working on asking and answering questions about the text. They will complete a reading response. We will be learning about plants and researching plant patterns. Students will create an informational piece of writing by creating their own "Did you know?" book.

Phonics- Students will continue to work on blend, CVC rhyming words, sentences and sight words.

Inquiry unit theme: **How we express ourselves**-An inquiry into the ways in which we discover nature.

Central Idea: We communicate about feelings and ideas through art. **Learner Profile Attributes:** We will be displaying and learning about the attributes of **Knowledgeable, Thinker and Inquirer**.

Attitudes: We will be learning about and displaying the attitudes of **Appreciation** and **Confidence**.

First Grade: Ms. Dudley, Ms. Campbell, Ms. McKayle, & Ms. Cody

Happy spring first grade families! We are wrapping up our fourth Inquiry Unit, “From Seed to Plant” and will soon begin our fifth unit “How We Express Ourselves.” Your child will be learning all about the sun, moon and stars and that objects in the sky move in regular and predictable patterns, which can be observed. The Attributes for this unit are for the children to be Inquirers, Knowledgeable, and Open-Minded. The Attitudes we want to develop are Curiosity, Empathy and Appreciation. We are planning two field trips for this unit, the Hall of Science and the Planetarium.

As writers, they will incorporate what they have learned in inquiry to create a narrative that includes the moon as a central feature. In the reading unit, we are exploring fiction texts and the 5 elements that make each of them unique: character, setting, conflict, plot and theme. Students will also be exploring non-fiction texts and comparing messages in both fiction and non-fiction texts about our natural world. Your child must read a book at home daily for 20 minutes and the reading logs must be signed daily. Continue to monitor the homework sheet carefully.

In phonics, our children are learning about word endings. For example, ed, ing, er and s. Students are expected to take a spelling test on every Friday. On the homework sheet, there is a list of words given to the students with specific activities for the week for them to practice. Please encourage your child to do additional activities to practice the spelling words at home.

In mathematics, (GoMath, Chapter 7/Compare Numbers) our students are learning to compare numbers to show greater than or less than. They will also learn to use the relationship symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$.

If you have questions or concerns please schedule an appointment to speak with us during our “Parent Engagement Time”, which is every Tuesday from 2:30 PM- 3:10 PM.

Second Grade- Ms. Kain, Ms. Hossain, & Ms. Cody

The students in 2nd grade just completed our exciting unit on the fast and the slow changes of the earth. They learned a great deal about natural disasters and weathering, as well as erosion and deposition. They enjoyed the experiments we did in class. They had a lot of fun sharing their reports. Some of the homework projects were amazing! Thank you parents for your support! We are getting ready to launch another exciting unit, “Who We Are: Where Are We?” This unit will explore the time period of the Harlem Renaissance. Students will compare and contrast how Harlem has changed over time through artifacts and writing. You may be able to support them with their research, especially if you have older family members, who lived during that time. They will be exploring this unit using the IB learner profile attributes of **Caring, Communicator, and Knowledgeable**. They will also be demonstrating the positive attitudes of **commitment, independence, and empathy** about their studies. They will be assessed on the skills of self-management, thinking, social, and communication. We will be reading **biographies** for our **reading** unit, while our **writing** unit will focus on writing a **narrative** about the experiences of a character who shows bravery in the midst of hardship. By the time we get to June, comprehension skills are still very important. Students must be able to retell what's going on in the text, make connection and ask pertinent questions. Identifying cause and effect relationships, main idea, context clues and the author's purpose, provide students with a wide variety of reading strategies that foster academic success. We cannot stress more the importance of reading daily at least 30 minutes at home. If your child has read their book, then ask your child to tell you what happened in the story. Make sure your child chooses from the Comprehension Questions Menu. You can use some of those questions to further help your child. In **Math**, students are learning about time and money. In our next unit, they will learn to measure using inches and feet followed by the metric system. Try to offer real world problems for them to solve. Also, please continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts with your child, as well as counting money. Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet, handed in on time, neatly organized and written in the requested place or format. Please remember that Homework projects are an important part of your child's grades. Please continue to reinforce these skills for reading, writing, and math over the summer. Please stay tuned for new trip dates. Finally, we need some more supplies. It's allergy season so we **really** need some tissues.

Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone, Mr. Judkins, and Ms. Muriell.

We are finishing up our unit on Africa. Afterwards, we will embark on a new journey into weather. Students will learn how scientists record patterns of weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. They will also look at a variety of natural hazards that result from natural processes. They will develop an understanding that humans cannot eliminate natural hazards, but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

Our IB attributes that we will follow are: Thinker, Knowledgeable, and Caring.

Our IB attitudes are as follows: Empathy, Respect and Commitment.

In Reading, students will focus on cause and effect and making predictions. They will be reading multiple informational texts on weather to enhance their learning.

In Writing, students will write an opinion piece by making a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem.

In Math, we will continue to learn fractions, area and measurement. However, please continue to work on your multiplication every night.

Homework should be done on a nightly basis. It will be collected the following Monday. Please check your child's folder for important notices nightly. If you have any questions please let us know.

IB home projects are a critical part of your child's IB report card. Please be on the lookout for our new projects.

Please bring in 3 sharpened pencils to school everyday!

State exams: ELA is April 11th & 12th. Math is given in May.

Please make sure your child gets plenty of sleep, eats breakfast and is on time at 8:10am.

Fourth Grade- Ms. Grullon, Ms. Frohnhoeffer, & Ms. Muriell

In April, we will begin our fifth IB unit. We are focusing on the theme, '*How We Organize Ourselves*'. It focuses on inquiry into the interconnectedness of human made systems and communities. Students will research, and investigate different sources of clean energy available to harness for our needs (types of clean energy: hydropower, solar, wind, thermal, nuclear). Students will work on class projects in which they will make objects that use energy in a variety of ways.

Also in ELA, students will read a variety of texts, both narrative and informational that looks at the importance of clean energy and how they, as global citizens need to educate themselves on using energy sources responsibly.

Students will share this knowledge with family members and help them to make smarter choices about the ways they use energy sources at home.

In math, we will be learning about geometry concepts. Students will focus on investigating 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and the use of measuring tools such as rulers and protractors. Math vocabulary is a major area in this unit, so daily vocabulary study at home will be very important.

Students will continue to work on math test prep activities to prepare for the upcoming State Test. Further information regarding these State Assessments will be forthcoming. Please check homework sheets, parent letters and upcoming newsletters for updates.

As always, please check your child's homework sheets for projects and homework due dates. Please sign your child's reading response sheets weekly. We want to make sure that they are reading and responding to literature on a daily basis.

IMPORTANT DATES:

ELA State test: April 11 and 12th.

Fifth Grade- Ms. Brown, Mr. Dennis, & Ms. Muriell

Happy Spring! Our upcoming unit will focus on health and hygiene. Also, state testing is upon us! The test is ELA April 12th and 13th. Math testing is not until early May. Testing starts promptly at 9:00 am. Please make sure your students get plenty of rest the night before, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive by 8:10am! Thank you for your continued support!

Spring break is March 30th-April 8th

Reading/Writing: After an inquiry into health and nutrition, students will take their findings and design a healthy lifestyle action plan for themselves. The plan will have health goals, factual reasons for those goals, planned strategies to achieve the goal, a timeline to complete the goals, and a variety of assessment types to assess the goals. Students will share their action plan as a way to encourage themselves and others, to make healthier choices. Students will write a written reflection about their understanding and purpose of their action plan. Students will read about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Math: Students will be starting a chapter on volume where they will be learning about the concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition. Students will also classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties. Please make sure they are studying their geometry vocabulary daily. Also, they will be working on conversion between different measurements, both standard and metric. Students will also solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume in order to prepare for state testing.

Inquiry: Transdisciplinary Theme: *Who We Are*, which is an inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

This inquiry process will help the students understand that the choices people make affect their well-being.

The *Learner Profile Attributes* for the unit are: **Balanced-** students will investigate how being balanced affects health;

Knowledgeable- students will understand how to make healthy choices for their well-being; **Inquirer-** students will develop the skills to investigate and make informed choices regarding healthy behaviors.

The *Attitudes* are: **Respect-** students will understand how respecting your body and what you put into it is a part of healthy living; **Commitment-** students will develop commitment with their action plan towards improving healthy choices; **Enthusiasm-** exercise promotes fun!

Art- Ms. Barksdale

April promises to be another very busy and productive month in the Art Room at the Young Diplomats Magnet Academy. All of the classes are creating new and exciting projects that focus on their Transdisciplinary Themes in the Art Studio. The following is a list of themes that each grade is creating projects for during the month of April:

Pre-Kindergarten- The Art of Water

Kindergarten- The Art of Family

1st Grade- The Art of the Plants

2nd Grade- The Art of the Harlem Renaissance

3rd Grade- The Art of Weather

4th Grade-The Art of Electricity

5th Grade- The Art of Health

Visit **The Brooklyn Children's Museum** to see the exhibit, Brooklyn Block Party. This exhibit brings together the elements of the Brooklyn block party all under one roof, including a series of three-dimensional stoops set against a backdrop of artistic facades of residential buildings, along with different "street" and green spaces to play games, meet friends, relax, and have fun. On display, there are large-scale photographs by Brooklyn-based photographer Anderson Zaca. Zaca has spent many years documenting annual Brooklyn block parties through the lens of a camera.

Families will be invited to add to the photographs and record their own images and experiences in the city among those of their neighbors. The exhibit will run until June 10, 2018.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum is located at:

145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	2. Spring Break (No School)	3. Spring Break (No School)	4. Spring Break (No School)	5. Spring Break (No School)	6. Spring Break (No school)	7.
8.	9. School Resumes	10.	11. ELA STATE EXAM GRADES 3-5	12. ELA STATE EXAM GRADES 3-5	13.	14.
15.	16.	17. PTA Meeting @5:15pm	18.	19. Family Math Games Workshop @5:00pm	20. Celebration of Learning	21.
22.	23.	24.	25. ** Breakfast Club	26.	27. Spirit Day: Career Day **	28.
29.	30.					

Reminders:

April 11th – 12th: ELA Exam

April 19th – Family math games workshop from 5:00pm-6:30pm

April 25th – Math State Exam Workshop

