



Young Diplomats Magnet Academy
An International Baccalaureate World School
Educating Internationally Minded Scholar
134 West 122nd Street New York, NY 10027

www.ps242.com



A Message from Mrs. Desjardin (Ms. D)

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

It is hard to believe that Spring is here with the break right around the corner! It won't be long before Memorial Day is here and the summer months are upon us! Until then, please make sure that students are in uniform and ready to learn!

For students in grades 3-5, the ELA standardized tests will be administered on Tuesday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 3rd. The tests are untimed which means that students can take as long as they need. However, we do encourage students to stay focused so that they can complete the tests in a timely manner. The standardized tests provide valuable data that our district and school uses to evaluate curricula and provide targeted instruction to our students. This data, combined with other student performance indicators, will assist in making promotional decisions and planning for next year's programs. All students are encouraged to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast on the test dates.

Please make sure to plan for our upcoming events such as the annual Carnival and Art Gala. All students will have artwork displayed at the gala.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at dgomez5@schools.nyc.gov.

Pre-kindergarten- Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkiel

Spring Is Here! We are currently in the Transdisciplinary Unit of study titled, "How The World Works." Pre-K Students will be ending the unit of study on *Water* where we learned what water does, what happens to water when it changes temperatures, how water helps us and what happens when we put things in water. We will begin our next unit of study *Plants*. Children will have the opportunity to observe and learn about different kinds of plants. We'll discover the needs of plants, where they can be found and why plants are important. Activities throughout the unit prompt children to learn about plants through hands-on explorations and provide opportunities to observe plants in their immediate environment. Families who are from different geographical areas, either in New York or throughout the world, will be invited to share stories about different kinds of plants, and the impact that climate and location has on plants.

In Building Blocks Math, students are learning to count to 10 and beyond, focusing on identifying numbers just before or after a given number, to count to 10 and back to 0, to add and subtract small numbers, and to add small numbers (sums to 5). In reading, we will continue to learn information from non-fiction books. Many children have learned how to write their first names and are now working on writing their last names.

Encourage your child to write his/her name on their work and at home projects. This practice will benefit your child over time. We will be taking walking trips searching for plants that can be found in our neighborhood.

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 permits.

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

We are continuously working on routines, communication and social skills throughout each day.

- **Mathematics**, during the math block we will continue to work on counting, representing and comparing numbers to 10. We'll continue to explore a variety of addition and subtraction strategies, students will represent, count and write to 20 and beyond. They will also 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?" and 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 blends, 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 are **knowledgeable, thinker and inquirer.**

Attitudes: We will be learning about and displaying the attitudes of **appreciation** and **confidence.**

*You might notice an overlap in activities and skills. Some of these activities, began in March and have extended into April.

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

Happy spring first grade families! We have just begun our fifth Inquiry Unit “How We Express Ourselves”. Your child will be learning all about the 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, to the Planetarium at the Museum of Natural History and to the Hall of Science. 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 (fantasy and realistic fiction) 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 blends. A consonant blend is when two or more consonants are blended together, but each sound may be heard in the blend. The most common beginning consonant blends include: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fr, tr, fl, gl, gr, pl, pr, sl, sm, sp and st. Students are expected to take a spelling test 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 6/Count and Model Numbers) our students are learning to represent tens and ones in a given number, count objects by ones and grouping them by tens, exchange or trade 10 ones for one ten, represent numbers in a variety of ways, and model numbers with base ten blocks. 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. Hossain, Ms. Kain & Ms. Cody

The students in 2nd grade just completed our exciting unit on the fast and slow changes of the earth. They learned a great deal about natural disasters and weathering, 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! Thanks parents for your support! We are now into 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** throughout 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. Building 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 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 really need some more supplies. It's allergy season so we really need tissues and paper towels.

Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone and Ms. Faucett

Happy Spring 3rd Grade Families! We will continue to embark on our journey about 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. They will write an opinion piece telling about the natural disaster of their choice. In their writing piece they will convince you the best way to stay safe when the disaster is about to strike.

Our IB attributes that we are following: **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 and coming up with a solution for this claim by giving reasons and examples to support their opinion.

In Math, we will continue to learn fractions, we will order them from least to greatest. 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 every day!

State exams: ELA is April 2nd & 3rd. Math is given on May 1st and 2nd.

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

***Our next unit will focus on animal traits and how they have changed over time to help them survive. Each student will be getting their own small plastic tank with 2 tadpoles. They will be responsible for caring for them, observing how they grow and change. They will be taking them home to keep when they have grown.

Fourth Grade- Ms. Grullon & Mr. Fine

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. For writing, they will construct a persuasive essay on why it is better to use a renewable energy source.

Students have been participating in a STEMS program called Lego Robotics. Every Monday and Thursday we design objects using Lego materials from computer blueprints. It has been an exciting program that we're happy to be a part of.

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. 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 2nd and 3rd

Math State Test May 1 and 2nd

Science Performance Test in May

Science Written Test in June

Fifth Grade- Ms. Brown & Mr. Dennis

Happy Spring! Our current unit continues to focus on health and nutrition. Also, state testing is upon us! The test for ELA is April 2nd and 3rd. The math state exam will be taken on May 1st and 2nd. 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 8:10. Thank you for your continued support. Spring break is April 19th-April 26th. School resumes April 29th.

Reading/Writing: After an inquiry into health and nutrition, students will write an information article about either exercise, the importance of sleep, or nutrition. The information article will also use text features such as subtitles, bold words, charts, captions, and photos. Students will encourage themselves and others, to make healthier choices and will also write a reflection about their understanding of the importance of being healthy. Students will continue reading about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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

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 Plants

1st Grade- The Art of the Sun, Moon, and Stars

2nd Grade- The Art of New York, Then and Now

3rd Grade- The Art of Weather

4th Grade- The Art of Government

5th Grade- The Art of Health

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s legendary festival, Sakuri Matsuri, will be held on Saturday April 27th and Sunday April 28th. Welcoming the peak of the cherry blossom season, the Japanese tradition of Sakuri Matsuri celebrates spring, the arts and the great outdoors with a festival of cultural arts and merry making. The performances, tea ceremonies, and games might make you think you’ve been transported to Japan.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		ELA STATE EXAM GRADES 3-5	ELA STATE EXAM GRADE 3-5			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Early Literacy Workshop @8:30am		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Family Fun Math Night (3rd-5th) From 3-4:30pm	Celebration of Learning Spirit Day: Crazy Hat Day	(Spring Break begins)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Spring Break No School	Spring Break No School	Spring Break No School	Spring Break No School	Spring Break No School	
28	29	30				

