

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

Young Diplomats Magnet Academy
An International Baccalaureate World School
Educating Internationally Minded Scholars.
134 West 122nd St. 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 Ms. Desjardin (Mrs. D.)

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and has had a great start to the New Year! May 2020 bring you great health and much happiness.

As we embark on a new year, we are looking forward to many exciting events at YDMA. At this point in our academic year, all students in grades K-5 will be assessed again through the use of the Fountas & Pinnell benchmark system. Teachers use the student data collected from this assessment to provide additional needed academic support and interventions for students. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to know how well your child is performing on this assessment and in other subject areas. Remember that you can stay linked to your child's academic progress through Class Dojo. The Class Dojo provides you the opportunity to view your child's daily social and academic progress, attendance and upcoming events. This is a valuable resource for communication and should be monitored frequently. Progress reports are another way for you to monitor progress; they are sent home every 4 weeks. After reading the progress report, please sign and return to your child's teacher. If there are any comments or concerns, please be sure to write it on the comment section above the signature.

Please make sure that your child is reading at home on a daily basis. Reading is a highly complex task; it is sometimes looked at as a set of skills. We need the phonetic and sight word skills in order to be able to read fluently. Those specific skills are parts to achieve the whole. Reading increases our vocabulary and allows us to have experiences that we may not have in our own lives. Reading helps us to learn how to act in certain situations and causes us to look at our own behaviors in situations. Probably most importantly, reading makes us excited about a topic and incites us to read more to learn more.

Lastly, don't forget to check your child's folder for any important documents that require your signature or information about upcoming events. We have parent workshops scheduled every month and would love to see more parents attend.

Pre- Kindergarten- Ms. Epperson, Mr. Fernandez & Ms. Frenkiel

Welcome back, Happy New Year! This month Pre-K Students will continue in the Unit of Study, "All About Us". They will learn all about themselves and the people around them. Students will be provided with opportunities to explore, learn about, and embrace what makes them and their families important and unique. Throughout the unit they will also explore the attributes of their names. Names are an important part of what makes each child unique. We will begin practice signing our names each morning as we arrive. Many students are learning how to write their first names and a few are working on writing their last names. In Building Blocks Math, the big ideas are counting, reading numerals, and connecting numerals to quantities, comparing numbers and naming and sorting shapes. In reading, students are learning information from non-fiction books. Please encourage your child to complete their home projects. 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.

Sugary snacks are not allowed in the class. However, healthy snacks are always welcome. I will be available to meet and speak with you about matters of concern, every Tuesday between the hours of 2:30 and 3:00. 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 permits. On these days your child will need gloves, a hat and a scarf. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year.

***School will be closed on Monday January 20, 2020 in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kindergarten- Ms. Falcon, Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Akter, & Ms. Gannon

In Inquiry, we started our unit titled, "Who We Are." Students are learning about an inquiry into the nature of self and what it means to be human. The Central Idea is shaping sense of self and experiences that are unique to a person. Our lines of inquiry are personal likes and dislikes, personal, social and emotional characteristics and similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Our attributes are balanced, risk-taker and knowledgeable. Our attitudes are appreciation, empathy and tolerance. Students explored issues of individual development and cultural identity as reflected in different types of communities. They identified similarities and differences between ourselves and others.

In ELA reading, students are listening to read alouds such as *I love Myself* and *I love Saturday y Domingo*. They are learning how asking and answering questions help them get information from a text, make connections between the illustrations, words and key details from the text. In writing, students wrote which quality of being human they think is the most important. For example, appreciation, confidence, independence, empathy, generosity, honesty. They will also include details: drawing, labeling, write phrases and sentences.

In Math, students continue to explore subtraction, represent subtraction as taking apart, represent subtraction as taking from, use the minus sign, represent and explain subtraction with equations, solve subtraction word problems and use patterns to developed fluency in subtraction.

Reminders-

- A weekly homework packet is distributed on Mondays and due the following Monday. Students are given inquiry projects. Please assist your child in completing these projects. Homework and project grades will be reflected on your child's report card and progress report.
- Parents will be invited to watch students share their writing projects and inquiry-based projects. We will notify you via written notice and class dojo.
- We will be taking many trips this school year. We will send out a trip form and other information. Some trips require advance payment we will notify you. Upcoming trips: Circle Square Theater (Cinderella Around the World), Thursday, February 6th.



First Grade- Ms. Dudley, Ms. Campbell, & Ms. Gannon

We hope that you had a happy and peaceful holiday and wish you all the best for the New Year. Thank you for your donations. Your donations allowed us to adopt an endangered animal. We received a Certificate of Adoption for a Fennec Fox. (Picture below)



We are approaching the middle of our third inquiry unit, “Where We Are in Place and Time”. Your child has been developing the IB attributes of reflective, principled, inquirer and the attitudes of respect and tolerance. Students have become more knowledgeable about lifestyles in the past and are making connections to the present. They will focus on the differences between school life, home life, transportation, work and technology now and then.

In reading, students will continue to explore both fiction and non-fiction texts. They will continue to look closely at character traits and continue to identify the main idea and key details. In writing, they will continue writing opinion pieces comparing life long ago to life today. Please continue to assist your child at home with writing complete sentences with proper punctuation. Encourage them to use letter sounds to spell words on their own. Additionally, continue to assist them with sight word recognition on flash cards.

In math, we have started our fourth topic: Subtraction Facts to 20. This topic introduces students to several key strategies for solving facts to 20. These strategies include counting to subtract, making 10 to subtract, and using addition to subtract. Please practice these concepts at home to help your child to become more fluent in these areas. When solving number stories encourage your child to explain their thinking both orally and in writing.

Second Grade- Ms. Kain & Ms. Cutrone

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the winter recess and we look forward to another exciting month of learning and exploring.

The students began our 3rd IB unit, “How We Express Ourselves.” In this unit, students will design their own investigation to learn about how objects can be observed and analyzed. Students will share their findings through visual and written presentations. Their presentations will include examples of solid, liquid and gas and what would happen when objects are heated and/or cooled. The IB learner profile attributes for this unit are inquirer, communicator, and knowledgeable. The attitudes for this unit are curiosity, enthusiasm and independence. The skills used are self-management, thinking, social, research and communication.

In reading, we will continue to read both fiction and non-fiction books. Please encourage your child to read for 30 minutes daily. In writing, students will be writing informational pieces. Students will go through the writing process to create a well-developed informational piece where students will teach their readers about either a solid, liquid or gas. They will use facts and definitions in their informational writing to show everything that they have learned.

In math, students have been learning 2-digit subtraction facts within 100. Our next unit will cover double-digit addition and subtraction. Students will need to become fluent in their addition and subtraction facts. We encourage students to practice solving and writing number stories.

Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet, handed in on time, neatly organized and written in the requested place or format. We check homework daily. So, we expect students to complete their homework daily and hand it in. Homework/projects are an important part of grades.

Trips are an educational part of the unit. It enhances their learning and reinforces the content being studied and students are required to go. Please be on lookout for the permission slips.

Third Grade- Ms. McKayle & Ms. Hossain

Happy New Year 3rd Grade Families! We are excited to kick off 2020! Our museum on simple machines was a tremendous success! We couldn't have done it without your support. In December, we also launched a new unit titled "How We Express Ourselves." In this unit, students started their research to understand the culture of China. They will continue their research to learn about how people, culture, history, geography and government, shape the development of families and communities in a country over time. The IB learner profile attributes students needed to demonstrate for this unit is open-minded, principled, and communicator. The IB attitudes students need to demonstrate for this unit are appreciation, cooperation, and tolerance. The key concepts that are needed to be understood this unit are: connection, perspective and responsibility.

In writing, students will write another informational piece. They will conduct their research about China and then use their findings from their research about China to develop a travel brochure or travel guide on China. Students will include the different features of non-fiction such as table of contents, heading, maps, captions etc.

In math, we will learn different strategies to fluently multiply and divide within 100. Students will learn to solve multiplication and division problems that involve different strategies such as skip counting and properties of operations. Students will also practice solving real-world problems involving equal groups. Please have your child study their multiplication tables every night. We will continue with our daily quizzes.

In reading, students will continue to work on their goals. As a whole class, we will be focusing on identifying the main idea with supporting details from the text. Students need to get in the practice of showing text evidence to support their responses. We will also be working on making inferences by looking at the text clues and their prior knowledge to draw conclusions. Additionally, we will start test preparations. It is imperative that your child comes to school on time to learn the different strategies and test taking skills we will be working on.

Homework is given on a weekly basis. Please complete the homework as outlined on the homework cover page.

Please complete the math sheet nightly because it is a review of that day's lesson. There will be two IB projects per unit and the projects are due every 3 weeks. Please check your child's folder for important notices. We will be going on field trips to enhance our learning. Vocabulary tests will be given once a month. Please check your child's folder for important notices.

Fourth Grade- Mr. Fine & Ms. Brown

The fourth-grade class did a great job on their second IB unit on animal adaptation and survival. Students worked on researching how animals adapted to their environment and how they interact and depend on other living things for survival. In the writing unit, students used their research to complete an informational essay. Many students discovered and shared interesting fun facts about their chosen animal.

Our upcoming IB Unit 3, "Who We Are," will focus on the causes of the Industrial Revolution and how it brought about change for society as well as understanding the rights and responsibilities for such a change. Students will also learn about how conflict, influences the social, economic, and political systems of a society. For writing, students will write an argument essay where they answer the following question, "Was the Industrial Revolution more beneficial or harmful for society?" Through research, students will be able to choose a side and defend it by writing an essay with a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion to support the side chosen.

In math we are currently working on Unit 4, where students use strategies and properties to multiply by 2-digit numbers. Students will continue to use their multiplication skills to multiply multiples of 10, use models to multiply 2-digit numbers by multiples of 10, estimate products for 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication problems and use compatible numbers, use arrays and partial products to multiply 2-digit numbers. Students will continue to use the COINS strategy to solve word problems. It is imperative that students continue to review their multiplication facts to build fluency.

The fifth math unit is going to align with unit 4. Students will use strategies and properties to divide by 1-digit numbers. Please encourage your child to study division facts as it is the inverse of multiplication.

To support your child's computation skills, you can go to the link below to get free math worksheets from the internet:

<http://www.commoncoresheets.com/index.php>

Please check your child's weekly homework sheet for assignments, projects and parent information.

Fifth Grade- Mr. Dennis & Ms. Villa

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope everyone had a peaceful and relaxing break.

In math, we are finishing up Unit 6, which is about dividing decimals. Once we are done, we will begin our study of fractions in Unit 7. Students will learn all about how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators using a variety of strategies to compute with fluency. Please continue to work on multiplication fact tables as it supports fraction work!

ELA will have us focusing on communication skills. Our writing piece is an informational essay about global warming. Our reading will focus on non-fiction informational articles about the solar system and our planet Earth. We will also start a fiction story titled “George’s Secret Key to the Universe”. Students will continue strengthening how to summarize, take notes, and use information gathered from articles to construct written responses.

Inquiry has us continuing our 3rd Unit titled, “How the World Works: Understanding the Universe.” Students will learn about the planets in our solar system and what makes our home unique. Students will also continue to learn more about human impact on the environment as we dig deeper into climate change and what we can do to fight it! Later in the month we will be working on taking action, by helping people in Puerto Rico who are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria.

As January draws to a close, we will reflect on Unit 3 and get ready to kick off our next unit titled “Where We are in Place and Time/Exploring the New World” which will focus on the Age of Exploration and what happened when the Old World met the New World.

Unit 3 **How The World Works: Understanding the Universe**

- Learner Profile Attributes: Reflective, Thinker, Inquirer
- Attitudes: Appreciation, Curiosity, Commitment
- Skills: Research, Communication, Self-Management
- Key Concepts: Form, Change, Reflection

Unit 4 **Where We are in Place and Time: Exploring the New World**

- Learner Profile Attributes: Communicators, Open-minded, Knowledgeable
- Attitudes: Confidence, Integrity, Respect
- Skills: Application, Speaking, Planning
- Key Concepts: Change, Causation, Perspective

Art: Ms. Barksdale

In January, students will continue to grow and develop as visual artists while viewing the artwork of various artists. These master works of art will serve as inspiration for our young diplomats in creating their own masterpieces. All of the classes are creating interesting projects that focus on their grade's Transdisciplinary Themes in the Art Studio. The following is a list of themes that will guide each grade's projects during the month of January:

- **Pre-Kindergarten-** The Art of Me
- **Kindergarten-** The Art of the 4 Seasons
- **1st Grade-** Family Portraits
- **2nd Grade-** Still-Life Drawings and Paintings
- **3rd Grade-** The Art of China
- **4th Grade-** 3-Dimensional Design
- **5th Grade-** The Art of the Solar System

The Schomburg Center's Annual Black Comic Book Festival celebrates the rich tradition of Black comics featuring panel discussions, film screenings, a cosplay show and competition, and exhibit tables with premiere Black comic creators from across the country. The annual extravaganza and free community event connects comic fans, creators, bloggers, independent publishers, and collectors of all ages. The 8th Annual Black Comic Book Festival will be held on January 17-18, 2020 at the Schomburg Center. Register for this FREE event at Schomburgcenter.eventbrite.com.

Gym: Mrs. Alcantara

Happy New year YDMA Family. We continue to work together on developing/revisiting skills that will help us increase our ability to engage in physical activity. The following is what we will be covering in the month of January:

- Pre-K- Expressing attributes and Attitudes through Movement**
- Kinder- Communicating while enhancing Hand-eye coordination**
- 1st- Communicating while enhancing Hand-eye coordination**
- 2nd- Reflecting and developing Confidence through Fitness**
- 3rd- Demonstrating Integrity and Caring through Fitness**
- 4th- Being a thinker while enhancing our health and fitness**
- 5th- Demonstrating confidence and Communication through Throwing**

Wellness Council

Would you like to join our Wellness Council? We continue the search for parents who are interested in helping us create and enforce school wellness policies that will help our children lead a healthy life. In our wellness council we will discuss resources in health, nutrition and physical activity that are available in our community and within our school.

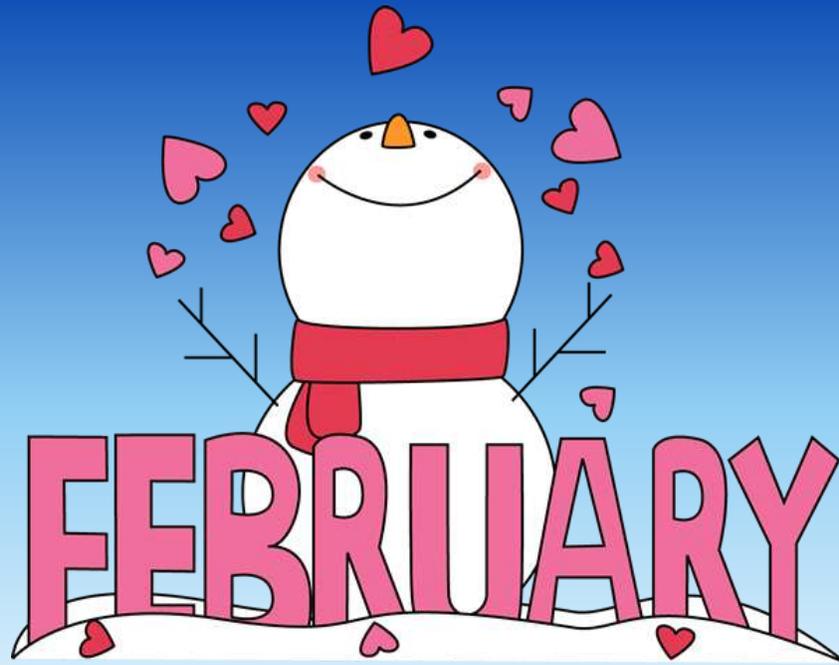
If you are interested in joining please reach out to :

Mrs. Alcantara-Physical Education Teacher Ps242mrs.a@gmail.com or nalcantara4@schools.nyc.gov, you may also contact Mrs. Celeste Ortega Cortega2@schools.nyc.gov

Here are some sites to help us stay healthy and active at home: Choosemyplate.gov, kidshealth.org, gonoodle.com, sworkitkids app for androids and iPhones



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Winter Recess No School	2 School Resumes	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 3 rd Annual Spelling Bee	14	15 *Breakfast Club Topic ELA State Exam (Grades 2-5)	16	17 Celebration of Learning!	18
19	20 **No School 	21	22	23	24 Spirit Day: Super Hero Day!	25
26	27	28	29 Mental Health 101 w. Shackola Symons @9am (2-5)	30	31	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8  District Wide Spelling Bee
9	10	11	12 Breakfast Club Topic: Math State Exam (Grades 2-5)	13 	14 Celebration of Learning	15
16	17 Mid-Winter Recess Begins	18 Mid-Winter Recess (No school)	19 Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	20 Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	21 Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	22
23 School Resumes	24	25	26	27	28	29