

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 8

Young Diplomats Magnet Academy
An International Baccalaureate World School
Educating Internationally Minded Scholar
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.

Message from Ms. Desjardin (Ms. D)

Even though the weather keeps changing on us and the leaves are falling with brilliant colors to decorate our school grounds, the academic process here at YDMA is staying constant. The teachers and scholars have established their routines and procedures for classroom instruction. November is an important time for all of us to reflect on the many blessings bestowed upon us. I am certainly thankful for the many blessing in my life, including working with the amazing scholars, parent/caregivers, teachers, and support staff at Young Diplomats Magnet Academy.

By now you should have received your child's Progress Report for the first quarter of school. **This month our first Parent-Teacher Conference will be held on Thursday, November 15th.** Teachers will be sending out a form with time slots to choose from, make sure to fill it out and send it back with your child. Please make sure that your child completes their homework assignments that are sent home in a packet on a weekly basis. It is my expectation for our staff to ensure that all our students are working with rigorous assignments in all core subjects and that each student is engaged in meaningful teaching and learning that ignites innovation.

Top Tips for Helping Your Child Succeed at Young Diplomats Magnet Academy: Ensure that your child is at school before 8:10 a.m., ready and prepared to be an active learner. Ensure that your child is reading daily and responding to the literature whether it's orally or in written format. Ensure that your child knows his or her addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts for his or her grade level. Ensure that your child is speaking and writing in complete sentences using academic language learned daily from school. Talk with your child daily about what he or she is learning. Communicate regularly with your child's teacher about your child's performance. Be sure to keep up with the Class Dojo for up to date information regarding your child's daily performance.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher conferences!

Pre-Kindergarten: Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkiel

We have lots of exciting things planned this month. We started the year by focusing on getting to know one another and building friendships. Your child is learning classroom routines, and the Pre-K Essential Agreements extensively while doing many fun activities together. This will allow every child to feel a part of a classroom community and feel more comfortable with his or her new classmates and teachers. Continue to encourage your child to work hard at managing good behavior.

Each week you will be kept abreast of what we are learning in math via the Building Blocks Parent letter. In Math, students are learning geometry and paying close attention to geometric shapes like triangles, squares and rectangles in the environment. You are encouraged to assist your child with noticing the geometric shapes in your environment.

We are in the Unit of Study "Who We Are" which includes community building, learning about our emotions and studying our five senses. You will be encouraged to assist your child with completing an "All About Me" book. Please use the blank soft colored books along with instructions on what to put in the books. I know you will have a lot of fun creating this family's keepsake. Next, we will be studying Our Five Senses. Always ask your child what did he or she learn in school that day. This is a good review for the students and helps them communicate more effectively.

Kindergarten: Ms. White, Ms. Akter, Ms. Cody & Mr. Fernandez

Welcome to Fall! In mathematics, we are sorting, graphing, counting, and learning about numbers all around us. Students will continue to represent, count and write numbers 0-5 and will also compare numbers from 0-5. In reading, we are learning how to care for books and learning about parts of books. We do lots of Read-Aloud and Shared Reading on a daily basis. Students will make connections between illustrations and words, the main idea, and characters, answer key details in a text and asking and answering questions. In Writing, students will be focusing on Informative Writing. Students will write or draw to compose informative text. In Phonics, we are learning our names and classmate's names, about letter sounds, rhyming, and sight words. In our Inquiry unit we are learning all about essential agreements. Our Transdisciplinary Theme in this unit of study is "Sharing the Planet". We will be learning about sharing resources with other people and other living things. We will discover what different animals need in order to survive and their habitats. The Learner Profile Attributes for this unit are knowledgeable, caring and inquirer. We will delve deeper into what these attributes mean. The Attitudes that we will be focusing on in this unit are commitment and independence. We will be discussing each principle and learning how to apply each to our class community, school community and daily lives. Homework packets will be distributed on Monday and should be returned to school the following Monday, unless there is a holiday. In addition, we are asking that you read with your child daily. Friendly reminder-please label all clothing, lunch boxes etc., as many of the students have the same colored sweaters, lunch boxes and other items. Please practice tying shoes, snapping, buttoning and zipping of jackets and coats. Thank you for your support! Best Regards.



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

Happy Fall! We are about to end our first Inquiry unit, "Sharing the Planet". In this unit, students have become more knowledgeable about animal characteristics, adaptations and survival. They were encouraged to display the attitudes of curiosity and creativity and the attributes of knowledgeable, thinkers and inquirers. The students are creating an informational booklet about their futuristic animal. Each student will report on their animal's characteristics, habitat, diet and adaptations. Be sure to stop by during our Celebration of Learning where they will showcase these fantastic creations. In reading, students are reading both fiction and nonfiction books. They have learned the features of non-fiction texts and are learning about story elements in fiction texts. Please encourage your child to read a book at home daily. Also, please monitor the homework sheet carefully, as your child is given a daily reading response. In writing, students will publish a nonfiction informational piece, which will show their understanding of how an animal of their choice survives. In phonics, we have been working on short vowels. 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 math, (GoMath, Chapter 1) our students learned addition concepts and explored how to model addition within 10, use pictures to add to and adding zero. Please continue using concrete objects to practice addition at home. Now (in GoMath, Chapter 2) they are learning subtraction concepts. Our students are exploring representing problems involving addition and subtraction, addition and subtraction equations, and adding and subtracting within 20. Field trips are an integral part of our science and social studies units. It reinforces the content being studied and students are required to go. We will have trips scheduled in November and December. Please be on the lookout for the permission slips. Check your child's folder nightly for important notices and reminders. Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet. It must be handed in on time, organized neatly and written in the requested place or format. Homework and projects are an important part of grades. Please make sure your child comes to school on time and prepared everyday with the tools they need for the day.

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

The students in 2nd grade wrapped up the 1st IB unit and will start the next IB unit, "How We Organize Ourselves." The IB learner profile attributes the students are using for this unit are principled, knowledgeable and thinker. The attitudes for this unit are commitment, independence, and appreciation. The skills used are self-management, thinking, and communication. In this unit, students are going to learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Students will take neighborhood walks to identify an issue, describe how this issue affects citizens and what next steps could be taken to resolve this issue in the community.

In reading, students will be reading fiction books. Please encourage your child to read a fiction book at home for at least 20 minutes. We cannot stress more the importance of reading at least 20 minutes at home. If your child has read their book, then ask your child to read signs outside, menus, or grocery lists.

In writing, students will learn the art of persuasion and will write two persuasive letters in the unit. Students will take stands on issues that are relevant to them and they will write letters stating their opinions and expressing the need for action or change. Students will be exposed to a variety of books that they will use as mentor texts to help them learn the style of persuasive writing.

In math, students have been learning place value up to 3-digit numbers and comparing numbers. Our next unit will cover addition and subtraction of numbers that are up to 3-digits. Students will need to become fluent in their addition and subtraction facts. Please continue to practice at home on a nightly basis.

Homework must be completed daily as outlined on the homework sheet, and handed in every day, neatly organized and written in the requested place or format. (Writing, reading responses, and phonics homework should be written in their homework notebooks). Homework/projects are an important part of grades.

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

Please make sure your child comes to school prepared everyday with their homework folder and notebook. Thank you.

Third Grade: Ms. Cutrone, Mr. Judkins & Ms. Gannon

Greetings 3rd Grade Families! We are off to a great start. We just completed our exciting unit, The Pale Blue Dot. Students learned about different types of maps, how to create scaled maps, and how to find their own unique location on Earth, using lines of longitude and latitude. We ended our unit by visiting The Museum of Natural History, where students found answers to some of their wonderings and left with many more new wonderings. We are becoming true inquirers!

Our second Inquiry Unit, How the World Works, is a science unit on Forces and Motion. Students will learn about how simple machines work. They will also make observations of an object's motion to provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion. Our IB profile words are; Thinker, Risk-Taker and Balanced. Our key concepts are as follows; form, causation and change.

In writing we completed our narrative unit. In our next unit, we will create an informational report in the form of a newspaper article based on a simple machine of their choice.

In reading, we will begin to read nonfiction texts on various topics. They will learn the text features of a non-fiction book (table of contents, captions, photographs, diagrams, glossary). Please make sure they read at least 30 minutes a night to keep up their reading stamina.

In math, students will begin our unit on multiplication. They will need to learn their times tables, so please have them practice at home so they can become fluent.

Homework packets are given out every Monday and due the following Monday.. It will be graded once a week. Vocabulary/Spelling tests will be given every Friday. Book reports are due once a month. IB 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. We will be going to the Hall of Science to learn about force and interactions.

No School on November 12th, 22nd and 23rd.

Fourth Grade: Ms. Grullon, Mr. Fine & Ms. Gannon

The fourth grade class did a great job on their first IB unit on animal adaptation and survival. Students worked on researching how animals in North America, specifically New York State, adapted to their environment and how they interact and depend on other living things for survival. In the writing unit they used their research to complete an informational article. Many students discovered and shared interesting fun facts about their chosen animal. In November, our IB unit of study is, **How We Express ourselves**. Students will study interactions in nature and its impact on culture. **As global-minded learners they will focus on the attributes of being Open-Minded and Caring**. In this upcoming unit students will write a narrative on connections between nature and culture. Upcoming class trips will focus on nature and man's dependence for cultural identity through nature. The highlight of this unit will be our culminating activity: Native American Museum.

Our current math unit focuses on multiplying strategies with 1 digit. Our next unit focuses on multiplying with 2 and 3-digit numbers. Students will also use their multiplication fluency and apply them in multi-step problem solving. As fourth graders, the expectation is for student to be able to apply their math skills by solving word problems. It will greatly benefit your child for them to practice and strengthen their computation skills (adding, subtracting, multiplying). Daily multiplication study at home is vital in supporting your child's progress. 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. Progress reports will be given out in the next couple of weeks. Please check the homework sheet for updates.

Fifth Grade: Ms. Brown, Mr. Dennis & Ms. Gannon

November finds the 5th grade moving on to our next units of study and we're very excited about what is in store for the students! Please make sure to check the homework sheet for important announcements regarding field trips and other 5th grade news!

Math- We are finishing up Unit 2 which is all about division. Later in the month, we will be starting Unit 3 which focuses on decimals. Students will be learning different methods of solving addition and subtraction of decimals. It is vital that students continue to work on their fluency in multiplication facts in order to meet the rigors of 5th grade. To help students meet the goals of this chapter, they can work with money to help them understand the concepts of decimals.

ELA/Inquiry-We are also finishing up our first unit publishing and studies about biomes. The next unit's focus is on social inequalities and the story of the civil rights movement. Students will read "Heart and Soul", by Kadir Nelson, and other informative books, that tells the story of how people voiced courage when responding to inequalities. By the end of the unit the students should understand that the theme of a text can be determined by analyzing the author's use of details/description, point of view, voice, imagery, and mood/tone.

Writing- We wrapped up our narrative and the students will be moving on to writing an opinion piece where they will have to choose an example of inequality or injustice that inspires them from their own lives or the world around them. They will use these examples to write an opinion essay with facts, details, quotes and evidence from texts to help support their position.

The second unit for inquiry is **How We Express Ourselves: Voices of Courage**. We will be looking closer at the struggle for civil rights in our country. Students will take a stand on one of the following topics and investigate further: civil rights, women's rights, and children's rights. They will write an opinion essay that takes a stand on their beliefs.

The **Learner Profile Attributes** for the unit are: *Principled*- students will learn how being principled applies to the struggle for civil rights, *Communicator*- students will see how effective communication enables people to stand up and be heard, and *Risk Taker*- students will see that throughout the struggle for equality, many people have had to take enormous risks.

The **Attitudes** for this unit are: *Empathy*- understanding how people felt during the struggle for civil rights, *Commitment*- how being committed to a cause helps it succeed, and *Integrity*- always standing up for the rights of others.

Art: Ms. Barksdale

November continues 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 November:

Pre-Kindergarten- The Art of the Five Senses

Kindergarten- The Art of Animals

1st Grade- Community Helpers

2nd Grade- The Art and Architecture of New York City

3rd Grade- The Art of Machines

4th Grade-The Art of Native Americans

5th Grade- The Art and Photography of Courage

Mickey: The True Original Exhibition celebrates 90 years of Mickey Mouse's influence on art and pop culture. Opening in November 2018, this immersive experience is inspired by Mickey's status as a 'true original' and his consistent impact on the arts and creativity in all of its forms. Guests will have the chance to explore the 16,000 square-foot exhibition featuring both historic and contemporary works from renowned artists.

Dates: November 8, 2018-February 10, 2019

Location: 60 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Non-Attendance Day for Students	7	8	9	10
11.	12 **NO School  Veterans Day	13 PTA Meeting @ 5:30pm.	14	15 **Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00pm-3:00pm & 4:30pm-7:30pm	16 Harvest Feast 	17
18	19	20	21	22 **NO School	23 **No School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 **Spirit Day: Twin Day **Celebration of Learning	