

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 7

**Young Diplomats Magnet Academy**  
**An International Baccalaureate World School**  
*Educating Internationally Minded Scholars*  
134 West 122<sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10027  
[www.ps242.com](http://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 (Ms. D)

The month of November is a time to give thanks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for reading with your children, checking homework, communicating with your child's teacher and countless other things you do as a parent to encourage and support the education of your son or daughter. November is certainly a busy month! Be sure to view the upcoming important dates in this newsletter so you don't miss anything!

**This year's Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 16th and the sessions are from 1:00-3:00 and 4:30-7:30.**

It is vitally important for you to attend our conferences so that you can discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher. All faculty and staff members are in the building during conferences for your convenience so that you can feel free to communicate with all of the teachers that instruct your child. Please ask your child's teacher for the Parent Handbook which has all of our school policies.

Lastly, we need all families to update the blue cards. Some students have not submitted a new blue card, which has made it difficult for us to contact the parents in the event of an emergency. Also make sure that you submit the web/photo permission slip so that we can post pictures of your child while participating in our special events on the school website.

## **Pre- Kindergarten- Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkiel**

We started the year by getting to know one another and building friendships. Your child is learning classroom routines and the Pre-K Essential Agreements extensively. In addition, we do 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.

The first few months can be a difficult transition time for many children. 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, we 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 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. Always ask your child what she or he learned in school that day. This is a good review for the students and helps them communicate more effectively.

You will be encouraged to assist your child with completing an “All About Me” book. Please use the blank soft colored books that were sent home along with instructions on what to put in the books. I know that you will have a lot of fun creating this family keepsake.

## **Kindergarten- Ms. Akter & Ms. White**

**Inquiry “Who We Are?”** This unit examines how families change over time. Families have unique qualities. As we learn about others, we are better able to understand ourselves.

**Attitudes-** Integrity and tolerance

**Attributes-** inquirers, open minded and communicators

**Writing-** Students will produce a narrative. They will be sharing a single event and providing a reaction. The writing/ images should be aligned to the students’ thoughts. Kindergarten students should be able to color within the lines and incorporate realistic colors. They should label images (adult support required).

**Math-** During the math block we will work on counting, representing and comparing numbers to 10. We will define addition and subtraction and during the latter part of the month, we’ll explore a variety of addition and subtraction strategies.

**Reading-** Our reading unit will focus on change over time, “Then and Now”. Students will listen to and write about text. Each text will provide an example of how things or people change. Our focus will center on answering text based questions.

**Breakfast ends at 8:10.** If your child is still eating at this time, then they are missing instruction.

Your child's safety is very important to us. If a shoelace gets stuck, or a child stops to tie laces, the result can be a Major Disaster! Please allow them to wear Velcro shoes, until they have mastered tying laces.

**First Grade- Ms. Campbell, Ms. McKayle, Ms. Cody & Ms. Dudley**

**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 for 15 minutes. 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. Please continue using concrete objects to practice addition at home. 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. If you have not yet turned in your classroom supplies, please do so as soon as possible.**

## **Second Grade- Ms. Hossain & Ms. Kain**

The students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade wrapped up the 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 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 20 minutes. We cannot stress more the importance of reading at home daily. 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 during this 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 and students are required to go. Please be on lookout for the permission slips. Second grade will be going to swimming every Wednesday. Please have your child come prepared for swimming with his/her swimming gear (swimming suit, swimming cap, goggles, flip-flops and towel.) Students are expected to wear their swimming suit underneath their school uniforms on Wednesdays, and should bring in a plastic bag to hold their wet swimsuit. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared everyday with pencils and notebooks. Thank you.

## **Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone & Mr. Judkins**

Greetings 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 questions 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 which students presented descriptive stories about a busy place. In our next unit, we will create an informational report in the form of a newspaper article.

In reading, we will begin to read nonfiction texts on various topics. In math, students will begin graphing and then multiplication. They will need to learn their times tables, so please have them practice at home so they can become fluent.

Homework is given on a daily basis. It will be graded once a week. Vocabulary/Spelling tests will be given every Friday. Book reports are due once a month, and 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.

Gym is on Wednesday and Friday. Please wear sneakers.

### **Fourth Grade- Ms. Grullon & Ms. Frohnhoefer**

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, students will study interactions in nature and its impact on culture. 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.

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 students 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 and important updates.

### **Fifth Grade- Mr. Dennis & Ms. Brown**

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 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. To help students meet the goals of this chapter, they can work with money to help them understand the concepts of decimals.

**ELA/Inquiry-**This 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-** Students will be 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 art work during the month of November:

**Pre-Kindergarten- The Art of Me**

**Kindergarten- The Art of Animals**

**1st Grade- The Art of Animals**

**2nd Grade- Rural, Urban, and Suburban Landscapes**

**3rd Grade- The Art of our Solar System**

**4th Grade-The Art of our Urban Safari**

**5th Grade- The Art of Animals**

Please continue to visit [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com) so that you may view your child's Visual Arts portfolio and order their artwork on a mug, t-shirt, magnet, tote bag, phone case, or many other items.

The Kid Cinema Fest is a free event that will be held in New York City from Friday, November 10th-Sunday, November 12th 2017. The Kid Film Festival celebrates the best in children's cinema with the goal to enrich the artistic and cultural experience of New York's diverse cultural audience. The festival will open on Friday, November 10th with the film, "My Life As A Zucchini" by the Dominican Film Festival. This film will be presented at Columbia University Medical Center from 7pm-10pm in the Vagelos Education Center, located at 104 Haven Avenue, New York, NY 10033. On Saturday, November 11th from 3pm-4:30pm, the Dutch adventure, comedy, family film- "Ant Boy," will be shown at 530 West 166th Street. This film is about a 12-year-old boy who is bitten by an ant and develops super powers. On Sunday, November 12th from 5pm-6:30pm, the Mexican animation film, "K9 World Cup," will be shown at the Alianza Dominicana Cultural Center, located at 530 West 166th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10032.

# NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6. <b>Picture Day!</b> 	7. <b>Non-Attendance Day for Students</b>	8.	9. <b>*Breakfast Club</b>	10. <b>Spirit Day: Twin Day!</b>	11.  <b>Veterans Day</b>
12.	13.	14.	15.	16. <b>**Parent Teacher Conference Half Day Dismissal at 11:45am.</b>	17. <b>Harvest Feast &amp; Celebration of Learning</b>	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23. <b>**NO School</b>	24. <b>**No School</b>	25.
26.	27.	28.	29. <b>*Breakfast Club</b>	30.		

**Reminder:**

**November 7, 2017 Election Day (No school for all students)**

**November 9, 2017 IEP Parent Development Workshop**

**November 16, 2017 Parent Teacher Conference from 1:00pm-3:00pm; 4:30pm-7:30pm**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Break**

**November 29<sup>th</sup> DIY Sugar Scrub Workshop.**

