

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 9

Young Diplomats Magnet Academy  
*An International Baccalaureate World School*  
Educating Internationally Minded Scholars.  
134 West 122<sup>nd</sup> St. 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)

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and has had a great start to the New Year! May 2019 brings 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.

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

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

Welcome back. Happy New Year! This month Pre-K students will be learning about transportation. In this unit, children move from inquiring and thinking critically about the places where animals and people live to exploring how people move from place to place, using vehicles and other forms of transportation. Students will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of New York City life across all five boroughs. The full diversity of our city is reflected in this unit through the examination of trains, boats, cars, airplanes, buses, specialty vehicles and more! In Building Blocks math, students will recognize numerals and the quantities they represent, compare small amounts, sort and classify small groups, order numbers and lengths and count objects to 10 and beyond. In reading, students are learning information from non-fiction books. They are learning to sequence stories and identify the main character as well. Students are learning how to write their first names and a few are working on writing their last names. Please continue to practice writing their names at home. 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 3:00pm. 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. On these days your child will need gloves, a hat and a scarf.

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

Happy New Year!

In reading, students are still working on asking questions about the information that's presented in the text.

During read aloud, students will explore story elements. This includes developing an understanding of characters, setting and plot.

Students will continue to work on alphabet recognition, writing upper and lower case letters, visual discrimination, letter sounds, sight words, rhymes, syllables, identifying and spelling of simple sight words as well as sentence writing. When writing simple sentences; students should incorporate letter writing skills, space between words and controlling the use of upper and lower case letters and end punctuation.

Writers will focus on informative or explanatory writing. Students will write a weather forecast where they will use weather words from the books "What Will the Weather Be" and "Weather Words and What They Mean". They will continue to work on adding details, labeling with the initial and final letters of a word and writing simple sentences.

In Mathematics, students will explore addition and subtraction. We will work with numbers 0-5.

During our Inquiry unit, "How the world works: what's the property?" We will make an inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on society and on the environment.

**Learner Profile Attributes: Risk-taker, Balanced, Open minded.**

**Attitudes: Creativity and Curiosity.**

Please check child's book bag each night! Please continue to show children how to take care of their clothing, zippers, buttons and shoelaces. Please review sight words!



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

We wrapped up our second Inquiry unit “How we Organize Ourselves”. The students have learned so much about the roles of community helpers! They learned who lives and works in a community and the similarities and differences of community helpers. We have launched our third inquiry unit “Where We Are in Place and Time”. Your child will develop the IB attributes of reflective, principled, inquirers, and the attitude of respect and tolerance. Students will be inquiring about lifestyles in the past and making connections to the present.

They will focus on the differences between now and then.

In reading, students will continue to explore both fiction and non-fiction texts. They will look closely at characters and begin to identify character traits, as well as continue to identify text features. In writing, they have just published their second piece, opinion writing. After researching the role of a community helper of their choice, students were able to write an opinion letter to an important community helper. Their next writing piece will be a persuasive piece (letter/paragraph). 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. Continue to assist them with sight word recognition on flash cards.

In math we are wrapping up our third chapter which is focused on addition strategies up to 20. 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.

We hope that you had a happy and peaceful holiday and wish you all the best for the New Year.

Thank you so much for all your ongoing support!

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

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

The students wrapped up the 2<sup>nd</sup> IB unit, “How We Organize Ourselves”, and began our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 at home for at least 30 minutes daily. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading.

In writing, students will be writing an informational piece. Students will go through the writing process to create a well-developed informational piece where they will design a park, and explain the qualities and characteristics of their newly designed park and tell how the park will benefit the community.

In math, students will be learning how to solve two-digit addition and subtraction problems. Please practice subtraction facts with your child at home.

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. Therefore, 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. It reinforces the content being studied and students are required to go. Please be on lookout for the permission slips.

We appreciate your cooperation, with making sure your child comes to school prepared everyday with pencils and notebooks.

## Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone

We are excited to kick off 2019!

Our Transdisciplinary Theme is “How we express ourselves”; an inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our appreciation of the aesthetic. Our central idea is that people’s culture, history, geography and government shape the development of families and communities in a country over time. Learner Profile attributes for this unit are; communicator, open-minded, principled. The IB attitudes for this unit are appreciation, cooperation and tolerance.

We will be looking in depth at the country China. We will be taking trips to the Chinese Museum, MET museum and The Museum of Natural History, as well as seeing an off Broadway show Cinderella-The Oldest Story Ever Told (from China). We will have a Chinese Feast to celebrate the end of our unit. Please be on the lookout for the permission slips.

In writing: they will compare and contrast the way of life in China to the USA. We will look at school life, celebrations, customs and traditions, geography, government and food.

In math we are still learning about multiplication and using different strategies to find the product. We will learn how to find the area and perimeter of shapes. We will begin our division unit. Please have your child study their multiplication tables every night.

In reading we will continue to learn the main idea and support it with 2 key details from the text. We will also be working on how to inference, by taking what the text says and using their background knowledge to form an answer. Please look out for our IB unit projects. Homework will be checked every Monday. However it needs to be completed on a daily basis. Please check your child’s folder for important notices each night.

If you have any questions please let us know.

## Fourth Grade- Mr. Fine & Ms. Grullon

For our next IB unit, “How the World Works,” the fourth grade will be focusing on natural disasters and their effects on the environment. Students will select a specific natural disaster (earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, etc) to research and will write an informational essay on their topic. The IB learner profile attributes for this unit are balanced, knowledgeable and thinker. The attitudes are creativity, respect and tolerance. IB projects will focus on sharing with their classmates what they learned about these natural phenomena’s and their impact on the landscape. During this unit we will be working with activities from the NY Urban Park Rangers to learn about how weather effects the natural environment and the adaptations that plants and animals have to adapt to weather changes. Our goal is for students to see how important it is for us to come together to support communities that are devastated by natural disasters.

Our next math unit will focus on understanding factors, multiples and patterns. This unit will focus on applying their multiplication fact power to solve problems that are multi-step. 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 and important updates.

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

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

**In our math, we will be starting Unit 6, which will begin our study of fractions. The 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 fluency!**

**ELA will have us focusing on communication skills. Our writing piece will be an informational essay. Our reading will focus on non-fiction informational articles and books as well as a fictional story titled “George’s Secret Key to the Universe”. Students will learn how to summarize, take notes, and use information gathered from articles to construct written responses.**

**Our inquiry unit is about “How the World Works.” Students will learn about the planets in our solar system.**

### **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**

## **Art: Ms. Barksdale**

**January will be a very creative and exciting month in the Art Studio at the Young Diplomats Magnet Academy. The Visual Arts Program at P.S. 242M is driven and inspired by the 6 Transdisciplinary Units of Study in each grade along with the Common Core Learning Standards.**

**The following is a list of themes that each grade is creating projects based upon during the month of January:**

**Pre-Kindergarten- The Art of Human and Animal Homes**

**Kindergarten- The Art of Weather**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade- The Art of Families Then and Now**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- The Art of Our Community Parks**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- The Art of China**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade-Interpreting Natural Disasters Through Visual Images**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade- The Art of the Universe**

**The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture invites comic book fans of all ages to participate in its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Comic Book Festival. The festival will be held on Friday, January 18 from 12pm-7:30pm and on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-7:30pm. Registration for both days is free and is open to the public. Each year, the Schomburg’s Black Comic Book Festival brings creators, illustrators, writers, and independent publishers together with thousands of collectors for two days of programming and activities. The highly anticipated community event includes interactive panel discussions, a vendor marketplace featuring exclusive titles by Black creators, a cosplay show, and more.**

**Black Comic Book Festival participants are encouraged to wear their favorite cosplay costumes and to register online for the annual cosplay show. Participants are also invited to contribute to the Schomburg Center’s growing collection of Black independent comic books by bringing single copies of old or new titles from their home collection. All donations will become part of the Schomburg’s unique and growing archive documenting Black comics and the Black speculative arts movement.**

**The Schomburg Center is located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard, New York, NY 10037.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 	2 <b>School Resumes</b>	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <b>Picture Day Make-Up! ** In Class Spelling Bee (4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	14	15	16 <b>*Breakfast Club Topic ELA State Exam</b>	17	18 <b>Celebration of Learning!</b>	19
20 <b>**No School</b> 	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Spirit Day: Super Hero Day!</b>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

