

# The Young Diplomats Magnet Academy

*An International Baccalaureate World School*

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 Mrs. Desjardin (Mrs. D)

With the change in the weather, we are seeing some overall changes in the students. Behavior is a little looser, homework is being missed and overall students appear to be ready for a summer vacation. The YDMA community members and I have talked with students reminding them that we are looking for their best behavior in the classrooms, playground, bus, and all areas of their school day. We expect all student to behave in a respectful and safe manner while staying focused on learning more. We are proud of them and their accomplishments and encourage students to finish their school year doing their best!

Huge thank you to those parents/caregivers who completed the School Survey. The responses from this survey are used to establish priorities for the school, such as how we can improve communication to parents/caregivers, enrich the existing curriculum and ensuring that the learning environments are inclusive for all students.

A reminder that the standardized Math test will be administered on Wednesday May 1st and Thursday, May 2nd. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest and has a healthy breakfast on those days.

Looking forward to seeing everyone during our last Parent-Teacher night on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-7:30pm. This is a time to check in with your child's teacher about their progress.

I also want to encourage all of you to begin purchasing tickets for the school carnival, that is being held on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4:00pm. I hope to see you all there!

## First Grade- Ms. Dudley, Ms. Campbell, Ms. McKayle & Ms. Cody Pre-Kindergarten- Ms. Epperson & Ms. Frenkel

Students will be ending the unit of study on Water where we discovered 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 also begin our next unit of study Where We Are In Place and Time Students will continue to study living things by moving from observing and learning about different kinds of plants to the needs and characteristics of animal babies. This includes the opportunity to study about human babies. They will learn about needs of human babies. Included in this learning will be how animal and human babies change and grow.

In Building Blocks Math students are learning to identify and compare amounts using words like bigger and longer. They will measure by placing units of length end to end. Students will also count to 10 and beyond and identify numbers just before or after a given number. In reading, we will continue to learn information from non-fiction books. Many of them have learned how to write their first names and are now working on writing their last names. We will be taking walking trips searching for water, plants, trees, animals and looking closely at how they transform over time.

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 daily as long as the weather permits.

NO SCHOOL-Memorial Day May 27, 2018- School resumes on Tuesday May 28, 2019

## Kindergarten- Ms. Epperson, Ms. Akter, Ms. White, Mr. Fernandez & Ms. Cody

We are continuously working on routines, communication and social skills throughout each day. During Mathematics, students will represent, count and write 20 and beyond. They will 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. Compare the number of objects, by using the terms greater than and less than. Reading- Students will continue to ask and answer questions regarding non-fiction texts. In addition, they must understand how illustrations help them connect to the information in the text. In non-fiction texts, they must identify main topic and the details that support the main topic. Students must understand how events, ideas, and information connect to one another.

Phonics- Students will explore digraphs and blends in phonics. They will continue to work on recognizing and writing CVC and high frequency words. Students will continue to work on writing upper and lower case letters, visual discrimination, letter sounds, sight words, rhymes and syllables.

Writing- Our writing unit provides students with the necessary format to create an opinion piece of work. Writers will focus on creating a travel brochure. They will provide reasons to support their views or ideas about specific places. Students will continue working on adding details to illustrations,, labeling with the initial letter and final letters and writing sentences.

During our Inquiry Unit, Where We Are In Place and Time, an inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives. Our Central Idea is Families are unique. Students are learning how to research various topics on families and take notes on families. Learner Profile Attributes: Caring, Reflective, Communicator. Attitudes: Appreciation, Respect and Enthusiasm.



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## **Second Grade- Ms. Lamba, Ms. Hossain, & Ms. McDavid**

The students in 2nd grade just completed an exciting unit on NYC then and now with a focus on the Harlem Renaissance. We are launching our last unit, *Sharing the Planet: What's Growing On?* Students will investigate how plants depend on their environment by conducting an experiment where they compare plants in two different environments. During the experiments students will: write a hypothesis, record their observations over time, make conclusions and describe the cause and effect of their findings. They will also showcase how humans can affect the environment and survival/flourishing of plants. They will be exploring this unit using the IB learner profile attributes of Inquirer, Caring, Knowledgeable. They will also be demonstrating the positive attitudes of Commitment, Independence, Appreciation about their studies. They will be assessed on the skills of self-management, thinking, social, and communication.

We will be reading persuasive texts for our reading unit, while our writing unit will focus on writing an opinion piece in which they decide whether or not the book is one that will inspire other children in their community to make changes to help the environment or to help other people. They will supply reasons to support their opinion. Students must be able to retell what's going on in the text, make connections 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 will learn about data. They will learn to collect, organize and use data. We will end the year with a unit on geometry and fractions. Students will describe and analyze shapes. They will divide shapes into equal parts. This unit will help build a foundation for fractions. Please continue to practice telling time as well as counting money with your children.

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 some tissues

### **Third Grade- Ms. Cutrone & Ms. Faucett**

**Happy May 3rd Grade Families! As the end of the year approaches please remember we still have a lot of work to cover.**

**Our IB scholars will exhibit the following learner profiles; thinkers, balanced and caring. The attitudes they will follow are appreciation and commitment.**

**Reading & Science: After an inquiry on how animals and plants have a purpose in their environment, students will then use the information they have gathered to create a science fair exhibit of their findings as a group.**

**Writing: They will write a persuasive essay about how their plant/animal can adapt and survive in a particular habitat. We will also look at how people and the environment help contribute to their survival, endangerment or extinction.**

**Math: Students will continue to learn how to tell and write time to the minute. They will learn how to measure the volume and mass of objects.**

**Please check your child's folder each night for important messages. Have your child read for 30 minutes each night over the summer. Have the study their multiplication tables from 0 to 12.**

### **Fourth Grade- Mr. Fine**

**In May, we will begin our sixth IB unit. We are focusing on the theme, 'Who We Are'. It focuses on how conflict influences the social, political and economical systems of a society. Our inquiry will focus on the Colonial Revolutionary Period of the United States and the impact on the development of the original colonies. Students will research, and investigate different sources of the Revolutionary War and how various colonial communities responded to these issues.**

**In connection to our writing unit, students will create a historical narrative that places them in that time period. Using facts found from their research they will write a realistic fiction based story and describe the impact the Revolutionary issues have on their family and community.**

**In math, we will continue learning about geometry concepts. During May, there will be a greater emphasis on measurement concepts, both standard and metric. As before, math vocabulary is a major area in this unit, so daily vocabulary study at home will be very important. THE STATE MATH TEST WILL BE MAY 1ST AND 2ND. 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>**

**Students will continue to work on science concepts with a greater emphasis on hands-on activities. In May students will also take the science performance test. This test is designed as a series of experiments in which students will**

## Fifth Grade- Mr. Dennis, Ms. Brown, & Ms. Franciulli

The month of May brings us to our last state test which is math. The 5th grade will then turn its sights on the Exhibition, which is the culminating project where the students will use all the IB attributes and skills that they have learned in order present their projects in June. Please be on the look out for announcements concerning graduation, Senior Trip, the Exhibition, and Awards Night. We look forward to seeing what the students will create!

ELA: In ELA we are finishing up our exploration of the Learner Profile Attributes for the Exhibition. Students will draw upon all strategies they have learned over the year and apply those toward their projects. The students will form groups and choose an issue affecting their lives. In groups, students will be researching, taking notes, and preparing to present their project at the Exhibition in June. We are excited to see how they will take them and how they will present their findings.

MATH: When testing is complete, the 5th grade will start on 6th grade math.

INQUIRY: 5th grade is finishing up our final unit, "How We Organize Ourselves: Exploring a Theme."

We Organize Ourselves: Exploring a Theme

Final Unit Title: How We Organize Ourselves: Exploring a Theme

The Learner Profile Attributes (communicator, inquirers, reflective, knowledgeable, caring, principled, thinker, open-minded, balanced) during the exhibition. For the Exhibition, students will investigate and develop a plan to help solve an issue that impacts themselves and others.

The Attitudes for the final unit are: ALL- students will use all the attitudes (respect, integrity, commitment, empathy, cooperation, appreciation, creativity, curiosity, enthusiasm, tolerance, confidence, independence) during their work on the Exhibition

## Art- Ms. Barksdale

May 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 in during the month of May.

Pre-Kindergarten-Botanical Drawings, Paintings, and Collages

Kindergarten- The Art of Family and Community

1st Grade- The Art and Architecture of Homes Around the World

2nd Grade- Landscape Drawings and Paintings of Plants in Different Habitats

3rd Grade- Botanical Art and Animal Portraits

4th Grade- Drawings and Paintings of Bridges and Architecture of New York City

5th Grade-Still Life Drawings, Paintings, and Package Design from the Food Pyramid

Please Mark Your Calendars!!!! Our 5th Annual Art Gala will be held on Wednesday, June 12th from 2:30pm-6pm. Please join us as we celebrate the creative spirit of all of our young diplomats!! This year's Art Gala will be held at the gallery, Raw Space, which is located at 2031 Adam Clayton Powell Jr, Blvd. New York, NY.

The Brooklyn Museum will be exploring the life and work of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo in the exhibit, "Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving." Visitors will be able to take a glance at paintings, drawings, photographs and other items, including clothing and cosmetics. This will be the first time that Kahlo's personal objects from the Blue House in Mexico City will be on display. The exhibit will run from April 24, 2019 - May 12, 2019.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>Mother's Day Appreciation Breakfast @8:30am</b>	9	10	11
12 <b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</b>	13	14	15 <b>Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30pm-7:30pm</b>	16	17 <b>Celebration of Learning @8:30pm</b>	18 <b>School Carnival 12-4pm</b> 
19	20	21	22	23	24 <b>**Spirit Day: 80's Day</b>	25
26	27	28	29 <b>Annual Arts Fair!</b>	30	31	