



## 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 our Principal, Mrs. Denise Desjardin (Mrs. D)

As usual, the last month has flown by and we are finding ourselves at the beginning of another fun month! Please refer to our calendar and check your child's backpack on a regular basis for invitations to our special events. During February, we have a few celebrations. We will explore special events such as Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, and the Italian Carnivale with a variety of fun activities that will teach us all about the history and customs of these special days. This year, the 100th day of school lands on February 14th and we are excited about having our Kindergartners participate in a parade. Make sure to look out for 100th day of activities/homework which will help build on their math skills. Research shows that there is a correlation between parent engagement and student achievement. As a result, we have been working hard on planning events for parents and families. We're hoping to see more parents attend our bimonthly parent workshops and family events such as the Celebration of Learning. This is when our students present their projects to their peers and visitors. It's preparing them for college where they are expected to research a topic and present their findings with peers. Our students are always eager to share their accomplishments and ideas, so please join us for the fun! Our school has partnered with the Italian National Olympic Committee and our students will be participating in the Italy Run on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The monthly calendar has all our event dates. Mid-winter recess will be from February 16 - February 21. Classes will resume on Monday, February 24th. Please review the winter break packets for your children and make sure that they are completed. Have a safe and enjoyable break.

## Pre-K: Ms. Epperson and Ms. Purnell

Pre-K students will be learning about, “Where We Live”. In this unit of study, students move from inquiring and thinking critically about themselves, their family and their classmates, to the spaces that those people inhabit. In this unit, students will develop a concept and awareness of the diversity of living environments and explore how New Yorkers live in a variety of different homes and buildings. 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. In reading, students are learning information from non-fiction books, and are learning to sequence stories. Many of them are learning how to write their first names and a few are working on writing their last names. 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. 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 if the weather permits. On these days, your child will need gloves, a hat, and a scarf.

**\*\*\*NO SCHOOL from February 17-21. (Winter Recess). School will resume on Monday February 24, 2020.**

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

In Inquiry, we started our unit titled, “Who We Are.” Students are looking into the nature of self and what it means to be human. The Central Idea is about sense of self and experiences that are unique to a person. Our lines of inquiry are likes and dislikes, personal, social and emotional characteristics and similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Our attributes are personal likes and dislikes, social and emotional characteristics and similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Our attitudes are appreciation, empathy, tolerance, balanced, risk-taker, and knowledgeable. 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, students are listening to read aloud books about “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. In their writing, they will include details drawing, labeling, writing phrases and sentences.

In Math, students learned 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 develop fluency in subtraction.

### Reminders

**Homework and Inquiry Projects:** 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.

**Celebration of Learning:** 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.

**Field Trip:** 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 when payment is due. Upcoming trips: Circle Square Theater.

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

We have just launched our fourth Inquiry Unit, "From Seed to Plant" (Transdisciplinary Theme: How the World Works). The Attributes for the unit are for the children to be Inquirers, Knowledgeable, and Communicators. The Attitudes we want to develop are Curiosity and Cooperation. In this unit our students are learning that plants depend on nature and nurture to live. After learning how plants grow from seeds into a plants, students will write an informational how-to book that will logically sequence events to the level at which someone else can follow directions. We will plant lima bean seeds in the classroom. Students will make predictions about how many days it will take the plant to grow. We will track the plant's growth in our plant journals.

In Reading, students are reading both fiction and nonfiction books. In non-fiction texts the focus of their reading is to understand the connection between multiple pieces of information in a text. In fiction texts the focus will be on their understanding of who is telling a story and how that shapes a story. Your child must read a book at home daily for 20 minutes. Also, please monitor the homework sheet carefully, as your child is given a daily reading response.

In Foundations, our children are learning about long vowels. The "e" makes the vowel say its name. Students are expected to take a spelling test on Fridays. 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 Mathematics, students will learn to collect, represent and interpret data. They will start by using tally marks to represent and record data. Then they will use tally marks to make picture graphs. They will retrieve data from a tally chart or picture graph and then compare them to solve word problems.

Thank you for assisting your child with their interview and sharing your family artifacts. They learned a lot from each other. If you have questions or concerns please schedule an appointment to speak with us during our "Parent Engagement Time", which is every Tuesday from 2:30 PM- 3:10 PM.

## Second Grade- Ms. Cutrone & Ms. Kain

Warmest greetings to our families! The students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade just wrapped up an exciting science unit on matter and started a new unit, How the World Works. This is another science unit in which the students will learn about how events change the shape of the earth, students will use their learning to create a diorama or replica to showcase how the event of their choice (natural disaster, water, wind, etc.) changes over time, whether quickly or slowing.

Students will explore this unit using the IB learner profile attributes of **caring, communicator and reflective**. They will also practice demonstrating the positive attitudes of **confidence, creativity, and curiosity**. The skills used are self-management, thinking, social, research and communication.

In reading, students will continue to read fiction and nonfiction. In class we will be reading, The Earth Dragon Awakes, The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. This story is historical fiction and provides the students with facts about earthquakes as well as teaching them to realize points of views of characters and how characters respond to difficulties. Students also read a nonfiction book Planet Earth, where they will learn about the different natural disasters that change the shape of the earth. 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 writing, the students are working on writing an informational piece about a natural event that causes planet change. Students will use facts and definitions to develop points, use adjectives and adverbs to describe the natural event. Please take your child to the library to do additional research on their chosen topic on natural disasters.

In math, students are continuing to practice addition and subtraction within word problems. The word problems will be both one step and two step word problems, where students will have to identify the clue words. They are really being exposed to some challenging work. Try to offer real world problems for them to solve. Please continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts with your child.

Homework must be completed as outlined on the homework sheet, handed in on time, neatly organized and written in the requested place or format. 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. It's the cold season so we **really** need some tissues, hand sanitizers and baby wipes.

Please stay tuned for new trip dates.

### Third Grade- Ms. Hossain & Ms. McKayle

We launched a new unit titled "Who We Are". This unit is about the continent of Africa. In this unit, students are learning about African culture, customs and traditions. They are building the understanding that countries around the world are interconnected through their traditional cultures. The **IB learner profile attributes** students need to demonstrate for this unit are: caring, communicators, and principled. The **IB attitudes** students need to demonstrate for this unit are: empathy; integrity; tolerance. **The key concepts** that are needed to understand this unit are: connection, perspective and responsibility. In reading, students will continue to work on their goals. As a whole class, we will be focusing on identifying the main idea and the central message with supporting details from the text. Students need to get in the practice of showing text evidence to support their responses. Additionally, we will start reading folktales and fairy tales. Our writing will also follow the same genre. Students will be creating their own folktale or fable. Students will learn to incorporate a lesson into a story to teach their readers. Please ensure your child reads every night for at least 30 minutes. After they read, practice discussing the book they have read with questions such as: Who is the main character? Where and when did the story take place? What was the problem and how was it solved? How did the character change throughout the story? What lesson did the author want you to learn? In math, students have learned various strategies to solve multiplication and division problems. Students are also practicing solving real-world problems involving equal groups. We have started to learn to use unit squares and multiplication to find the area of a shape, area of a figure, area of irregular shapes. 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. IB home projects are a critical part of your child's IB report card. Please be on the lookout for our new projects. 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. Please be on the lookout for their holiday packet. Vocabulary tests will be given once a month. Please check your child's folder for important notices.

#### Reminders:

The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school is on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Your child may choose to dress as a 100 year old person or create something that is related to 100.

We have started 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.

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

For our fourth IB unit, "How the World Works", the fourth grade will be focusing on natural disasters and how they can have positive and negative outcomes. Students will also learn how natural disasters affect the physical, political and economic structures of society. Students will select a specific natural disaster (earthquake, hurricane, tsunami, etc.) to research and will write a realistic narrative essay about characters surviving the natural disaster they chose. 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 engage in activities to learn about how weather effects the natural environment and the adaptations that plants and animals have as 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. Currently, we are in unit 5 of math where students use strategies and properties to divide by 1-digit numbers. Our upcoming math unit 6 will focus on students using operations with whole numbers to solve multi-step word problems. 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, dividing). 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, projects and parent information.

## Fifth Grade- Mr. Dennis & Ms. Villa

**ELA:** In writing, students have published their information essay about global warming and have begun their writing of a memoir. In reading groups, we will continue to work in small groups on our guided reading, group discussions, and i-Ready to strengthen skills for the upcoming state test.

**Math:** In chapters 7 and 8, students will be investigating addition, subtraction and multiplication of fractions. **Please continue to work at home on multiplication facts and fluency**, as those skills are critical to helping students gain mastery of adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. Please remind students when working on homework, to reduce fractions to simplest form. Hands-on activities will be using manipulatives such as fraction bars and fraction circles to help students make connections to the content.

**Inquiry:** Students are finishing up their study on Global Warming and we are getting ready to begin our next unit which is all about the Age of Exploration

**Current Unit: 4**

**Transdisciplinary Theme:** Where We Are in Time and Place

**Unit Title:** Exploring the New World

**Subject Focus:** Social Studies (Memoir)

**IB Attitudes:** Confidence, Integrity, Respect

**IB Attributes:** Communicators, Open-minded, Knowledgeable

**Skills:** Research, Thinking, and Self-Management

## Physical Education- Ms. Alcantara

Very exciting things are coming to P.S. 242! We have teamed up with INITALIANO AND CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) to start a track club for 4th and 5th grade. Our goal is to prepare our students to run in the Italy Run May 31st, 2020.

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 Physical Education for the month of February:

Pre-K- Expressing attributes and Attitudes through Manipulative

Kinder- Making Principled Decisions in Fitness

1st- Being inquirer when learning about health and fitness.

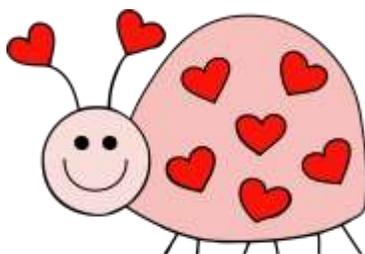
2nd- Being a Risk-Taker with Striking with Body and Implements

3rd- Reflecting While Making Healthy Choices

4th- Being open minded while striking with Implements

5th- Being open minded while striking with Implements

**Here are some sites to help us stay healthy and active at home:** [Choosemyplate.gov](http://Choosemyplate.gov), [kidshealth.org](http://kidshealth.org), [gonoodle.com](http://gonoodle.com), [sworkitkids](#) app for androids and iPhones



## Art- Ms. Barksdale

In February, students will continue to develop knowledge and skills that will encourage a deeper understanding of art history, production, and techniques. Students will build skills gradually, which will help to build their confidence as artists and critical thinkers, while expanding their knowledge base about art and the world. Students will learn how to use lines, shapes, and color to convey meaning.

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 February:

**Pre-Kindergarten-** The Art of My World

**Kindergarten-** The Art of Culture and Families

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade-** The Art of Plants

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade-** The Art of Weather and Landscapes

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

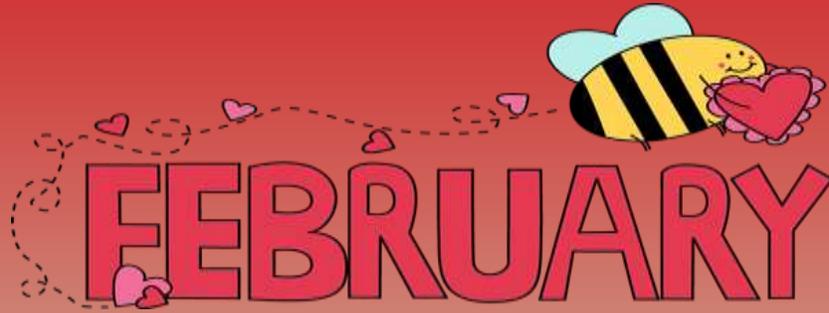
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade-** The Art of Weather and Landscapes

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

The Museum of Modern Art's popular "A Closer Look for Kids" series takes a closer look at modern portrait masterpieces and cutting-edge contemporary art, while spurring kids to engage in lively discussions and fun activities.

Five tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 10am on the day of the program at the information desk in the Education and Research building, located at 4 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street. They recommend arriving a little before 10am because programs often fill up. All participants must be present. This program is for individual families up to two adults and up to three kids.





# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Mental Health 101 Workshop @ 8:30am with Shackola Symons		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		PTA Meeting 8:30am & 5:30pm		Breakfast Club Topic: Math State Exam (Grades 2-5)	Celebration of Learning  Valentine Day Grams!	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Mid-Winter Recess Begins	Mid-Winter Recess (No school)	Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	School Resumes					District Wide Spelling Bee 

