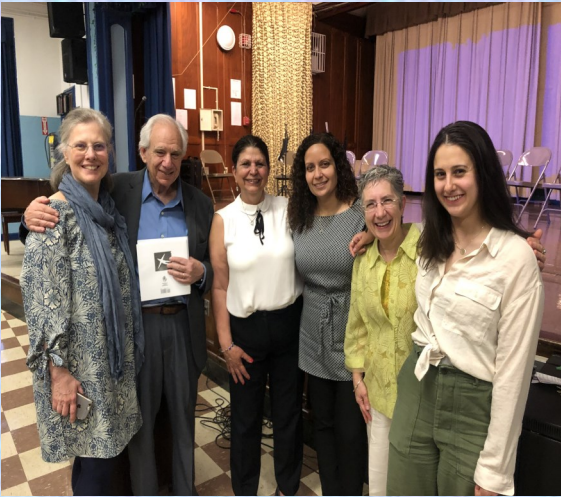


P.S. 99's First Annual Arts Festival

**P.S.99 The Kew
Gardens School**

82-37 Kew Gardens Road
Kew Gardens, NY, 11415
Phone: 718-544-4343 Main Building
Phone: 718-846-4972 Annex
Fax: 718-544-5992
Website: www.PS99.org

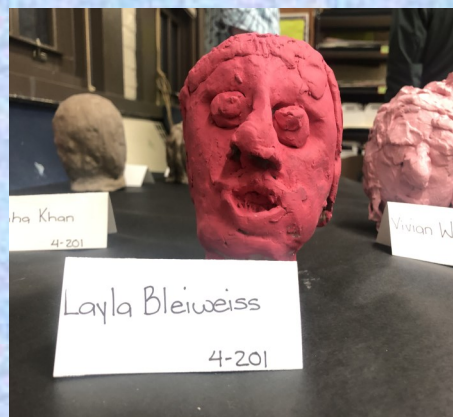


Spring 2019

Volume 14, Issue 2



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A Message from the Principal



The 2018/2019 school year came to a close with many exciting events.

On Thursday, May 30th the school hosted its first Arts Festival. It was an evening that left all that attended in awe. Parents, guests, staff and students attended an “Art Walk” through both the main and annex buildings. It was the first time that both buildings were open for an evening event at the same time. Displayed throughout was student art pieces from the many programs that we have. Painted on the walls were “Tendrils of Whispering” murals that our students designed together with artist, Karen Fitzgerald, as part of the

Garden of Whispering Project. Also, along with Ms. Fitzgerald, as part of the project our Peace Committee developed copper sculptures of “whispering” that are being displayed beneath the canopy at the entrance to the Annex. She also assisted grade 6 students who designed and painted two large murals, which are displayed in the main building entrance, as well as on the second floor in the annex. Richard Lewis, the Founder of Touchstone Center for Children was honored during the introductory ceremony that evening.

The guests also enjoyed seeing the student artwork from Studio in a School, CASA, our TAG students and the P.A. After School program. Our band, under the direction of band instructor, Mr. Thorpe, performed and had the entire audience participating. A special thank you to Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Thorpe, Ms. Calabro, Ms. Fallon, Ms. McGrail, Mr. Maire, Mr. Kotke, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Casey and Ms. Collins.

As you know, our school priority focus this year was to enable all students to participate in classroom discussions. You learned ENL protocols to assist you. I want to congratulate you on achieving the school’s priority focus. We hosted a visit of Chilean educators on April 30th. You demonstrated, in every classroom that we visited throughout the school, that students are able to engage in meaningful conversations unassisted by your teachers. Our guests praised what they noticed in each classroom. Thank you for making that day a very special day at our school.

I would like to give you an update on some of the new activities this year:

- Our Debate Team, which consists of grade 6 enrichment students debated our grade 5 TAG students. Who do you think ended up with the most points? If you said grade 5 then you are correct. The final score was 67-62. Special thanks to Mrs. Pardo and Mrs. Doyle and our students for preparing for the debate.
- Lunch Club for grades 3-5 was a success and I am happy to inform you that we will be offering more time for our lunch clubs, which will hopefully enable you to attend more frequently.
- Peer Mediation was also a huge success. More than 50 students became mediators and conducted more than 60 mediations.
- Our basketball team, The Stingrays, were undefeated this year and as a result they made it to the District 28 Championship Game. It was an exciting game and it went down to the last second. The final score was 20-19. Congratulations Stingrays! Special thanks to Head Coach, Mr. Jenkins, and Assistant Coaches, Mr. Herbst and Ms. Somers.

Last, you did it again! You far exceeded the 45,000 Book Challenge. The total for the 2018/2019 school year was 67,180. Wow! I am so proud of all of our students. You have read far more books than expected.

I hope you enjoy the summer vacation. Remember to read, read, read!

Until the next edition of the “99 Buzz.”

Paulette Foglio

From the Desks of Mr. Sforza & Mrs. Trujillo



I can't believe another year is coming to an end!

This has been a great year at PS 99 and you all have worked hard to make it a successful one. Ms. Trujillo and I wanted to wish all of you a happy and healthy summer! Remember to have fun and be active!!

We also wanted to take this time to congratulate our 6th Graders. As you leave to seek new endeavors, remember that this is only the beginning of a very long journey. Now that you're graduating from P.S. 99, you have proven to yourself, your parents and your community that you are ready to handle the challenges of middle school. Work hard and study so you can prosper into mature adults, but remember to have fun and take each new endeavor one step at a time.

Enjoy the summer with your family and friends and we'll see you in September.

Nick Sforza and Aida Trujillo

Assistant Principals of PS 99

The Garden of Whispering at 99

During this school year, the whole school community of ps99 has been working on a project which celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Touchstone Center for Children. The center is run by Richard Lewis, who has collaborated with PS 99 for the past 8 years. They focus on exploring and promoting the life of the imagination.

Our project began with Ms. Karen visiting each classroom twice, exploring Mr. Lewis's poem, "Each Sky Has its Words". Students created their own book of "whispers" based on their response to the poem and reflections of the whispers they hear from the natural world.

Enrichment and T.A.G. students in grades 3-6 borrowed the whisper booklets from each classroom. They designed a mural based on the classroom ideas and painted them outside of their assigned classrooms. The Peace Committee worked with Ms. Karen to produce a whisper sculpture, which is installed in the gable at the entrance to the Annex.

The Garden of Whispering project was celebrated and shared with the whole community on May 30th at the Arts Festival.



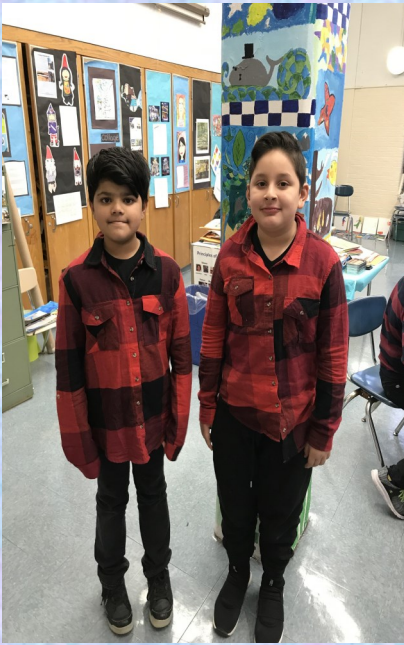
SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



99 Stingrays played a great game in the basketball championship, having the lead until the final moments.



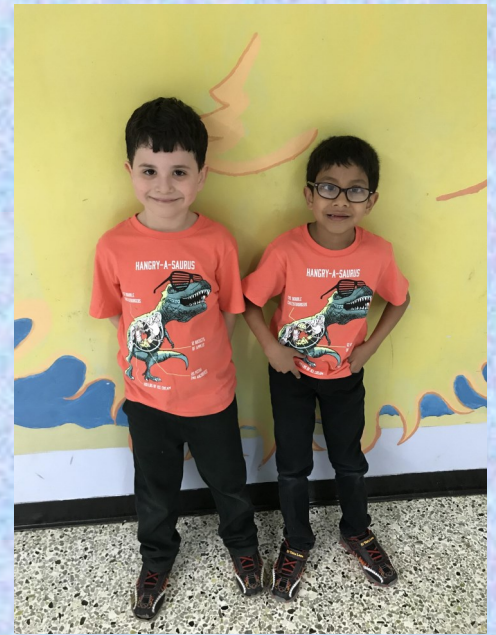
We will see you back on the courts next year!



Twinning!!!!

Another great school event this year was Twin Day! Twin Day gave people a good laugh because it was a day where students dressed alike, which was really fun.

-Kayla Yusupov



The Cuban Art Exchange

After visiting Havana Cuba last year, I decided to teach my 5th graders all about an artist I met (Jose Fuster) and his neighborhood beatification project. We looked at examples of his work and created our own Picasso-like portraits. I personally brought one of their paintings back to Jose Fuster to show him how inspirational he is. To thank us, he gave us a beautiful tile painted by him to display at our school.



Ms. Fallon





Kindergarten News

By: Leila Moussavian

In Kindergarten students are reading words and short stories. The main goal is to be able to read harder books by the end of the year. Learning site words, writing in response to literature and personal narratives were also fun to do!

Kindergarten just finished the unit on addition and subtraction, can count to 100, learned to write number sentences and play math games to increase knowledge.

A fun project we are working on is planting seeds and learning all about how we can better the planet by recycling.

Kindergarten is super excited about having a pet show being brought to the school. Students will be able to pet the animals and learn a lot of fun facts about them.

It's been an amazing year for the students and teachers. The teachers are so proud of the students and all they learned. Students are well prepared for first grade. They can read, write and add numbers.



First Grade News

By: Ellis Retzer

We are reading a lot of nonfiction books, learning how to gather, record, and write data, and working on informational writing books. It's a book about frogs.

The end of the year math test was really hard but we succeeded. Now we are getting ready for the next year.

We also just worked on a 3D tool kit and learned how to make 3D shapes.

Our most exciting field trip this year was when Alley Ponds Environmental center came to teach us about animals. They even had some animals to share with us!

We are very proud of ourselves for all that we have learned and the hard work we put in this year.

Second Grade News

By: Max Ahmed

Second graders are super excited to have our Moving Up ceremony and move on to the main building. We will definitely miss our amazing teachers though. We have been practicing our poems and singing the songs in preparation for the big day. In writing, we just finished our small moments on personal narratives

It's been a ton of fun learning about all different Greek Gods. Another thing we are looking forward to is our field trip, "Bakers and Shakers" where we will be learning how to make cake pops. yum! We are wrapping this very successful year off with a hit! See you next year...but in the main building.

Third Grade News

By: Kayla Yusupov

We learned a lot of things in math this year. Geometry, division, multiplication, fractions, and how to measure in inches, grams, feet etc.. We worked on writing extended responses in English Language Arts.

In science we learned more about measuring. We used gallons, pounds, grams, and even learned how to make our own birds.

In writing we learned how to publish, write a bibliography and glossary. Along with all the fun we had in the classroom, we also took a trip outside the classroom. Do you know where we went? To the Bronx Zoo, and it was so much fun. We saw zebra, deer, a rhino, red panda, parrots, wolves and even an ostrich.

We had so much fun learning in third grade that I am so excited to go to fourth grade to see what's in



Fourth Grade News

By: Farah 4-203

This year in fourth grade, we have been preparing for our state exam. We have been working on our reading and math. We have been learning text structures and how to understand details better in reading. In math we have been working on measurements and fractions. We have also been preparing for our science state exam. In science we have been learning about weather and food chains. In gym, we have been doing sports such as rugby and hockey. In art, we have been making still life pictures. So far, we have made still-life sunflower and art supply pictures. We have been working very hard this year and we will still keep trying.

Fifth Grade News

By: Alessandra Musi 5-308

Welcome to the fifth grade! If you thought that the previous grades were hard, thing again. From the beginning of the school year, the fifth grade has been working very hard every day preparing for the NYS state exams in English Language Arts, and Math. The fifth grade gets harder and harder every day! Make sure you are prepared for 5th grade.

These annual tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the NYS learning standards that guide classroom instruction. They also help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed to succeed in college and careers. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with learning standards.

Right now, the fifth grade is learning geometry in math. You might think geometry is easy, and that it's only about counting sides of shapes, but you're wrong. In geometry, we're learning about triangles quadrilaterals, volume of shapes and cubes.

In ELA the fifth grade is learning to develop a point of view using supporting evidence. Each fifth grade class does different lessons on ELA, such as context clues or learning language for meaning.

In conclusion, although fifth grade can be hard and stressful at times, it can also be very rewarding. At this time all the students can confidently say they learned a lot over the year and not only do they feel better prepared for sixth grade, but they know they are much better prepared!



Sixth Grade News

By: Leona Sahajalal

This year the 6th grade did so many fun and exciting things! For example, we traveled to Citi field to watch the New York Mets complete against the Washington nationals in a game of baseball. This was an eye opening experience I will never forget.



We also learned a lot in the classroom this year., including algebra and geometry. We also learned about 3 centers of measure Mean, Median and Mode!

In ELA we read the novel Percy Jackson , *The Lightning Thief* . After finishing the novel we wrote a response to literature which was exciting.

The sixth grade this year also had our traditional end of the year picnic. There we had snacks and pizzas. We played board games and painted on canvas. I had so much fun this year, it was surely something the sixth graders deserved and will never forget.

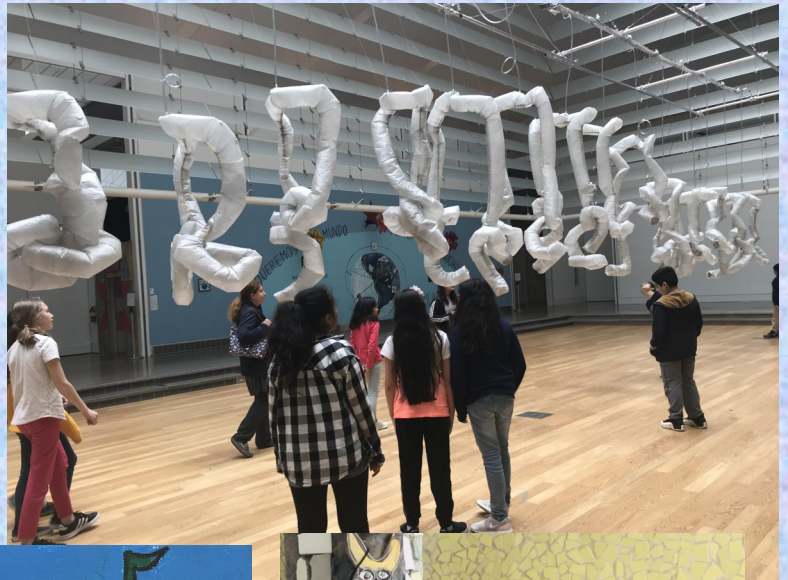
We are sad and excited that we are graduating soon. We had so much fun learning and making friends at P.S. 99, but are heading off to new adventures!

Art News

What a great year we had in the Art room again this year! We drew, painted, sculpted and created. We also had the great opportunity to take a few trips out and about. Along with our trip to hunt down gargoyles in Manhattan, we also visited the MOMA and the Queens Museum of Art. Looking forward to more trips next year! If you haven't seen the pillar we painted in the art room this year, stop by and take a look. It's just about finished and looks great. Special thanks to class 5-307... each student helped to create, draw and paint on the pillar.

Happy drawing and happy travels this summer!

Ms. Fallon



YOUR BUZZ STAFF

CHRISTINE FALLON, JONATHAN HALPERN, JASON KOTKE,