

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

“The Only Thing That is Constant is Change” - Heraclitus

Here are some of the changes that PS99 has made this year.....

A NEW NAME FOR A WINNING TEAM!

How many of you noticed that our basketball team (formally the PS99ers) officially changed their name this year? We are now the PS99 Stingrays! Along with our new name, we have a new team logo. Now all we need is a mascot!



Spring 2015

Volume 8, Issue 2

CHEERLEADERS GET UNIFORMS!



Our Stingray cheerleaders got their first official uniforms this year. The colors represent PS99 (blue & gold) and the cheerleaders give inspiration and moral support to our winning basketball team.

CREATING OUR OWN THEATRE MASKS.

For this years play, The Lion King, we have helped to create our very own masks to be used on stage. The entire staff got together to create lion masks and had so much fun in the process.



PS ART SEMI FINALISTS

Two of Ms. Fallon's fabulous artists were semi-finalists this year in the NYC art contest know as "PSArt". Jayden Rodriguez & Emanuel Kratz are the lucky and talented artists who made it that far.

Congratulations!



Letter from the Principal	2
Letter from the Assistant Principals, Parent Coordinator, Writing Club	3
Poetry Corner	4
Rain Forest, Student Council, Hop-A-Thon	5
K-3 Grade News	6
4-6 Grade News,	7
99 Buzz Logo Contest, Art News	8

AN OLD YARD BECOMES NEW

Our school yard is finally finished and ready to be painted over the summer. I bet we can't wait to see how it looks when we return to school in the Fall!

A Message from the Principal



I would like to begin this article of the P.S. 99 Buzz by congratulating our grade 6 students who performed in this year's annual production the *"Lion King."* The students were outstanding. It was amazing to see how the P.S. 99 community of parents, staff and students collaborated to create a magnificent show. Staff and parents created the masks for the characters and parents worked endlessly designing the costumes. This was an arduous task because every costume had to be handmade. A special thanks to all that were involved and Ms. D'Andrea our Musical Director.

I particularly valued the lesson learned from the *Lion King*. It was centered around the theme "The Circle of Life." We learned that we become people who take on the traits of those most important in our lives. Those people might be your parents, or teachers at the school. At the school we hope that you will take on the qualities of being a peacekeeper and someone who values learning. Hopefully you will instill those qualities in others and The Circle of Life will continue.

This year's Peace Committee was busy designing the bulletin board in our main building entrance lobby. It contains a Peace Tree with leaves of good wishes from parents to their children and staff to students. During Cultural Share Week each student in the main building created heritage flags with a Peace message. It coincided with our school's celebration of diversity while promoting Peace. As a culminating

project the Peacekeepers created two murals. They incorporated the logo, Two Buildings, One Heart. The message showed ways to promote peace within P.S. 99 and our community. Grade 5 used a photo montage with postcards selling a product of peace. You can view these murals in the entrance of either building. The Peace Committee also conducted a survey which the outcome will be shared at the beginning of the next school year. Hopefully we will see that our school has grown in a positive way. A special thank you to Mr. Condon and Mr. Telese for coordinating the special activities for the Peace Committee and Ms. Fitzgerald for her contributions, as well.

Our Student Council, as always, continues to be instrumental to our school. They were busy creating a time capsule to capture P.S. 99 in the year 2015. Students collected a variety of artifacts including pictures and interviews, as well as writing about their favorite places in school. Their hope was that future P.S. 99'ers love their school as much as they do. Student Council also participated in Penny Harvest and collected enough money to donate \$300 to a local animal rescue agency called Cats Purrfect Rescue. They also continued their partnership with Heifer International by donating seedlings, farming tools and livestock to families in third world countries. Mrs. Iadevaia and Mrs. Goldberg have been instrumental in organizing our Student Council special events and projects.

Congratulations to our Basketball team the Stingrays for being one of the final four teams in the District 28 league. Thank you to Dominic Jenkins, Head Coach of the Stingrays.

I want to thank all of our students for their patience as our schoolyard was under construction this school year. We had hoped that the project would have been completed earlier in the school year but unfortunately it wasn't until June. I congratulate you for being well behaved throughout the year and I do hope you will enjoy the new yard. While you are away during the summer, the yard will be painted with many new courts for you to enjoy when you return in September, such as handball, stickball and soccer.

Have a healthy, happy and safe summer.

Until the next edition of the "99 Buzz."

Paulette Foglio
Principal

Don't forget the FISH Philosophy:

- Choose your attitude
- Be Present
- Make someone's day
- Have Fun



Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty and words ~

Edgar Allan Poe



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 PS99 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! Have fun and be active, but don't forget to set aside time each day to read a book that you enjoy. It's important to keep the mind active as well.

We also wanted to take this time and 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 PS99, 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 that you develop into mature adults, but remember to have fun and take each new adventure one step at a time.

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

Nick Sforza & Aida Trujillo

Assistant Principals of PS99

A Note from the Parent Coordinator

Congratulations to the graduates and their parents! I wish you a future of health and happiness!

I look forward to working with everyone next year. Remember that I am always here to help, answer questions, and provide information. If you ever have any questions you can reach me at : (347)-563-8692. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Jordan Holtzman

Your Parent Coordinator



'99'S WRITING CLUB by Christopher Chen

The Writing Club writes. It's as simple as that. Easy as one plus one equals two. All of us write. We write poetry, exposes, articles, short stories, personal narratives, and nonfiction. Whatever pops into our minds as a bright spark of inspiration. There's nothing the 3 of us have more in common than our passion for writing, other than getting to enrapture an audience. Knowing that we help inspire others to become great writers themselves.

I've been a part of the Writing Club for more than eight months and I can't tell you how great it is. We never hesitate in getting to work, always typing, or scribbling, or staring off into space. Not because of boredom, but because an idea that could change the entire world just came to us. We drop everything,. We shrug off the looming weight of due projects and homework and stress. We stop overthinking about anxiety, instead feeling words come alive and imploding like fireworks in our head. It's something that changes your whole perspective, lingers like a ghost in your mind forever. You remember and savor it as the best thing you have on your worst day, like your very first breath of air. Because we never forget the feeling of turning heads, of dropping jaws in amazement, of blowing people's minds. We never forget how astonishing it feels to write. And we, the Writing Club, never will.

POETRY PAGE

Music In Numbers

By Anya Graciela Jimenez 5-308

One World,
Two Hands
One girl,
Many plans

One instrument,
1000 sounds
A whole orchestra
Shaking the ground

88 keys,
1,000,000 dreams,
All expressed
Through a melody

Happy and light,
Joyful and free
The piano's where
I want to be

The Sun

By Theresa Eden 3-206

A blazing star
More than another
We see him in the morning,
And his wife the moon we see at night
He is like the rooster at a farm
waking us up in the morning
But one day he will burst
And his new son will rise
And take his place as the King
In the Kingdom of light.

Summer

By Jacob Rodriguez 4-202

A cool breeze hits my face
Down I walk and I see the beach
The seashells are hidden treasures
I find one that is clean, it shines like the sun
I walk in the sand that keeps me warm
I look around, I'm at the shore.

Time in Seasons

By Medina Julevic 5-310

Tick Tock;
Waiting for my class to end
The world is running slow
It takes time, but I can't wait
Tick Tock;
10 minutes until New Year!
The year is ending soon
I have to wait, but I can't
Tick Tock;
The rain has gone on for hours
Waiting and waiting, that's all I can do
I just can't
Tick Tock;
It's almost summer vacation!
The one time I can relax
5..4..3...2...1!!!
AHH Summer!
Now, I can finally wait!

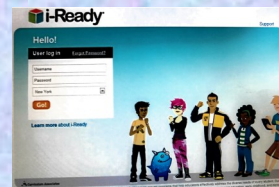
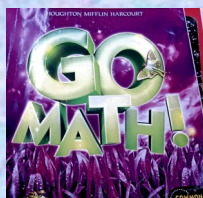
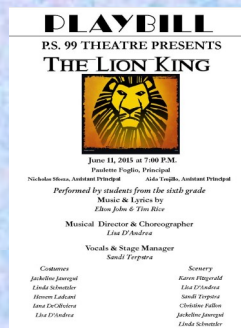
RAIN FOREST IN THE CLASSROOM

For the last couple of months Mr. Halpern and his class have been diligently working to transform the classroom into a beautiful rainforest. The children have been studying various animals indigenous to rainforests such as monkeys, parrots, constrictors, sloths, jaguars and crocodiles. The students also studied the different levels of the rainforest and the animals that live in the canopy, understory and ground floor. The class is now knowledgeable about primates, predators and what it means to be endangered. Overall, it was a great learning lesson for the class and they loved putting on tours of the rainforest for the entire annex to come and see.



STUDENT COUNCIL TIME CAPSULE

The Student Council is pleased to announce that they have created a time capsule to capture what PS99 looks like in the year 2015. Student Council representatives have thoughtfully placed a variety of artifacts into the time capsule. They have interviewed students and staff members, photographed bulletin boards, people (including ourselves, of course) and our favorite places in our school. Other artifacts included samples from curriculum (will Common Core still exist in 50 years?), a playbill from our 6th grade play and a copy of The Buzz Newspaper. When the new generation of PS99ers open our time capsule, they will notice that many things have changed, but we know one thing will not.... and that is the love we all have for this fabulous school!



HOP-A-THON



Throughout the school year, students in the Annex have been learning the importance of staying healthy by exercising and choosing healthy foods and snacks which will keep them fit. As the students kept their own bodies healthy they reached out to help others who are not as healthy. During Heart Month in February the students "Hopped to Help" and raised \$2,208.00 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. During Fitness Month in May the students "jumped For Heart" and raised \$3,204.00 for the American Heart Association. Thank you parents for your continued support with these events. Wishing you all a very healthy and safe summer. "Lets All Be Fit For Life!"

Sincerely,
Mrs. Landau



Kindergarten **by Ms. Williams**

It is unbelievable how quickly this year has flown by!!! Our Kindergarten year has been filled with exciting growth, academic success, and forever friendships! Kindergarteners have really done an excellent job! Most recently we have worked hard to become plant experts. With an in depth study on plants we learned words such as photosynthesis, chlorophyll and germination! We planted, observed, and nurtured our wonderful seeds into beautiful plants. With our new knowledge, we became writing experts and wrote our very own plant books filled with interesting facts. In Math we mastered the names of two dimensional and three dimensional shapes. We even learned what sides, edges, and vertices are! As the year comes to a close, kindergarteners can be very proud of the progress they have made. Be sure to practice reading and writing over the summer to keep your brains fresh and ready for FIRST GRADE!! YA-HOOOOO!!!! WE DID IT!!

First Grade **by Ms. Pilarinos**

Grade 1 is so excited to be ending the year with unforgettable memories. We went to three fun field trips. One was to Queens College to see Skippy Jon Jones, Snow What? We loved the songs that we heard!

Our second trip was to Applebee's, where we took a tour of the kitchen. We learned about food safety, but our favorite part was that we were able to have lunch there. Finally, our third trip, which was the most interesting one was our trip to the rainforest. We were able to learn about different animals and pretend we were actually in the rainforest, even though it was really in Mr. Halpern's classroom.

We are ending the year with so much knowledge and academic language about the human body, astronomy and the history of the United States. We are excited to continue our journey in the annex in second grade. Have a great summer.

Second Grade **by Ms. Teresi**

The second grade has had a great year. This year the students went to various teachers for guided reading. We watched their reading soar as they worked on specific skills and strategies in small groups. This has also helped our second graders grow as writers. During the spring months, we concentrated on writing opinion pieces and worked on writing responses to literature in depth. The children

have demonstrated real growth as writers and we hope they continue to write daily about their adventures during the summer. In math, the students learned about 3 dimensional shapes, fractions, as well as investigating measurement. This year, children took a look at United States and saw how it has developed over the years. We look forward to celebrating our great country at our moving up ceremony on June 22nd. We are very proud of how much our students have learned and we know they will be successful in third grade.

Third Grade **by Ms. Collins**

What a year! After quickly adjusting to the Main Building, we got right to work reading chapter books, flipping over fractions, traveling the globe, responding to literature, narrating our own stories, informing our readers and expressing our opinions.

Our Enrichment Program had us exploring Africa, Asia, Europe and South America through the Art of Nigeria, China, Italy, and Brazil. Our TAG students shared a glimpse of the American Revolution through their representation of Colonial Life before, during and after the war. Our Math and Reading students discovered new and exciting ways to solve word problems, and sharpen their comprehension skills.

The entire grade took class trips to discover African and Chinese culture through dance. And for our last trip of the year, we rocked out to Literacy! As we said, we've been busy! Now, onto SUMMER!!!

Fourth Grade

by Ms. McGrail

As the year comes to an end, the fourth grade students are continuing to work hard. We are finishing up our Response to Literature writing unit. For this writing unit, the children are writing a Book Review on the book *Going Home* by Eve Bunting. In Math we are working on lessons that will help the students prepare for fifth grade. The students are also taking the New York State Science Exam which is a two part exam. The first is the hands on part where students use science materials to conduct experiments which they have to write about. The second part consists of multiple choice questions which tests the students knowledge of the science curriculum.

The fourth grade was fortunate to participate in Studio in a School this year. We have worked on many different art projects throughout the school year. We completed our clay project where the students had the opportunity to make a replica of their head using clay. Our fabulous art work was displayed in the Studio in the School Art Show in June. We also had the opportunity to go on a fantastic trip to the Queens Zoo this year. We were able to spend the day at the zoo and observe many animals in their natural habitat. Children were not only able to see the animals, but also able to touch them. We had an amazing time! Another exciting day at P.S. 99 was Take Your Child To Work Day. Many teachers, staff and administrators brought their own children into school. The students loved meeting them! This has been a great year for the fourth grade. We wish you all a wonderful and restful summer. Don't forget to READ, READ, READ!!!!

Fifth Grade

by Ms. Merino

This year 5th grade enrichment students had the opportunity to work with Karen and Ms. Merino. We started our motivation around cyber bullying and asked how certain images and words that are posted online may hurt and affect others. Students brainstormed the importance of the idea to "think before you send", encouraging students to think about what they may want to post before they hit the send button. From there we transitioned students to discuss peacemakers around the world. As their final project, students chose one peace maker to create a photomontage to represent everything important about their chosen peacemaker.

In reading, students were engaged in a high-interest topic; natural disasters, with a literacy focus on point of view in literature, research, and opinion writing. The topic integrates science content with a Social Studies focus on the Western Hemisphere and the role of multinational organizations. Students read about the science behind natural disasters, specifically earthquakes and hurricanes. Then we read two pieces of literature that are set during a natural disaster: *Eight Days: A Story of Haiti* and the novel *Dark Water Rising*. Students analyze how the narrator's perspective determines how events are described and analyze visual elements and compare and contrast themes in these two texts.

In writing, students worked on a research-based argument essay, trying to convince readers that zoos either help or harm endangered animals. Together we watched a video, read an article written by two students, and studied a "Life Span of

Female African Elephants' chart. Based on what they know, students were asked to state a claim and back it up with evidence from their research to support their claim in order to make their essay more convincing to readers!

Students have received their placement schools and are now preparing for next year as some stay in 99 and others to different middle schools.

Sixth Grade

by Mr. Condon

This year's 6th graders have done so many exciting things. Besides getting ready for graduation, prom and other senior activities, there are many 6th graders participating in this year's school play, *The Lion King*. We were excited to see the final performance and various students perform their talents for the entire school to enjoy.

During the school year, we read several novels that we thoroughly analyzed and enjoyed including; *The Lightning Thief*; *Bud, Not Buddy*; *Dragon Wings* and *Frightful's Mountain*. In an effort to increase our exposure and appreciation of the arts, we enjoyed two trips to the ballet. The first trip was to the Frank Sinatra Performing Arts High School in Astoria, which showed us how dancers prepared for a performance. We also saw an actual performance. The second trip was to the American Ballet Theatre.

We were excited to end the year with our senior trip to Medieval Times and our school picnic. We look forward to our summer and our new journey to middle school to continue our academic careers.



99 BUZZ LOGO CONTEST

Inspired by the wonderful response from our last “99 BUZZ LOGO CONTEST”, the Newspaper Club has decided to hold another contest for the Fall 2015 paper. The theme is “**Winter Fun**”. First prize winner will have their logo displayed on the **COVER** of the Fall 2015 newspaper. Please see Ms. Fallon, or Mr. Halpern for a template of the 99 Buzz logo.

If you wish to enter the contest, there are three things you need to do:

- ♦ Pick up a template from Ms. Fallon or Mr. Halpern
- ♦ Draw and color in a winter scene incorporating the 99 Buzz template above.
- ♦ Write your name, teacher’s name and class number.

If you have any questions, please contact the teachers below.

Submit logo to Ms. Fallon or Mr. Halpern

Art News

What a busy year we had in the Art room this year! We had 3 art exhibits this spring. The first was at the District Office, the second was in our very own library during Parent Teacher Conferences, and the third was at the Queens Museum of Art; showcasing our fantastic CASA student work! In addition, 2 of our students made it to the semifinals in the annual PS Art Competition, which is a big deal considering how many students enter citywide. We are finishing up the year with a fun project that focuses on the recent activity at Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii. Our 4th-6th graders learned all about the mythical volcano goddess “Pele” and created images of what they thought she would look like. Look for images of “Pele” in the art Gallery basement area by the art room! Have a fantastic summer- be creative and I will see you all next year!

~ Ms. Fallon



YOUR BUZZ STAFF

CHRISTINE FALLON, JONATHAN HALPERN, DAWN PORTELLI