

PS 20 NEWS

FOR THE KIDS, PARENTS, & TEACHERS OF THE PS 20 COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2018



BROTHERHOOD DINNER

WHAT'S NEW

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Inspiring words...

Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations.

- Dr. Mae Jemison, 1st African-American female astronaut

A powerful celebration of community & history

The 5th graders started the evening off with insightful reflections on the current state of politics, addressing head-on issues dealing with race, immigration, women's rights, and environmentalism. They then presented powerful songs and dance performances, orchestrated by Ms. Lewis, PS 20 substitute teacher and choreographer. Other grades followed with spoken word poetry by Countee Cullen and Maya Angelou and songs about friendship and Dr. King Jr. Our resident MC Law Watford thoughtfully reflected, "I believe in the importance of having these kinds of conversations in a way that recognizes the humanity in each if us - as difficult and nuanced as they may be."

Student-led performances were not the only events of the evening. A festive potluck dinner followed, with families of all grades contributing diverse family recipes from around the globe. An energetic family dance party capped off the evening.

The art teachers and volunteers from the Green Arts Committee also coordinated a student artwork sale to raise money for the program. Can anyone guess who this art admirer is? 



LET'S DANCE!

Interview with
Chloe, Ashley, &
Asimov



Irene, Ashley's mom was invited to observe a class and shared, "It was really touching to see all the children (150 total), boys and girls, coming from the 5 boroughs, so different backgrounds, in their ballet uniforms, doing "plié, chassé, échappé". They did so well! The parents (including myself) were stunned!"

The 3rd graders aren't the only ones showing off their moves. Every Monday in February through March, the 1st grade classes are participating in an enriching dance program with Mark Morris Dance Center. Each week instructors from the school come to PS 20 to teach and expose students to various styles of dance.

Each year, Ballet Tech, a NYC public school for dance in Manhattan, travels to elementary schools across the city conducting auditions to select a few talented budding dancers to participate in a weekly dance program. PS 20 is proud that a few of our students were selected for the program this year! In lieu of regular class, these students are picked up each week to learn ballet. We are lucky to have them share a little about the program with us:

Have you always danced, or is this a new interest for you?

Ashely: In 1st grade, I took ballet, hip hop, and classical dance classes, too.

Chloe: I have always liked to dance and I took ballet classes when I was younger, but not for the past few years.

Asimov: I've always danced.

What's the coolest thing that you learned this year?

Ashley: How to "sauter" [jump] in first position.

Chloe: To do a grand jete without making noise while I take off or land.

What's it like going to a totally new school in Manhattan every week?

Ashley: The school is very different for example: the cafeteria is tiny. The kids and the teachers are nice but serious.

Asimov: Uh, it's pretty nice going to a school like that and the teachers and kids are good friends.

What types of things do you do in class?

Asimov: It's just very much ballet.

Chloe: We learn the basics like releve, first and second position, and tandue.

What is your favorite thing about the program?

Ashley: Ms Rhodes, the teacher is really nice.

Chloe My favorite part is warm up because you do difficult things like reaching your toes, but in the end it feels good.

KIDS ON PARADE

Students and teachers beat the February cold by enjoying in class celebrations...and in some cases taking the parties to the hallways in parade!

February 13th was the 100th day of school, so Kindergarteners and first graders, who have been studying all things 100, dressed up like they are 100-years-old. It's always awesome to see some teachers get in on the fun, too --go Ms. Simmons go!

Students in the dual language classes also dressed up for Mardi Gras and strut their stuff for all the classes to enjoy. The school band led the students through the hallways to the tune of "The Saints Go Marching In."

The Pre-K students learned all about the year of the Dog and the Lunar New Year. While they did not conduct their annual parade, they had festive celebrations in their classrooms. Let's hope they grace us with their dragon parade next year!



THE INQUIRING MINDS JOURNALISM TEAM TAKES FORT GREENE PARK

Interviewers: Kai Power & Kayla Johnson
Interviewees: Abigail Caldeira, Law Watford, Brooke Brown, & Magaly Tello
Typed & edited by: Kai Power & Magaly Tello
Coach: DK Holland, Inquiring Minds USA



L to R: Magaly Tello, Ranger Chris, Brooke Brown, Law Watford, Abby Caldeira & Fort Greene Park Conservancy Development Director Helen Song in front of the largest tree which Brooke discovered on the Scavenger Hunt. It's a double London Planes tree. **Go find it!**

Quote by Brooke Brown "The history of Fort Greene Park is what shaped our present day."

How much did you learn on the trip?

There was a whole lot of history in the very park people just think it a place to play. The park is a gigantic cemetery for people who lost their lives trying to get independence from the British. Eventually they died from scurvy because they were prisoners and when they decided not to cooperate the British took away their needs, for example, vitamin C.

There was diversity [which is people of different races] on the ship they were held on in the bay. The bay was near the park.

Where are the bodies buried?

The crypt is not where you think it would be... find a hint [and the answer] on this page.

Big thank you to Ranger Chris & Fort Greene Park Development & Outreach Manager Helen Song

Why was it fun going to the park?

I have been living here for a long time and I didn't know this much history about my neighborhood park.

What did you do in the park?

We went on a scavenger hunt [led by Ranger Chris] to find historical things in the park.

What did you discover in the park and why do you find this important?

That North Carolina was the 12th colony in the 13 Colonies. I was just in North Carolina.

You were deputized by Ranger Chris, what does that mean?

It means we are now deputies of Fort Greene Park.

What did you have to do to become a deputy?

We had to make a promise to never litter.

What is your responsibility as a deputy in the park?

We have to make sure people don't litter in the park.

On a scale of 1 to 10 how much did you enjoy the trip to the Fort Greene Park?

10.

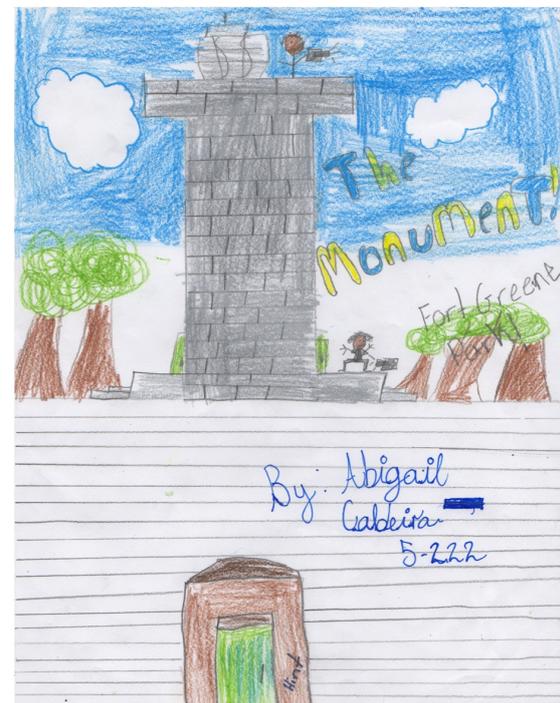
Did you see any animals in Fort Greene Park?

Yes, I saw so many squirrels.

What was your favorite part of the park, and why?

Running down the steep, long stairs because it was fun and funny because most of the kids were running like anime characters.

To get your copy of the Fort Greene Park Scavenger Hunt, stop by the front office!



Answer: The Crypt with all the bodies is in under the stairs. Go find it!



TROUT UPDATE FROM MS. BARBERA

This is our first attempt at incubating trout eggs. Our goal was to hatch and raise these baby trout into juvenile trout, which are also called fingerlings, and release them into NYC watersheds and streams. As you may know, the trout eggs did not survive.

Ms. Nixon has been working behind the scenes trying to get replacement eggs to move forward with the program. I am happy to report that Ms. Lilly Genovesi of "Trout Unlimited," delivered live baby trout to our science lab. Thanks to The Chapin School, who had an overabundance of baby trout, they asked if PS20 would take the excess. We accepted the overflow. We are now on our way. The Science Lab has live baby trout!!

Apparently baby trout are not particularly photogenic, so to see the trout yourself, stop by Ms. Nixon's classroom for a peek at the action.



Did you know PS 20 is on social media? Well, we are.

Join us!

Facebook: [@ps20kidsrock](#)

Instagram: [@ps20PTA](#)

Twitter: [@ps20PTA](#)

Feedback or suggestions for the newsletter?
Email newsletter@ps20.org!

PARENT NIGHT OUT

Another successful Parent Night Out

The January 26th Parents Night Out at Gotham Market (300 Ashland) was an undeniable success on all fronts. Families gathered to beat the cold and spend time with PS 20 friends.

Parents from all grades attended the event, which was organized by parents Kathryn Diaz and Yael Hantman of the fundraising committee. A fun twist from the last PNO, this one featured a parent DJ with parents contributing their own music, a dance party, and a signature drink named after our own Ms. Friedman!

Gotham Market donated a portion of their sales to the PTA, who raised over \$2,000 this evening. The funds support valuable programs like Green Arts, which is entirely funded by the PTA and provides all students with weekly art classes and gardening studies. A beautiful shibori dyed quilt, made by last year's Kindergarten class and a visiting textile artist was auctioned off, as well as a raffle of a generous gift certificate donated by Boqueria.

The PTA also thanks Kaleidescope for providing child care.

If you'd like to contribute funds, materials, or ideas to the Green Arts program, contact greenarts@ps20.org

