

PS 20 NEWS

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

JANUARY 2018



A HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

Students dazzle PS 20 parents with their musical talent

WHAT'S NEW

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This year's annual Holiday Performance wowed a packed house! The talented jazz band, led by Mr. Hampton, started the show off with two brilliant performances. The individual class performances featured a few mixed grade ensembles, stunning upper-grade soloists, and songs in French, Spanish, and Japanese. Mr. Law Watford was an energizing MC, who, with some student helpers, collected over \$1,000 from generous families by "passing the hat." And while the students were performing, PTA parents volunteered their time at the annual bake sale and the Scholastic Book Fair (which sold more books to avid student readers than any prior year!)

As always, the Holiday Show is an inspiring and community-building night and the PS 20 parents, teachers, and admin could not be more proud of the hard work the students put into preparing for the event.



Don't forget!

Meet PS 20 families and raise school funds at the Jan. 26th Parents Night Out at Gotham Market!

FIRE SAFETY 101

by Dolores Gilliard

Student Reporters: Matthias Abramson & Malachi Abramson

In December 2017, the PS 20 PTA hosted workshops for parents and students. Many parents realized that there were tips about preventing fires and staying safe in a fire that they did not know.

- What is the best thing to use to put out a kitchen fire if you don't have a fire extinguisher? Baking soda.
- Smoke detectors expire. Each smoke detector has a date on the back. It should be replaced 10 years from the listed date.
- Most fires take place between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- When warming up your car when it snows, make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow. If not, poisonous carbon monoxide can be trapped in your car.



Students were asked what were some things they learned from the fire safety talk.

Nico, 1-102 "When you hear the fire alarm, remember to stop, drop and crawl."

Gavin, 3-216 "Not to play with matches and lighters. If there's a fire in your house, go over to your neighbor's house and call 911."

Lia, 3-216 "Stop, drop and crawl."

Kayla J., 5-222 "Don't play with matches."

Kayla V., 5-222 "Get (substitute) fake (artificial) candles for the smell to avoid a fire."

Nyrese, 5-222 "Watch out for babies and stay down on the floor."

Law, 5-222 "If caught in a fire, you should duck down to escape because smoke starts at the top."

Matthias, 5-222 "Always close the door when you escape a fire."

ALL ABOUT ...MS. K!

A few fun facts about
our Pre-K teacher



If you could live on another planet, which one would it be? Though not a planet anymore, Pluto, because NASA detected some water on it and I love being in the water and swimming. **What is your favorite book?** The series by Scandinavian author Jo Nesbo and Stieg Larsson, "The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo." **If you could only eat 1 food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Tomato. **What is your favorite trait about yourself?** Every day I work with young learners who teach me new things. **If your classroom was a movie, what would the title be?** "The Neverending Story" because it's a new adventure every day. **What is your favorite thing about PS 20?** We are all a tight community and I love it! **Describe Ms. Barbera in 1 word.** Incredible. **Tell us about your pets.** I used to have a Maltese named Olaf. Very cute, energetic, and loving. I used to have two gerbils named Tom and Jerry and a dog in Poland named Max- he lived 23 years! **Share a memory from when YOU were in school.** In Kindergarten I remember my mom gave me a haircut and the only hair style I could have was two very short pigtails. I wasn't happy about that very much. **What's something you'd like the parents and students of PS 20 to know about YOU?** I would like everyone to know that I'm always there for PS 20 and families and I am honored to be a part of this school!!!

GETTING TO KNOW MS. COLON

By Abigail Caldeira, Law
Watford, Brooke Brown, Kai
Power and Magaly Tello & DK
Holland of Inquiring Minds

Fun Fact!

Ms. Colon grew up in a house on Carlton Avenue in 1971. Her mother still lives there and her bedroom is still there!



Above: Photo by Brooke Brown

Q: Why did you become a Parent Coordinator? **Because I have an opportunity to help parents and students.**

Q: How long have you been a Parent Coordinator? **About 14 years I've been a Parent Coordinator.**

Q: What was your motivation to become a parent coordinator? **I want to be a resource to parents and their family.**

Q: Did you have any other job before you became a parent coordinator? **Yes. I was a dental assistant for 10 years. It helped me become a people-person.**

Q: What is your favorite food, and why? **Collard greens, Mac-N-Cheese, and Fried Chicken. That's what I grew up eating.**

Q: Where did you grow up? **Brooklyn, New York, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Carlton Avenue!**

Q: What elementary school did you go to? **P.S.20, Clinton Hill School.**

Q: What was elementary school like when you were our age? **School was fun, teachers were very strict.**

Q: When you left P.S.20 in 6th grade what school did you go to? **I went to Rothschild JHS (which is now 113) for 7th - 9th grade.**

Q: What is your favorite color and why? **I like wearing black.**

Q: What do you value most? **My family.**

Q: If you could have any SUPER-POWER what would it be and why **Flight because I can get anywhere I want to be without traffic. Also I want the ability to make everyone love each other.**

Thanks to Ms. Richards for helping the kids solve the math problem!



Above: the team editing this article on Ms. Colon's computer.

Solution Work Space

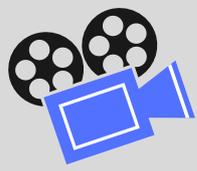
Answer:

If Ms Colon's mom bought her house on Carlton in 1971 for \$25,000 and its worth \$2,000,000 now how much did the value of her house increase? Over what period of time?

Two hand-drawn cartoon characters are shown. One is a boy with red hair and a blue shirt, and the other is a girl with green hair and a blue shirt. They appear to be in conversation.

Listen to understand

Answer: 7900% increase
over 47 years as calculated
by Law Watford.



FILM EN FRANÇAIS

THE TACKY TEACHERS OF PS 20

At the assembly the last day before break, the teachers and administration surprised the students with a little entertainment--a tacky sweater and dance contest! Ms. Barbera started the show off, with Ms Blyden and teachers from all grades to follow. Ms. Benatouil and Ms. Nicks choreographed a dance, and Ms. Simmons, Ms. Caridi, and Ms Teagle tried their hand at a comedy routine.

Needless to say, the kids went wild, enjoying every minute of it. And, while not dressed in the tackiest of sweaters, Mr. Chung's dance moves stole the show.

A big THANK YOU to the teachers and administration for not only educating our students, but to showing them it's cool to break out and be silly with your friends!



French Movie Night was initiated by the DLP community along with PTA approval and Ms. Barbera’s ongoing support of school cultural development...and soon a star was born!

Sandrine Isambert (mom of Milo, 4th) shared, “There's been movie night at PS 20 on and off over the years. In 2016, we met with parents from the DLP and decided to try a French movie night with English subtitles so that everyone would be able to follow.” Because the whole school learns French the hope was that many families would participate. And voila, the first movie was Zootopia in December 2016, complete with popcorn and French cookies.

It was decided to alternate movies one month in French (with English subtitles), one in English. Meryem Ellis (mom to Saffa, 2nd) had the great idea to add a short film at the beginning of the evening—a nod to the old days but also to share with pre-K students, as it might not be easy for them to be up late.

It soon became clear that it would be very helpful to have the auditorium AV fixed. Last spring, Brian Tubbs (dad to Lily, 1st) worked tirelessly with the school facilities staff to revamp the AV equipment. This years’ film nights have had full and impressive visual and audio set up, which has been helpful to fully engage the kids.

Sandrine added, “This is a parent led project; everyone who wants to help or has ideas should feel free to do so. Come to the screening or email the PTA, there are no rules but for everyone to have fun.”

Join in on the fun at Movie Night -- first Friday of each month, 6pm in the Auditorium.



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