



ADVENTURES

January 2012

From the Principal

Dear Yorkville Community School/ PS 151 Families,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a wonderful winter holiday and are excited to bring in 2012 with you! The second half of the school year brings many exciting learning opportunities and experiences for our students. Grades K-2 will be culminating their current units of study in January. Professor bread visited and offered our kindergartners a hands-on bread making experience. They begin by grounding the flour and finished by enjoying the bread that they made, fresh out of the oven. Our first graders have been working with Salvadori to create built- to-scale models of our community and our second graders have been constructing their own Sea Creature Museum on the fourth floor. They have been adding new displays as they continue to research and discover new facts to share with their audience. Each grade will launch their new units of study in February...

Kindergarten: PETS

- What is a pet? Why do people have them? How do they take care of them?
- How are house pets different than class pets? How do we create an environment for and take care of a class pet?
- What places and people in our community serve the needs of our pets? How can pets serve our needs? (i.e. seeing eye dog)
- What animals make good pets and why?

First Grade: RESTAURANTS

- Appreciating the individual and collaborative work essential to run a restaurant
- Appreciation of different cultures
- Appreciation of the similarities, differences, and needs of people
- Restaurant Building

Second Grade: The EAST RIVER

- How does the East River meet the needs of its community- past, present, and future?
- How did/ and still does the East River affect the development of New York City
- The East River and NYC/ Past, Present, Future

Want to know what is happening in your child's class on a daily basis? Asking, "What did you do today" is a "BIG" concept. Focusing your questions on specific parts of their day will help to

provoke more conversation. Use what you know about the unit of study they are immersed in, to guide questions. Refer to our monthly newsletters to support your knowledge of the curriculum.

We are excited to announce the opening of our Computer Lab! Our students will be exposed to basic computer operation, learning activities, keyboard practice and exploring the internet to do research on their units of study. Our next project...the YCS Library!



K-203 working in our Computer Lab!

Yours Truly,

Samantha

DOE Guidelines for Outdoor Play in Cold Weather

Children benefit from vigorous exercise and should be given the opportunity to play outside whenever possible. Unless there is ice on the playground, low temperatures should not be a barrier to outside play, as long as children are appropriately dressed. **The Health Department strongly encourages principals to maintain outdoor play periods on the vast majority of winter days.**

Toys

Toys can be a distraction and interrupt learning; therefore, they should not be sent to school. Toys that are seen and used during the school day will be confiscated, and only returned to parent/guardian. Please be advised that YCS is not responsible for lost or misplaced toys.

"Be yourself, everyone else is already taken."- Oscar Wilde



Kindergarten News

January 2012



Notes:

Welcome Back! We hope your break was restful and relaxing! This month is an exciting one. Students will learn and explore in all subjects. We will use our community to grow as writers, readers, scientists and mathematicians.

No School - Monday January 16th

Reading

During the month of January, the children will continue to read their "just right" books to help them become stronger readers. We will be focusing on how to retell our stories using the words first, next, finally. We will be talking about how to add details when retelling using the characters names, the setting of the story and the feelings that arise in their books. Partner reading will give our students opportunities to share their favorite parts, a part that makes them wonder and a part that is interesting or exciting. This helps student engage in conversations with their partners.

Writing

What can our small writers teach the world? Just wait and see... This month we will be putting on our teaching hats and working on *How-To* books. A *How-To* is an instructional manual used to teach someone how to do something. These books will allow our students to take something they feel they are an "expert" on and write directions on how to do it. Using a teacher voice, our writers, will give step-by-step instructions, by using order words, such as first, next and last. Additionally, students will be using action words to help readers understand what to do, and will also be giving readers instructional tips to guide their readers. Students will be making a materials page to make sure you have everything you need in order to be prepared for each step. By the end of this unit your child will teach you all you need to know about a bakery and *how to* make a variety of bakery treats.

Math

This unit builds on the work in counting and comparing. Students will explore math this month using the following mediums:

- **Linear Measurement** (Understanding length and using linear units)
- **Counting and Quantity** (Developing strategies for accurately counting a set of objects by ones)
- **Whole Number Operations** (Making Sense of and developing strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with small numbers)
- **Counting and Quantity** (Developing an understanding of the magnitude and position of numbers)
- **Whole Number Operations** (Using manipulatives, drawings, and tools to show strategies solutions)

I am not a teacher, but an awakener. Robert Frost



First Grade News

January 2012



Notes:

Please remember to have children read and record their homework responses in their homework notebooks.

Important Dates:

January 16th Martin Luther King Day
January 18th 92nd Street Y Concert

Reading

In reading this month, we will study how authors use different styles and techniques in their books. Students will notice that authors use different types of fonts, illustration techniques, speech bubbles, rhyming, etc to make their writing unique. Noticing these author techniques will aid in the students' reading and comprehension skills, and they will begin to form ideas about how they can create their own stories. Teachers will be using mentors such as Mo Willems to model with.

Writing

In writing this month, we will be using an author as a mentor. Each class will be exploring and study various texts by one author and attempting to emulate their craft. We will be writing in the narrative form this month and trying to use our past experiences to enhance our stories. We are continuing to pay attention to finger spaces, word wall words, and capitalization while we write!

Math

This month the students will begin a math unit on data analysis. They will learn that data is collected in a context for a purpose. Throughout this unit, the students will be sorting and classifying different objects such as, recyclable materials. They will explore making a representation of their collected data. When the students complete their representations, they will be encouraged to describe and compare the number of pieces of data in each category or at each value and interpret what the data is telling them. The students will also continue to review solving addition and subtraction story problems.

Social Studies

Thank you to all the families who came in for our career day! Our students learned so much about the different important members of the community. This month we will be finishing up our Community Study. We will be completing our brochures, "A day in the life of..." writing and interviews of different community members. The students have become experts on the importance of different community members, and how they help us.



Second Grade News



January 2012

Notes:

We hope you had a happy and healthy winter break!

Important Dates:

January 16 - No School - MLK Day
January 27 - Family Friday

Reading

During the month of January, we will be working in reading clubs. Readers will draw on previously learned strategies and develop new ones to integrate what they know about a character (or characters) across a series. Children will use this information to understand, predict, and critique a story. They will react and pay attention to the important parts of the story and learn about how stories in series tend to go. They may pay attention to predictable structures that contain familiar, typical elements; these observations will help them predict and understand the characters better. Finally, children will learn to make decisions about what they want to study and how they will study those things together in reading clubs. The students will be studying patterns they come across and they will be discussing their books to promote conversation and comprehension.

Writing

This month students will be using their writing to persuade others to believe what they believe, with the ultimate goal of having readers take action as a result of their writing. Students will be applying the stages of the writing process as they create pieces to persuade readers to make changes in their lives that will help endangered sea creatures. Students will also have the opportunity to write reviews. They will be reviewing our field trips, activities, and also have the option to review areas of personal choice (i.e. restaurants, shops, etc). You might see your child starting to review a meal at home, or a movie you watch together as this unit unfolds 😊

Math

This month students will begin the data analysis unit by sorting a variety of things into different groups according to visible attributes. Students will use a variety of representations in this unit: Venn diagrams, tower or cubes, line plots and other representations. Students will pay attention to what the data means and how to organize the data so that they can describe them. Students will describe data by giving counts of the number of pieces of data that occur at each value (10 students like indoor activities, 12 students like outdoor activities). Students will then learn to begin to notice the mode of a data set as well as the lowest and the highest values. Second graders will begin to describe the data as a whole, rather than only the counts at each value.

Unit of Study

This month we will be completing our Sea Creature thematic unit of study. Our focus this month will be examining endangered species. We will be discussing what it means to be endangered, examining different endangered sea creatures, and discussing what we can do to help endangered creatures. Through persuasive writing, students will be educating others about endangered creatures, and persuading them to help these creatures. As a culminating activity, second graders will be fundraising and donating all proceeds to help endangered animals.

Physical Education News

The winter themed games and activities have been a blast! We've had snowball fights, made snow angels and snowmen, we've even gone sledding. We have revisited and used all of the skills we've learned and even learned a few new ones too. Once we return from the holiday break, we will begin our jump rope unit. We will utilize the jump ropes in a variety of ways, including body awareness activities. We will of course be learning how to jump rope too. The 2nd graders are very fortunate because they will be participating in a fantastic event, "Jump Rope for Heart", which is sponsored by the American Heart Association. "Jump Rope for Heart" is a fundraising project, in which all the proceeds go to the American Heart Association allowing them continue their efforts for research and advancements. The "Jump Rope for Heart" program allows students to learn all about the heart and the importance of it, while participating in an educational community service project. More information about "Jump Rope for Heart" will be sent home shortly after we return from break. I hope everyone has a fantastic and safe break! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Art News

As the New Year begins the students are off to a great start honing their art skills and exploring new areas in the arts. The Kindergarteners are looking at Kandinsky paintings and learning how to talk about art using the inquiry method. By asking "open ended" questions I encourage the students to look carefully, analyze, make connections and stretch their vocabulary so that we can have an exciting conversation about the art. The first graders are continuing to work on creating model rooms in their shoe boxes and have started the year talking about scale and creating people out of clothespins so that their furnishings can be made to scale.

The second graders made fantastic, realistic sea creature drawings before the break and are now learning how to turn those drawings into three-dimensional sculptures. They are beginning with small pieces of clay and will work up to making large sea creatures built from found objects such as bottles and paper tubes. If you have items for recycling such as plastic bottles, cardboard tubes or plastic cups please send them in with your child. Exploring sea creatures and the ocean is an excellent opportunity to touch on environmental protection and recycling.

SCIENCE NEWS

The New Year brings some changes to the science room. Before break Ms. Marta gave birth to a healthy and happy baby girl. While Marta is on leave I will be taking over. My name is Abbye Carte and I am very excited to be working with the students of Y.C.S. Together we will be working on new and exciting investigations. The kindergarteners are looking at different types of paper and thinking about how much paper we use on a daily basis. They will compare and contrast different types of paper by writing on it, folding it, and even by getting it wet!

The first graders are starting an exciting new study of solids and liquids. The first graders will learn about the properties of solids and liquids and do many fun hands on investigations. Second grade is studying earth materials and how they are used to make objects we use everyday. Students will get a chance to make things using sand and clay!

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In January our children will continue to have class meetings. During these meetings children have open discussions with their teachers and classmates about issues that arise throughout the day. Expectations during class meetings include: attentive listening, eyes on the speaker, one speaker at a time and showing respect for themselves and others.

Through class meetings, children are developing empathy, problem solving, perspective taking and seeing things from someone else's point of view. During meetings children are discouraged from using people's names, but rather they are encouraged to state the problem as objectively as possible.

Giving children the opportunity to share what's going on throughout the school environment creates a climate where children are able to learn and grow.

ATTENDANCE

Research shows that regular attendance is crucial for children's social, personal and academic success. Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time and attends daily. Arrival is at 8:40 and dismissal is at 3:00. Please contact us if we can support you to do so.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Special Camp Fair
Resources for Children with Special Needs
Church of St. Paul the Apostle
Saturday January 28, 2012
11:00AM - 3:00PM
www.resourcesnyc.org

GUIDANCE CORNER

January 2012



YCS PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Parents of children with special needs
Thursday, January 19
8:00-8:45 AM
YCS Library, Room 407
Refreshments will be served
RSVP to Kimberly
kgivner@schools.nyc.gov

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