



## A Season focused on Change

Wow! What an amazing winter full of terrific learning, wonder and community events. A highlight for me this semester was the "Winter Sing". A huge emphasis of ours is teaching our students how they can make positive changes. Therefore, it's no wonder why celebrating social change through music was an inspirational event. It was wonderful to have our whole school close with "We are the World" and I couldn't think of a better message about positive change and unity.

Going along with the focus on positive changes, our PA continues to go above and beyond to bring the school together through social activities and fundraising initiatives. This year's Spring Benefit is no exception! Our Benefit Committee is working overtime putting together a fabulous event that will not only be full of spirit but also be an incredible success for the school! Our goal is to make huge classrooms transformations, so our students have the most innovative spaces for learning. On top of that, we are celebrating our Head Social Worker, Jenna Stogsdill, for her ten years with us empowering our students. You won't want to miss this night of celebration, so please make sure you have your tickets and be prepared to have a fabulous time!

Our students, staff, and parents unify our mission with a shared vision and it's easy to see just how strong our community can be when we collaborate together!

Carrie Catapano, LCSW  
Head of School

## Save the Date!

**April 20 - Wednesday Science Fair**

**May 5 - Annual Benefit**

**May 26 - Thursday Field Day/Year End Picnic**

**June 9 - Thursday June Show**

**June 10 - June Show, Graduation,  
& Moving On reception**

This winter has been filled with inspiration, starting with our amazing art show which highlighted people and cultural art from around the world. All of the children worked so hard with Mr. Robert to complete their beautiful projects and worked just as hard with Ms. F and Ms. Moore on a writing piece that fit their art work perfectly. The winter sing was also an amazing event as the students sang songs that inspired change around the world. Mr. Schatz did such a terrific job preparing the students and we were so impressed with the work that they put into this performance. All of the music was wonderful, including the last song "We Are the World." What a way to end the show!

Our assembly program has been up and running. The students' first assembly was from Symphony Space. We had the Leaf Arrow Storytellers join us. They are a Native American couple who use story, song and dance to teach us the special relationship between Native Americans and the environment. It was an interactive performance that the student really enjoyed. We also had Manhattan School of Music visit and give us an introduction to Jazz music. The performance showcased jazz music as it developed in different regions around the world.

The winter season ended with our All School Skate at Chelsea Piers. What a fantastic day! The ice was filled with skaters and there was a lot of fun had by all.

Let's continue to be inspired this year!

Jessica Chambers, M.A. Ed.  
Katy Jenkins, M.A. Ed.  
Education Co-Heads

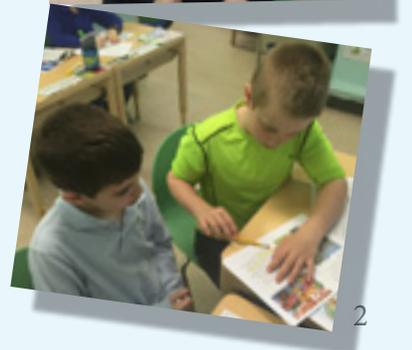
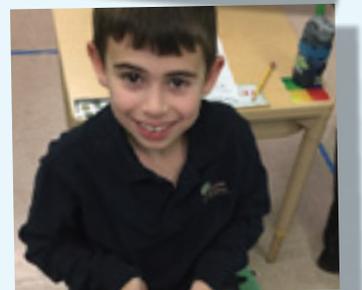
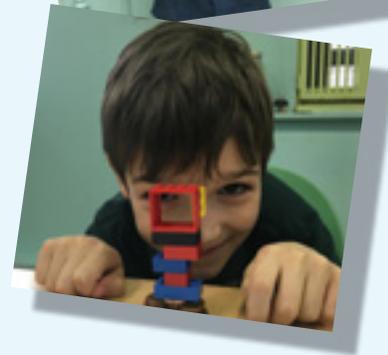
# Our Adventure Continues

This winter has been out of this world in Ms. Richard, Ms. Molins, and Ms. Kaufman's class! Their unit on outer space led to many interactive lessons, including their very own astronaut certification program. The training consisted of three sections: a physical test, a collaborative problem-solving test, and a content test. All students were able to complete the training successfully and were awarded with certificates during a ceremony in the classroom. To conclude the unit, they watched a video that featured an astronaut from the International Space Station. He gave a tour of the station while explaining some of the routines and challenges residents face living in close quarters with no gravity.

The Social Studies unit dedicated to New York City has now progressed from the colonial times to the modern era. The students particularly enjoyed the mini-unit on the varying foods of New York City and their origins. They discussed food trends in past decades to the present, including the creation of the rainbow bagel. Each child made their own "food plate" where they glued their favorite New York City foods to a plate and compared them to their peers. This was a great segue for the class to talk about Ellis Island and immigrants who came to this city and contributed to American culture.

Ms. Belile and Ms. Flerx's class have become Egyptologists in Social Studies this winter. They began the unit learning about Egypt's geographic location and features, such as the Nile River. They then learned about modern Egyptian schools, food, symbols and sports, in addition to the ancient culture including pyramids, hieroglyphics, and views of the afterlife. They took a look at basic economic systems that each community develops in order to identify what will be produced, how will it be produced, and who will get it. They learned to define supply and demand, producer and consumer, and goods and services. Currently, the class is investigating the People's Republic of China.

In Science, the students started the semester with an Energy unit. First, they focused on sound energy. They defined volume, pitch, and vibrations, as well as how sound travels through solid, liquid, and gas. The class moved on to heat energy and how it can be conducted and transferred from one place to another. More recently, the students have been working on a Simple Machines unit. As a introduction to the unit, the class discussed the characteristics of and differences between machines such as levers, pulleys, and inclined planes.



# Our Adventure Continues

It has been an exciting winter in Ms. Behan and Ms. Berger's class! The students have been hard at work reading fiction and non-fiction books, thinking critically about the world around them, and engaging in creative projects to apply what they've been learning. In social studies, the students focused on Africa and Asia. Specifically, they explored the diversity of cultures and demographics that make each country unique. The students learned about the social structure, geography, religion, daily practices, art, medicine, and other cultural aspects of these two continents. Through research, discussion, art analysis, and other projects, the students have become familiar with each continent.

The class is honing physics skills in science. The students progressed through their unit on energy and began learning about simple machines. The students enjoyed creating their own wheel and axel cars in the science and art center to apply their new knowledge. They also had the opportunity to create different types of pulleys in the classroom. Adding a magnet to the pulley allowed them to test the strength, as they were able to pick up paperclips each time the pulley came close to the ground. The class is looking forward to continuing their work on simple machines before moving on to research projects on plant and animal adaptations in the spring!

As they explore the Western Hemisphere, the students in Ms. DeMasi and Ms. Krumholz's class have branched out to various counties throughout this region of the world! They began their inquiry with Mexico. To familiarize themselves with Mexico's geography, they performed a scavenger hunt in which they were given clues about various Mexican landmarks and asked to find them on a map. They used this knowledge to identify New York City landmarks, categorizing them into manmade features or natural features. The students will end the unit with a culminating project on a landmark of their choosing. Each student will create an Instagram of their landmark and write a caption as if they had visited the site themselves.

In science, the students have been learning about health and nutrition. They have discussed the My Plate guidelines to a healthy diet and practiced creating meal plans that follow those guidelines. The students recently learned about the effects of a diet that is high in sugar. They then began investigating how much sugar is in some of their favorite foods and drinks. The students conducted an experiment to compare the sugar content of sports drinks, juices, sodas, and chocolate milk. They created a visual by measuring out spoonfuls of sugar into a cup. They were shocked to see how much sugar is really in these drinks! The students will be using this information to help create some healthy, low-sugar snacks in their cooking group. Leading up to their next unit on ecosystems, the students ended the semester with a field trip to the Bronx Zoo. They learned about the unique habitats and animals of Madagascar. They were able to pet an Egyptian Drap Lizard and a Hissing Cockroach in their workshop. In the exhibit, they saw lemurs, snakes, crocodiles, and tortoises.



# Our Adventure Continues

The students of Mr. Kassel's and Ms. Estrin's class continue to survey the Western Hemisphere, making their way down to Latin America. After completing their unit on the United States' history of the Industrial Revolution, the students observed maps of this region, identifying the Caribbean, Central America and South America, as well as, identifying key physical features of these regions. They discussed the cultural history and demographics, including where the term "Latin America" originates. Now, they are exploring each of the three powerful empires of this region in the chronological order that they appeared in history. The class learned about the Mayans, from their height to their mysterious disappearance around a thousand years ago. The Aztecs followed the Mayan empire. The students have discussed their history and culture, and are now researching the gods of the Aztec pantheon. Following the Spring Recess, the class will complete this unit with a study of the Incan Empire.

After completing their unit on Nutrition and Exercise, the class has been focusing on Earth Science. The students identified and classified rocks and minerals, discussing the characteristics that made these basic Earth materials unique. This investigation led to the Rock Cycle, a natural process that illustrates the cyclical changes rocks undergo and the relationship between the three main types of rocks. Currently, the class is studying topography and the natural forces that change Earth's landscape. These topics include opportunities for hands-on inquiry to model exciting phenomena, including volcanoes and earthquakes!

Ms. Fiasconaro and Ms. Carhart's global citizens spent the semester expanding their knowledge of Eastern Hemisphere. The students studied religions that influenced the development of civilizations in this part of the world. The class welcomed a speaker from the United Nations to discuss how religious tolerance and cultural sensitivity is a crucial part of her job. The students were ecstatic to learn more about the United Nations and the exciting job opportunities that could send a person all over the globe. The class is currently exploring the classical civilizations of Greece, Rome, and China with topics such as mythology and government. As they survey these ancient peoples, the class has kept in mind the impact of the environment on these early societies. Switching gears to the human impact on the environment brought these conscientious global citizens to the Center of Architecture where they studied innovations in green architecture!

Winter conditions played perfectly into our unit on weather. The students opened with a review of the water cycle, building a class terrarium to observe the cycle in action. They have studied weather factors such as pressure, humidity, temperature and wind. They also compared and contrasted weather versus climate and looked at the varying Earth climate zones. The class did an experiment on the interaction of cold and warm air masses using colored water at different temperatures. Currently, the class is studying extreme weather conditions as they begin a project where they play the role of meteorologists.



# Exploring Art from Around the World

WEDS Annual Art Show is the culmination of a month of collaboration and creativity. This year's show, The Art of Inspiration: An Exploration of Global Influences, focused on the people and cultural art from regions around the world. Each class drew from their Social Studies units to find inspiration in the cultures they have been studying. The students then created an art piece with Mr. Robert and a related writing piece with Ms. Feldman and Ms. Moore based on their source of inspiration.



# Our Inspirational WEDS Singers!

This year's Winter Sing was titled "Music That Inspires Change". Mr. Schatz chose inspirational songs with the common theme of helping the world community in fighting hunger and poverty. Learning the stories behind these iconic songs brought the music to life for our students. We are so proud of their performances!



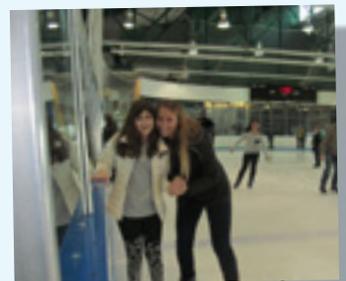
# New Perspectives in Our All-School Assemblies

This winter, we had two exciting assemblies that explored cultural influences from our country's history. First, we welcomed Symphony Space for their presentation of the Leaf Arrow Storytellers. The students observed traditional songs, stories, and dress that demonstrated the special relationship Native Americans have with the earth and the environment. Our next assembly, "The Footprints of Jazz", traced the development of jazz music in regions from around the world, as well as the United States. The presentation showcased a full jazz band performing various types of jazz music.



## Skating with Friends, Family, and Faculty!

The WEDS community gathered for the annual All-School Skate. Faculty and students joined their families at Chelsea Piers for an afternoon of skating. The students look forward to this special opportunity to spend time with their friends and family as a final winter event before welcoming the spring.



# Ludovica, Our Resident Neuroscientist

Ludovica Lumer, our guest teacher of neuroscience, has enjoyed moving her class into the Science and Art Center. Working with our oldest classes, she is taking advantage of the new learning space to involve our students in interactive activities that investigate how our minds work and comprehend the world around us. This semester, she tried something new by taking her lessons outside of the classroom for a special field trip to the Guggenheim museum. She led the students on a tour through the exhibit titled Peter Fischli David Weiss: How to Work Better. These two Swiss artists collaborated on work that focused on how we perceive everyday life.

