

# THE MONTHLY ROAR



FEBRUARY  
2026

LEARNERS AND LEADERS NEWS

VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 5



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Mr. Dalipi*

As we wrap up the month of February, it's hard to believe how quickly it flew by! Although it was a short month, it was filled with meaningful learning experiences and lots of fun. One highlight was our first-ever Staff vs. Students basketball game, which brought excitement and school spirit to our entire school.

As we head into March, we have even more to look forward to! We're excited to kick off the month with our Read Across America celebration, including a special treat, our Masked Readers bringing joy and excitement to literacy across the school. In addition, we look forward to our STEM Expo, our production of Aladdin Jr., and many other engaging activities. We can't wait to see our students continue to grow, lead, and shine in the month ahead!

## TAKE THE NYC SCHOOL SURVEY!

Every year, we ask families, teachers, and staff of grades 3-K through 12, and students in grades 6-12 to take the NYC School Survey. The survey gives school leaders a better understanding of what members of their school community think about their school.



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2026

Congratulations to our Students of the Month! These students were chosen for showing kindness, responsibility, and positive attitudes. They go above and beyond to help classmates and make our school a better place. We're proud of their hard work and leadership, keep shining!



# HARLEM MAGIC MASTERS

This month, we had the incredible honor of welcoming the Harlem Magic Masters basketball team to our school! Students watched amazing trick shots, ball-handling displays, and entertainment that left them inspired and energized.

Beyond the jaw-dropping skills, the Magic Masters shared important messages about hard work, perseverance, and staying active. It was a fantastic reminder that basketball and sports in general, are about dedication, teamwork, and having fun.



## 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

This month, we celebrated a special milestone, the 100th Day of School! Students participated in fun activities, games, and projects that highlighted the number 100 and all the learning we've accomplished so far this year.

From counting activities to creative crafts, students reflected on how much they've grown academically, socially, and emotionally since September. It's amazing to see how far they've come in just 100 days!

We're excited for the 80 days ahead and all the wonderful learning and growth still to come. Here's to 100 more reasons to celebrate our students!

# PARTICIPATORY BUDGET VOTE

Our entire school community participated in a Participatory Budget Vote! From our littlest learners to our oldest students, everyone had a say in how to improve our school. Students voted on three exciting options: Sensory Room: a calm space for relaxation and regulation, Art Murals: colorful artwork throughout our school, Outdoor Recess Equipment: new games and activities for the playground

It was inspiring to see students engage in democratic decision-making and understand that their voices matter. The winning choice will be implemented to benefit our entire school community!

Thank you to all students, staff, and families who participated. This is what community looks like everyone working together to make our school an even better place!



# RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK

This month, our school participated in Respect for All Week, led by our wonderful guidance counselor, Ms. Rivera. Throughout the week, students engaged in activities, discussions, and reflections focused on kindness, inclusion, and celebrating differences.

Students learned the importance of treating everyone with dignity, standing up against bullying, and creating a welcoming school community where all voices are heard and valued.

Thank you to Ms. Rivera for organizing this meaningful week and helping our students understand that respect, empathy, and kindness make our school and our world a better place for everyone.



# TEACHERS VS. STUDENTS BASKETBALL GAME

This month, we hosted an exciting Teachers vs. Students fundraising event led by Ms. Diaz and our amazing fundraising team! The energy was electric as students and staff competed in friendly games, cheered each other on, and came together for a great cause.

Everyone had a blast while raising money to support our school community. It was a wonderful reminder of the spirit of teamwork and fun that makes our school special.

A huge shout-out to Ms. Diaz and the entire fundraising team for organizing this fantastic event. Your hard work, creativity, and dedication made this day possible and brought our whole school together!

Thank you to all the students and staff who participated and supported this event. Together, we're making a real difference!



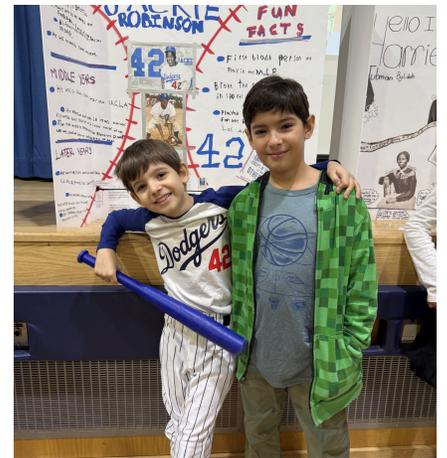
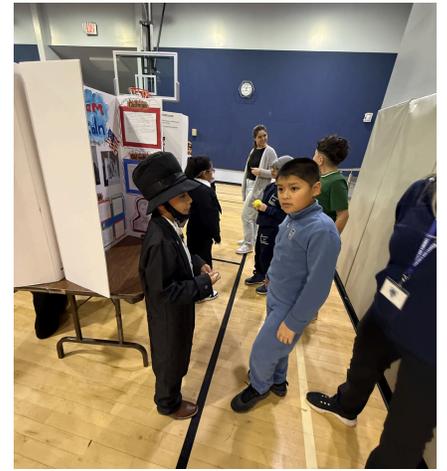
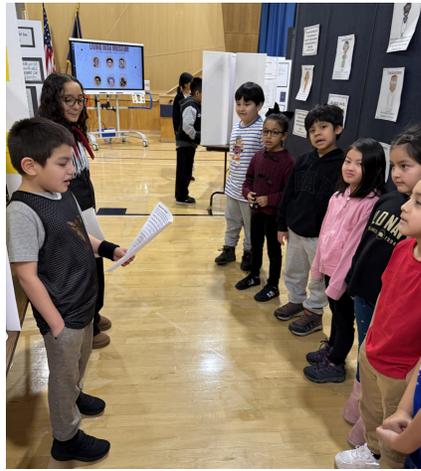
# LIVING WAX MUSEUM

This month, our 4th grade students transformed into historical figures for an incredible Living Wax Museum event! Students researched, dressed up, and brought to life famous people who have shaped history – from inventors and activists to artists and leaders.

Visitors walked through the "museum" and listened as each student shared facts and stories about their chosen figure. It was a wonderful blend of creativity, public speaking, and historical learning that showcased the hard work and enthusiasm of our 4th graders.

A Special Shout-Out: A huge thank you to our amazing 4th grade teaching team for planning and executing this engaging project. Their dedication to making learning memorable and fun truly makes a difference in our students' lives!

We're so proud of our 4th graders and the incredible effort they put into this event!



# CLASS HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

Exciting things are happening throughout our building! Classes are exploring new learning opportunities, visiting places, and engaging in special activities. Ask your child what they've been up to, there's always something amazing happening!



# CALENDAR

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT LEARNERS & LEADERS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Kindergarten field trip/Paseo  Books knock our socks off! ¡Los libros te dejarán boquiabierto!	3  Application OPENS Aplicación ABRE  Dress as your favorite character Vístete como tu personaje favorito	4  Future reader Day! Día del futuro lector!	5 HALF DAY - Parent Teacher Conference Conferencia de padre's maestros DE MEDIO DÍA  305 Day! wear school gear ¡Día 305! ¡Usa uniforme escolar!	6  PTA 8:30am  Trick or Treat 9:30am Basketball away Game Cozy up with a good book! ¡Acurrúcate con un buen libro!	7 STEM EXPO Students: 8:30am Parents: 9:00am EXPO STEM Estudiantes: 8:30 a.m. Padres: 9:00 a.m.
8 	9	10 ENL Parent Workshop In Person Taller Para Padres en Persona 3:40pm-4:40pm 	11 Student Assembly Soapbox Grades, 3, 4, and 5  Wear Green Usar Verde	12 School shows Show escolares 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM Learners and Leaders production  <i>Aladdin</i> 2:30pm- 4:00pm	13 Parent Evening Show Espectáculo de noche padres 5 PM Learners and Leaders production <i>Aladdin</i>	14 Parent Morning Show Espectáculo matutino para padres 9:30 AM Learners and Leaders production <i>Aladdin</i>
15 	17 	18	19	20 No School Eid Al Fitr IMBARAKI 	21	22 
22 	23  2nd Grade Field Trip/Paseo  K-1 & K-4 Trip/Paseo	24	25	26  "Up Up and Away" 3-3:45pm	27  Application CLOSÉS La aplicación CIERRA	28
29	30	31 	NYCSchoolSurvey.org First 3 classes with 100% will receive a pizza party 			

# CONNECT WITH US!

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 learnersandleaders\_ps305

 PS305Q

 ps305.com

**Principal**  
Kalosh Dalipi

**Assistant Principal**  
Concetta Lacerenza-Perrotto

**Assistant Principal**  
Joanne Benetos

**Parent Coordinator**  
Michelle Bordoy-Soto



Instagram



Twitter



and find us on class dojo!

# THE CLUSTER CHRONICLES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, THEATER, MUSIC & STEM



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- A note from the teachers
- What we have been learning

## A NOTE FROM THE CLUSTERS

*Ms. Czyzak, Mr. Mancuso, Ms. Knightley, Mr. Spector, Mr. Reina & Mr. Zenger*

Happy February from your Music, Art, STEM, and Physical Education teachers! As we finish the second month of the year, we're thrilled by the energy and creativity students brought to our classrooms. The first month gave us a strong foundation, students settled into routines, embraced new challenges, and showed wonderful curiosity across all our subject areas.

### How You Can Help at Home:

- Encourage your child to share what they learned in specials class — ask them to sing a song, describe an art project, explain a STEM challenge, or show you a new skill!
- Support daily routines and consistent attendance; every class period counts.
- Celebrate effort and creativity, not just perfection.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a positive, growth-minded learning environment. We look forward to continuing this momentum in March and beyond!



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MS. CZYZAK & MR. REINA

## K-5

This month, our students had an amazing opportunity to learn hockey and floorball using equipment generously provided by the New York Islanders!

Students practiced stick handling, passing, shooting, and teamwork while developing coordination, strategy, and sportsmanship.

A Special Thank You: We're grateful to the New York Islanders for supporting youth athletics in our community and making this hands-on learning experience possible.

We're proud of the enthusiasm and effort our students showed. Keep moving and keep playing!

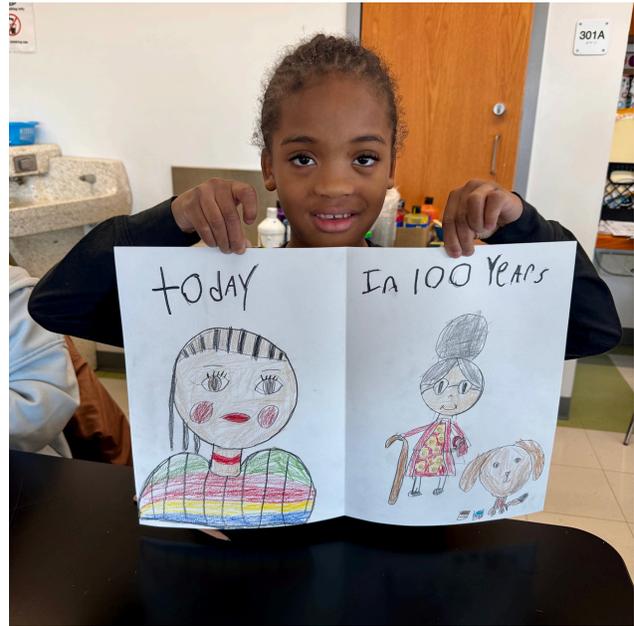


# ART

MS. KNIGHTLEY

## K-2

February was an exciting month in the art room for our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students, filled with projects for Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and the 100th Day of School. One of our favorite projects was our 100th Day self-portraits. Students created two drawings: one showing how they look today and another imagining themselves at 100 years old. Before we began, we brainstormed how people's appearances change as they grow older, discussing details like gray hair, wrinkles, glasses, and more. Students carefully developed their two portraits, adding thoughtful details to show those changes while practicing drawing facial features, expressions, and clothing. The finished portraits were imaginative, detailed, and often very funny visions of their future 100-year-old selves.



## 3-5

February was a busy and creative month in the art room! In Grades 3-5, students created Valentine's Day heart prints inspired by Jim Dine and studied the work of Alma Thomas in honor of Black History Month. Third graders designed symmetrical heart prints by painting half of a heart and folding their paper to transfer the paint, creating a matching print. They filled the inside with warm colors and the background with cool colors to create contrast, then added shading and highlights to give their hearts depth and dimension. Fourth and fifth graders began vibrant abstract paintings inspired by Alma Thomas. Students learned about her life and career as a pioneering African American artist and educator and discussed how her use of repeated shapes and bold color choices created movement and energy in her work. They focused on applying short, square brush strokes and thoughtful warm and cool color choices to build rhythmic, energetic compositions.



# THEATER

MR. SPECTOR

## 2-3

In 2nd and 3rd grade Theater, we are learning how to create Tableau stories. A tableau is a frozen picture that tells part of a story without movement or speaking. Even though our bodies are still, our acting must be strong and clear so the audience can understand what is happening just by looking at us. Students are building complete stories with a beginning, middle, and end by creating three connected tableaus. In the beginning, we introduce the characters and setting. In the middle, we show the problem or an important moment. To make our tableaus powerful and dynamic, students are practicing strong acting choices by showing clear emotions on their faces and using expressive body poses that match the moment. We are also focusing on using three levels—low, medium, and high—which refers to height, so our stage pictures look balanced, interesting, and visually engaging while clearly telling the story.



# MUSIC

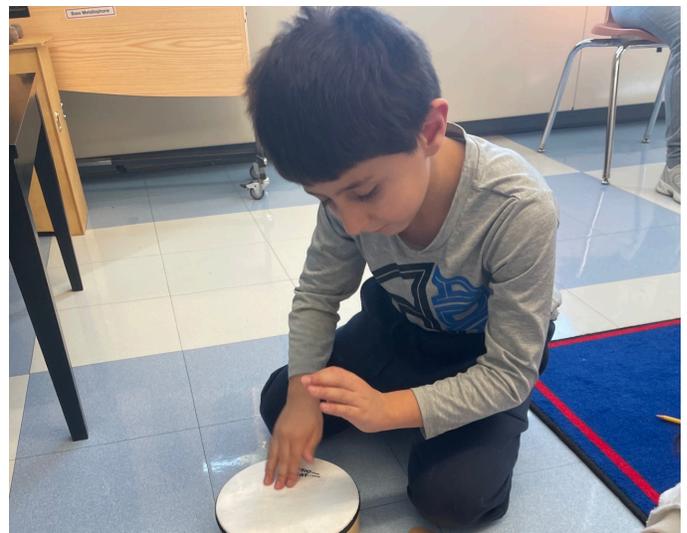
MR. ZENGER

## K-5

Our young musicians continue to impress in the Music Room at Learners and Leaders!

In Kindergarten, we have been singing songs and playing instruments while exploring the properties of music, specifically focusing on pitch and rhythm and in First Grade we have begun our first steps in reading music by learning to read simple rhythms and sing songs with solfege syllables. In Second Grade, we are now learning how to improvise and compose our own melodies on xylophones while in 4th grade we are now learning to play complementary rhythms on various percussion instruments. In 5th grade we have been working on our improvisation skills as well but focusing on working together to improvise music in small groups rather than just as solos.

As always, please encourage your students to keep doing their best in class, ask them about what they are learning and maybe even ask them to teach you something they have learned! I can't wait to see what they are going to do next.



# S.T.E.M.

MR. MANCUSO

## 3-5

Our third graders have been learning all about life cycles and how living things grow and change over time. Students explored what a life cycle is and examined the stages of development for a variety of organisms, including plants and animals. Through discussions, diagrams, and comparisons, students looked closely at how different organisms follow similar patterns while also having unique stages. By comparing life cycles across species, students strengthened their understanding of growth, change, and patterns in nature.

Fourth grade students continued their work with circuits and energy, building on their understanding of how electrical energy moves through a system. Through hands-on activities, students explored ways energy is used in everyday life and discussed how we can conserve energy to reduce waste. Students experimented with improving their circuit designs and thinking about efficient energy use in real-world situations. Next month, students will apply their knowledge of circuits and energy as they begin working with LEGO robotics to design and program models that use energy to complete specific tasks.

Fifth graders have begun an exciting new unit on ecosystems and the different factors that impact how living things survive and interact. Students explored how elements such as sunlight, water, soil, and living organisms work together to form balanced environments. As part of this unit, students started creating their own mini terrariums in the classroom, experimenting with different types of grasses and small organisms to observe how ecosystems function on a small scale. Through ongoing observation, students will track how their terrariums change over time and develop a deeper understanding of how ecosystems remain balanced.

