

**DISTRICT 3
 MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS
 JANUARY 2019**

SCHOOL NUMBER SCHOOL NAME PRINCIPAL	HIGHLIGHTS
<p>MS 54</p> <p>Booker T. Washington</p> <p>103 West 107 Street</p> <p>Dr. Elana Elster</p>	<p>The school started a “Buddy” program where 7th and 8th grade students have 6th grade buddies to help them transition to middle school. They meet monthly and have topics and activities to build relationships. The December “Buddy” was focused on issues dealing with kindness. There is time put aside in the schedule for this to happen!</p> <p>The school set up a “Holiday Gift Giving” campaign on Amazon to help families in need in our community. Parents contacted our guidance counselors and the parent coordinator who ordered items and they were anonymously purchased by members of our community and given to the families before the holiday break. Every item that was requested was purchased! The parent coordinator’s office was filled with gifts!</p>
<p>PS/IS 76</p> <p>Asa Phillip Randolph School of the Humanities</p> <p>220 West 121 Street</p> <p>Charles DeBerry</p>	<p>“Step into Your Future,” those were the words chanted at PS/IS 76 on December 12, 2018 from 12-3pm. Find Zen, partnered with Laura Stylez of Hot 97 and the Hot 97 radio station to bring three hours of fun filled activities to our school. From painting, basketball, games, dance party to a sneaker giveaway, the students enjoyed expressing themselves creatively, thinking about their future goals, and celebrating with one another. Find Zen, through a day of mentorship and activities, left a lasting impression that was greatly appreciated by the school, parents and the community, at large.</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;">     </div>
<p>PS/IS 149</p> <p>Sojourner Truth</p> <p>41 West 117 Street</p> <p>Claudia Aguirre</p>	<p>HBO visited Sojourner Truth Middle School in December 2018 to help us celebrate the season with gingerbread houses. Volunteers and students worked together on designing many delicious creations and writing thank you cards for the students’ favorite teachers. While they were working, they also shared stories with one another about their favorite holiday traditions.</p> 

PS/IS 180
Hugo Newman College Preparatory
370 West 120 Street
Jeneca Parker

Middle school students are hard at work at PS/IS 180. Our hydroponics lab just produced the first crop of the year. Middle school students harvested our fresh vegetables and helped the PTA at our farmer's market. All of middle school is preparing for College with fun activities each day during college week. There was even a College scavenger hunt for our 7th and 8th graders. Finally, our cheerleading squad is busy preparing for our first pep rally of the year. Go Jaguars!



PS/IS 191
Riverside School for Makers and Artists
300 West 61 Street
Lauren Keville

College Day at RSMA
 Elevate, a College Readiness Program came in to work with our middle school students. College students presented note taking workshops to our current students. Our staff also showed pride in their college attire.



MS 243
The Center School
100 West 84 Street
Elaine Schwartz

The Center School put on their annual Winter Theater Arts show on December 13th. The entire school participated and every child had their moment in the spotlight to a packed house. It was a great evening for students, staff and families. We all celebrated with refreshments afterwards in the cafeteria where students, past and present, staff and families mingled.

MS 245
The Computer School
100 West 77 Street
Henry Zymeck

December was fun and festive as we reached a number of key milestones. At the annual 8th grade breakfast, 8th graders and their adults celebrated high school applications being submitted. They also competed in the Greek Olympics for Global Studies, participated in a workshop exploring Shakespeare's Tempest at Lincoln Center, and led our monthly All School Meeting on the topic of "Mapping Your Life's Journey."
 The 6th and 7th graders experienced the magic of Circus Abyssinia at the New Victory Theatre, played percussion at the ASM, and ALL of us had a great time on "Friday Fun Day" before break playing games, singing, dancing, and making art while wearing our superfly pajamas. Finally, we completed the first marking period, after which families met with teachers at fall conferences to reflect on a job well done and to set goals for 2019.
 We are excited about the upcoming Talent Show this month, as students will dazzle us all with music, dance, song and humor. All proceeds will go toward organizations that support LGBTQ+ homeless youths. Happy New Year!



MS 247

Dual Language Middle School

100 West 77 Street

Kristina Jelinek

In December, Dual Language Middle School held our annual Winter Showcase, where students performed various dances and received awards for their work during Trimester 1. Dance styles included West African, Jazz/Hip Hop, Salsa and Contemporary. We were pleased to have our friends from Alvin Ailey, who helped choreograph the West African and Jazz/Hip Hop dances. Students received Academic Awards, Perfect Attendance Awards and awards for modeling our REACH Values of Respect/Responsibility, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship and Hard Work. It was a wonderful celebration of our community's hard work during the first trimester!



MS 250

West Side Collaborative Middle School

735 West End Avenue

Novella Bailey

First Annual Deck the Doors Competition

The hallways were filled with bustle and creativity for our first annual Deck the Doors competition. The energy and excitement was palpable throughout the school. Each homeroom threw themselves into the competition and worked together to come up with imaginative and unusual winter and holiday displays. The judges were so impressed by the effort and comradery, that everyone was a winner! You can look at the photos and judge for yourself!



MS 256

Lafayette Academy

154 West 93 Street

Brian Zager

Welcome to Lafayette Academy. Before the holiday, break P.S. 84 French Dual Language and Lafayette Academy French Dual Language took part in an art collaboration with the famous artist and author of children's books Herve Tullet. It was an amazing event, which included both Principal Zager and Principal Lolis. Children from both schools spent the afternoon creating beautiful work to put on display.



MS 258

Community Action School

154 West 93 Street

Andrew Sullivan

In December 2018, Community Action School's eighth graders finished an in-depth novel study of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Prior to reading, students spent time researching the time period or setting in which the story takes place - in Alabama during the Jim Crow Era. It was important for students to learn about the cultural, economic, political status of the 1930s as well as the discrimination and segregation that took place in order to deepen their understanding of the plot. As students read the novel, their focus was to analyze the development of main characters over the course of the story and track Lee's use of symbolism throughout the narrative. This focus helped them write well-crafted literary analysis essays as their end-of-unit tasks. Like all strong readers, students were tough critics of characters' behaviors and the author's choices, but overall the class *loved* the novel and engaged in many discussions about the book both inside and outside of the classroom.

On January 2nd, 2019 a group of students had the opportunity to attend Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on stage at Shubert Theater. It was a great way to start 2019! Students had a fantastic time watching the matinee performance and an even better time discussing the similarities and differences between the novel and performance the following days in class. Overall, students had an incredible learning experience both diving deep into Lee's novel and experiencing the story coming to life on stage. We look forward to our next learning adventure!



MS 291

West End Secondary School of Urban Studies

227 West 61 Street

Jessica Jenkins

In December the 7th grade culminated their *American Stories* expedition with their Presentation of Learning at the Times Center auditorium. For this expedition the 7th graders created short documentary films which investigated housing discrimination in *A Raisin in the Sun* and in New York today. Families were invited to the Times Center where each student showcased their films. After the showcase, certain students screened five films on the big screen, introduced their films, and took questions from the audience. It was quite an event that left a lasting impression on both the filmmakers and the guests.

PS/IS 333

Manhattan School for Children

154 West 93 Street

Claire Lowenstein

- 100% of our 8th graders completed their High School Admission process
- Student Showcases! Our students in grades 6th -8th shared their best work with Parents and Peers.
- Upcoming Events! The week of January 7th, 2019 is Spirit Week
 - Monday Crazy Sock Day
 - Tuesday Pajama Day
 - Wednesday Sports Day
 - Thursday Crazy Hair Day
 - Friday MSC Spirit

<p>MS 421</p> <p>West Prep Academy</p> <p>150 West 105 Street</p> <p>Carland Washington</p>	<p>College Awareness Day was the spotlight event for our year-long College Access For All initiative. On the day of the event Dr. Chris Emdin gave a keynote address to kick off the afternoon. Then, our guests visited three 7th and 8th grade classrooms. They spoke about their college experiences, why they chose their particular college, and how it helped the prepare for their career. The scholars also were able to engage in Q&A with the guest about the road to college and beyond.</p> 
<p>03M859</p> <p>Special Music School</p> <p>129 West 67 Street</p> <p>Katherine Banucci-Smith</p>	<p>The operative word at SMS in December was CONCERTS! Each grade in our K-8 had their own grade concert where every student exhibited their hard work and love of their instrument through a solo performance. At our high school there were three nights of ensemble performances ranging from Sound Painting to Jazz to Baroque Ensembles to Handel's Messiah. Our high school students also engaged in a spirited Battle of the Bands evening with all grades represented in the three winning bands.</p>
<p>03M862</p> <p>Mott Hall II</p> <p>234 West 109 Street</p> <p>Marlon Lowe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to Tamarah Hall who won the Mott Hall II 2018-2019 Spelling Bee! • December was awesome! We had: Special visitors from Shenzhen, China, 6th grade trip to Big Apple Circus, ACE Day and a Holiday Raffle Assembly! • Classes resumed on 1/2/19! And now we are getting ready for College Awareness Week which begins on 1/11 • 1/10 PTA meeting - 6:00 PM • 1/11 Hangout Night • Midterms coming up! • The yearbook committee will begin working on the yearbook now in January • 1/21 Martin Luther King Day-No School