



GREETINGS FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the fourth week of the Yonkers Public Schools' Summer Elementary Academy of Excellence, we hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. I would like to begin by thanking all the parents and guardians for being a part of this program and for the constant support you provide the students. We successfully completed three weeks of the summer academy, filled with engaging materials and activities. The focus of the program, this summer is to incorporate the strength of five pillars: Literacy, Numeracy, Social-Emotional support, Enrichment, and Parent Academy. Benchmark Booster and Power Standards are used in the program for more effective implementation of the curriculum. Students write stories and focus on the vocabulary and grammar in their literacy classes. An enrichment art project named 'Project Aurora' is also a part of the program, which helps the students explore their creative side. Other activities include morning self-reflections and outdoor math activities on numeracy. Students were able to connect with their peers by presenting their work and expressing themselves before their classmates and teachers in the morning sessions. Our teachers are determined in addressing the individual academic needs of the students along with engaging them in art projects.

The success of the program stems from a collaborative effort of all our administrators and teachers. The Director of Mathematics for Pre-K – 12, Mr. Michael McDonald shared his thoughts about how, providing more opportunities for the students to collaborate and problem solve in classrooms, is essential especially after these past several months of remote learning. Ms. Stephanie McCaskill, the Executive Director of the Special Education Department is excited about the students being able to build their social communication skills by returning to school in person. This volume of the Summer Elementary Academy newsletter will provide you with details about the coursework given to the students at our ten (10) summer academy sites and how the educators and students engage with the topics. It will also give you information regarding the Virtual Summer Parent Academy and its registration details. The Parent Academy is designed to help parents achieve skills that can be applied in their financial habits, workplaces, and personal wellbeing.

We are incredibly happy to see the students excited about learning and participating in their classwork. As we are preparing for the upcoming school year with full-time in-person instruction, our students at the academy are building and strengthening their learning in preparation for the next school year. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and administrators in the past three weeks, and we hope to give you an overview of their wonderful work through this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Lissette M. Colón-Collins

CONTENTS

GREETINGS	PAGE 1
A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOMS	PAGE 2
SPECIAL EDUCATION	PAGE 3
MATHEMATICS	PAGE 3
PARENT ACADEMY	PAGE 4
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT	PAGE 4
ACTIVITY CORNER	PAGE 4
CONTACT INFORMATION	PAGE 5



A Peek Into The Classrooms



2nd grade students of Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety school do their morning warm-up session with their teacher, Ms. Noriega. The students follow along to a good morning song from YouTube.

William Boyce Thompson school - 1st grade students practice pronunciation and vocabulary.

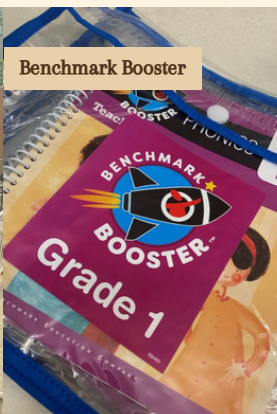


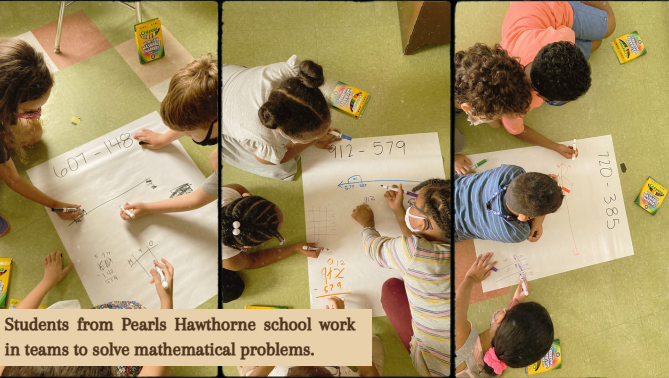
4th grade students of Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety school engage in an interactive class with Mr. Duque. Students express how different genre movies generate different emotions. [Click here](#) to see a video clip of their lesson.

Cross Hill Academy's 1st grade students learning the concepts of refraction, reflection, and diffraction in Ms. Cherian's class.



Ms. Sayegh's Pre-K class at Cross Hill Academy were introduced to seeds and plants. Mr. Clifford's Pre-K class grew beans and plants while learning about the cycle of plants, as part of the science learning.





Students from Pearls Hawthorne school work in teams to solve mathematical problems.

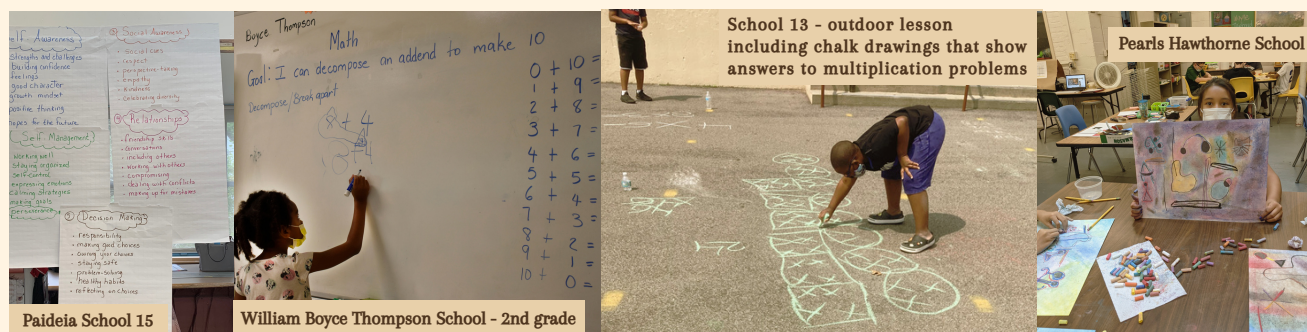


William Boyce Thompson School - 2nd grade students playing with bubbles as well as learning counting, and grammar by comparing the size of the bubbles.

Special Education

Ms. Stephanie McCaskill, the Executive Director of the Special Education Department talked about the inclusivity of the summer school and how teachers recognize the various strengths of their students. She shared her excitement about the students being able to learn new social skills and meet new friends, as it is an important part of the social-emotional part of the academy. Ms. McCaskill also provided insight into the preparations of the department prior to the Summer Academy. There were several meetings with the site leaders and teachers to ensure that special education students would be a part of all the activities the summer program has to offer. There were also meetings with the Central Office to have the class environments ready for the students.

Ms. McCaskill also emphasized the importance of the students coming back to school in person. Being in a classroom surrounded by children helps them to read body language, which is an essential part of communication. It is an opportunity for all students to practice these skills, which they will use throughout their lifetime to be able to recognize how a person is feeling and to develop values like empathy and compassion. These unspoken social skills are tied into the academics. This helps the students to be calm and comfortable, which will help them be academically successful. [Click here](#) to view the full interview.



Mathematics

Mr. Michael McDonald, the Director of Mathematics for Pre-K – 12 provided us with insight about the work done by the mathematics department for the Summer Academy. He stated that the use of Power Standards for Academic Success in the academy will be introduced to the teachers and students before its use again in the fall. It helps identifying high leverage skills and boost the confidence of the students as they prepare for the next grade level.

Mr. McDonald also shared with us the different creative teaching techniques used by the teachers in making classes more interactive and fun. Math skills were used in games for the students to participate in gym and outdoor activities such as a chalk art program. This not only made the class activities more interesting, but also helped the students apply math in daily activities.

The topics covered in the elementary grades include fractional operations and its conceptual understanding and those for the lower grades include addition, subtraction, and counting. Furthermore, the district's mathematics website offers helpful recourses for parents, students, and teachers. Parents can also use the [Power Standards](#) checklists available online to help their children. [Click here](#) to view the full interview.



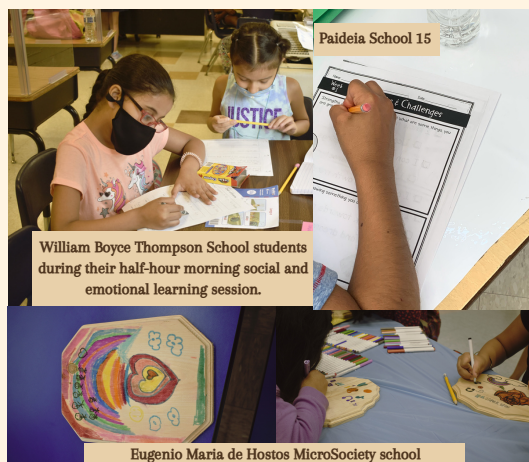
Enrico Fermi school students lining up for their morning warm-up activity.



Virtual Summer Parent Academy

Register for the Virtual Summer Parent Academy! The program starts on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 and ends on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 and is offered in both English and Spanish. The workshops are designed to empower our parents and caregivers with new knowledge and support on topics of interest. Several topics are covered in the workshops such as, ***How to Succeed at the Interview Process, Know Your Rights about Housing and the COVID Pandemic, Practical Solutions to Improve your Finances, Assistance to undocumented immigrants and other legal updates, and Self Care- & Mental well-being for parents and caregivers.***

Participants may access workshops from a desktop, laptop computer, tablet, or even a smartphone. Workshop session leaders will use Zoom and Microsoft Teams to present information. There is no cost to the participants. Zoom link will be provided the day of the workshop via email.



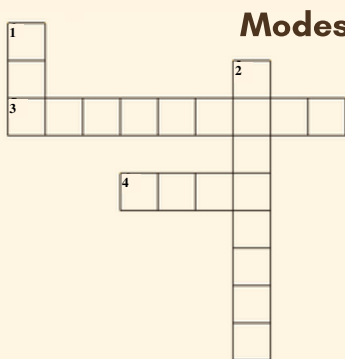
William Boyce Thompson School students during their half-hour morning social and emotional learning session.

Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety school

Social & Emotional Support

Ensuring Social and Emotional support for every child is an integral part of the summer academy. Students practice self reflection activities focusing on self-awareness, social-awareness, self-management, relationships, and decision making. The students from Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety school were given a list of values to choose from, that aligned with the values of their families or themselves as individuals. They decorated a wooden shield and practiced their English-speaking skills by presenting their projects to their class.

Activity Corner!



Modes of Transportation Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

3. A can travel deep under the ocean.
4. A carries passengers across ocean.

DOWN

1. A is a common type of public transportation.
2. I saw an in the sky.

Word bank: -bus -ship -airplane -submarine

Fun Recipe with your kids!



- Take a tortilla and spread any spread of your choice evenly [peanut butter, sun butter, jelly, etc.].
- Line up sliced strawberries in the center and roll the tortilla into a wrap.
- Cut the wrap into 1-inch wheels.

Enjoy the delicious strawberry bites with your little ones!





School 13 Students

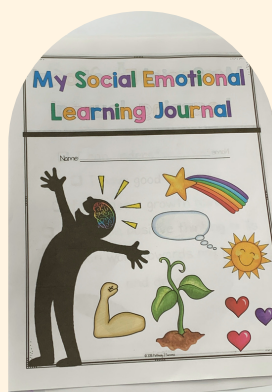
Kahlil Gibran School

Pearls Hawthorne School



"Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today".

-Malcolm X



Do you have questions? Contact the school site leader!

- Cesar E. Chavez School : Ms. Kim Davis: kdavis@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Cross Hill Academy : Ms. Sylvia Branchcomb: sbranchcomb@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Enrico Fermi School : Ms. Lourdes Cruz: lcruz@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety School : Dr. Vanessa Vásquez: vvasquez@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Kahlil Gibran School : Dr. Michelle Yazurlo: myazurlo@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Montessori School 31 : Dr. Moira Gleeson: mgleeson@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Pearls Hawthorne School : Ms. Laura LaBanca: llabanca@yonkerspublicschools.org
- Paideia School 15 : Ms. Jane Wermuth: jwermuth@yonkerspublicschools.org
- School 13 : Mr. George Miles: gmiles@yonkerspublicschools.org
- William Boyce Thompson School : Dr. Taren Washington: twashington@yonkerspublicschools.org



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