



GREETINGS FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Yonkers Public Schools' Summer Elementary Academy of Excellence has wrapped, we hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. I would like to thank all the parents and guardians for sending your children to the academy and supporting them throughout the program. It has been a rewarding experience working together with the teachers, staff, and Central Office administrators to make the summer academies a memorable experience for the students. I would like to extend my gratitude to all who worked hard and dedicated their time to make sure the students received the care and support they needed, this summer.

Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin M. Quezada expressed his excitement about the academies' achievements. He was fascinated by the resilience of the students engaging in various science and art projects this summer. The academies were able to provide social-emotional support for all the students which helped them connect with their classmates and teachers more effectively. They engaged in activities that motivated them to explore themselves through art and science. The projects focused on arts, science, math, and social and emotional enrichment. Indoor and outdoor activities including exercises, dancing, and painting were also done to keep the students active.

This volume of the Summer Elementary Academy newsletter will provide you with details about some of the projects completed by the students at our ten summer school sites. It will also acknowledge our whole team who worked together to make this academy a success. We are incredibly happy to see that the students have completed the summer academy by engaging in several exciting projects with great enthusiasm. The principals and teachers at the sites organized Gallery Walks which displayed the fascinating work completed by the students this summer. It was a treat to see how creative the students were with their projects. We are certain that this experience prepared them for the upcoming school year. We are so proud of our students' accomplishments and we are grateful for all our teachers and administrators who worked hard to ensure the students had a wonderful Summer Academy.

Sincerely,
Lissette M. Colón-Collins

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Message from Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin M. Quezada was pleased with the successful completion of the Summer Academy of Excellence. He stated that the organizers did an exceptional job in implementing the five pillars: Literacy, Numeracy, Social-Emotional support, Enrichment, and a Parent Academy into the Summer Academy. The students who were out of school for so many months were excited about the opportunity to come back in person and learn with their friends. Dr. Quezada's message for the teachers and the district staff is to work together to receive the students on September 3rd and make sure they learn, interact with their classmates, and are provided with support and care every day. He encourages the Yonkers Public Schools community to prepare mentally and academically to return to school in person.



Dr. Quezada emphasized the importance of providing social-emotional support in classrooms and the necessity to continue it throughout the year. Checking in on the students every day about any concerns that need to be addressed before teaching can help the teachers create better connections with their students. It is also important to use art as an instrument to motivate students to do mathematics, reading, and writing. As we prepare to bring all students back to school in person, he urges every parent to have a conversation with their primary care provider and have their child vaccinated. That way we can make sure the students are protected and schools can be the place where students are cared for, loved, and appreciated. By using face-masks, getting vaccinated, and testing, our students will be protected and that is the primary responsibility of us as adults - to protect our children.

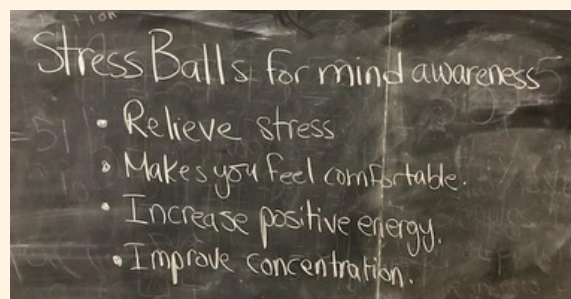
Finally, Dr. Quezada expressed his gratitude to the administrators, teachers, assisting adults, and professionals who dedicated part of their summer to support the needs of the students. He also thanked parents for trusting us and bringing their children to school this summer and hopes we met your expectations. He is thankful for the custodial staff, nurses, security staff, and cafeteria staff who also did great work this summer. Dr. Quezada stated that it was a great summer of learning in the city of Yonkers. [Click here](#) to view the full interview.

Summer Academy Projects

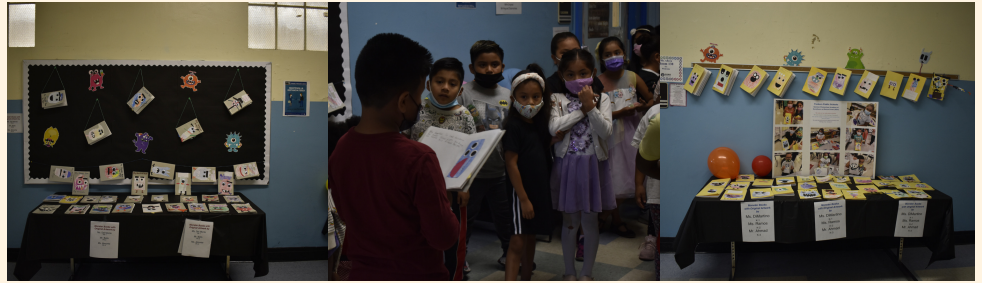


The 4th and 5th-grade students at Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety did a self-reflection exercise through the "Recipe of Me" project as part of their Social-Emotional Learning program. Each student painted a globe with their personal motto on it. A collection of all the 'recipes' were printed into a book and distributed to parents and staff.

The 3rd-grade students and teachers from PEARLS Hawthorne School made stress balls in class and learned about their benefits for mind-awareness.



Students at the Enrico Fermi School completed their "Monster Books with Original Artwork" project and displayed their work. The 1st-grade students read their books to their classmates and teachers.



Students of PEARLS Hawthorne School did a Social-Emotional learning enrichment project representing community-building and teamwork. Scribble Stones were made and placed around a tree to make a Scribble Stone Garden.



The students at Cross Hill Academy presented their Arts & Science projects during the Gallery Walk. The procedure of a volcanic eruption was explained and demonstrated by the students. The presentation also included a demonstration of the movements of fingers in the human body using a Robotic-Hand. Other projects were based on topics like refraction, reflection, and how the human eye focuses on an image.



Students at PEARLS Hawthorne School engaged in a Watercolor Butterfly Group Project. Each student created a butterfly using watercolor paper and decorated it using watercolor paint. All the butterflies were displayed on a glass screen.

At Cross Hill Academy, Ms. Kemoh's and Mr. Alger's K classes did the 'force & motion painting', which was an integral part of their "Connect Art and Science" series'.

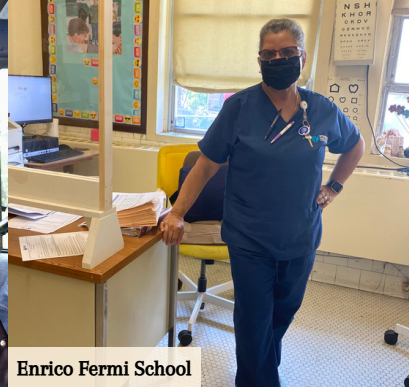




Mr. Robert Bannister
Security Guard at Cross Hill Academy



Mr. Reyes
Bus Driver for
Cross Hill Academy



Enrico Fermi School

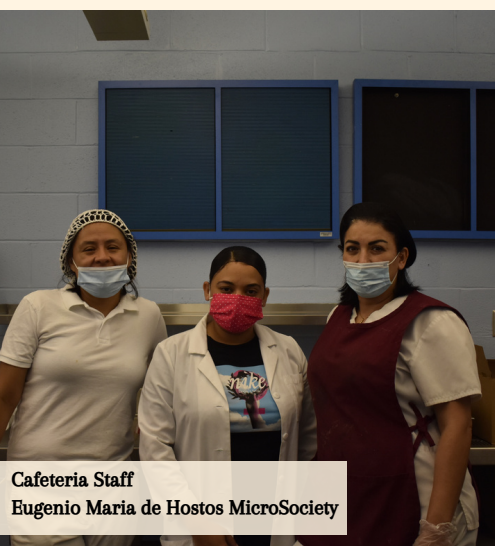


Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety

The Pillars of Support

The Summer Academy of Excellence is the result of the combined hard work and coordination of many people working on several levels. From getting the classrooms ready for the students, making sure they are supplied with the necessary material in the classrooms, feeding them, and getting them to and from their homes. The support received at each academy expands wide. The teachers and their assistants worked together to make sure every student received the care and support in their classes and made their experience fun and engaging. They played a huge role in the facilitation the social-emotional support to the students which was a key focus of the academy.

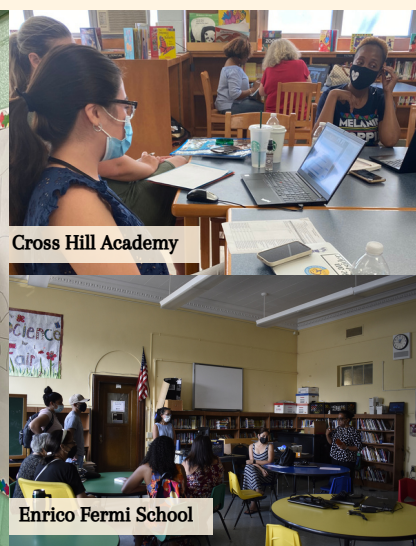
The custodial staff were an immense source of support for the academy by making sure any and everything were ready in the schools for the smooth functioning of the classes. The security guards ensured the safety of each and every student and staff on the site especially in the morning and at dismissal. Every nurse at each school site made sure they were available to help anyone who needed medical support or assistance. It was important to provide a healthy breakfast and lunch to all our students throughout the course of the academy. The cafeteria staffs made sure the students had nutritious meals. Finally, the transportation staff and our bus drivers did a wonderful job safely bringing the students to and from school. We thank each one of you for your time and service this summer to ensure our students had a great summer of learning!



Cafeteria Staff
Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety



William Boyce Thompson School

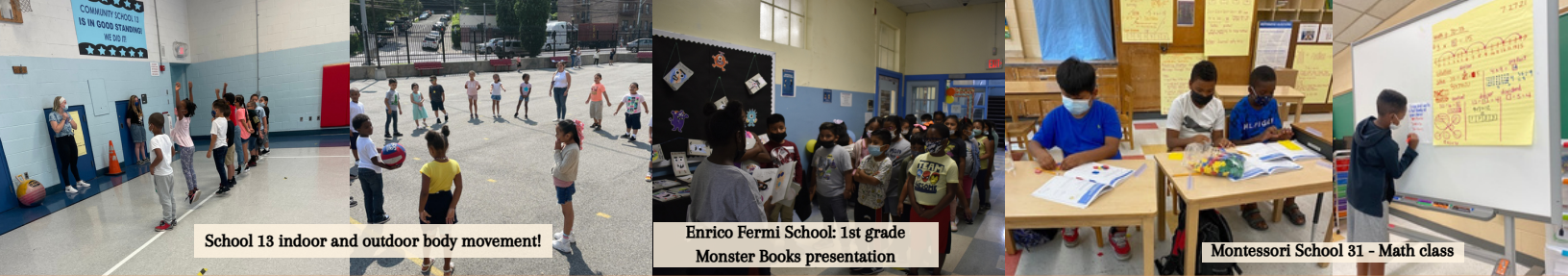


Cross Hill Academy

Enrico Fermi School



PEARLS Hawthorne School



School 13 indoor and outdoor body movement!

Enrico Fermi School: 1st grade Monster Books presentation

Montessori School 31 - Math class

Activity Corner!

Seven Wonders of The World Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Oval amphitheater in the center of the city of Rome, Italy
2. Complex of Mayan ruins on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula
3. The longest man-made structure in the world
4. Famous archaeological site in Jordan's southwestern desert, it can also be a woman's name.
6. Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, above the Urubamba River valley

DOWN

1. Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
5. Ivory-white marble mausoleum on the southern bank of the river Yamuna in the Indian city of Agra

[Omit spaces in between words while filling in the puzzle.]

Word bank : -Great Wall of China -Chichén Itzá -Petra -Machu Picchu
-Christ the Redeemer -Colosseum -Taj Mahal



Paideia School 15



Cross Hill Academy



PEARLS Hawthorne School



School 13: 5th grade My Future Locker project



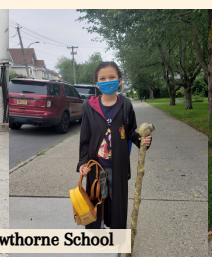
Cross Hill Academy

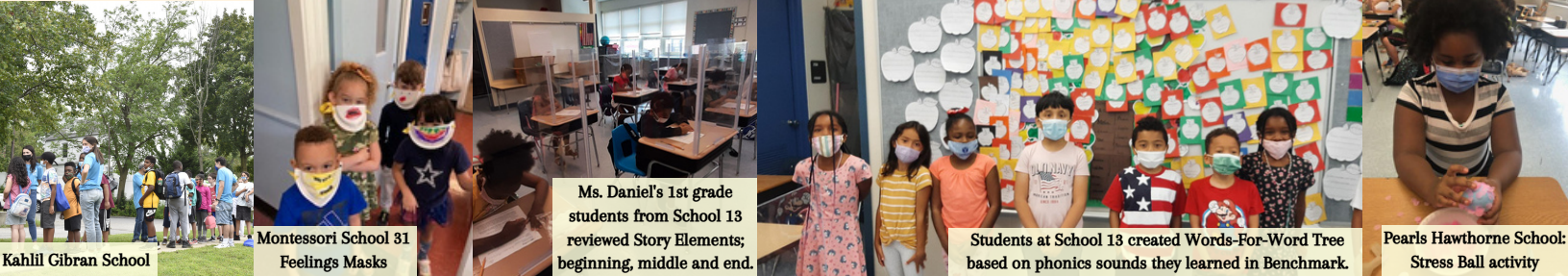


Kahlil Gibran School

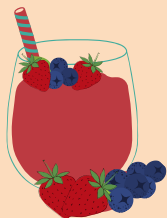


PEARLS Hawthorne School





Fun Recipe with your kids!



- Ingredients needed: 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup yogurt, 1/2 tsp vanilla extract, 1 cup strawberry, 1/2 cup blueberry, 1 tsp honey, 6tsp sugar, 2 cups ice (if using fresh fruit)
- Use a blender to mix all the ingredients together and pour it into a glass [serves approximately 3 glasses].



Enjoy the delicious Strawberry-Blueberry smoothie with your little ones!



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela



Summer Elementary Academy of Excellence
Division of Language Acquisition, Funded Programs, School Counseling and The Arts
Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools
Lissette M. Colón-Collins, Assistant Superintendent
Elaine Shine, Executive Director

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