

COMMUNITY
 “Today’s voices,



NEWS 13
 tomorrow’s leaders”

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Community School 13 Honored As December’s



On Tuesday, January 16th, Community School 13 was graced by Yonkers Board of Education and Yonkers City Council, which included special guests such as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin M. Quezada and even Yonkers own City Mayor, Mike Spano! It was a memorable moment for the entire school community to be recognized as December’s “School of the Month. Visitors were introduced to many of the school’s new programs and achievements. Such highlights included our active participation in the newly formed YASA program – Yonkers After School Academy, which allows its students to excel in an after-school curriculum that specializes in entrepreneurship. Among other initiatives, the school was commended on its STEAM magnet program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) which not only engages students, but also encourages them to explore trial and error exploration through creative stimulation methods. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada stated, “Community School 13’s Principal Isabel Hernandez, along with her teachers and staff have revamped their curriculum and technology practices to provide a cohesive academic program. I’m also very proud of the commitment and early success of our Yonkers After School Academies.”

On this day, visitors witnessed our close-knit family spirit and recognized us for our acts of kindness, what can be best described as our “special power”: our community engagement. Aside from our special initiatives such as “Helping Hands” and our “Backpack for Kids” programs, our “Cops & Kids” in-school partnership definitely keeps us active with those who work to protect us: the Yonkers Police Department. Since its inception six years ago, students have become more open to building relationships with the Yonkers police force, tearing down any negative or false perspectives they may have had prior. This is a special bond that no other school can compare with, setting us apart from the rest. Last, but never least, was the showcase of our own 7th graders, Gleny Perez, Ta’zaiya Lewis and Yuleini Mejias who sang Andrea Day’s “Rise Up” song to everyone whom was present at the celebration. With their angelic voices, Perez sang away as Lewis and Mejias carried the tune. It was a proud moment for C.S 13’s family and friends. These middle-schoolers had the chance to even take selfies with the mayor; leave it to us to make that happen! “School 13 has made a significant positive change that started at the top and has made its way to the students,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “The administrators, teachers and staff should be proud of the work they’ve accomplished – exposing our young ones to diverse experiences which they can apply to the real world and is crucial to their early childhood development. By affording our students the opportunity to find their passion, we’re cultivating a learning environment each and every day.” The honors didn’t end there as the Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez stated, “On behalf of the Board of Education Trustees, we congratulate the entire School 13 community on receiving this well-deserved award. The administrators, teachers and support staff are totally focused on the children’s success and the students’ commitment to learning outside of the classroom is inspiring.” Successful, committed and inspiring, yes that sounds about right!

The road to success was never going to be easy, but Principal Isabel Hernandez was prepared and open to taking on the challenge. It’s been a journey, but now it’s a story in the making. Principal Hernandez shared, “It was an honor to be awarded such a prestigious award. It shows the goals we have achieved as a community and where we’re headed. It’s exciting to see where we are and where we’re headed. It’s a wonderful beginning to our legacy.” This was the first time C.S 13 was chosen for the honor and we couldn’t have asked for a more special time for others to notice. It was truly visible that our guests saw exactly who we are and what we stand for: working towards the best in ourselves and each other. Be ready for next year’s Community School 13’s Proclamation Day, officially to be celebrated on January 16.th Stand proud owls! ★

In Honor of Black History Month, C.S 13 News Recognizes... Kimberly Bryant!



As a freshman in Electrical Engineering, Kimberly Bryant felt culturally isolated. She started Black Girls Code after noticing there’s still a ‘dearth of African-American women in science, technology, engineering and math professions.’ She says the lack of access and exposure to STEM topics are the likely reasons. Black Girls Code aims to teach young girls in-demand skills in technology and computer programming. In 2013, the White House named Bryant one of 11 Champions of Change for Tech Inclusion. She’s also been named one of Business Insider’s 25 Most Influential African-Americans in Technology. As of 2016, more than 5,000 girls had participated in the program since it began in 2011. We STEAM, we CODE! Today we honor you! ★

(courtesy of Wired.com)

C.S 13's Basketball Girls Team Takes the Win!

On Friday, Jan. 26th while everyone was rushing outside preparing for the weekend, the middle school girls' basketball team was prepping for their tournament game at Early College. C.S 13 girls played against School 23 for the West side championship and won! It was a victorious win of 18-3. Coach Ian Salon stated, "At the beginning of the West side championship game I was a little nervous as the score was still 0-0 after the first quarter. I knew that our girls were the better team and it was just a matter of time before we took over the game." As the winning team, the next challenge was to take on the defending champions, Khalil Gibran. The same team effort was displayed as this game counted towards the ultimate title: the Yonkers City championship. Our girls fought strongly for the title, but the game ended with the score of 33-21. We may have not won the Yonkers City Finals title,



but our girls came out 2nd in the entire Yonkers district!

What was the game plan for building a winning team? With eighteen years of coaching under his belt, Coach Salon noticed the team's dedication and the willingness to learn. They were always well-behaved at practice and followed directions. "They had a competitive desire that has not been matched by any previous teams." It looks like pure teamwork is what equaled to their success. Eighth grader Yamilka Dominguez who plays small forward shared, "It was teamwork that got us this far. We were all dependent on each other to use our positions correctly and to ultimately, get the ball into the basket." Even if the team didn't make the final win, it was a proud moment overall. Dominguez stated, "We got farther than last year, so this was a great achievement." We commend our girls at showing their skills and working together. This is what our school spirit is all about! ★



IT'S NOT HOW
GOOD YOU ARE,
IT'S HOW GOOD
YOU WANT TO BE.



Upcoming C.S 13 Events!

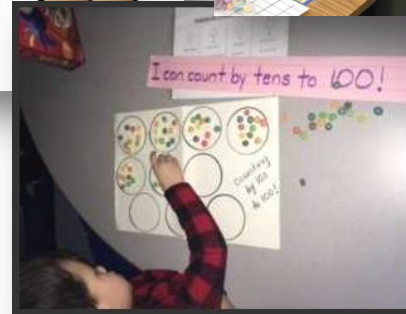
- **March Coding Club Dates:** 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd **March YASA Dates:** Every Monday – Wednesday
- **March 2nd:** Grades 6-8 Class Trip to Dave & Buster's
- **March 7th:** Student of the Month Breakfast
- **March 9th:** Honor Roll Breakfast at 9:15 a.m.
- **March 16th:** Spirit Day - Wear Green Day!
- **March 21st:** Grade 8th Class Trip to Lincoln Park Jewish Center & **March 23rd:** Grade 5th Class Trip to Lincoln Park Jewish Center
- **March 30th:** Spring Recess – School's Closed!



In the month of February, love is in the air, and it is as sweet as cake! With the help of our school's guidance counselor, Laura Bather, our 8th graders surely knew how to show this loving feeling by baking delicious cakes for our heroes in Yonkers, our veterans. Eighth graders were grouped into teams and had a great time, setting up their cake stations. As they mixed and decorated their cakes it was visible how much fun they were having, giving back to the community through a simple act of kindness. Mrs. Laura Bather stated, "Baking for our vets has become a part of our C.S 13 legacy. By having our 8th grade student's focus on a project for our veterans, it reminds us of all that our veterans have sacrificed in serving our country. We hope to remind the veterans in our community that they are in our thoughts and in our hearts; that they are appreciated, and never forgotten." Bather shared "I genuinely love doing it. It's fun, feels good to do it and picturing the faces lighting up when they get their baked goods and cards...worth every minute. I'll do it even after I retire!"

Eighth grader Yaritza Esteban found the event to be very rewarding. "It was great to be able to give to older people. Sometimes you want to and don't know how. Doing this, we were able to and it was a lot of fun!" How sweet it is to be a part of 13! Special thank you to Mr. Eli Vetrano, who bequeathed a generous sum to our students in recognition for all we have done for our veterans these past years. Thank you, Mr. Vetrano and family! ★

Celebrating the First 100 Days!



On February 14th, Pre-K and Grade 1 celebrated the 100th day of school. From the very first day of school, classes begin keeping track of the number of days they've been in school in anticipation of the 100th day. Teachers and students count on a number chart up to 100 days. Upon the 100th day, it's time to celebrate the event by completing activities based around the number 100. Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Christine Heidelberger and First Grade teacher, Mrs. Donna Fitzpatrick, celebrated by making 100th day crowns and counting fruit loops by tens on a 10s grouping chart. The festivities also included stringing the fruit loops into a necklace that students were able to wear all day. This creative approach teaches various mathematical concepts that can be taught using the number 100. "Pre-K students were so excited that we made it to 100! They had fun and ate their necklaces before they went home!" shared Mrs. Heidelberger. The same fun and excitement took place in Mrs. Fitzpatrick's 1st grade classroom as she also shared her student's great day. "We worked on many different activities, and students also drew pictures of what they would look like when they were 100 years old!" What an awesome way for students to begin learning their math simply by grouping their Fruit Loops! Yum! ★

OWLS P.S.A...
Join Extended Learning!
Don't be afraid to Build Towards
Your Greatness!
 (Ask your teacher for details)



If you have any events or great news to share with the C.S News 13 team, please leave a note in Mrs. Medranda-Perez's mailbox.

Many thanks to the teachers, staff and students that contributed to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Christine Heidelberger and all the staff that contributed!

