



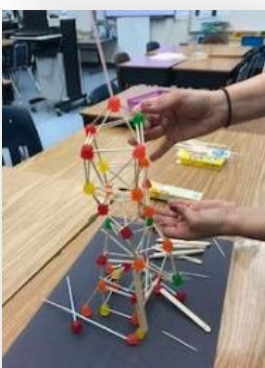
# COMMUNITY NEWS 13

**“Today’s voices, tomorrow’s leaders”**

Volume II – Issue III

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## Community School 13’s Annual S.T.E.A.M Fair!



On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Community School 13 held their annual S.T.E.A.M fair of the year, where students were able to display their projects, showing the experimental design and scientific investigations that truly foster inquiry learning. C.S 13 strives to prepare students through its S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics) magnet, and it was highly visible throughout each grade level! Each grade level took their turns to show school visitors exactly what the goal was and what attempts were made to get there successfully. When posed with investigative questions, students were challenged on how to respond to the goal through multiple attempts of testing possible outcomes. From Prekindergarten to middle school, students embraced each challenge as an opportunity to show-off their critical thinking skills and enthusiastic attitude when explaining their learnings. Of course, students weren't the only ones steamin'; the staff had fun with it as well!

The middle school was tasked with making electronic cars move. While students assembled the cars together, they had to also become aware of the open and close circuits. The flow of electricity was important because they had to determine when the circuit was closed, and why it didn't flow when the circuit was open. Ultimately, the goal was to work on making the motor move. It was definitely a cool sighting as the 8<sup>th</sup> graders attempted to meet the challenge. Mr. Ortega shared, "We had a great turnout and the kids were really into the building of the cars. They even attempted to race them in the hallway." Definitely!

Others joined in the fun as well. First Grade teacher, Mrs. Fitzpatrick shared that her students read the book, "Three Billy Goats Gruff" by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and thought it would be a fantastic idea to "steam" the book with her students. The task was to build a bridge that could support three billy goats. Although the idea was very simple, the kids tested the bridge based on their observations. Mrs. Fitzpatrick stated, "The kids commented that this was hard, but so much fun!"

Every year different grade levels take on different experiments and our growth as a school has been evident as we strive to make learning a different experience every time. Principal Isabel Hernandez shared, "Both the teacher and the students seemed more excited and engaged in the creative and innovative activities that were provided this year. Their hard work was evident throughout the STEAM night as families supported their children's endeavors. My expectations and hope for next year's STEAM fair is to have greater family/parent participation. We anticipate having a more extensive outreach and promotion to our community partners and District team leaders as well." It's times like these when we can be proud of "owl's" work! Can't wait to see what we "steam" up for next year! ★

## C.S 13's Middle School Gets Techie With Microsoft



Technology is a part of our lives and especially one vital to our education. When the opportunity to explore educational tools at the Microsoft store arose, English teacher and Technology liaison, Mrs. Karyn Medranda-Perez and Math teacher and Coding Lead, Mr. John Ortega, jumped right in to make this happen for their students. Using laptops in the classroom for writing essays, developing Powerpoint presentations and solving math challenges is common for middle school students. However, experiencing tech tools beyond laptops was something that definitely made this field super appealing. Grades 7 & 8 were chaperoned by Mr. Ortega and teacher's assistant, Mrs. Jeanette Kolkowski, When asked about the experience, Mr. Ortega shared that it was a great time because students were able to see real world careers that involved gaming; a popular activity enjoyed by many! "It was a very eye-opening experience for them to see something different versus what they see every day. What we teach was put into play." Mrs. Kolkowski also noticed the amount of fun the students were having because they were doing what they enjoyed most: playing! "They enjoyed playing with all the Microsoft equipment provided. It was nice to see them enjoying themselves."

Seventh grader, Daniela Rosario reveled at the fact that they were left to explore. “It felt nice to be trusted and not treated like little kids.” She wasn’t the only one to be shocked by the experience. They knew where they were headed, but had no clue what was awaiting them. Laura Mendoza noticed how this trip was different. “It looked like the people that worked there were passionate about their job. We’re usually on laptops, but now we had touchscreens. They exposed us to new things and that’s what made it fun.” Yasmin Espinosa agreed as well. “The hands-on learning was what I enjoyed the most. As they taught us about their learning tools, they were very enthusiastic!” Who doesn’t love great reviews? Time to make this tech adventure, a tech tradition! ★

## C.S 13’s 1<sup>st</sup> Y.A.S.A Fair!



Community School 13 isn’t afraid to try new things, even when it looks like an impossible task. However, when we were presented with a grant to teach our students about the entrepreneurial spirit, we jumped at the challenge! Per the Yonkers Public Schools website, “Yonkers Public Schools was awarded a \$7 million Empire State after School Grant to fund Yonkers After School Academies, affectionately known as YASA. The grant provides \$1.4 million for each of 5 years for 9 participating schools: School 9, School 13, School 23, Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy, Cedar Place School, Enrico Fermi School, Robert C. Dodson School, Palisade Preparatory School, and Gorton High School.” Ultimately, C.S 13 chose to utilize the grant money to fund an enrichment program tied to business ventures. The grant will run for four years.

Yonkers teachers and students worked together on selective skills and then aimed to turn it into something profitable. Activities that transformed into business ventures included dancing, hair, jewelry making, cooking, home décor, scrapbooking, gardening and many others! The fair, which was held on school grounds on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, was hosted by students and staff. Their creative works of art were displayed at the fair for sale. Principal Hernandez shared, “This is something that teachers were interested in partaking. Everyone leaves here exhausted, but when it came to Y.A.S.A, both teachers and kids were excited and the kids were happy to join in the action. The enthusiasm from our students and the great teachers dedicated to it, is what made it a success.”

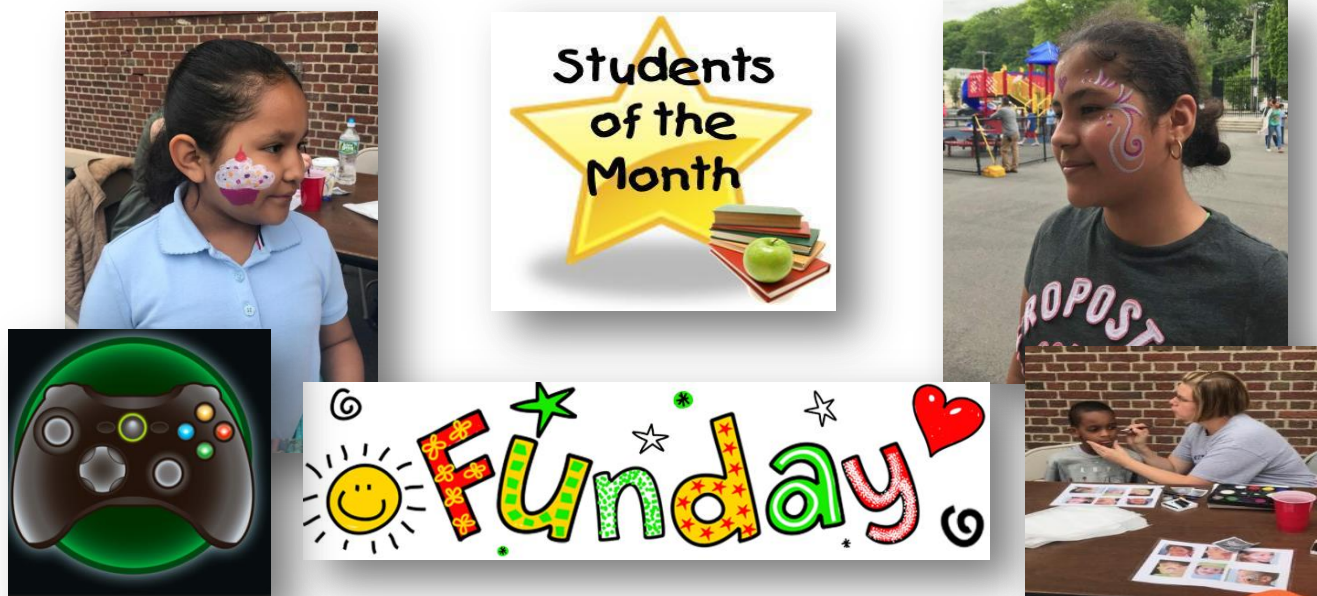
Prekindergarten teacher, Christine Heidelberger was appointed as Y.A.S.A Business Director, taking the lead for this innovative initiative. “I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to manage all aspects of this grant in a way that would benefit students. At the end of this venture, I felt that this experience was offered, in addition to another day of learning and culminating events”. It was very rewarding for me, the

staff and most importantly, the students. Their smiles and excitement and eagerness for next year was the ultimate assessment that it worked well and will be even better next year.” When asked about next year’s plans, Heidelberger shared that a “few new businesses are planned and the large profit made this year will be used to buy materials to meet Y.A.S.A’s business goals for next year.” In fact, Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Y.A.S.A supporters will host a bake sale, which will also include student made goods that will be sold, as a way to continue to raise funds for next year. Proceeds will go towards materials and projects that can build on activities. We made a big splash this year and look forward to next year’s bustle so we can hustle! ★

#### End of the Year C.S 13 Events!

- **June 15<sup>th</sup>:** Grade 5 Bowling Trip  
Middle School Car Wash Fundraiser  
Grade 8<sup>th</sup> Graduation Dance 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- **June 18<sup>th</sup>:** Y.A.S.A Bake Sale Fund-Raiser
- **June 19<sup>th</sup>:** Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony 9:15 a.m.
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Awards Ceremony for Grades 1-3 at 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & Grades 4-6 at 10: 05 a.m. – 11: 05 a.m.
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>:** C.S 13’s Car Wash!
- **June 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Dismissal at 12 p.m. for Students
- **June 25<sup>th</sup>:** Last day of School for Teachers, Staff & Students! Dismissal at 12 p.m.

### C.S 13’s “FUN DAY” Celebration!



It finally came! The day that all chosen students of the month have been waiting for: Fun Day! On Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, all students of the month gathered in front of the school in a fun-filled affair full of face-painting, bouncy houses, an arcade truck, and adrenaline-driven other activities, followed by pizza for lunch, Teachers and staff were involved as well, setting up, and participating to make this day, a memorable one. On a monthly basis, students were chosen by their teacher as someone who “exemplifies kindness, perseverance, hard work and dedication,” the key qualities in being chosen. While academia is important, this recognition is a separate celebration on its own. Event

organizers, third grade teacher, Jessica O'Neill and fifth grade teacher, Lauren Spagna, worked all year to make this event a success. Mrs. O'Neill shared "Fun Day to me symbolizes all that we are at Community School 13. It is a fun school 13 family day to celebrate children that exemplify kindness, perseverance, hard work and dedication. It takes a lot of planning and lots of teamwork from the whole staff but it really is so rewarding to see our kids playing outside and just having fun. Between the DJ, the video game truck, the slide, the bouncy castle, obstacle course, pizza, face painting and relay races it was really the best day ever for all of our Community School 13 Student of the Month recipients." Ms. Spagna agreed when she stated, "I absolutely love Fun Day because it celebrates our students who strive for this all year! Next year I'm looking forward to having first timers join Fun Day!" This is definitely a C.S 13 legacy, one that we hope will continue for future generations. You might never know-next year, it may be YOU! ★

**Have a GREAT AND RELAXING SUMMER!**

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

**Special thanks to Christine Heidelberger!**



**Community School 13**

**Teachers & Staff would**

**like to wish our students**

**and their families a**

**fabulous summer!**

