

# MS 354 Times

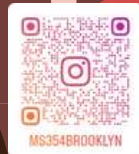
## March 2024

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**DR. MONIQUE CAMPBELL,**  
PRINCIPAL  
**KIMANI SMITH,**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
**CYLANN PHILLIPS,**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
**MAXINE GRIFFITH,**  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
**ELROY O. CORMACK,**  
PARENT COORDINATOR  
**AMANDA BERNARDINE,**  
COUNSELING IN SCHOOLS  
**HANDEL BARCLAY,**  
NEW YORK EDGE



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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US**  
**MS354.COM, 718-774-0362**



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we enter the month of March, we embark on a special time of reflection and celebration - **Women's History Month.** This month provides us with a valuable opportunity to honor the incredible contributions and achievements of women throughout history and in our present day.

Women have played pivotal roles in shaping our world, breaking barriers, and advocating for equality and justice. From trailblazers in science, politics, literature, and the arts to activists who have fought tirelessly for women's rights, their impact is profound and enduring.

During Women's History Month I encourage each and everyone of you to take the time to learn about the remarkable women who have made a difference in our society. Explore their stories, their struggles, and their triumphs. Let their courage and resilience inspire you to dream big and pursue your passions with determination and purpose.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us also reflect on the importance of diversity, inclusion and empowerment. Together, we can build a more equitable and just society for all. I am proud to be a part of a community that values and uplifts the voices of women. Let us join hands in honoring their legacy and shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

*Dr Monique Campbell*

# Events for This Month



**IN MARCH**



**2024**

**FRI  
01**

## **"BLACK HISTORY" HERITAGE DAY**

Wear Heritage Day clothing in honor of Black History Month. Students can wear attire that reflects african, caribbean, or African-American Culture

**THU  
07**

## **D17 WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT**

PS 91 Annex 532 Albany Ave

**MON  
11**

## **SPRING PICTURE DAY**

- Grade 8-cap & gown pictures
- Grades 6 and 7- makeup only (students who were absent)

**THU  
14**

## **PARENT TEACHER'S CONFERENCE**

zoom links will be shared

**PTA MEETING  
THU 21**



## **FOOD PANTRY**

WED 20, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SAT 23, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



# CAFETERIA UPGRADES

at MS 354



Dr. Monique Campbell and the D17 Community have worked tirelessly to ensure that our scholars have the best eating environment in a school building.

## **Studies have shown that:**

When the cafeteria environment is pleasant, students eat more of their lunch, do better in their academic work, have fewer behavioral problems, and feel more connected to their school. For students, lunch should be an enjoyable part of the school day to: Relax and take a break from classroom work.

**Feature  
Story**





# STUDENT FEATURE STORY

## HAIR LOVE

BY  
KILEY  
BERNARD  
SERENA  
BURGESS LA  
QUA

Have you ever wanted to go outside and do something fun but couldn't because your hair wasn't done? That is what people call a bad hair day and it happens to the best of us. This can even cause your mood to decrease because when looking at yourself and not being confident self-esteem issues arise.

Your hair is more than strands coming out of your scalp but a part of who you are and how you present yourself to the world. Your hair is a reflection of yourself and the confidence that you present to others. Let's face the facts: when people see you - they see your hair, so taking time out of your day to prep, cleanse, and style your hair is important, because it demonstrates the way that you care for yourself.

Confidence with your hair type begins with embracing its natural texture and characteristics. Start by discovering and appreciating your hair's unique qualities regardless if the texture is straight, curly, wavy, or something in between. We are all different and have unique traits. Our different hair textures can determine many things such as the styles that you execute to the products that you use. The products that work for you are a vital part of the look that you are going for. Whether it be volume, length, or curl definition there is a process to any end result.

Understanding your hair's specific needs and creating a customized routine are the first steps in taking care of it. Selecting the best shampoo and conditioner for your hair type, which can consist of oily, dry, curly, or color-treated should be your first step. To keep your hair's oil balance in check, wash it frequently but not too often. When shampooing, you should try and concentrate on massaging the scalp to eliminate dirt accumulation. Use a conditioner thereafter to nourish and untangle your hair, paying special attention to the mid-lengths and ends. Use heat protectant products to prevent damage to your hair and limit the frequency of heat styling. Incorporate deep conditioning treatments on a regular basis to fortify and nourish your hair. Lastly, embrace protective hairstyles and stay away from tight locks that could break your hair.

Your hair helps you define the person that you are and the personality that you share with those around you. Whatever you do with it reflects your self confidence and the emotions that you are internally experiencing. Moral of the story is : your hair is you and you are your hair, do not be afraid to push your boundaries when experimenting with it and remember that it is one of the first things that people see and often time they assume that it is also a reflection of your personality. Accept your hair type as a vital component of who you are, and allow your confidence to show through so that you radiate your inner beauty.





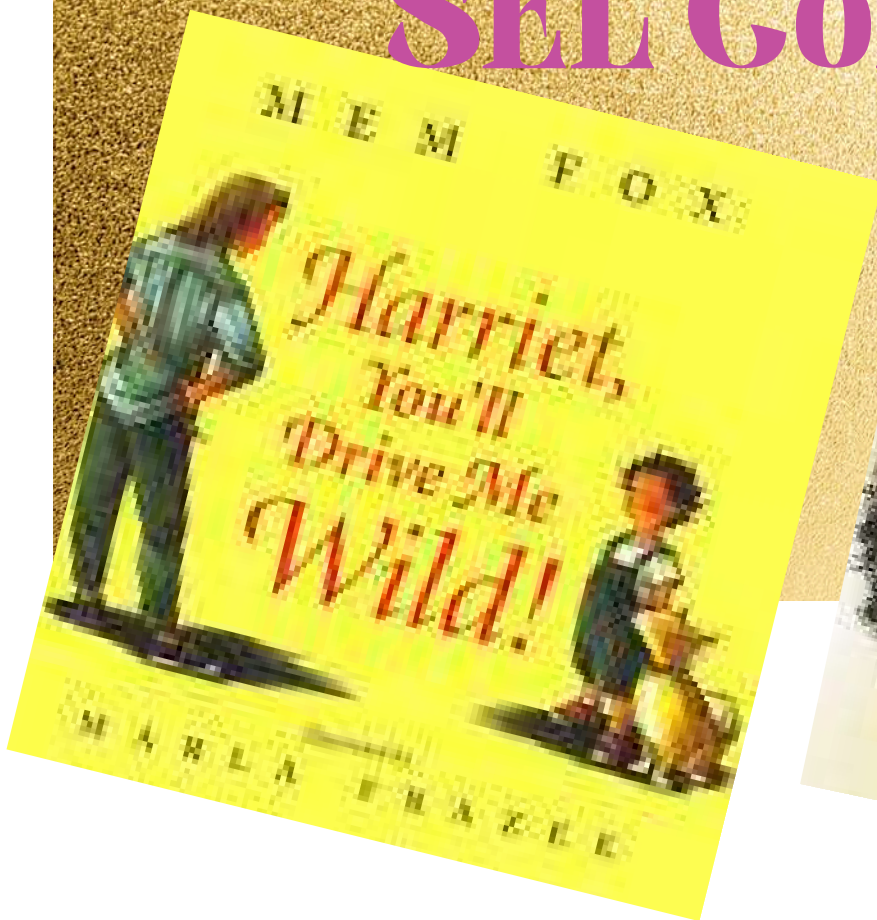
# MARCH CALENDAR

DID YOU KNOW

- **March 8 is International Women's Day**, which is a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women's rights but also brings attention to ongoing struggles for equality around the world.
- **March 10 is the start of Daylight Saving Time**, which begins at 2:00 A.M. that day. If your area observes it, don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead, or you may find yourself an hour late to everything!
- **March 10 also marks the start of Ramadan**, which begins at sundown. In Islam, Ramadan is considered a holy month when a month-long, sunrise-to-sunset fast is observed.
- **March 15 is the Ides of March!** Legend surrounds this ill-fated day. Beware the Ides of March!
- **March 17 is St. Patrick's Day.** According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.
- **March 19 brings about the March equinox**—also called the vernal or spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere—marking the beginning of spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, this date marks the autumnal equinox and the beginning of fall. On this day, the Sun stands directly over Earth's equator.
- **March 24 is Palm Sunday**, the Sunday before Easter and the last Sunday of Lent.
- March 29-31 are known as the Borrowing Days. According to lore, the last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy.
- **March 29 is Good Friday.** Learn more about Good Friday.
- **March 31 is Easter Sunday.** (May 5 is Orthodox Easter.) Did you know that Easter's date is related to the full Moon?



# SEL Corner



## THEME: PATIENCE

Harriet and her mother know that even when they do things they wish they hadn't, they still love each other very much. A gentle, hilarious—and wild—book that will resonate in the heart of parents and children.



## THEME: EMPATHY/FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Hair Love is an ode to loving your natural hair - - and a celebration of daddies and daughters everywhere. A New York Times Bestseller and tie-in to Academy-Award Winning Short Film Hair Love.



# Staff Spotlight



## *Doreen Johnson*

Ms. Johnson is considered one of our MASTER Teachers at MS. 354. This is a well deserved title due to her deep understanding of the subject matter that she teaches and the fact that she has been skillfully honing her craft for the past 40 years. She is able to explain complex concepts in a clear and concise manner. She is passionate about teaching math and inspires students to learn and excel. Math can sometimes be challenging for some students, but she is patient and empathetic towards those students who may be struggling with the materials. Her classes are always engaging because she uses a variety of teaching methods to keep students engaged and interested in the subject. Ms. Johnson is always available to provide extra help and support to students, as well as to her fellow colleagues. Most importantly, Ms. Johnson's track record of success in helping students improve their math skills and achieve their academic goals is exceptional. When asked what she would like to be remembered for, her immediate response was; "being a mother to Yolande, and achieving over 90% passes on assessments".



# Student Spotlight



**Donnell  
Samuels Jr**

## Interests:

I like playing basketball. I've been playing since I was 3. I like playing with my dad who used to coach.

Also, I like reading - I want to get my reading level up ✓

## Favorite Subject:

Math - it feels good learning new things. My teacher Mr. Maitree pushes us to do our best - the work is challenging.

## Future Career:

Bus Driver - I want a simple job that is important where I can help the community.



**Marcus Arthur  
Rodriguez**

## Interests:

I like playing basketball, football and playing video games. I play video games when I am bored - I like playing 2k24.

## Favorite Subject:

Social Studies - I like learning about different things that happen over time. My teacher Ms. Mitchell is great with helping me with things that I don't understand. ✓

## Future Career:

Businessman - money management. Or a professional athlete.



**Oshando  
Stewart**

## Interests:

I like playing basketball because I would like to be in the NBA one day.

## Favorite Subject:

Math - I find it to be challenging. My math teacher Ms. Johnson is good and she pushes us to do our work.

## Future Career:

I would like to be an NBA Player. If that does not happen for me, I would like to be an engineer. I am inspired by my grandfather and uncle who work in that field. ✓



# Monthly Themes

## National Reading Month



In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month – a month to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. Reading is fun and has many benefits, regardless of your age. It's a key component of education and professional development. It also has immediate and long-lasting health benefits such as increased cognitive function, memory, vocabulary, empathy and decreased levels of stress. . As we celebrate the value of reading, it's also important to remember its connection to writing.

## Multiple Sclerosis Month



Launched in 2003, National MS Education and Awareness Month is observed in March of each year, a nationwide effort by MS Focus: the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and affiliated groups to raise the public's awareness of multiple sclerosis. The vital goals of this campaign are to promote an understanding of the scope of this disease, and to assist those with MS in making educated decisions about their healthcare. According to the Multiple Sclerosis Journal, that number is on the rise, with more men and women across the globe being diagnosed with MS than ever before. This March, take advantage of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month to learn the basics about MS.

## Kidney Health Awareness



- March is National Kidney Month, and March 9 is World Kidney Day. World Kidney Day is a global campaign to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and associated health problems worldwide. Did you know your kidneys filter all of your blood up to 25 times a day? This kidney month, join us in getting to know your kidneys. Learn how you can protect these two fist-sized, bean-shaped organs that work around the clock for you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

804  
Afiya B.  
3/01

811  
Gabriella G.  
3/14

803  
Joshua P.  
3/03  
Marisa F.  
3/15

703  
Savitry G.  
3/15

703  
Jeremiah L.  
3/29

703  
Malick A.  
3/04



603  
Jaylise E.  
3/01

603  
Deyana C.  
3/19

603  
Ason S.  
3/24

604  
Niaomi M.  
3/02

604  
Akilah M.  
3/21

604  
Bryce W.  
3/31



# Superpowers of a Strong-Willed Kid



We look at strong willed children **COMPLETELY WRONG** and it hurts the mindset they carry into adulthood. Their minds are powerful, their needs to understand even more so and these are the parts of us that really count in the world. Instead of looking at your child through eyes of frustration, we hope this reframe helps make you grateful for the ability to guide a future super hero.

STAR CHILD!!!

Strong willed kids push ALLLLL of your buttons. They are curious and risk takers because they want to figure out new things. That includes being great problem solvers and using new strategies to follow their own motivations towards success.

superpowers

🤨 Which makes them great leaders that care about people deeply. That's often why their tough demeanor also comes with a very SOFT inside that is compassionate and conscious of others. They aren't afraid to step to those who bully the quiet or to confront their peers because their intention is to help solve a problem. That type of powerful mindset is what creates and defends healthy boundaries so that everyone has an opportunity to be happy.

🥰 Which is important because things don't always happen smoothly. Mistakes and failures happen, they are part of life. These kids are resilient and persistent when going after their goals. Don't be surprised if they get angry at failing then come back, in their own time, to do it their way.

💪 For these children it is important that you allow and promote self direction and self responsibility. That doesn't mean you don't guide them!

🌟 Strong willed kids are OUR access to future leaders in our communities and corporations. Where ever they go they will impact those around them for the better OR for the worse. Which one usually depends on the amount of support to self actualize they received earlier. ❤️

# CIS Corner



College awareness is alive and well at M.S. 354!

On February 15th, the seventh-grade students embarked on an exciting educational journey to Queens College. This field trip presented a unique opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in the college environment and gain a deeper understanding of what college life entails. The day was filled with various activities, including a guided tour of the campus, which allowed the students to explore the different buildings and facilities available. The tour was led by knowledgeable and friendly guides who provided insightful information about the college's history, academic programs, and student life.





# CIS Corner



## ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES



"THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS  
HAVE BEEN AWARDED  
JANUARY'S PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE AWARD..."

# ICE CREAM DAY

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

TIME: LUNCH PERIOD

LOCATION: ROOM 140



On February 14th, students who had perfect attendance in January were rewarded with an Ice Cream Day. We will continue to recognize and reward our students who are dedicated to attending school every day on time.





# SPORTS



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

School sports are a great way for middle schoolers to get involved and develop healthy habits, teamwork, confidence, time management, and a sense of belonging.

### Healthy Habits

Exercise is important for one's overall well-being, and establishing that habit young is a great way to build a foundation for a strong, healthy lifestyle. Participating in a sport also offers a wealth of social and emotional benefits for a child, contributing positively to mental health. Plus, children who play sports are less likely to participate in risky activities later on and tend to value a healthy lifestyle, having felt the benefits of being active and health-conscious.

### Teamwork

Teamwork is another learned skill that is enhanced by participating in sports. Students learn to practice and play together while encouraging each other regularly. With sports, they will experience working as a group giving them opportunities to lead or make concessions. Being part of a team encourages friendship and strong social skills, which are helpful both in school and later in life.

### Confidence

Students who play sports are likely to develop self-esteem skills and gain confidence from being part of a team. They also develop quick decision-making and perseverance skills, improving their abilities and their self-image. Whether students are proud of scoring a goal or learning a lesson in sportsmanship, they grow from the experience. Sports also teach responsibility, enable leadership roles, and teach students to be good role models.

### Time Management

Time management is more important than ever for today's youth. Students are busy preparing for high school, college, and beyond with so much going on in their education and personal lives. Surprisingly, adding a sport can help develop time management skills—less free time gives students practice in balancing homework, sports, family, and friends.

### Sense of Belonging

Finally, sports allow students to develop social and communication skills that help them feel part of a community. They are able to bond with their peers and coaches while experiencing life lessons together outside of the classroom. Being on a team is a way for students to feel like part of something bigger than themselves.

BE

STRONG

BE

HEALTHY

# FEBRUARY EVENTS



6 FEBRUARY, 2024

Waste  
Climate Action Day



7 FEBRUARY, 2024

Reading  
World Read-Aloud Day



16 FEBRUARY 2024

Celebration

Valentine's Dance





$tgx - 2$   
 $2\sqrt{11} \times 3$   
 $+\infty$   
 $e =$   
 $y =$   
 $x =$   
 $y =$   
 $x_0$   
 $y =$   
 $\Delta^2$   
 $(x+h)$   
 $\sin a = b$   
 $\int (x \pm a^2)$   
 $e = 2,79$   
 $S = \int_2^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$   
 $t = 2$   
 $si$   
 $+ a^2$   
 $b \pm ($   
 $\sqrt{20}$   
 $- \frac{2}{1}$   
 $\sqrt{2}$



# SHOW YOUR MATH MAGIC AT THE DISTRICT 17 MATH SLAM



$$y = mx + b$$



**CALLING DISTRICT 17 STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-8**

**TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT 17 MATH SLAM!**

*JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE FILLED WITH*

*MATH AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!*

**CLASSROOM LEVEL ROUNDS BEGIN IN DECEMBER**

**SCHOOL LEVEL ROUNDS BEGIN IN FEBRUARY**

**THE GRAND SLAM IS IN JUNE!**

*ASK YOUR MATH TEACHER(S) FOR MORE DETAILS*



**WIN PRIZES  
PLAY GAMES  
TAKE TRIPS  
HAVE FUN**  
#DISTRICT17MATHSLAM

**DISTRICT 17 MATH SLAM:  
"WHERE MAGIC MEETS MATH"**

**SCAN THE DISTRICT 17 APP FOR MORE INFO OR EMAIL**  
**DISTRICT17MATHSLAM@GMAIL.COM**





March 08, 2024

*International*  
**WOMEN'S DAY**



*Happy International Women's Day to all the  
inspiring women in the world! May this day  
be a celebration of your courage, strength,  
and resilience.*



# Places to visit in Brooklyn with Middle Schoolers

## NY TRANSIT MUSEUM

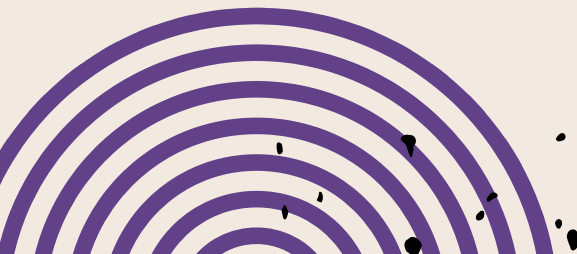
The Transit Museum is located in a decommissioned subway station at 99 Schermerhorn Street Brooklyn, NY 11201, and accessible by over 20 bus and subway lines. The entrance to the Museum is down two flights of stairs. A second, wheelchair-accessible entrance is located on the corner of Schermerhorn and Court Streets. A limited number of tickets are available for purchase on site, and advance reservations are strongly encouraged.

## BROOKLYN MUSEUM

The Brooklyn Museum is an art museum located in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. At 560,000 square feet, the museum is New York City's second largest and contains an art collection with around 500,000 objects.

## BK BOTANIC GARDEN

The Brooklyn Museum is an art museum located in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. At 560,000 square feet, the museum is New York City's second largest and contains an art collection with around 500,000 objects.



ATTENTION!!!

# SUMMER RISING

The Summer Rising portal will open in early March! Applications will be submitted using your NYC MySchools account. You can find your NYC MySchools account information by contacting your child's school or visiting a Family Welcome Center (Family Welcome Centers ([nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov))).

**APPLY AT:**

[schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer/grades k-8](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer/grades-k-8)

