

MS 354 Times



HELLO SPRING



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**IN THIS ISSUE
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FEATURE STORIES
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PARENT CORNER**

**DR MONIQUE CAMPBELL, Principal
KIMANI SMITH, Assistant Principal
CYLANN PHILLIPS, Assistant Principal
MAXINE GRIFFITH, School Counselor
ELROY CORMACK, Parent Coordinator
Amanda Bernadine, Counseling In Schools
Handel Barclay, New York Edge**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
OR CALL US MS354.COM,
718-774-0362**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY
8-9**

NYS MATH TEST

**INCOMING GRADE 6 FAMILY
DAY (CLASS OF 2027)**

**MAY
11**

**MAY
16**

**PTC
SPRING FEST**

DIST 17 STEM EXPO

**MAY
22**

PANTRY

WED MAY 22, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SAT MAY 25, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**PTA MEETING
THU 23**



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the vibrant colors of spring begin to bloom and the promise of new beginnings fill the air, I want to take this moment to share my heartfelt wishes for each of you during this beautiful season of growth and renewal.

Spring is a time of transformation, a time to shed the old and embrace the new, both in nature and in our own lives. Just as the flowers bloom and the trees blossom, I encourage you to embrace this season as an opportunity to flourish, to learn, and grow in ways both big and small.

As we move forward into the final stretch of the school year, I urge you to stay focused on your goals, to remain resilient in the face of challenges, and to continue to strive for excellence in all that you do. Remember that each day is a new chance to learn, to explore, and to discover the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

Take this time to reflect on your accomplishments, to celebrate your successes, and to set new goals for the future. Whether you are working on a project, preparing for exams, or participating in extracurricular activities, approach each task with enthusiasm, dedication, and a spirit of curiosity.

As your principal, I am immensely proud of the hard work you have put in this year, the progress you have made, and the resilience you have shown in the face of adversity. Your determination, your creativity, and your passion for learning are truly inspiring, and I have no doubt that you will continue to achieve great things in the days and weeks ahead.

As we embrace the joys of spring and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, remember that you are capable of achieving anything you set your mind to. Believe in yourself, stay true to your values, and never underestimate the power of your dreams.

I wish you a season filled with growth, with joy, and with endless possibilities. May this spring be a time of inspiration, of discovery, and of new beginnings for each and everyone of you.

Warm regards,
Dr. Monique Campbell

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MOTHER

STUDENT FEATURE
by Afiya Brooms

"A mother is a woman in relation to her child or children", or so it says in the dictionary. Yet a mother can simply be someone who cares and has so much love for you.

Someone who watched you grow, learn, and develop in life. Motherhood is an exhausting job at times, sleepless nights, and constant worry for your child and how they slowly grow to understand the outside world. Still, you persevere and continue going although there is much responsibility and many challenges.

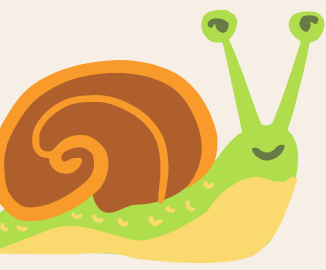
Mothers have strength and guidance; they take care of us and can emotionally support your feelings.

A mother's love is unconditional. It never stops no matter how crazy you make them, they have the most patience, belief, and focus when it comes to their children. This strengthens the child and teaches them resilience.

Despite the vital role mothers play, mothers often get overlooked and underappreciated. We should honor and see them as our heroes that have shaped our lives and have allowed us to be ourselves.

This Mother's Day, appreciate and recognize any hard-working mother or someone that loves and cares for you or others.

FEATURE STORY



Teaching Students to Grow Food at MS 354



Establishing healthy habits in children is important, and that includes teaching them to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.

One of the best ways to get kids interested in healthy foods and to teach them more about the nutritional benefits of plant-based eating is to start a garden and grow your own produce.



Students learn the basics of how to grow crops at MS 354. This knowledge reduces the divide between farm and table and enhances food security, as well as teaching students basic survival skills.

We believe that gardening teaches children responsibility and pride in their work. Putting a seed in the ground and doing all of the hard work to receive the literal fruits of their labor, will have a lasting impact on young minds.



We have a hydroponics lab at MS 354. Hydroponics is a technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil.

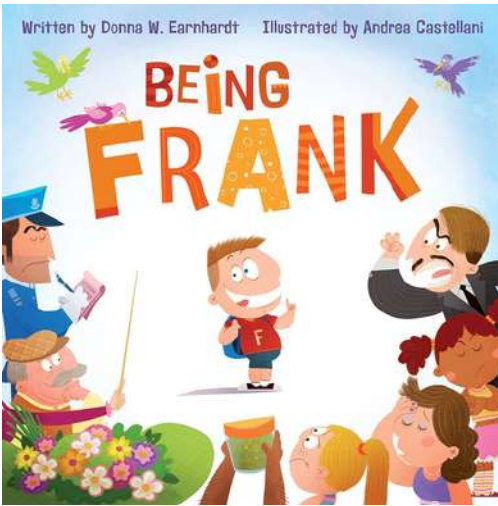
By teaching students where their food is coming from and encouraging good eating habits early on in life, our students will understand the importance of nutrition and nourishing their body.



SEL THEME/ BOOK OF THE MONTH

Being Frank

Written by Donna W Earnhardt



Frank follows the motto, "Honesty is the best policy." He tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Frank never lies to his schoolmates, he always tells the truth to adults, and he's always honest with police officers. The balancing act of finding tact, that fine line between telling the truth and telling too much truth, is the main theme of this story, and it's very funny—although not necessarily to his friend Dotti whose freckles remind Frank of the Big Dipper, or to the teacher who hears that her breath smells like onions, or to the principal who is told that his toupee looks like a weasel. No one is quite as impressed with Frank's honesty as he thinks they should be. He is sweet and straightforward, and, well, very frank, but with everyone annoyed at him, Frank is now honestly unhappy. He decides to visit his confidante and pal, Grandpa Ernest, who has a history of frankness himself. With a few lessons from Grandpa, Frank begins to understand that the truth is important, but so is not being hurtful. With amusing characters and expressive artwork, this story tells the powerful message of finding the good in everything—a lesson that sends compassion and understanding to take the place of rudeness in the complex concept of truth.

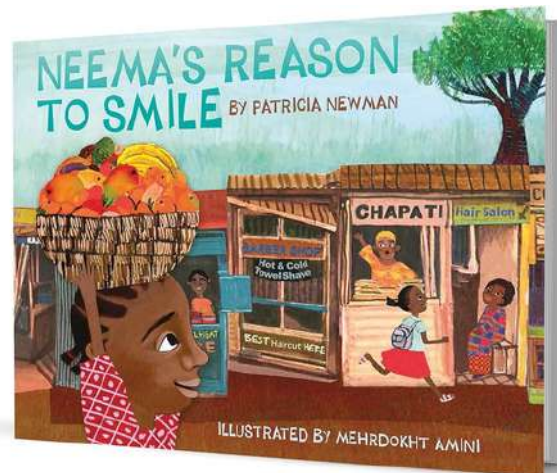
Neema's Reason To Smile

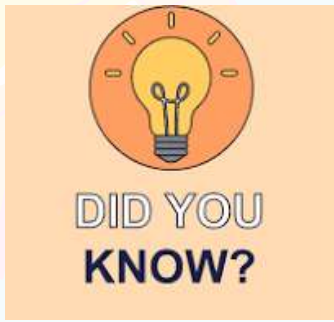
Written by Patricia Newman

What's in your dream basket?

Neema's is full of big dreams, like becoming a scientist, an inventor, or a teacher.

Neema's Reason to Smile is the story of Neema, a young Kenyan girl who dreams of one day being able to afford to go to school. Slowly, and with great purpose, Neema makes a plan to save money in her dream basket and make her dream come true. One day, a mysterious young girl skips down the street wearing a red skirt and white shirt. Soon, she guides Neema all the way to a new school.





- May is one of seven months to have 31 days
- They say, "April showers bring May flowers," and it's true! May is the month when gardens and fields burst into color with many flowers.
- The month of May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility.
- May 1: School Principals' Day
- May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building was officially opened.
- May 5 is Cinco de Mayo ("The Fifth of May"). This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862.
- May 12 is Mother's Day—don't forget! Do you have something planned to show appreciation for your mother?
- May 20, 1932 Amelia Earheart flew across the Atlantic Ocean, marking the first solo flight by a woman.
- May 27 is Memorial Day, U.S. federal holiday to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military.
- May 28 is Armed Forces Day, which honors those who serve in all branches of the United States military.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT MS 354



TEACHER

COACH



LEADER

Lawrence Cassas

In our school community, there exists a special kind of teacher whose impact extends far beyond the classroom walls. This month, we pay tribute to one such individual - our esteemed Physical Education Teacher Lawrence Cassas.

With boundless energy, unwavering dedication, and a passion for promoting health and fitness, our PE teacher has inspired countless students to embrace an active lifestyle, nurture their physical well-being, and strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives.

Mr Cassas has been a teacher for over 20 years.

Through engaging lessons, motivating workouts, and a commitment to fostering a love of movement and sports, Mr. Cassas has instilled in us the values of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Under his guidance MS 354 has won countless championships.

Mr. Cassas has won the Nike Basketball Coach of the Year, U.S. Soccer Foundation Coach of the Year, and Flag Football Coach of the Year in NYC, just to name a few. Beyond the gymnasium or playing field, Mr. Cassas has been a mentor, a coach, and a source of encouragement for all who had the privilege of learning under his guidance.



Student Spotlight



Tristan Christophe

Grade 6

Interests:

I like to play the violin because I like music and it calms me down.

Favorite Subject(s):

I like Math and Science because I get to learn new things like ratios. In my old school things were not that clear but at MS 354 I found the light - I feel like I am understanding things better.

Future Career:

I would like to be an engineer. I like using my hands to build new things. I would like to create new technology, and/or modernize things.

Nathaniel Green

Grade 7

Interests:

I like to draw because I think it is fun and a good way to express yourself.

Favorite Subject(s):

I like Math because of the sense of accomplishment that I get when I find the solutions to problems. I also like Art because it is fun and relaxing.

Future Career:

I would like to become an animator or have my own company or studio. I like media and movies and I would like to be part of creating these things.



Allisson Gil-Lopez

Grade 8

Interests:

I like spending time with my family - We play fun board games.

Favorite Subject(s):

I like math because it is easy for me. My teacher Ms. Lecky really helps me to understand what she is teaching.

Future Career:

I would like to be an artist or a veterinarian, because I love animals.



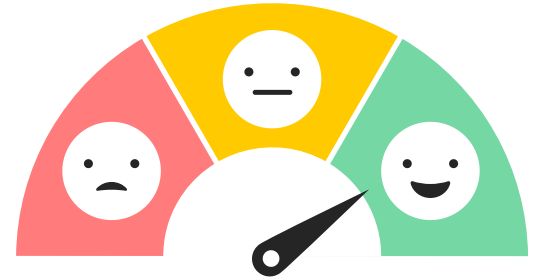


Parent Corner



WHAT MATTERS MOST WHEN RAISING SELF-CONFIDENT KIDS

- Being **kind** and **respectful**
- Validating **their** experience
- Showing them **patience**
- Building **life skills** around the home
- Understanding the long term power of **your words** and labels
- Giving them lots of time to **play** and be **in nature**
- Your **unconditional love**, no matter what



Self confidence protects kids because it avoid ego based issues and helps them treat themselves/others with kindness. A self confident child's happiness and success comes from **GROWTH** and becoming greater versions of who they are naturally.

Low self esteem leads to inferiority complexes that grow ego based issues instead.

Kids with low self esteem are easily offended, they speak quietly so other's don't hear and judge them, they bully because putting others down is how they try to feel good about themselves in comparison.

These kids feel **ALONE** and unable to grow in the ways they wish for themselves.

That's why confidence is the key to a happy and healthy future!!



To do that parents need to keep these things in mind:

You are the **FIRST** role model of what confidence looks like and means - step into your power!

Teach kids the importance of maintaining their body. **NOt** only because of things like health but things like good posture improve our confidence right away!

Remind kids that that their constants - people, places and comforts - will bring them back to feeling confident when they are feeling down.

Most importantly:

A parent's words become a child's mindset. They deeply impact how a child feels about themselves. As a child grows, they internalize the words they hear about themselves and others. Those words build up who they believe they are and what they think about the world. They learn that the world is a big box of tools that we can use to create a positive future for ourselves **OR** they learn that the world is small, scary and too complicated for them to make an impact in it.

Both things can equally become a child's reality and it's **YOU**, their **PARENT**, that have the **BIGGEST** influence over which will win.

@create_kids_edu



Happy Birthday

Grade 8

Alison G. 810 05/03
Kaydeon C. 804 05/16
Eddie H. 803 05/17
Isaiah C 803 05/31
Joharys D. 811 05/02
Trevis G. 811 05/02
Naitisha J 811 05/15
Justin T. 803 05/22
Iniyah P. 804 05/25
Kiley B. 804 05/26
Norlee E. 803 05/29
Jefferson S. 811 05/05

Grade 7

Trevon F. 704 05/09
Olivia M. 704 05/20
Janiaya F. 703 05/03

Grade 6

Kezarni F. 604 05/26
Kayla T. 611 05/16
Christian C. 611 05/23
Marquise D. 603 5/28



TALENT SPOTLIGHT

ARTIST

AMIR CUBERO



PANNIST

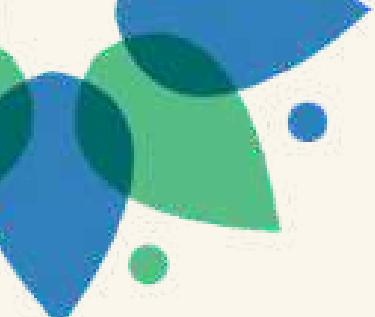


MIYAH STRONG

DRUMMER



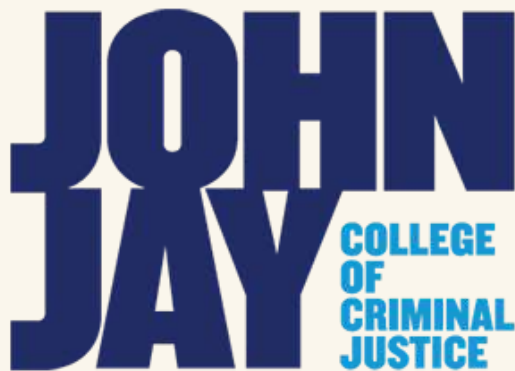
CARLITO BEAUVIL



CIS Corner



College awareness is thriving at M.S. 354. This month, our eighth grade classes will have the opportunity to tour the John Jay College and Brooklyn College campuses. The objective is to familiarize our students with different college environments and equip them with the necessary information to make informed decisions about their future education. We strongly believe that early college awareness is essential for the success of our students, and we are committed to providing them with the resources they need to achieve their goals.



Date:

Monday, May 13

Dates:

Friday, May 24
Thursday, May 30

For students to participate in these trips, parents or guardians must complete and return consent forms. Please keep an eye out for these forms and make sure they are returned in a timely manner.

CIS Corner

We are pleased to announce that on **Tuesday, May 21**, we will be rewarding the students who had perfect attendance for the month of April with an Empanada Day. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the students listed below for their dedication and commitment to attending school every day and being on time.

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

Empanada Day



Tuesday, May 21, 2024
Time: Lunch Period
Location: Room 140



Class 603
JEDIAH CHARLES
LIAM CHARLES
DEYANA CURTIS
JARED D HAITI
LONDON DAWKINS
MALACHI FOSSETT
IMANI HENDRICKSON
YEHOU-NIC ISEMAR
ALEXIS MOMPLASIR
TAYVON ROBERTS
JAYLO ROYAL
DONNELL SAMUELS JR
ISAIAH SPARKS CHANDLER
KESTON TAYLOR
KIMARA WARREN

Class 604
IZAIAH ADAMS
EMILY COLE
AALIYAH FERGUSON
AKHI JONES BUTLER
AKILAH MATTOCKS
PRINCE MYERS
KHALIQ OVID DAVID
DESTINY PETERS
KELWIN SEYMOUR
MIYLON WHITE

Class 610/710
AMIR CUBERO
MELANIE GRANVILLE PARKE
GISSELLE PEGUERO

Class 810
JEANETTE BROWN
MYRA-ROSE STERN HARRIS
ANIAH WATKINS

Class 611
TRISTAN CHRISTOPHE
WOROKIA DIALLO
TORIE FINDLAY
SAHIDA KIMBA
SHERANIE PATTERSON
ANISSA PETERS
MIYAH STRONG

Class 703
ROZLYN ESPINAL
KALYANI HOLMES
DRILAUNI THOMAS

Class 704
JAYDEN ALEXANDRE
TREVON FLAVIGNY
TRIANNA JAMES
RIYIEEM LAWRENCE

Class 711
OLIVIA MILLS
SELBERT CORDIS
JELANI FRANCIS
BRYLEN LACAYO

Class 803
KHALIA BURGESS
MARISA FREDERICK-DOPWELL
NEHEMIE PACAUD
AVA RAMIREZ-FITZGERALD

Class 804
JANELLE DE HAITI
SOPHIA JOHNSON
OSHANDO STEWART

Class 811
JALNIYA CESAR
JAYDEN DAVID
JAHMERE GREEN
O SHAUGHNESSY LOVELL
MAYA PENDARVIS
BRYCE ROBINSON

**Keep Up The
Good Work!!**

WE CAN!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ACTION!



NYEDGE

Leadership Conference

Leadership skills allow children to have control of their lives and the ability to make things happen. Leadership instills confidence, and helps children solve problems creatively, work in a team, and work collaboratively with others. Leadership gives children many opportunities to develop responsibility.

Leadership Sessions Goals:

- Identify the core values and qualities of a good leader.
- Identify areas in their own lives where they can demonstrate leadership.
- Get inspired to take up leadership roles within their community school.
- Understand the connection between leadership and entrepreneurship.

Helping our students to develop these character traits is why student leadership is very important at MS 354!



MAY THEMES



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day holds immense significance as it provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of mothers to society. Mothers play a pivotal role in shaping the lives of their children, instilling values, providing support, and nurturing growth.



ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN MONTH

The annual celebration honors the many contributions and accomplishments of Asian Americans, Pacific Islander Americans, and Native Hawaiians.

ASIAN
PACIFIC
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Student of the Month April



NHK

YR / Y
Y R Y / Y
R Y / Y
R Y / Y
R E / Y

OHK

YR Y Y/Y Y
Y R Y Y/Y Y
R Y Y/Y Y
R Y Y /
R Y / Y

PHK

YR / Y Y
Y R / Y Y
R /Y
Y R Y/
R Y Y/

NHL

YR Y/Y Y
Y R /
Y R /
R /
R /
R /

OHL

YR Y/
Y R
R Y Y/Y
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R Y /Y Y

PHL

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Y R Y / Y
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NI I

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R Y Y Y/ Y
R Y Y /
R Y Y/ Y

OI I

YR Y /
Y R /Y Y/Z
R Y / Y
R Z /
RZ / Y Y

PI I

YR YZ Y/ Y Y
Y R Y Y Y/ Y
R YZ Y/ Y Y
Y R Y / Y
R YZ Y/ Y Y
R Y / Y / Y

NI HØI H

YR Y / YZ
Y R Y / Y E
Y
R Y / Y
R Y / Y
R Y / Y

PI H

YR Y /Z
Y RY / E
RY Y /Z Y
R / Y
Y RY / E
RY / E



APRIL EVENTS

SOLAR ECLIPSE



PEP RALLY



FIDDLE FEST



SPIRIT WEEK



SPIRIT WEEK





ZUZU ACROBATS

Acrobatic Arts is a unique blend of dancing and gymnastic disciplines that is taking the dance world by storm.

Students at MS 354 had a great time experiencing this artform.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

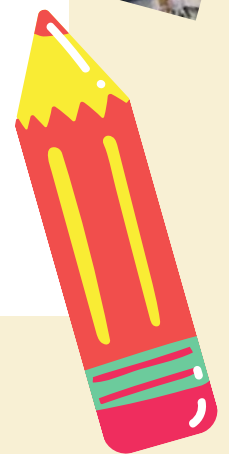
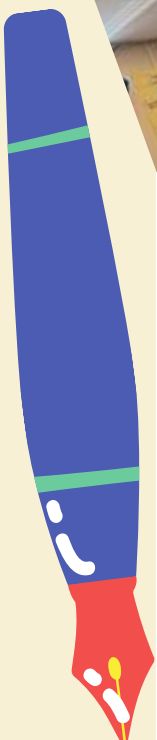
Teacher

You're the heart of every class room
 The soul of every school.
 The mind behind the message
 That learning is cool,
 Your patience and understanding
 Cannot be undersold.
 Your courage and commitment
 Is that of legends told.
 Each day you teach our children
 Is a day to rejoice.
 Because of you our children.
 Will have their own voice,
 So Thank You Dear Teacher
 For passing knowledge
 Through the years.
 You thought you were merely teaching,
 When you were eliminating fears.
 Thank You



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CELEBRATING TEACHERS



TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK





Thank You Mom

for all the love,
support, and guidance
you have given me
throughout my life.