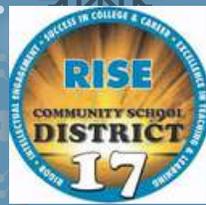




MS 354 DECEMBER TIMES 2024



Hello WINTER

Embrace the chilly air, cozy moments, and the magic of the season. Let's make this winter a wonderland of joy and unforgettable memories!!

- IN THIS ISSUE**
- DECEMBER EVENTS**
- FEATURE STORIES**
- SEL CORNER**
- DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS & HIGHLIGHTS**
- TEACHER & STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS**
- PARENT CORNER**

- DR. MONIQUE CAMPBELL**, Principal
- KIMANI SMITH**, Assistant Principal
- CYLANN PHILLIPS**, Assistant Principal
- MAXINE GRIFFITH**, School counselor
- ELROY CORMACK**, Parent Coordinator
- HANDEL BARCLAY**, New York Edge

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INSTAGRAM
@ MS354BROOKLYN**

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





Upcoming Events

December

2024

DEC
6

Supriendent Visit

Ms. Sheneen Lindsay

DEC
17

Pantry

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

DEC
18

Winter Wishes

DEC
19

Winter Fest Silent Party

Photo Booth

DEC
19

Ugly Sweater Day & Contest

PTGA

DEC
20

Sock Exchange & Sock Tales

DEC
21

Pantry

10:00AM - 12:00 N

→ WINTER RECESS DECEMBER 23 –
JANUARY 1

STUDENTS RETURN
JANUARY 2, 2025



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear MS 354 family,

As we embrace the winter season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the beauty and spirit of this time of year. Winter brings about a time of celebration, remembrance, and an opportunity for kindness, as we gather with friends and family, navigating the festive activities that fill our days.

During this season, I encourage each of you to embrace the spirit of kindness. As we know, a simple act of kindness can brighten someone's day and create a ripple effect that extends throughout our entire community.

As we move toward the winter break, I am filled with gratitude for each member of our school family. We are a remarkable community, and together, we can inspire kindness and compassion, not just during this season but throughout the entire year.

Wishing you all a wonderful and kind winter, full of warmth, joy, and connection. Thank you for being a part of our incredible school community!

Warm regards,

DR. MONIQUE CAMPBELL





DECEMBER *Celebrations*



KWANZA

A secular festival that takes place from December 26 to January 1, Kwanzaa celebrates African American culture and values.



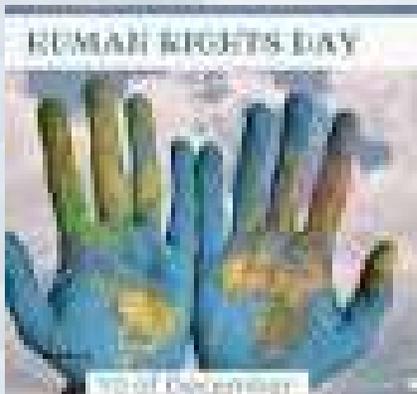
HANUKKAH

This holiday is celebrated for eight nights and days, and usually takes place between late November and December.



CHRISTMAS

The most widely celebrated winter holiday in the United States.



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Celebrated on December 10, this day marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a day that celebrates the principles of freedom, justice, and equality.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

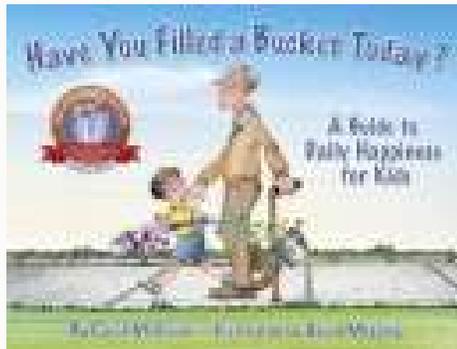
This day raises awareness of the challenges people with disabilities face.



SEL Themes

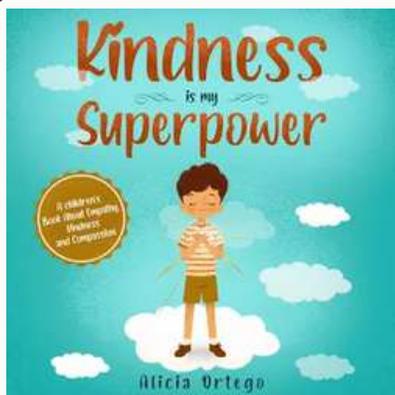
Book of the Month

GRADE 6



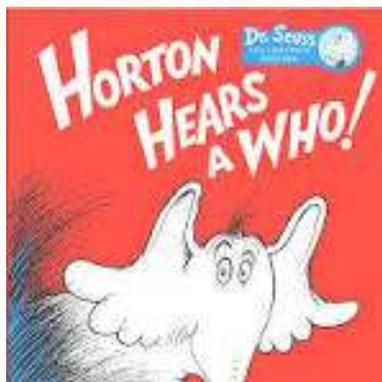
This author discusses the idea of a bucket - everybody has one but you can never see them. Happiness fills the bucket, it teaches children how to help others and how that will make the other person feel. It clearly shows how being kind and mindful causes others to act in the same way and causes you to feel good.

GRADE 7



Throughout the story, little superhero Lucas learns what kindness means and understands what it is like to be kind, sensitive, caring, and generous.

GRADE 8



This book tells the story of Horton the Elephant and his adventures saving Whoville, a tiny planet located on a speck of dust, from the animals who mock him. These animals attempt to steal and burn the speck of dust, so Horton goes to great lengths to save Whoville from being incinerated.





KINDNESS MATTERS

Warm Gestures

Whether it's holding the door for someone, offering a compliment, or simply smiling at a classmate in the hallway, small acts of kindness can make a significant impact.

Community Service

Consider getting involved in a community project, whether it's donating warm clothing, participating in food drives, or volunteering at local shelters. Your efforts can help those in need during this chilly season.

Celebrate Diversity

Winter holidays are celebrated in many forms around the world. Let's take this time to learn about different traditions and customs, fostering understanding and appreciation within our diverse community.

Support Each Other

Winter can sometimes make us feel isolated or down. Let's make a conscious effort to check in with our friends, lend a listening ear, and offer support if someone is struggling.

Spread Positivity in Class

This winter, let's focus on creating a warm welcoming atmosphere in our classrooms. Share positive notes or messages with your classmates and teachers to uplift everyone's spirits.





Spotlight

ELROY O. CORMACK

PARENT COORDINATOR

REALLY NICE GUY!!!

POSITIVE

PARENT/STUDENT ADVOCATE

MENTOR

STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS

EMPATHETIC & UNDERSTANDING

PROBLEM SOLVER

PROFESSIONAL FLEXIBLE



Mr. Cormack has been a part of the MS 354 family for over 15 years. As our esteemed parent coordinator he plays a vital role, acting as a bridge between our school and families. He helps in facilitating strong partnerships that positively impact students, families, and the greater community - which significantly contributes to the school's overall success. The role that he serves is not easy, and requires a unique blend of skills, qualities, and strategies. Today we recognize your contributions in enhancing student success and supporting family engagement.



STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT

Grade 6



Brandy Jones

INTERESTS:

I like to draw and read comic books.

FAVORITE SUBJECT

I like math because I like to calculate things. I also find most math topics easy. When there is a challenge, I ask for help.

FUTURE CAREER:

When I grow up I would like to be a psychologist because I like learning about mental health and I would like to work with children.

Grade 7



Torie Findlay

INTERESTS:

I like playing games like roblox and drawing.

FAVORITE SUBJECT

I like Social Studies because I learning about history. I also like Art because I like drawing and making things.

FUTURE CAREER:

I think that I might like to work in the field of computer science when I grow up.

Grade 8



Amir-Saheed Meekins

INTERESTS:

I like playing games like roblox in my free time.

FAVORITE SUBJECT

My favorite subject is Math because Mr. Maitre makes learning math fun. I also think that I am pretty good at math.

FUTURE CAREER:

I think I might want to be an astronomer when I grow up. At the moment, I find space fascinating.





STUDENT CORNER

Developing effective study skills is crucial for student's academic success.



Organizational Skills

- **Use a Planner or Digital Calendar:** Use these to keep track of assignments, tests, and important dates.
- **Create a Study Space:** Set up a designated, quiet area at home for studying.
- **Keep materials Organized:** Use folders or binders labeled by subjects to keep handouts and notes tidy (this helps avoid misplaced assignments).

Time Management

- **Prioritize Tasks:** Assess the importance and deadlines of assignments to prioritize what to tackle first.
- **Set Specific Study Times:** Schedule regular periods throughout the week to study. Consistency helps form habits.
- **Break Tasks Into Smaller Steps:** Large assignments can be overwhelming - Break them down into manageable parts and set short-term deadlines for each part.

Active Learning Techniques

- **Summarization:** After reading a chapter or completing a lesson, write a summary in your own words. This reinforces comprehension.
- **Questioning:** Ask yourself open-ended questions about the materials in class to deepen understanding and retention. For example, "Why is this concept important?"
- **Teaching Others:** Explain what you've learned to peers or family members. Teaching is a powerful way to reinforce knowledge.

Note-Taking Skills

- **Cornell Method:** Divide your notes into cues, notes, and a summary - this will enhance understanding and retention.
- **Highlighting & Annotating:** Highlight important details as you read and write marginal notes to capture thoughts and questions.
- **Review Notes Regularly:** Review notes weekly to reinforce learning and retention.

Develop a Growth Mindset

- **Embrace Challenges:** View challenges as opportunities to learn rather than obstacles.
- **Learn from Failure:** Mistakes are part of the learning process!
- **Seek Help When Needed:** Ask insightful questions if you don't understand something. You can seek help from your teachers, counselors and tutors and parents.

Healthy Study Habits

- **Get Adequate Sleep:** 8-10 hours of sleep is needed for adequate cognitive function.
- **Maintain a Balanced Diet:** Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and proteins can support brain health.
- **Stay Physically Active:** Regular physical activity can improve concentration and reduce stress.

Reflect & Adjust

- **Self-Assessment:** After tests, assess what study techniques worked well and what didn't and adjust your methods for the future.
- **Goal Setting:** Set specific, measurable academic goals (e.g., improving a grade by a certain percentage) and track your progress regularly.

MINDFUL PARENTING

THE WORDS YOU SPEAK BECOME YOUR CHILD'S INNER VOICE

You can do hard things

Your help meant a lot to me

When you smile
it makes my day

Your feelings matter

I'm so proud of you

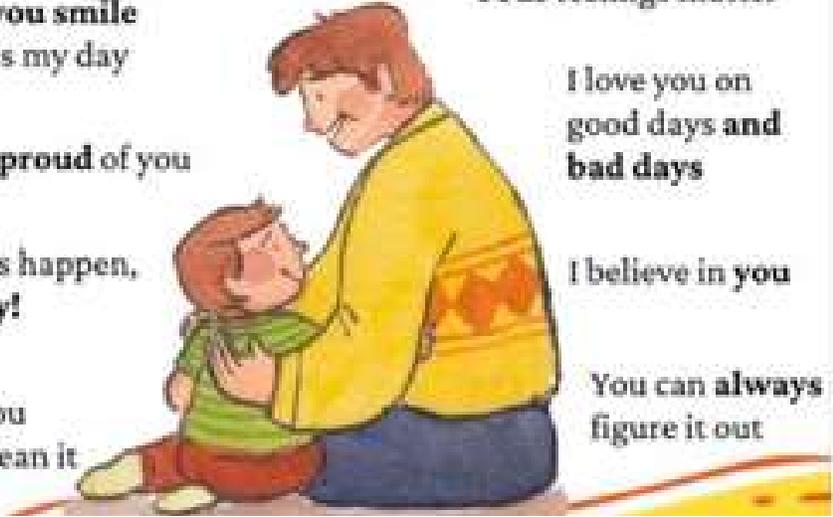
I love you on
good days and
bad days

Mistakes happen,
it's okay!

I believe in you

I know you
didn't mean it

You can always
figure it out



Our inner voice is a valuable self-regulatory and motivational tool. It's powerful! It helps our brain work through thoughts and also INTERNALIZE them too.

It can be our biggest ally or our biggest nemesis.

How parents develop a child's inner voice will impact more than they think!

It will influence:

- How independent a child feels when exploring, playing or even doing school work,
- How emotionally aware and regulated a child is/can be,
- How resilient a child is when dealing with frustration or failure,
- How supportive they are to themselves while doing hard things,
- How they think of themselves in the family.

Our inner voice is made up of all of the ideas we have attached to ourselves, from how we behave to how others feel about us.

Our inner voice rules our:

- emotional expression & regulation
- ability to plan for communicative interaction
- theory of mind
- self-discrimination
- fantasy & creativity
- autobiographical memory

Start this week using as many opportunities as possible to build up your child. Highlight their many strengths and let them overhear you compliment their effort because you can't take back words like "lazy," "dumb," "thoughtless," or "mean." Once they are out there they stay out there as what your kids continue to hear in their head.



December Birthdays

Cristal Mable 12/1

Hakeem McLaughlin 12/2

Zahir Meyers 12/2

Adeleinz Wensly Jean 12/5

Amir Nicholas 12/5

Isaiah Sparks 12/9

Lawton Liam Henry 12/12

Miylon White 12/14

A-Moor Hall 12/18

Isaiah J McDonald 12/18

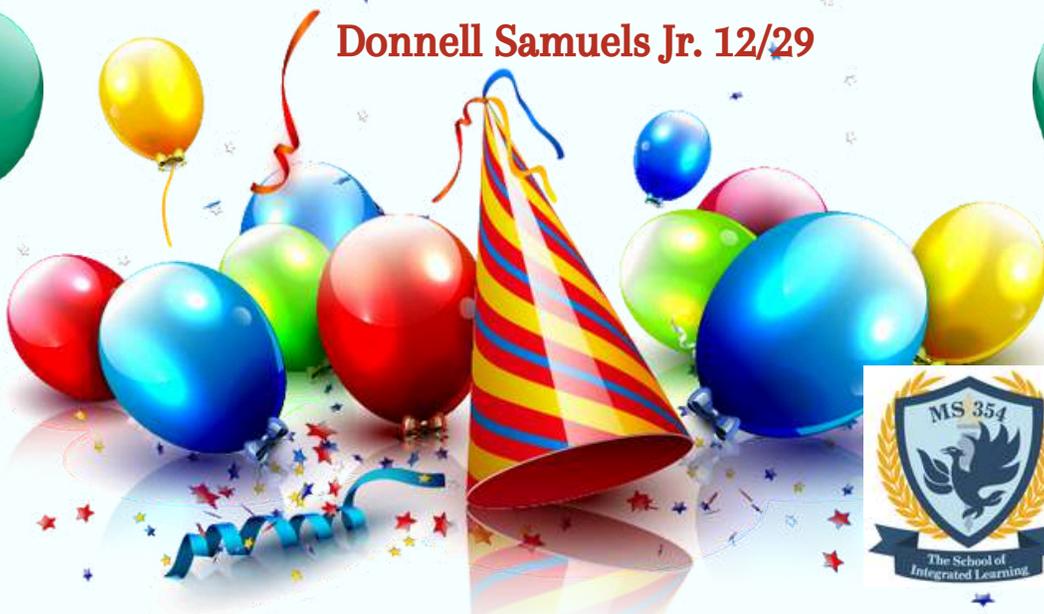
Keziah Bernard 12/20

Felix Way 12/25

Callin Richardson 12/27

Dashawn Truesdale 12/29

Donnell Samuels Jr. 12/29



Beauty

WINTER SKIN CARE



Winter can be a challenging time for skin, particularly for middle school students whose skin may be more prone to dryness due to colder temperatures, low humidity, and indoor heating. Establishing an effective skincare routine can help keep your skin healthy and protected during this time.

Lip Care:

Use a nourishing lip balm to prevent chapped lips. Look for balms with ingredients like beeswax, shea butter, or coconut oil.

Apply lip balm throughout the day, especially after eating or drinking and before bed.



Wear Protective Clothing:

Wear gloves, scarves, and hats when going outside to protect your skin from the harsh winter elements.



Hand Care:

Protect your hands with a rich hand cream, especially if you wash your hands frequently (which is important for hygiene).

Apply hand cream after washing hands and before bed.

Hydration:

Drink plenty of water throughout the day to help keep your skin hydrated from the inside out.

Avoid Hot Showers:

Hot showers can strip the skin of natural oils. Take warm showers instead, and keep showers short.

Moisturize:

Use a thick moisturizer to hydrate and repair skin overnight.



NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS
GRATITUDE LUNCHEON





LIONS CLUB & MS 354 HAMPER GIVE AWAY

MS 354 WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE LIONS CLUB FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO PROVIDE GIFT BASKETS TO SOME OF OUR FAMILIES. YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!
LIONS CLUB - 5 BASKETS DONATED
MS 354 - 24 BASKETS DONATED



November Highlights



Art Corner



For Native American Heritage Month, 7th grade students studied examples of Native American beadwork from around the United States and then planned their own beaded designs by drawing on graph paper. Students then created cardboard looms and learned how to weave beaded bracelets, following the patterns that they created.



NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Pajama Party

MOVIE DAY



STUDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO VISUALLY EXPERIENCE THE STORIES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN READING, IN THEIR READING CLASSES. THEY WERE ABLE TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE CHARACTERS AND SETTINGS, WHILE ALSO DEEPENING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLOT AND THEMES.



CLIMATE ACTION DAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AN
UPCYCLING ACTIVITY WHERE THEY
CREATED PLANTERS OUT OF MILK
CARTONS.



What should we do to save the earth?

Choose reusable products and reduce plastic waste.

Save energy by turning off appliances if not in use.

Reduce food waste. It's better to compose them.