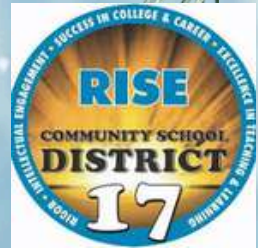


# MS 354 TIMES

## hello JANUARY

In the stillness of January, the  
greatest revolutions begin  
with the smallest steps

The school of Integrated Learning  
11224 Park Pl, Brooklyn NY 11213



Dr. Monique Campbell, Principal

Kimani Smith, Assistant Principal

Cylann Phillips, Assistant Principal

Maxine Griffith, School Counselor

Elroy O. Cormack, Parent Coordinator

Handel Barclay, New York Edge

January Events

SEL Corner

January Celebrations &

Highlights

Teacher & Student Spotlights

Parent Corner

December Highlights

For more information  
please visit our website  
or call us MS243.com,

718-774-0362

Follow us on Instagram







MS 354

# Event Schedule

13

January 2025

Pantry Day  
9:30 to 10:30 am

---

18

January 2025

Pantry Day  
10 to 12 pm

---

20

January 2025

Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day ( No School)

---

21-  
24

January 2025

College Week -  
Students/staff wear  
college shirts on 1/24

---

29

January 2025

Lunar New Year  
( No School)



## Principal's Message

# HELLO January



Happy New Year! As we step into January, we embrace not only the start of a new month but an exciting new chapter, filled with possibilities and promises. January brings with it a sense of renewal, the promise of new beginnings and the opportunity to reflect on our experiences.

As we take this time to reflect on the insights gained from past experiences, I encourage you to think about what you have learned over the previous year. Every challenge, achievement, and moment of growth has contributed to who you are today. Consider what you want to carry forward and what you may want to leave behind. Perhaps it's a fear that held you back, or a habit that you believe needs changing. By attending to these aspects of your journey, you can actively shape a better path forward.

January symbolizes new beginnings. It's a chance to set fresh goals and is infused with renewed energy. Whether it's striving for academic excellence, participating in new extracurricular activities, or fostering new friendships, this is the time to DREAM BIG and TAKE ACTION. Each day presents an opportunity to start anew, to embrace a mindset of curiosity and perseverance - this is your time to shine.

Let's support one another in making this January a month of growth and excitement.

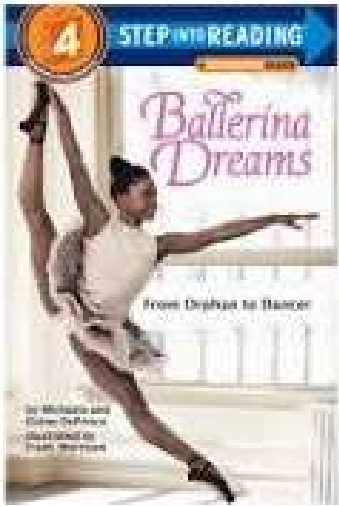
Wishing you all a fantastic start to the new year!



Dr. Monique Campbell

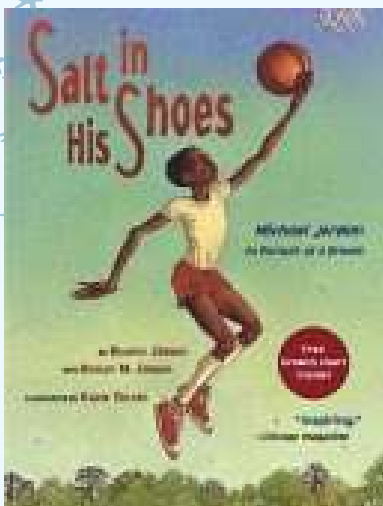
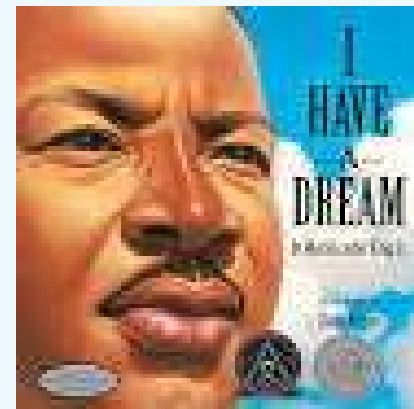


# SEL CORNER



Ballerina Dreams, by Michaela DePrince, is a true story about how she overcame many challenges to become a world-renowned ballerina. The book is a story of hope, courage, and perseverance, and is intended to inspire children to believe in their dreams.

I Have a Dream, by Martin Luther King, Jr. with paintings by Kadir Nelson, is a picture book that tells the story of King's famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial, during the March on Washington, in 1963. The book includes excerpts from the speech and paintings.



Salt in His Shoes, is a tale about faith and hope and how any family working together can help a child make his or her dreams come true. Young Michael Jordan is smaller than the other players but he learns that determination and hard work are more important than size, when playing the game of basketball...



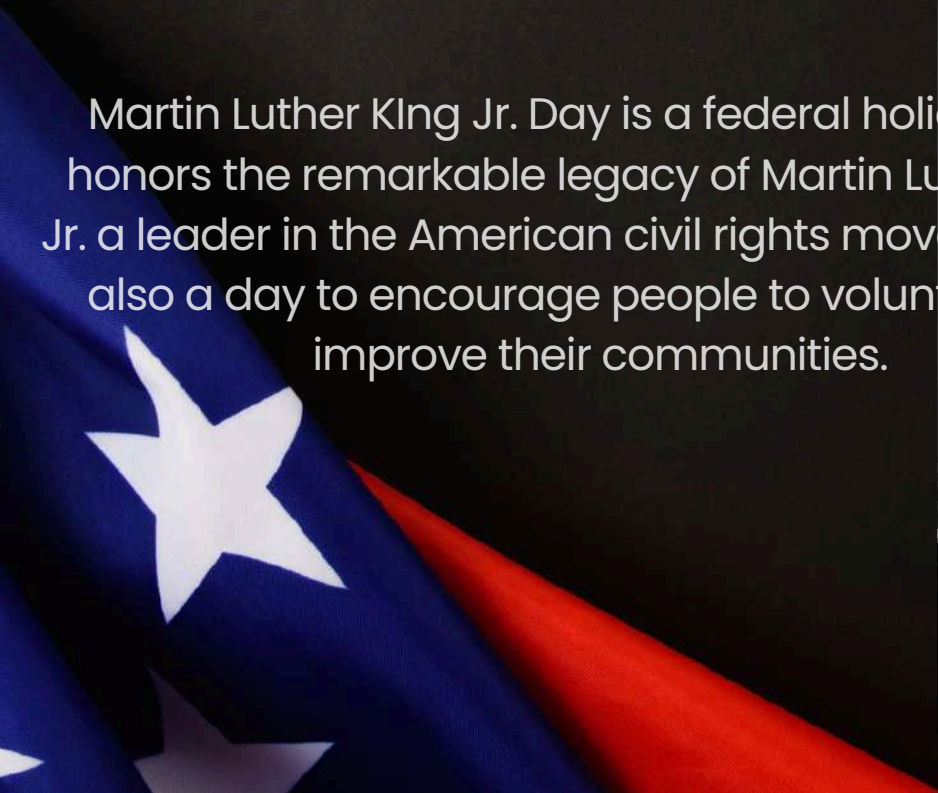


— **JANUARY 20** —

# MARTIN LUTHER KING

**DAY**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday that honors the remarkable legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. a leader in the American civil rights movement. It is also a day to encourage people to volunteer and improve their communities.





## YOLANDA BURRISON-TAYLOR



Ms. Burrison is an exemplary educator who stands out in both pedagogical practice and the relationships that she cultivates with her students and colleagues. The respect that she commands comes from a combination of her deep knowledge of the subject matter that she teaches, as well as her ability to foster a supportive and engaging learning environment. Students say that they feel “respected, valued, and inspired to learn” in her classes.

### Key Attributes

Enthusiasm ✓

Strong relationship with students ✓

Encourages growth & development ✓

Professional collaboration ✓

Community Builder ✓

Adaptable & Growth Mindset ✓

Strong communication Skills ✓

Shaping the character & intellect of students and creating a lasting impact on their lives!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

January 2025



**Grade 6**  
**Lory Amazan**

**Grade 7**  
**Xavier Meadows**

**Grade 8**  
**Marcus Arthur Rodriguez**

### INTERESTS

In my free time I like making bracelets, relaxing, and playing with my sister.

### FAVORITE SUBJECT

Math - It is sometimes a bit difficult, but if you pay attention to what the teacher is doing you will understand.

### FUTURE CAREER

I'm not sure what I want to be when I grow up.

### INTERESTS

I like reading, playing games, and boxing. I like boxing because it is a good way to start your day with movement.

### FAVORITE SUBJECT

Math - I find it interesting. Mr. Maitre is a good teacher.

### FUTURE CAREER

I would like to work with computers possibly as a programmer.

### INTERESTS

I like basketball. Mr. Riggins is a great coach, he helps us to do better.

### FAVORITE SUBJECT

Social Studies - In social studies I get to learn new stuff about the past and how it affects the future.

### FUTURE CAREER

When I grow up I would like to own my own business or possibly become an engineer.



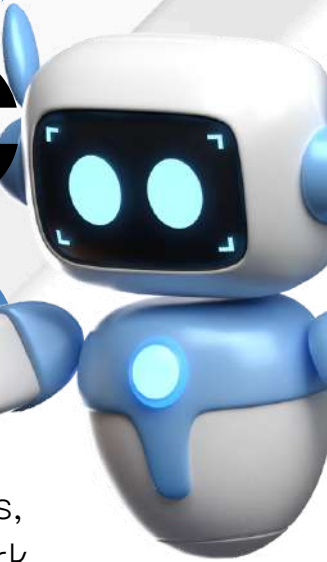
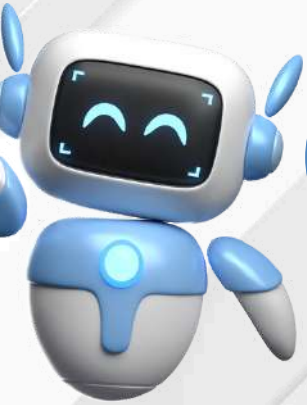


FEATURE STORY

# KIDS

# ROBOTIC

# MS 354



Through hands-on learning and interactive projects, we nurture creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment at MS 354.

At MS 354 we engage our students in activities like building and programming robots, which helps them develop essential STEM skills, while applying theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, which would prepare them for future careers in a technology-driven world.





**STUDENT FEATURE**  
**BY OLIVIA MILLS**  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT PPRESIDENT**



# EVERY ROLE IS IMPORTANT

Some weeks ago the student government had a chance to interview Mr. Rafael Mendez, the head custodian of The School of Integrated Learning MS 354. We interviewed him so we could find out more about his role in the school and what he and the other custodians do.

Mr. Mendez, the head custodian, shared with us the different aspects of his job. What we found out is that there are certain skills he had to learn and licenses he had to get, in order for him to qualify for the job. He had to obtain his carpentry and plumbing licenses, that focus on fixing pipes, handling dangerous/radioactive materials, while also taking 3-6 months to learn building safety protocols and hands-on training. Mr. Mendez and his team of custodians have to take a yearly test on building maintenance. He also went to trade school

A personal aspect of his job is childcare because what he loves is being able to host a safe and healthy environment, where kids can thrive and grow. He takes pride and dedicates himself to his craft. He told us that sometimes he and his crew stay overnight to make sure there are no gas leaks and the building is heated for the students to enter a warm environment, during the winter. While he did not see himself working as a janitor, he loves his job and feels as if his job chose him.



HELLO  
January



Your children are watching you. Every time you take a **deep breath** *instead of yelling*, every moment you **pause** *instead of reacting*, and when you choose **patience** *instead of frustration*, **you're teaching them invaluable lessons.**

Jason Schnitzer



**Every time you choose a conscious response over a reactive one, you're giving your children a master class in emotional intelligence.**

It's about progress, not perfection. It's about letting your children see you catch yourself, reset and try again because THAT alone is incredibly powerful.

### It teaches them that

- They are important, and they should be spoken to with respect
- mending and trying again is the right thing to do
- every try is a new chance at success

**Emotional regulation skills are what we depend on to maintain important relationships, find career success and love ourselves. When parents pass on these lessons they protect their children from so much future stress because they form resilience and respect from the inside out.**



@create\_kids\_edu



# STRESS TO RESILIENCE FOR YOUTHS



## ON THE PATH TO INNER PEACE

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity, adapt to change, and keep moving forward in the face of difficulties.

Here are some strategies and pieces of advice that can help support youths in this process:



### Promote Self-Awareness

- **Encourage Reflection:** Help youths engage in self-reflection to understand their emotions, triggers, and coping mechanisms. Journaling can be a helpful tool in this regard.
- **Mindfulness Practices:** Introduce mindfulness techniques, such as meditation or deep-breathing exercises, which can enhance their ability to focus and stay present.

### Teach Problem-Solving Skills

- **Identify Problems:** Teach youths to clearly identify problems before jumping into solutions. This involves breaking down the issue into smaller, manageable parts.
- **Brainstorm Solutions:** Encourage brainstorming sessions to develop multiple potential solutions. This fosters creativity and gives them a sense of control.
- **Evaluate Outcomes:** After trying different strategies, have them assess outcomes to understand what worked, what didn't, and why.

### Set Realistic Goals

- **SMART Goals:** Help youths set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound goals that provide a sense of direction and accomplishment.
- **Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge and celebrate even small achievements to boost self-confidence and reinforce their ability to overcome challenges.

### Model Resilience

- **Adult Role Models:** Be a role model for resilience. Share your experiences of overcoming challenges and the lessons learned.
- **Normalize Struggle:** Normalize the experience of struggle and failure as part of growth. Discussing these experiences openly can lessen stigma and promote healthy attitudes toward setback.



Resilience is not an innate trait, but a set of skills that can be developed over time. It's essential to approach this process with patience, empathy, and understanding. Each youth is unique, so it's important to tailor strategies to their individual needs, circumstances, and personalities. By equipping young people with the tools to manage stress and adversity, we can help them navigate life's challenges and thrive in a rapidly changing world.



# SPELLING BEE COMPETITION



*Let's give two huge shout outs and special thanks to Aiden Thomas (Grade 8) and Xavier Meadows (Grade 7), for moving forward to the district round for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Aiden and Xavier represented our school community with great dignity and intelligence. Let's remember to tell them how proud we are. You are already winners!*

**AIDEN  
THOMAS**



*Further congratulations Aiden Thomas for persevering to the next Scripps National Spelling Bee competition in March 2025. We are all cheering for you! Go AIDEN Go!!!*

**XAVIER  
MEADOWS**





Kierra K.  
1/01  
Terry M.  
1/03

# HAPPY Birthday

Xavier M.  
1/13

Emma P.  
1/03  
Javelle J  
1/04

Oumar T.  
1/10  
Giovanni  
M. 1/12

Fabian F.  
1/06

Dameika  
M. 1/05  
Levih M.  
1/09

Tahima L.  
1/04  
Isaiah A.  
1/05

Sahida K  
1/21

Ethan G.  
1/16  
Elijah V.  
1/19

Trianna J.  
1/20  
Sarai G. 1/21

Urahsan  
J. 1/29

Alexis M.  
1/24  
Justice B.  
1/26

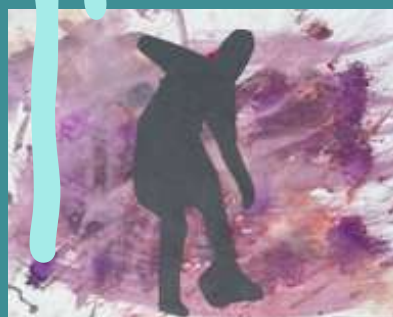
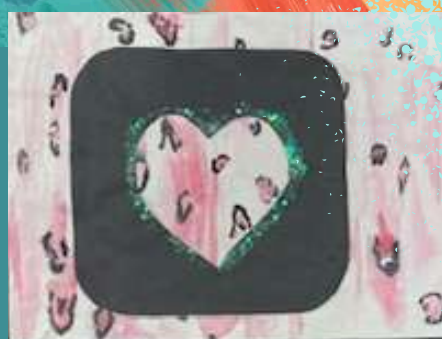


# THE SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED LEARNING ART GALA



## ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

*For the month of January, students used the website [wordart.com](http://wordart.com) to create a word cloud of all their hopes and goals for 2025. Students used watercolors to paint a printed copy of their word cloud and then created a collage demonstrating positive and negative space by including their word cloud, a second painting, and black paper.*





# JANUARY



## Word Search

B O N S B C M R P  
 C W U E U Y N L O  
 W L O A P D M I E  
 P M P R T X F R T  
 P T K C D U B V R  
 M O L H S N Q T Z  
 B A Y D M I H N P  
 V Y M P U Z Z L E

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the words in the WORD BOX. Can you find all 17 of the WORD BOX words hidden in the puzzle at the bottom of the page? Circle each word you find. You might find the words spelled across, up and down, or diagonally. The words might be spelled forward or backward.

### JANUARY

AUSTRALIA DAY	BLIZZARD	FOOTBALL	FREEZE
HIBERNATION	ICICLE	I HAVE A DREAM	MITTENS
NEW YEARS DAY	NORTH POLE	PENGUIN	RESOLUTION
SCARF	SKIING	SNOWFLAKE	SNOWMAN
SUPER BOWL			

O E N Y J F R H E G W P D S M  
 Y F Q O X N R X M H X P X N A  
 V W C K I S O A I N V J X E E  
 N T D U H T U R C Y F E Y T R  
 Y A D A I L A R T S U A Z T D  
 S N O W M A N N U H D S I I A  
 N F W J E E R P R S P C L M E  
 O R O K A Q E L R E I O P Y V  
 W E S W K R N A L C B G L B A  
 F E H R B I E Y L A Q I V E H  
 L Z T O U Y W E P B B Z H V I  
 A E W G W R E S O L U T I O N  
 K L N E D R A Z Z I L B O Z I  
 E E N G N I I K S F C Q I O R  
 P T W L B M B X W S P U Y T F



# BOOKISH bingo

A book with a one-word title	A book set in a different country	A book that was adapted into a movie	A book with a one-word title	A book with a non-human protagonist
A book published in the year you were born	A book written by an author of color	A book with a green cover	A book with a number in the title	A book with a one-word title
A book with a female poet	A classic novel	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	A book with a love triangle	A book written by a female author
A book set in a post-apocalyptic world	A book with a blue cover	A book with a magical creature	A book with a character who is a musician	A book with a title that starts with the letter "B"
A book with a character who is a detective	A book with a red cover	A book set in a fictional world	A book with a character who is an immigrant	A book with a character who is a scientist



# Winter indoor

## BUCKET LIST

- Host a Movie Marathon Night
- DIY Candle Making
- Indoor Plant Gardening
- Virtual Game Night
- Cook a New Recipe
- Home Spa Day
- Board Game Tournament
- Creative Writing Session
- Indoor Picnic
- Art and Craft Projects



# December Highlights

## PTA SIP & PAINT WORKSHOP



A great time was had by all parents and their children who attended the PTA's Sip & Paint Workshop on December 19, 2024. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Thoreson our master Art Teacher.

Be on the look out for other PTA events!!!



STUDENTS ARTISTS

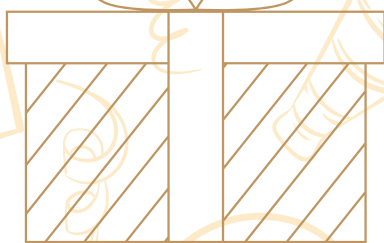


Come out and join our PTA!



# Winter Wishes

**Thanks to New York Cares and their Sponsors for providing a gift to each scholar at MS 354. We really appreciate your generosity!**





# December Highlights

## Ugly Sweater

