MS 354 TIMES

WELCOME FEBRUARY 2025

The school of Integrated Learning
1224 Park Pl, Brooklyn NY 11213

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Filling these 28 days with love, hope, and success

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

For more information please visit our website ms354.com, or call us 718-774-0362

MS354BROOKLYN

Follow us on Instagram

EVENTS SCHEDULE

FEB

7

NATIONAL SCHL. WEAR RED DAY

Students wear red tops/uniform bottoms

10-14

RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK

13

VALENTINES DANCE

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

17-21

MIDWINTER RECESS FEB. 17 - 21

Students return on Feb 24

28

CULTURAL DAY

Students wear cultural attire

Pantry
Wednesday 9:30 -10:30
Saturday 10-12

PTA Meeting Feb. 27

Principal's Message

As we continue to foster a nurturing and empowering environment here at MS 354, I want to take a moment to talk to you about two important values that greatly influence our school community: activism and respect for all.

Activism is the process of taking action to promote, impede, or direct social, political, economic, or environmental change. This can take many forms: writing a letter to an official, participating in a community project, organizing a fundraiser for a cause you believe in, or simply sharing information to raise awareness among your peers.

Each of you has your unique voice and perspective that can contribute to meaningful change in the world around you. Activism is grounded in your passions, beliefs, and values - it's about standing up for what you believe is right. Start by thinking about issues that matter to you. Is it climate change, bullying, social justice, mental health awareness, or something entirely different? Whatever it is, know that your ideas and actions matter.

Where as activism is about makin a difference, it is equally important to approach all aspects of life with respect. Respect means recognizing the inherent worth of every individual, even if you don't share the same opinions, backgrounds, or experiences. It means listening actively when other's speak, valuing their thoughts, and being mindful of how your words and actions affect those around you.

In our committed efforts to respect one another, we create a safe space where everyone feels valued and empowered to express their ideas. Disagreements are natural, but it's how we handle those disagreements that defines our community. I challenge each of you to engage in discussions with an open heart and mind. Embrace the differences that make our community vibrant and diverse.

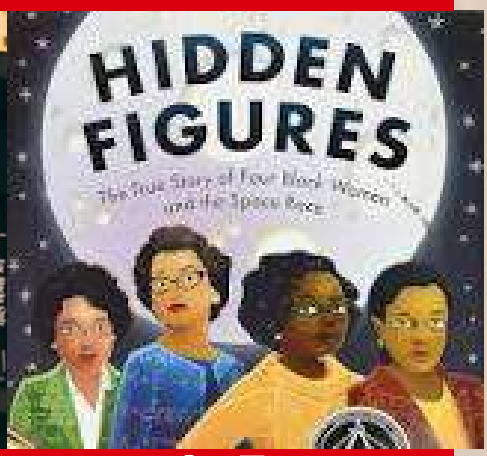
I believe in each of you and know that your dedication to activism and respect can help shape a brighter future for us all.

Thank you for being a part of MS 354.

Dr. Monique Campbell

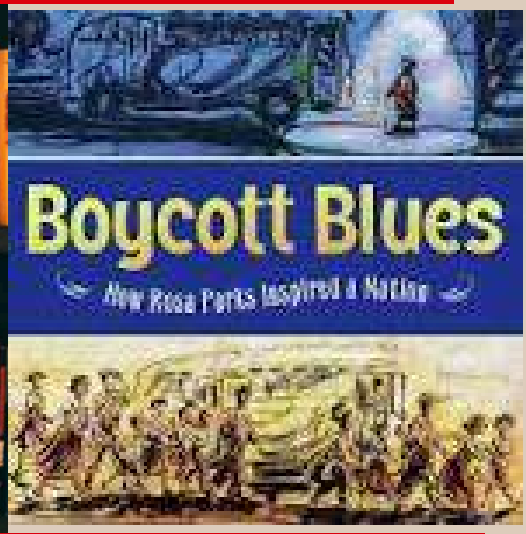
Book of the Month

Grade 6



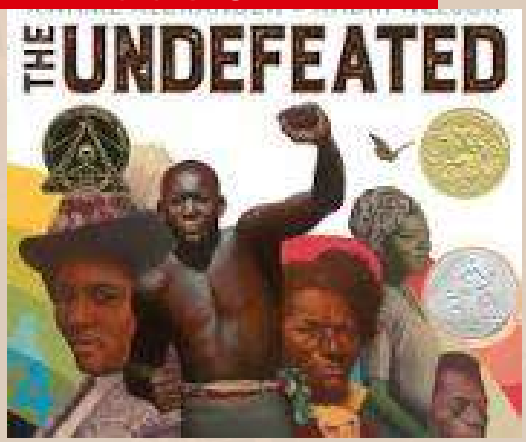
Hidden Figures explores the biographies of three African-American women who worked as computers to solve problems for engineers and others at NASA. For the first years of their careers, the workplace was segregated and women were kept in the background as human computers.

Grade 7



Boycott Blues tells the story of the Montgomery bus boycott, which began on December 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus. The boycott lasted 382 days and was a major part of the civil rights movement. The boycott ended when the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public transportation was illegal.

Grade 8



"The Undefeated" is a picture book written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, which functions as a poetic tribute to the resilience and strength of Black Americans throughout history. The book highlights figures like Jesse Owens, Michael Jordan, and civil rights activists, celebrating their triumphs, despite facing immense challenges like slavery and segregation.

February Celebrations

Hello

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

February 2025

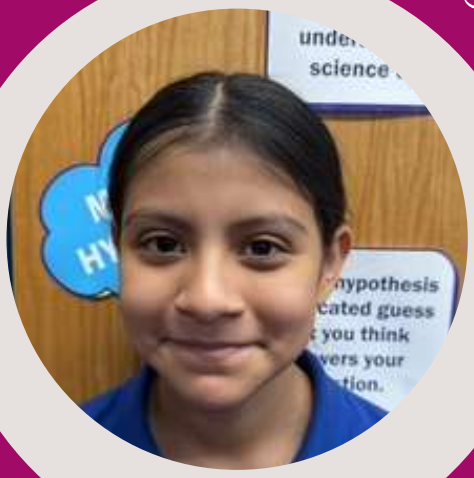
Family Worker

Jean Barnett

Ms. Barnett is an intgral part of the MS 354 community. She is responsible for building strong relationships with families and students, addressing their needs, providing referrals to community services, and actively engaging them in their child's education by facilitating communication between home and school- just to name a few. She is one of the faces that students and parents meet in the main office. What she does for our school community is far too extensive to list here. We value your contributions Ms. Barnett!

Student Spotlight

February



GEADE 6

GISELLE BONILLA-HERNANDEZ

HOBBIES

I like reading and writing

FAVORITE SUBJECT

I like Social Studies because I like learning about the past.

FUTURE GOAL

I would like to become a lawyer to make things fair for people.

GRADE 7

EMILY COLE

HOBBIES

I like to do hair

FAVORITE SUBJECT

I like Math because I find it easy to do.

FUTURE GOAL

I would like to become a cosmetologist. My mom studied this, and I've always wanted to do this ever since I was little.

GRADE 8

AMILAH DAVIDSON

HOBBIES

I like reading horror and true crime novels.

FAVORITE SUBJECT

I like ELA - I like writing and getting a deeper understandng of reading.

FUTURE GOAL

I would like to become an engineer. I like architecture and designing houses.

Student Feature

GALLERY OF HEROES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

Be inspired!
Let's commemorate and honor the African-American Mathematicians and Scientists who shaped and continue to shape history.

Dr. Jonathan Maitre

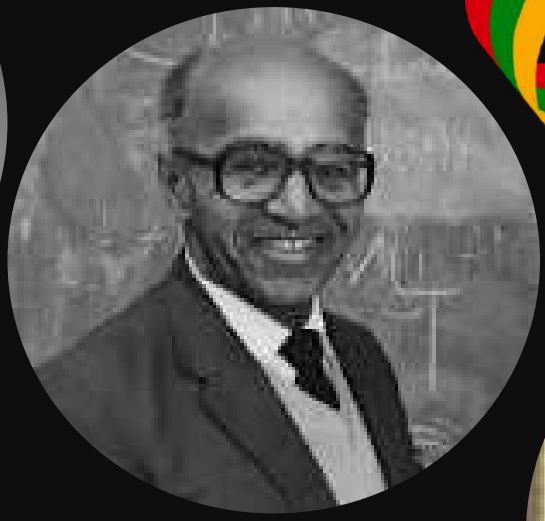
One significant African-American who has made a powerful and significant contribution to mathematics is Dr. Jonathan Maitre. Currently working at the School of Integrated Learning, Dr. Maitre has received many college degrees to reach where he is now. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Pure & Applied Mathematics and Statistics from CUNY schools Medgar Evers College and Queens College. Additionally, he received his Master's Degree in Mathematics Education from Long Island University, Brooklyn, and his degree in Master's of Philosophy in Mathematics, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University. Dr. Maitre has made many relevant contributions to society, such as being the first person to observe the mathematics education in the post-colonial countries: Haiti, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Guyana. Additionally, Dr. Maitre contributed to mathematics with his analysis of mathematics curriculum and textbooks. With almost two decades of experience, coupled with his enthusiasm and a passion for his occupation, Dr. Jonathan Maitre is an excellent educator and leader, who has made an incredible contribution to mathematics.

by Aiden Thomas

Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was born August 26,1918 in White Sulphur Springs,West Virginia,Katherine Johnson was an African American mathematician who was one of the first female mathematicians to work for NASA. Johnson had played an important role at NASA. In 1961 she calculated the path for Freedom 7, Which was the spacecraft that placed the first U.S astronaut in space Johnson also verified that the electronic computer had planned john glenn's flight correctly as per his request leading him to become the first U.S astronaut to orbit earth. Johnson was a very hard working mathematician and is a great example of a role model. But she unfortunately passed away on February,24,2020.

by Jessenia Streete



David Harold Blackwell

David Harold Blackwell was a Statistician and a Mathematician. He was born on April 24, 1919, and died on July 8, 2010. While he was alive, he made severe contributions to game theory, probability theory, information theory, and Bayesian statistics. Not only this, but he also broke through racial barriers when he was named the first African-American member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, in 1965. He earned three degrees at the mere age of 16. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. In 1976, he was elected as an honorary fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and won the John von Neumann Theory prize in 1979.

by Joshua Alleyne

Benjamin Banneker

American naturalist, Mathematician and astronomer

Benjamin Banneker was a mathematician, astronomer and american naturalist who was born on November 9th,1731 and died on october 19th,1806. When he was growing up, Benjamin Banneker was a freeman and he was raised on a farm in baltimore. Even though he attended a school, Benjamin Banneker was a great scholar in mathematics.

by Trevon Flavigny

Student Feature

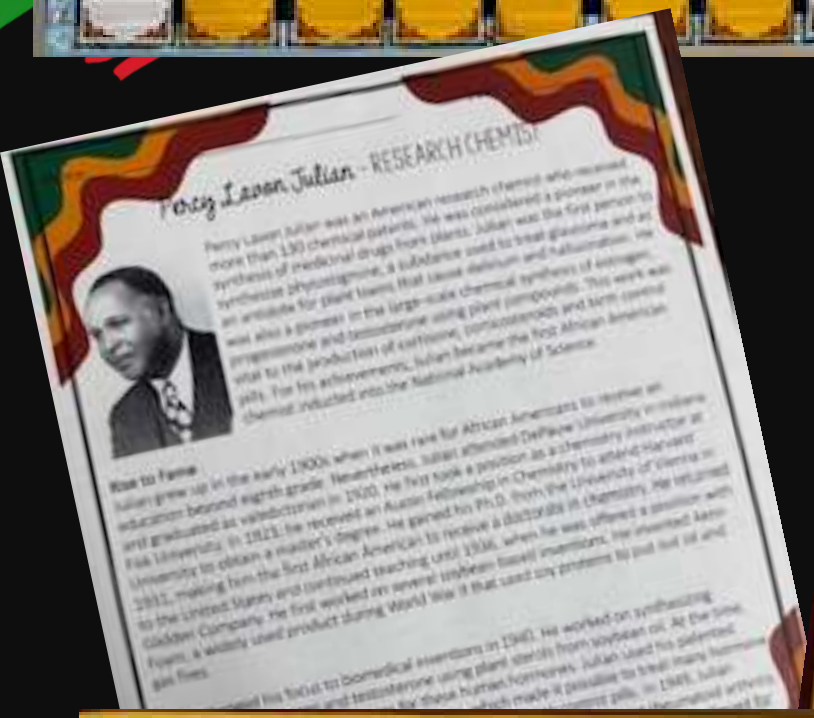
Black History Month

Honoring the history and contributions of Black communities this month. Together, let's keep the legacy alive

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Science

Ms. Parkins & Ms. Leckie



Percy Lavon Julian - RESEARCH CHEMIST

Percy Lavon Julian was an American research chemist who received more than 130 chemical patents. He was considered a pioneer in the synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants. Julian was the first person to synthesize physostigmine, a substance used to treat glaucoma and as an antidote for plant toxins that cause delirium and hallucination. He was also a pioneer in the large-scale chemical synthesis of estrogen, progesterone and testosterone using plant compounds. This work was vital to the production of cortisone, corticosteroids and birth control pills. For his achievements, Julian became the first African American chemist inducted into the National Academy of Science.

Rise to Fame

Julian grew up in the early 1900s when it was rare for African Americans to receive an education beyond eighth grade. Nevertheless, Julian attended DePauw University in Indiana and graduated as valedictorian in 1920. He first took a position as a chemistry instructor at Fisk University. In 1923, he received an Austin Fellowship in Chemistry to attend Harvard University to obtain a master's degree. He gained his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in 1931, making him the first African American to receive a doctorate in chemistry. He returned to the United States and continued teaching until 1936, when he was offered a position with Glidden Company. He first worked on several soybean-based inventions. He invented Aero-Foam, a widely used product during World War II that used soy proteins to put out oil and gas fires.

Julian changed his focus to biomedical inventions in 1940. He worked on synthesizing progesterone, estrogen and testosterone using plant sterols from soybean oil. At the time, doctors were just discovering uses for these human hormones. Julian used his patented technique to mass produce these hormones, which made it possible to treat many hormone deficiencies and paved the way for the production of birth control pills. In 1949, Julian discovered a new way to synthesize cortisone, a hormone used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Julian worked for Glidden, discovering and patenting dozens of techniques that allowed for the synthesis of many other medicinal drugs.

Later in Life

In 1954, Julian founded his research firm, Julian Laboratories. He became one of the first Black millionaires when he sold his company in 1961. He then founded the Julian Research Institute. He ran the nonprofit organization until his death in 1975.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mae Jemison- ASTRONAUT, PHYSICIAN & ENGINEER

Mae Jemison is most well-known as the first Black female to travel in space. She was selected as one of fifteen people out of 2,000 applicants to be part of NASA's astronaut corps in 1987, the first chosen group of astronauts following the destruction of Challenger in 1986.

On September 28, 1989, Jemison was selected to serve as a mission specialist for the STS-47 crew. She launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on September 12, 1992, aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. Jemison spent nearly eight days in space and orbited Earth 127 times. She returned to Earth on September 20 and soon after resigned from NASA.

Rise to Fame

Mae Jemison began her undergraduate education at Stanford University at the age of sixteen. She received a BS degree in chemical engineering and a BA degree in African and African-American studies from the university in 1977. She then attended Cornell Medical School and graduated with a medical degree in 1981. Jemison worked as a general practitioner in Los Angeles, California before joining the Peace Corps in 1983. She served as a medical officer for the Peace Corps and was responsible for the health of volunteers in Liberia and Sierra Leone. When Jemison returned to the United States in 1985, she resumed medical practice in Los Angeles. During this time, she was inspired by the 1983 flight of Sally Ride – the first female in space – and Guion Bluford – the first African American in space – and decided to apply to NASA's astronaut training program. Mae Jemison began her career with NASA helping with launch support activities at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She also helped verify orbital hardware and flight software pertinent to NASA shuttle missions.

Later in Life

Jemison resigned from NASA in March 1993. She served on the board of directors of the World Sickle Cell Foundation for three years and eventually made her way to Dartmouth College, where she was appointed professor of environmental studies. Over the course of her career, she has received numerous honors and awards and received several honorary doctorates. Furthermore, she has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the International Space Hall of Fame.

George Washington Carver - AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST

George Washington Carver is considered the most prominent Black scientist of the early 20th century. Carver was an American agricultural scientist and inventor. He developed techniques that improved the quality of soils depleted by repeated cotton planting. He promoted systematic crop rotation, in which farmers would alternate cotton crops with planting sweet potatoes or legumes, like peanuts and soybeans. Alternative crops restored nitrogen in the soil, which improved cotton yields. Furthermore, this gave farmers alternative "cash crops" that were good for human consumption.

Rise to Fame

Carver attended Simpson College in Iowa, where he studied art and piano. His art teacher encouraged him to study botany, which he pursued at the Iowa State Agricultural College in 1891. He conducted studies in plant pathology and mycology, which gained him national recognition and respect.

In 1896, Carver was invited by the first principal and president of Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington, to head its Agricultural Department. He taught at the college for 47 years, developing the department into a strong research facility. While at Tuskegee Institute, George developed his systematic crop rotation. He established an agricultural extension program for the state of Alabama to train farmers in the practice of crop rotation. He also distributed recipes for alternative crops and promoted possible uses of peanuts. He Carver was publicly admired by President Theodore Roosevelt and other prominent international figures.

Later in Life

During the last 20 years of his life, Carver traveled to promote Tuskegee Institute (now known as Tuskegee University), his agricultural methods and peanuts. He published articles that promoted the peanut industry. Carver died in 1943 from complications after falling down a flight of stairs.

MS 354
The School of Integrated Learning

celebrate Jediah Charles

This artwork was submitted for the Dr. Dolores Beckham Youth Leadership Multicultural Arts Award Contest.

"This artwork shows how in all cultures, people's lives matter! Even though everyone is different and unique, their contributions to society is meaningful, whether or not we recognize that, due to their differences. We may have different cultures, traditions or just different ways of doing things, yet that does not justify the harsh, unfair treatment that some of us sadly deal with. We deserve to live in a world where all people are free to join hands in unity and say, 'we are us and we are equal..' That's what my project is about and it's culturally relevant."

February Birthdays

Marcus Arthur R. 2/6

Sophia Irene G. 2/8

Sarah G. 2/8
Avery B. 2/9
Kassidy G. 2/11
Cristal G. 2/11
Amere K. 2/11
Kiaden C. 2/12
Daliya W. 2/13
Cameron P. 2/14
Damian W. 2/14
Rozlyn E. 2/15
Dillyn M. 2/16
Tey Anna B. 2/17
Jah-Kayla F. 2/18
Emely B. 2/20
Brylen L. 2/24
Amir G. 2/24

Jacob H. 2/28

Sheranie P. 2/27

SCIENCE AT MS 354

HYDROPONIC AGRICULTURE

Innovative strategies to enhance sustainability and crop production.

Students at MS 354 are learning about plant biology, environmental science, and sustainable agriculture.

Benefits of hydroponics for students:

- Hands-on learning
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Sustainable practices
- STEM skills

MULTICULTURAL DAY

AT MS 354 WE PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING FOR DIFFERENT CULTURES AND INCLUSIVITY BY EXPOSING OUR STUDENTS TO DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES, TRADITIONS, AND EXPERIENCES. WE HOPE BY PARTICIPATING IN MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, WE CAN HELP COMBAT STEREOTYPES, BUILD EMPATHY, AND PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO LIVE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD WHERE CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS PREVALENT.

Heart Awareness Day

Students and staff wore red on Feb. 7th to help raise awareness for American Heart Month.

MS 354
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A JOURNEY

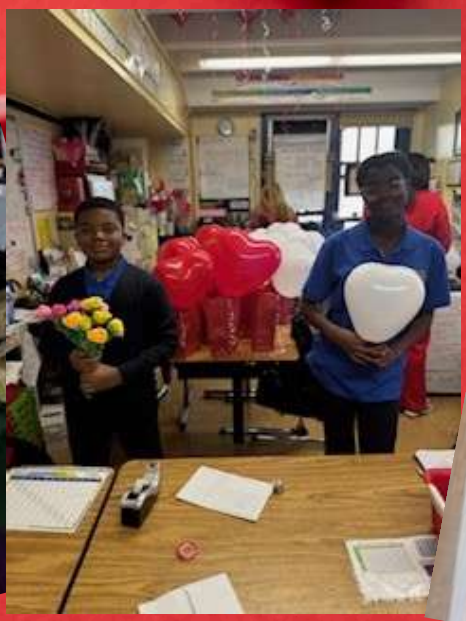
THROUGH ART

Students studied the portrait paintings of the Brooklyn based portrait artist, Kehinde Wiley, who is famous for creating the presidential portrait of Barack Obama, as well as hundreds of other highly realistic paintings of both famous and everyday African American people. Students then selected one person that they would like to celebrate for Black History Month and researched online to find a photo of that person. They used a tracing paper and pencil transfer technique to draw a portrait of their chosen figure on water color paper, and then painted their portrait with water color paints.

A JOURNEY

THROUGH ART

February Highlights



VALENTINES'S DAY

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Valentine's Dance

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Valentine's Dance

CLIMATE ACTION DAY

Love nature and nature will love you, protect nature and nature will protect you

FEB. 5

Students were asked to become expert engineers, who work for the (fictional) alternative energy consulting firm, The SIL Green Inc. Each student conducted research, using their readings which were provided by their science teachers, videos and the internet, to inform a CEO of the best possible solutions and or designs to have an energy efficient school. Here are some of their designs.

January Highlights

新 年 快 乐

Happy Lunar New Year

2025

Year Of The Snake








Students learned about Lunar New Year's traditions in Asia and the animals of the Chinese Zodiac. 2025 is the year of the snake and students had the option to paint and draw a snake or another zodiac animal using part markers and paint.