

DECEMBER 2025

NEWS LETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MS 354

WELCOME DECEMBER! EMBRACE THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON, THE WARMTH OF LOVE, AND THE JOY THAT LIGHTS UP EVERY HEART!

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

FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM
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MS354BROOKLYN



IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO FAMILIES

WINTER BREAK
12/24/25-1/2/26

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

STUDENTS RETURN
ON 1/5/26



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December



December is a moment to reflect on what we've achieved together and to look ahead with hope. I'm grateful for our dedicated teachers, resilient students, and steadfast families.

As the winter break approaches, I encourage everyone to rest, recharge, and spend time with loved ones. When we return, let us bring renewed energy, resilience, and curiosity to finish the year strong.

Thank you for your support. Wishing you health and joy this holiday season.

Warm regards,

Dr. Monique Campbell



~~Mistakes~~
Mistakes
are ~~pruf~~
proof that
~~yu~~ you are
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trying!

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Holidays, friends, & family

- Balance study with downtime: schedule short stretches of relaxation or social time to avoid burnout.
- Set boundaries with devices: decide when you'll be offline for family time and stick to it.
- Be kind online and in person: ask questions, listen to others, and steer away from drama.

DECEMBER QUICK CHECKLIST

- Create a 2-week study plan and calendar reminders.
- Review 2-3 topics per subject, 15-30 minutes daily.
- Finish any big projects with small steps and deadlines.
- Set a sleep schedule and reduce late-night screens.
- Plan a balanced holiday routine that includes study time, rest, and family/friend time.
- Check in with a grown-up about how you're feeling.

Goal Setting & reflection

- Look back on fall goals: what worked, what didn't? Pick 1 academic goal (e.g., improve math problem-solving) and 1 personal goal (e.g., read for 20 minutes a day) for December/January.
- Write a short "I can" statement for each goal and track progress weekly.



Teacher Spotlight

ms. PAMPTATA Sanders



Experience

Ms. Sanders has been an educator for the past 19 years. She comes with a wealth of expertise: Teacher, SETTS provider, Administrator for 4 years supervising math.

Education:

She went to John Jay College of Criminal Justice majoring in Forensic Psychology, and NYU majoring in Education.

Ms. Sanders is an integral part of our MS 354 school community. She joined our school in 2023. She is one of our SWD specialists who is an expert in using differentiation and Universal Design for Learning to meet diverse learners in the same classroom. Ms. Sanders is patient, adaptable, creative, and builds strong relationships with her students. She uses clear behavior support strategies and classroom management to support students with social-emotional and behavioral needs. She coordinates with general education peers for inclusion, and she employs an inclusive approach that respects the diverse backgrounds of all students.

Student Spotlight

DECEMBER



Ella W. Grade 6

Hobbies:

Art - It makes me feel happy.

Favorite Subject:

ELA - I like reading and writing.

Future Goals:

I would like to become a doctor - probably a surgeon so that I can help people.

Lory A. Grade 7

Hobbies:

I like to chochet - I like making things.

Favorite Subject:

ELA - I like writing and I feel good about how I am improving this year.

Future Goals:

I would like to become an OBGYN - I have a lot of patience that is required for this job.

Empress W. Grade 8

Hobbies:

Dance & Step - They are a great form of expression.

Favorite Subject:

Social Studies - I like learning about past events.

Future Goals:

I would like to become a cosmetologist. I like doing hair & nails.

December Events/Themes



Key Celebrations & Traditions

- Christmas: A major religious and cultural holiday on December 25th, filled with gift exchanges, trees, etc.
- Hanukkah: The Jewish Festival of Lights
- Kwanzaa: A celebration of African-American culture from December 26th to January 1st.
- New Year's Eve: Celebrated on the 31st to ring in the new year.
- Winter Solstice: The shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, marking the start of winter.

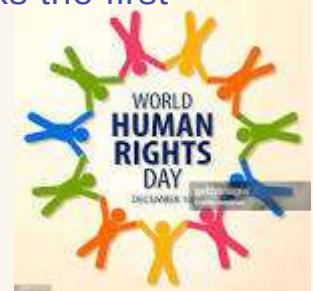
Themes & Atmosphere

- Reflection & Generosity: A time to look back on the year and focus on giving, charity, and togetherness.
- Festivity & Whimsy: Decorated with lights, music, and themed days like Ugly Sweater Day or National Cookie Day.



Historical & Awareness Events

- Civil Rights: Commemorates events like Rosa Parks' bus boycott.
- World AIDS Day (Dec 1): A global day for AIDS awareness and support.
- Human Rights Day (Dec 10): Focuses on universal human rights.
- Wright Brothers Day (Dec 17): Marks the first powered flight.





December 8-14

Computer Science Week

computer science education week

We are developing computer literate scholars



Computer science education is vital for building critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Students are empowered as digital creators, not just users, and it promotes equity by giving all kids essential skills for a tech- driven world and future careers. In addition, skills learned can be used in non-tech fields like science, art, and engineering, by teaching logical reasoning, resilience, and collaboration.

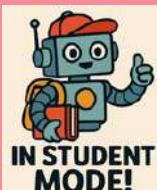
Computer Science Week Focus

Inside AI Chatbots

- What is AI? How do chatbots work?

Students explore chatbots, break chatbots, and spot patterns to discover how AI works.

- What is a prompt? How do prompts shape AI outputs?
- How does changing a prompt change the output?



Did You Know

At MS 354 -

- Every class is outfitted with Computers
- We also have a state-of-the-art computer lab
- All curriculums can be accessed digitally
- Students engage with computers on a daily basis.



BROOKLYN TECH FWV



Unlock Your Child's Future In Tech

MS 354 is a proud participant in the Brooklyn Tech FWV STEM Pathways Consortium.



Our scholars attended the December 6, 2025 Event - Where they participated in a STEM Classes.





ROBOTIC CODING

BROOKLYN TECH FWV

FOCUS

- Robotics
- Engineering
- Coding & Programming
- 3D Printing
- Problem-Solving Projects





TRACK AT MS 354

5K

10K

15K



RUN & WALK





TEEN BEHAVIORS THAT LOOK "BAD" ... BUT ARE ACTUALLY SIGNS OF GROWTH

01.

That "attitude" you hate

Looks like: Sass, sarcasm, eye rolls, dramatic reactions

Actually is: Your teen learning to regulate big emotions. Between 10-19+, their feelings often outweigh their ability to manage them.

Instead of punishment, try:

- Stay calm (especially when they're not)
- Help them name the feeling ("You seem frustrated...")
- Show them how you handle frustration in healthy ways.



02.

Avoiding chores unless reminded 97 times

Looks like: Laziness, ignoring responsibilities

Actually is: Executive function still developing. The brain's ability to plan, prioritize, and follow through is still wiring up until age 25+.

Instead of punishment, try:

- Break tasks into smaller steps
- Use visual checklists or reminders
- Create routines with them, not for them

03.

Arguing about everything

Looks like: Disrespect, defiance, backtalk

Actually is: Critical thinking + identity formation. Teens push back to figure out what they believe and who they are.

Instead of punishment, try:

- Ask their opinion and listen
- Respectfully share your point of view
- Stay calm but firm



04.

Acting selfish

Looks like: Rudeness, entitlement, lack of empathy

Actually is: Learning perspective-taking. Empathy develops through the teen years, and they'll make mistakes along the way.

Instead of punishment, try:

- Ask, "How do you think they felt?"
- Use "I feel" statements instead of blame
- Acknowledge when they do show empathy

Winter Wishes



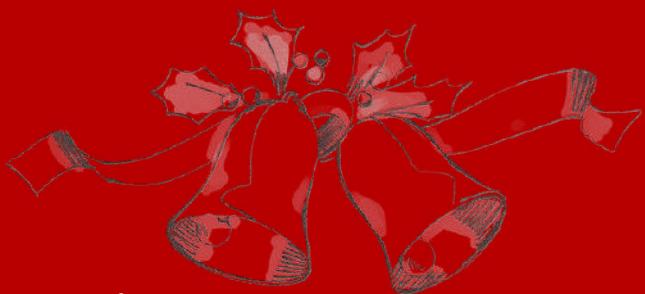
December Highlights



Winter Wishes



Wishing you joy and happiness this
holiday season.



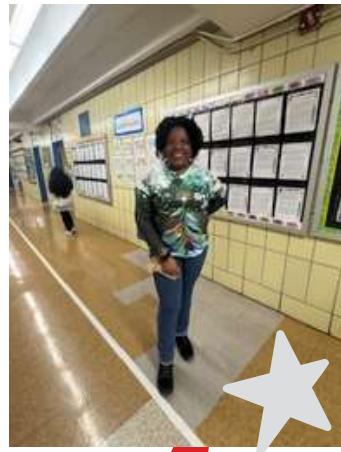


DECEMBER

Highlights

Festive Hats

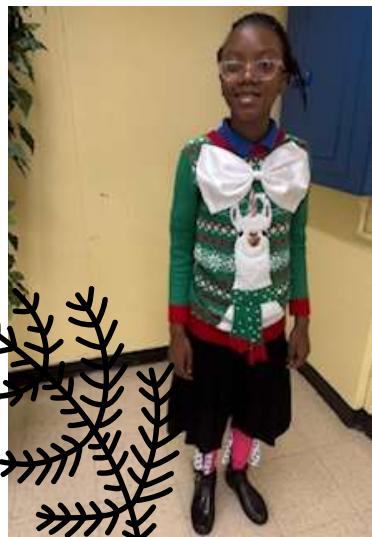
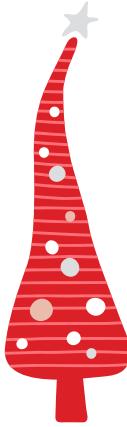




Let's celebrate together!

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

fun times



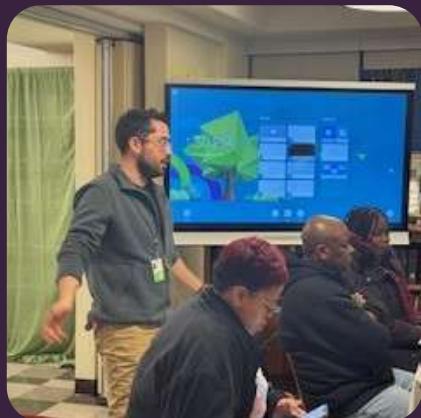


DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

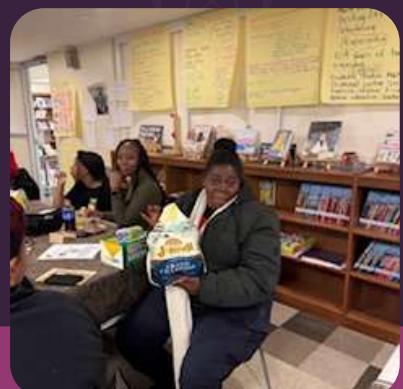
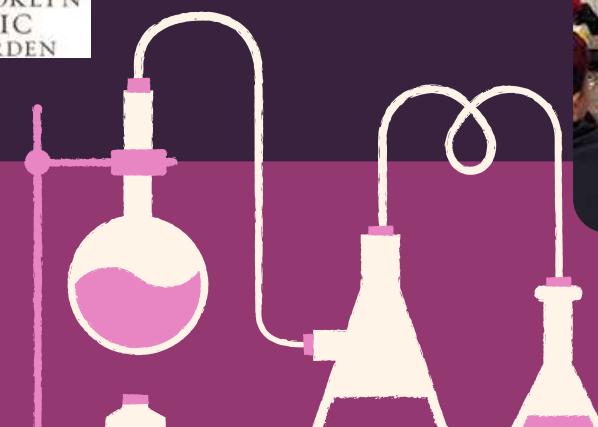


SCIENCE *Night*

Urban Advantage Science Night



On December 18, 2025 we held our annual Urban Advantage Family Science Night. This year's event was facilitated by Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. We engaged in a class on Ethnobotany, where we looked at the relationship between people and plants, focusing on traditional knowledge, uses, and beliefs about local flora for food. We got an opportunity to make tea bags as well.





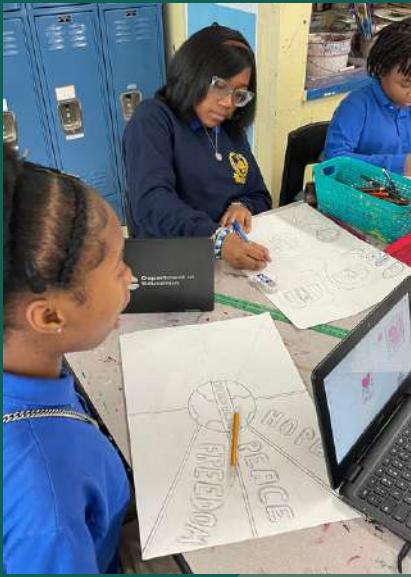
Welcome December! Embrace the magic of the season, the warmth of love, and the joy that lights up every heart!

Family SKATING



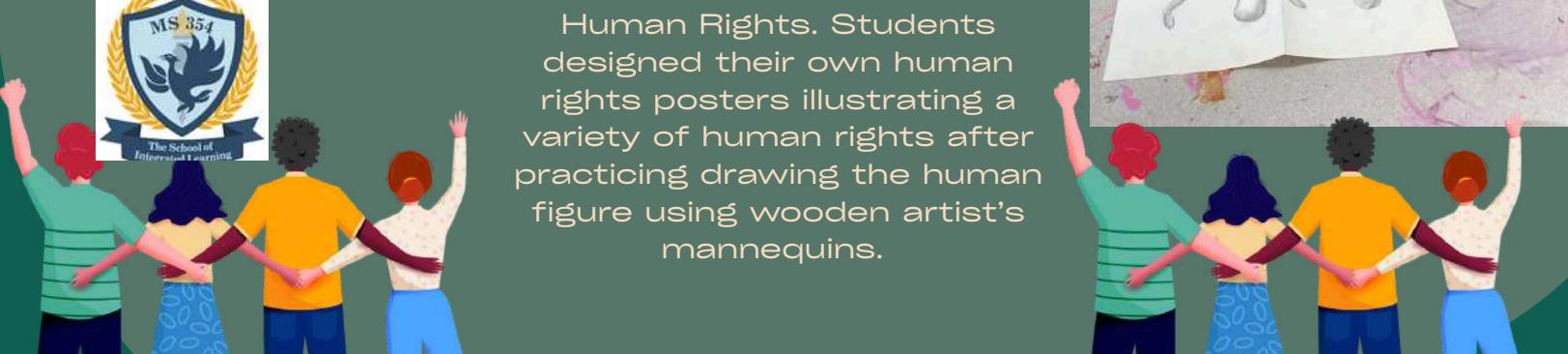
WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

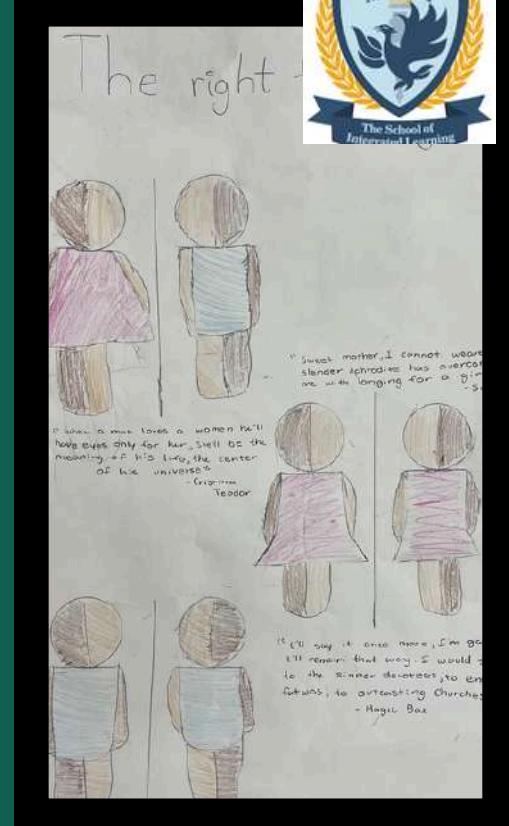
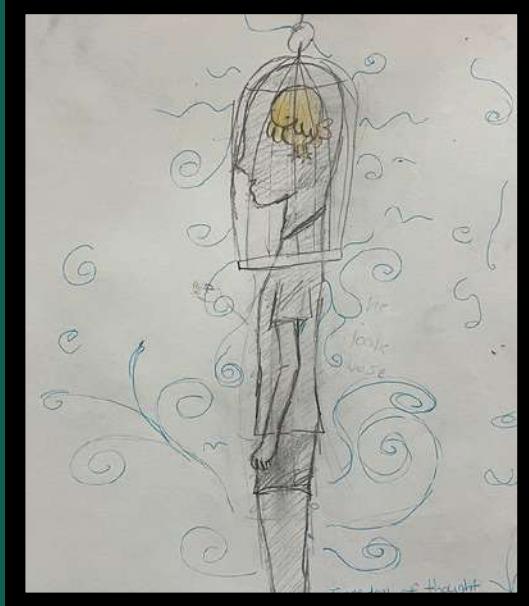
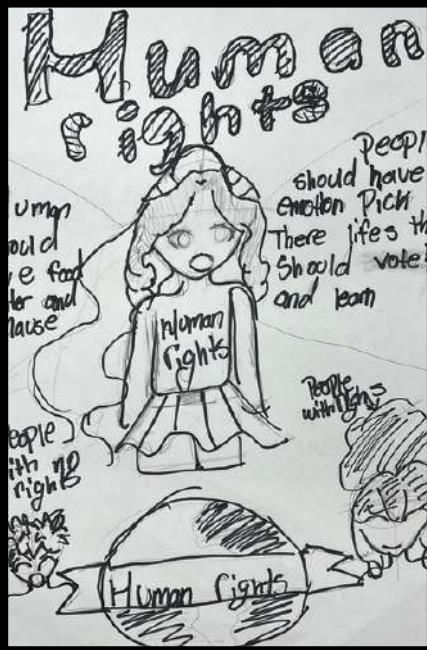
DECEMBER 10



December is Human Rights Month and 6th and 7th grade students in Visual Art learned about the 30 human rights listed by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of

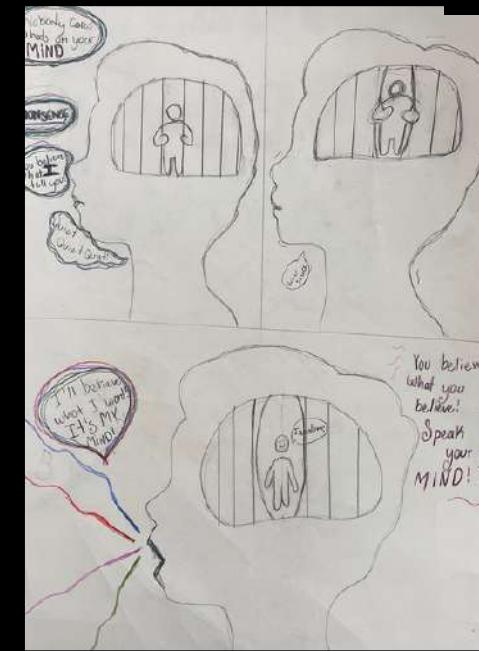
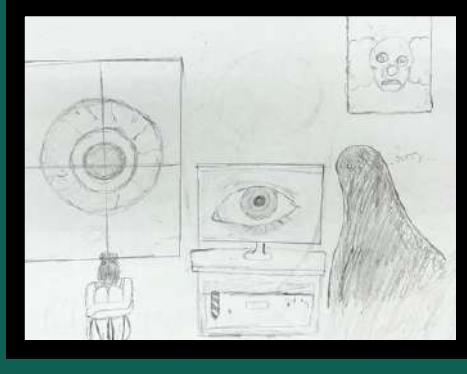
Human Rights. Students designed their own human rights posters illustrating a variety of human rights after practicing drawing the human figure using wooden artist's mannequins.





HUMAN RIGHTS POSTERS

Designed by 6th and 7th grade M.S. 354 students



UGLY SWEATER DESIGN CONTEST



Grade 6 and 7 students competed to design the best ugly winter holiday sweater in art before the break. Which design is your favorite?

