

Classroom News

April 2026

Notes

We will begin to explore our new study, Exercise! We will be experimenting with many types of activities including yoga, weight lifting (very light) and exercising in our pretend gym! If you have yoga mats, hand towels, any other exercise equipment that you think we could use, please send it in.

We will begin a new fun event called mystery readers. Please let our class moms know if you are interested in coming into our class to read a story or even join us on zoom!

We hope you have a joyous and relaxing holiday and for those who celebrate, Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

What We Are Learning

Welcome to April! This month we will begin our unit "Exercise". Through informational texts, play and science projects, will discover all about exercise, how we can participate, and what it does for our health.

We will explore our **Essential Question...**
What is exercise?

Our weekly **Focus Questions** are...

What are the different types of exercise?
Where do people exercise?
What types of equipment do people use to exercise?

Attached you will find our Together Time project for April. Please choose a project and send it in by **Wed, April 22nd**.

Upcoming Events

Every Friday is Spirit Day! Wear your PS 221 gear!

April Birthdays: Natalie 4/16

Looking ahead:

April 2-12th - Spring Break -Enjoy!

13- Assistant Principal Appreciation Day

22-Earth Day- Planting activity with families PLUS fruit and veggie party to celebrate foods that come from the earth! More detail coming- parents are welcome to attend.

23- Take Your Child to Work Day/ NYPD Jazz Band

27- 3K earned NYC Survey Pizza Party!!

30- PTA Meeting



Classroom News

April 2026

Notes

Just a reminder about arrival and dismissal....If you need early morning childcare, you may bring your child between **8:00am-8:20am** and they will wait in the auditorium until I arrive. If you are here close to 8:20am, I respectfully ask that you please wait outside the door until I arrive. I will open the door when the bell rings at **8:20am**. Please be lined up and ready to come in at that time. As a courtesy, I stay at the door until **8:25am**. Once the door closes, your child is considered late and must wait for a late pass from the school safety officer. If they miss the lineup time, they will be escorted to our room by school personnel. Please make every effort to be on time for **arrival at 8:20am and dismissal at 2:35pm**. Thank you!

What We Are Learning

Welcome to April! This month we will begin our unit "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". Through informational texts, play and science projects, we will discover all about ways we can help protect our Earth through environmental studies.

We will explore our **Essential Question...** What do we know about Reducing, Reusing and recycling? What do we want to know?
Our weekly **Investigation Questions** are...
How can we reduce the items we use?
How can we reuse the items we use?
How do we recycle the items we use?

Attached you will find our Parent Engagement Projects for April. Please choose a project and send it in by **Friday, April 14th** and **April 17th**

Upcoming Events

Every Friday is Spirit Day! Wear your PS 221 gear!

Looking ahead:

April 1- April Fool's Day

April 14th and April 17th – Parent Engagement Projects due

April 2nd-April 10th Return to school on April 13th Spring Break...

Happy Passover, and Happy Easter to all who celebrate!

13- Assistant Principal Appreciation Day

14-15 NYS ELA

17- Boosterthon Class Winner Snacks from PTA

20-D26 Parent Art Workshop 6:15PM

21- Remote Principal/AP Meeting

22-Earth Day-Library Closed OT Meeting

23- Take Your Child to Work Day/ NYPD Jazz Band

24-5th Grade Science Expo Projects Due/ NY Mets Game/News

27-3K-2 NYC Survey Pizza Parties/ SLT

28-29 NYC Math Test

29- We Host D26 PC Meeting

30- 3-5 Pizza party Survey Winners/PTA Meeting

April Birthdays:

No Birthdays





Kindergarten

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



Dear Kindergarten Families,

Happy Spring, Kindergarten families! As the weather warms up, we're excited to continue our learning journey together. This month, we'll be celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd. We'll explore ways to take care of our planet through fun activities like planting seeds, recycling, and learning about how we can all do our part to help the Earth. We're looking forward to a month full of hands-on learning, outdoor activities, and growth.

Classroom News

Into Reading: Zoom In!

Students will be guided to stop and look closely at new things or at familiar things in new ways. The texts in this module inspire children to zoom in, whether it's exploring a fascinating corner of nature, like the world of ants, or appreciating beauty in everyday experiences. Children will look closely, be prompted to think differently, ask questions, and make connections.

Into Writing: Creative Writing

Students will create a sequenced story that includes a beginning, middle, and end. They will also include characters and setting in a creative story using complete sentences.

Foundations (Word Work):

Students will continue to learn digraphs: wh, ch, sh, th, and ck. Students will work on reading and writing short sentences. They will make sure to check for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Illustrative Math: Numbers 0 to 20

Students answer "how many" questions and count out groups within 20. They understand that numbers 11 to 19 are composed of ten ones and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine ones. They will write numbers within 20.

Social Studies: Families, Change, and Time

Students will learn how families grow and change over time.

Science: Sunlight and Warmth

Students will make observations to explore how sunlight warms the Earth's surface.

Upcoming Events

4/1 Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
4/14-4/15 NYS ELA TEST Grades 3-5
4/23 NYPD Jazz Band/Bring your child to work day
4/27 SLT 3:45pm
4/28-4/29 NYS Math Test Grades 3-5
4/30 Virtual PTA Meeting 6:30pm

Ways to help your child at home

Reading: Ask your child to retell a story in sequence paying attention to characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end. Prompt them to use the following words: *first*, *next*, and *last*.

Writing: Encourage your child to write about their observations by describing something they see in detail, like a bug, a tree, or a person playing an instrument. Ask them to write a sentence about what stands out to them, and help them explore new ways to describe everyday experiences.

Foundations: Practice having your child write short sentences. Dictate a short sentence using CVC words and sight words.

Math: Encourage your child to count objects around the house (i.e., toys, blocks, or snacks). Ask questions like, "How many are there?" or "Can you count to 20?"

Reminders

- ★ April 2-10 Spring Recess, schools closed
Looking ahead: **May 7:** Kindergarten field trip to Hall of Science
- ★ **June 18:** Kindergarten stepping up ceremony

Continuing Practicing

- ♥ Log on to your TeachHub account and complete iReady for 10 minutes at least 2 times per week.
- ♥ Practice zipping up your jacket and tying your shoelaces



April 2026

First Grade Newsletter
Mrs. Magone, Mrs. Macaluso
Ms. Heihs, Ms. Oh and Mrs. Pappas

Reminders

Remember to check your child's Home Folder on a daily basis. Please remove old work from the folder. Review your child's homework everyday. Practice i-Ready in Math and Reading.

Dates to Remember:

4/1-Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
4/2-4/10 No School Spring Break!
4/14-4/15 NYS ELA Test Grades 3-5
4/23-NYPD Jazz Band/Bring Your Child to Work Day
4/24- 5th Grade Science Expo Projects Due
4/27- SLT 3:45
4/28-4/29-NYS Math Test (Grades 3-5)
4/30 Virtual PTA Meeting at 6:30 pm

Word Work: (Foundations and Heggerty):

We will be beginning **Unit 10** in FUNdations.

We will learn about:

- segmenting and blending up to 5 sounds
- adding **suffix -s** to words with 5 sounds
- adding **suffix -ed** and **-ing**
- Vowel team sounds for: **oa, oe, ow, ou, oo, ue, ew, au, and aw**

Reading: We will begin **Module 8: Tell Me a Story**

Essential Question: What lessons can we learn from stories?

Texts include: Follow the Story Path, Interrupting Chicken, Little Red Riding Hood, Grasshopper and the Ants, Thank You, Mr. Aesop. Strategies we will focus on are: Text Features, Theme, Elements of a Drama, Inferencing and Point of View.

Writing:

We will be writing a Personal Narrative.

Our Focal Text will be ***The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn.***

We will focus on Elements of a Narrative. Students will include a Beginning, Middle and End in their stories. Students will add details to their stories and use correct punctuation.

Math:

We will begin **Unit 6:** Length Measurements within 120 Units.

In this unit students extend their knowledge of linear measurement while continuing to develop their understanding of operations, algebraic thinking, and place value. Students will compare the lengths of objects by lining them up at their endpoints, and explore ways to compare lengths of two objects that cannot be lined up.

Social Studies:

We will begin our Unit on ***Families, Now and Long Ago.***

Essential Question: ***How do families grow and change over time?***

We will focus on:

- How do families grow and change over time?
- What was life like in the past?
- How did transportation affect family life long ago and today?

Second Grade April Newsletter

Mrs. Fanelli, Ms. Li, Mrs. Gomes, Mrs. Abel, Mrs. Malave, Mrs. Lorenzo

MATH

Unit: Module 7: Adding and Subtracting within 1,000
Students will:

- Rewrite addition problems given in horizontal form as vertical addition algorithm and find the sum.
- Rewrite subtraction problems given in horizontal form as vertical subtraction algorithm and find the difference.
- Use strategies of addition to find the sum of 3 two-digit numbers.

Help Your Child: Practice basic addition and subtraction to strengthen fluency.

READING

Module 9: Home Sweet Habitat

Essential Question: How do living things in a habitat depend on each other?

- Learn about about different habitats where animals live
- Be exposed to existing and additional text features.
- Make connections to their own lives
- Read a variety of texts and understand text organization.

Help your child: Discuss text features and their purpose in non fiction books

WRITING

Writing: Module 9

Unit: Informational - Research Report

Students will:

create their own report by studying a topic
Include introduction, body, and conclusion.
Students will facts in their own words

Help Your Child: Create your own research report text at home.

Second Grade April Newsletter

SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit: New York City Over Time

Students will learn

- How has NYC changed over time?

What can we learn from a timeline?

Who lived in NYC during the 1600's before the Dutch and English arrived? **Help your Child:** Discuss how your life has changed from childhood to adulthood. Ex,: games, inventions, technology.

LOOKING AHEAD:

4/1- Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

4/2-4/10 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK!

4/14-4/15 NYS ELA TEST Grades 3-5

4/23- NYPD Jazz Band/ Bring Your Child to Work Day

4/24- 5th Grade Science Expo Projects Due

4/27 SLT 3:45pm

4/28- 4/29-NYS Math Test (Grades 3-5)

4/30 Virtual PTA Meeting 6:30 PM

3RD GRADE

Newsletter

Mrs. Gomes, Ms. Lam, Ms. Lykos, and Mrs. Velic

APRIL 2026

READING

Module 8: "Imagine! Invent!"

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about inventors and inventions, with a focus on the nonfiction genre. We will read texts about what it takes to make a successful invention.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Introduction to World Geography and World Communities

Students will be learning all about Europe. They will identify the important landforms, cultures, traditions, government and interesting facts about different countries in the world.

REMINDERS

4/4-4/10: No School Spring Break

4/14-4/15: NYS ELA State Exam

4/24: PTA Food Festival 6pm

4/28-4/29 : NYS Math Exam

4/30: PTA Meeting

WRITING

Children will be responding to reading by working on their constructive responses. They will be answering questions through their writing using the RADD strategy. (Restate, Answer, Detail, Detail)

MATHEMATICS

Unit 7: Two-dimensional Shapes and Perimeter

Section A Goals

- Reason about shapes and their attributes.

Section B Goals

- Find the perimeter of two-dimensional shapes, including when all or some side lengths are given.

Section C Goals

- Solve problems involving perimeter and area, in and out of context.

Section D Goals

- Apply geometric understanding to solve problems.



Fabulous Fourth Grade

M. Brogna, C. Soldatich-Crawford, E. Ku, J. Rivera, K. Sersen, M. Tung

April 2026
221Q

P.S.

Reading

Unit of Study: Reading Module 7- Tricksters and Tall Tales

- Students will listen to, read and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about traditional tales.
- This genre will focus on traditional stories that provide students with opportunities to identify central ideas, figurative language, and media techniques to better understand unfamiliar texts.
- Students will encounter an informational text to build knowledge across genres.
- Students will build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, and will learn that traditional stories can teach many lessons about life and the world around us.

How to help at home

- Look at different traditional folktales and review/reinforce comprehension skills.
- Reflect on the idea of motivation. Why do you think people do the things they do?

Writing

Unit of Study: Imaginative Story

- Students will write an imaginative story that explains how that thing came to be.
- Students will tell the story in order and use descriptive words or phrases.

How to help at home:

- Discuss/describe the lessons or themes found in stories read at home.
- Discuss narrative elements (setting, characters, plot and theme) found in stories read at home.

Math:

Unit of Study: Unit 7- Angles and Angle Measurement

- Students will learn to draw and identify points, rays, segments, angles, and lines, including parallel and perpendicular lines.
- Students will learn how to use a protractor to measure angles and to draw angles of given measurements, and they will identify acute, obtuse, right, and straight angles in two-dimensional figures.

Unit of Study: Unit 8- Properties of Two-dimensional Shapes

- Students will classify triangles and quadrilaterals based on the properties of their side lengths and angles, and learn about the lines of symmetry in two-dimensional figures.

How to help at home:

- Be sure that your child has a protractor. You can purchase one or print one off the internet at https://www.ginifab.com/feeds/angle_measurement/
- Have students practice using the protractor, measuring and identifying the various angles.
- Discuss how shapes can be categorized by attributes, and discuss the different shapes they see at home or places they visit.

Social Studies

Unit of Study: U.S. Government and Events Leading to the Civil War (Cont'd).

- Students will study the period of history from the revolutionary war until the start of the Civil War. Students will learn about The Constitution, The Bill of Rights, the challenges faced by the earliest Americans, conflicts that took place between northern and southern states, and the events leading to The Civil War.

How to help at home:

- Visit the NYPL library website for resources to further their learning.

Looking Ahead:

4/2-4/10: Spring Recess

4/14-4/15: NYS ELA Test

4/24- PTA Food Festival

4/28-4/29: NYS Math Test

4/30- PTA meeting

FANTASTIC FIFTH GRADE

Dr. Giusto, Mrs. Covelli, Mrs. Bonilla, Mrs. Rothenberg, Mr Connelly

PS21Q –North Hills School
Little Neck, NY

April 2026

Social Studies

Unit of Study: European Exploration

Student will begin learning about European Exploration and what influenced them to explore.

Students will explore:

- The motivations of European exploration to the Western Hemisphere
- The role geography played in European exploration
- The interactions of the Native Americans and the European explorers
- How did the exploration affect Native People
- What were the positive and negative consequences of European exploration of the Western Hemisphere
- What was the effect of the Columbian Exchange

A way to help at home:

Discuss the meaning of the word *explore*.

What does it mean to people who are *exploring*? What does it mean to those whose land was being *explored*?
land was being *explored*?



Writing

Unit of Study: Poetry

Poetry is a special type of writing that uses words to create a strong feeling, image, or message through meaning, sound and rhythm. In this unit students will learn the structure of different types of poems. Students will be given time to explore and write in the different poem structures. We will practice writing poems with diverse styles, structures, rhythms, and rhyme patterns.



Science

Unit of Study: Earth's Geosphere and Atmosphere

Our fifth graders are wrapping up their unit on the **water cycle**, where they've explored how water moves through evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. Next, we'll dive into an exciting new set of topics: the **geosphere** and **Earth's atmosphere**. Students will investigate Earth's layers, rocks and minerals, and then learn how the atmosphere protects our planet and supports life. It's an exciting stretch of hands-on learning and discovery!

You can support your child's learning by encouraging them to observe science in their everyday surroundings—notice puddles evaporating, clouds forming, or different types of rocks in parks or on walks. Ask them to explain what they see using vocabulary from class. Even short conversations help reinforce these concepts and boost confidence!

Principal: Allison Myers
Assistant Principal: Diane Malanga

We are on the web: PS221Q.org

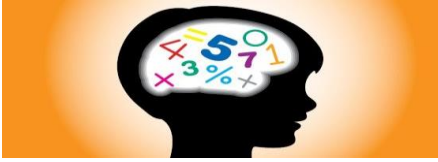
Math

Unit of Study: Decimals and Fraction Operations

In this unit, students solve multi-step problems involving measurement conversions, line plots, and fraction operations, including addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators. They also explain patterns when multiplying and dividing by powers of 10. Students interpret multiplication as scaling, by comparing products with factors

A way to help at home

Measure things with different lengths with your children at home. Making sure that they would have to measure in fractions.



Looking Ahead:

1. 4/1- Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
2. 4/2-4/10 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK!
3. 4/14-4/15 NYS ELA TEST Grades 3-5
4. 4/23- NYPD Jazz Band/ Bring Your Child to Work Day
5. 4/24- 5th Grade Science Expo Projects Due
6. 4/27 SLT 3:45pm
7. 4/28- 4/29-NYS Math Test (Grades 3-5)
8. 4/30 Virtual PTA Meeting 6:30 PM

Reading

Unit of Study: Above, Below and Beyond

In this module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about exploration. A genre focus on autobiography provides students with opportunities to identify author's craft and theme, and to make and confirm predictions in order to better understand unfamiliar texts. Students will also encounter informational text, persuasive text, science fiction, and narrative nonfiction to build knowledge across genres. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about exciting land, sea, and space discoveries. In this module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about exploration. A genre focus on autobiography provides students with opportunities to identify author's craft and theme, and to make and confirm predictions in order to better understand unfamiliar texts. Students will also encounter informational text, persuasive text, science fiction, and narrative nonfiction to build knowledge across genres. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about exciting land, sea, and space discoveries.

A way to help at home

Go over and read different Genres with at home. Go over the difference between a biography and an autobiography.

We will also be working on reading skills such as:

Main idea

Key details

Author's purpose

Author's craft

Text structure

Cause and effect

Problem and solution

Chronological order

Compare and Contrast

APRIL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Clarke

Lots of Learning Can Happen in the Spring

In April, you can engage your scientists by exploring spring-related phenomena like seasons, wind and rain, rainbows, and photosynthesis through experiments and activities. Here are some ideas:

- Track rainfall using a rain gauge.
- Make an anemometer to measure wind speed.
- Observe and discuss different cloud types and how they relate to weather conditions.
- Discuss and explore sunlight and how it warms the Earth.
- Plant a seed and observe the growth.
- Explore leaves and discuss the different shapes and sizes of leaves and how they help plants survive.
- Investigate roots by doing some digging.

And don't forget to celebrate **Earth Day** on Wednesday, April 22nd! Check out earthday.org for ways to make positive changes for this amazing planet we call home.

Artemis II Astronauts Launch to the Moon on April 1

NASA's Artemis II mission, the first crewed flight to the Moon in over 50 years, is currently scheduled to launch on April 1, 2026. The 10-day mission will carry four astronauts around the Moon and back.

Launch Date: April 1, 2026 (target date, but subject to change)

Launch Time: 6:24 p.m. EDT

Location: NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Crew: [Reid Wiseman](#) (NASA), [Victor Glover](#) (NASA), [Christina Koch](#) (NASA), and [Jeremy Hansen](#) (CSA)

The mission is a test flight to demonstrate key systems for the Artemis program's future lunar landings, including the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the Orion spacecraft.

You can watch it live at Space.com, courtesy of NASA; coverage will begin at 12:50 p.m. EDT.

1st Grade

Unit of Study: Light and Sound

First grade scientists will continue our study by:

- investigating the cause-and-effect relationships between vibrations and sound
- recognizing that sound causes vibrations and vibrations cause sound

We will then follow the engineering design process to create a voice muffler!

Ways to engage with your scientist:

Plays and other performances rely on light and sound. Watch videos together of [shadow puppets of Indonesia](#), [water puppets of Vietnam](#), and [marionettes of Mexico](#).

2nd Grade

Unit of Study: Flight of the Pollinators

Second grade ecologists will learn about the:

- process of pollination
- variety of pollinators that exist in an ecosystem
- way both plants and animals benefit from the system of pollination

We will then design, plan, and test a model that mimics a pollinator and use it to demonstrate plant pollination.

Ways to engage with your scientist:

Watch this video [RoboBees to the Rescue](#) about how roboticists at Harvard University were designing a robotic bee to pollinate plants. After watching the video, work together to design a robot based on other pollinators, such as a butterfly or hummingbird.

3rd Grade

Investigation: Circle of Life

As biologists, the third graders are completing a required Investigation for the Elementary-level Science Test. In this lab we:

- develop life cycle models of three organisms
- identify similarities and differences between these three life cycles
- construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all

Ways to engage with your scientist:

Ask your children to describe the life cycles of a bullfrog, a bean plant, and an Eastern bluebird. Discuss the similarities and the differences between them.

4th Grade

Investigation: Light It Up

As electrical engineers, the fourth graders are completing a required Investigation for the Elementary-level Science Test. In this lab we will:

- apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine devices that convert energy from one form to another
- construct electrical circuits that convert electrical energy into energy of light
- make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place
- explore criteria and constraints
- learn to persevere through challenges - especially when our light bulbs are not lighting up!



April 2026

Kindergarten

Students will be creating adorable Baby Chick artworks to celebrate the start of Spring! 😊

1st Grade

Students will be creating Folk Art Flower Bouquets inspired by New York Artist Heather Galler!

2nd Grade

Students will create and paint Mischievous Rainbow Bunny Portraits!

3rd Grade

Students will create Zentangle Butterflies with texture, line, and detail! 😊

4th GRADE

Students will be creating fun and funky Patterned Bunnies! When we add texture and pattern to our artworks, these are sure to be AMAZING!

5th Grade

Students will explore paint mixing and create Value Charts using tints and shades of color.

Looking Ahead...

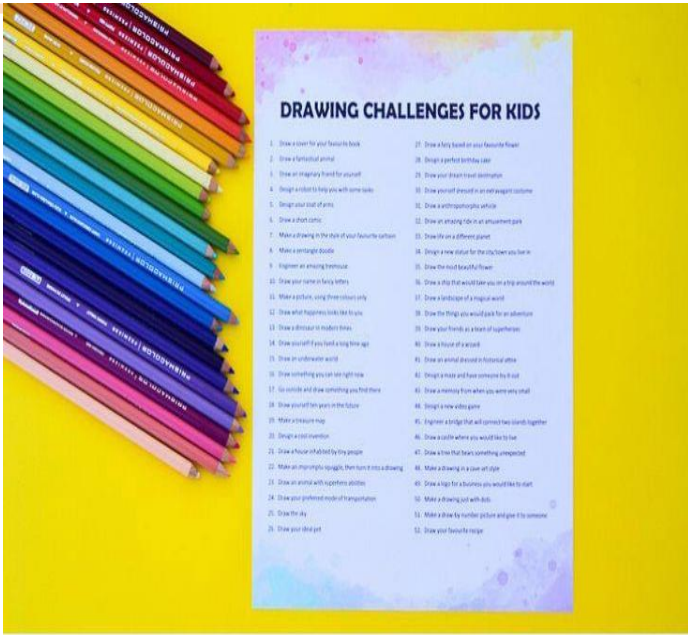
Students, 3K through 5th grade, created COOL artworks for our P.S. 221Q/North Hills School Annual **Square 1 Art Fund Raiser**.

Each child will receive free stickers of their artwork and an opportunity to purchase products displaying their AMAZING creations! So EXCITING!! 😊

Supporting the Arts at Home:

Spring is in the air! This is a great time to make crafts with your family! Here is a link that is a great resource:

<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/spring-crafts-for-kids/>



DRAWING CHALLENGES FOR KIDS

1. Draw a cover for your favourite book
2. Draw a fantastical animal
3. Draw an imaginary friend for yourself
4. Design a robot to help you with some tasks
5. Design your coat of arms
6. Draw a short comic
7. Make a zentangle doodle
8. Engineer an amazing treehouse
9. Draw your name in fancy letters
10. Make a picture, using three colours only
11. Draw what happiness looks like to you
12. Draw a dinosaur in modern times
13. Draw an animal dressed in historical attire
14. Draw something you can see right now
15. Go outside and draw something you find there
16. Draw yourself ten years in the future
17. Make an impromptu squiggle, then turn it into a drawing
18. Draw an animal with superhero abilities
19. Make a treasure map
20. Design a cool invention
21. Draw a house inhabited by tiny people
22. Make an animal with superhero abilities
23. Draw an animal with superhero abilities
24. Draw your preferred mode of transportation
25. Draw your favourite season
26. Draw your ideal pet
27. Draw a fairy based on your favourite flower
28. Design a perfect birthday cake
29. Draw your dream travel destination
30. Draw yourself dressed in an extravagant costume
31. Draw an anthropomorphic vehicle
32. Draw an amazing ride in an amusement park
33. Draw life on a different planet
34. Design a new statue for the city/town you live in
35. Draw the most beautiful flower
36. Draw a ship that would take you on a trip around the world
37. Draw a landscape of a magical world
38. Draw the things you would pack for an adventure
39. Draw your friends as a team of superheroes
40. Draw your friends as a team of superheroes
41. Draw a house of a wizard
42. Draw an animal dressed in historical attire
43. Design a maze
44. Draw a memory from when you were very small
45. Design a new video game
46. Engineer a bridge that will connect two islands together
47. Draw a castle for yourself
48. Draw a tree that bears something unexpected
49. Make a drawing in a cave-art style
50. Draw a logo for a business you would like to start
51. Make a drawing just with dots
52. Draw your favourite recipe



Sparking Children's Imagination and Creativity

Display your child's art work in your home.

Look for opportunities for self-expression.

Watch your child play & find out their interest.

www.papromiseforchildren.com

Encourage your child to draw, paint or sculpt.

Join in play as your child practices real roles.

Write down your child's stories and retell.

Have fun! Be silly and stretch imaginations!



1. Draw a cover for your favourite book
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ARTIST PUNS:

I told the Artist his painting was terrible...I think he got the picture!

The Artist was GREAT...He always DREW a crowd!





April 2026

MUSIC NEWSLETTER

Mr. Lin

CLin2794@schools.nyc.gov

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners continue to hone their music-making skills for the step-up ceremony, with special songs celebrating their growth and accomplishments. They also explore creative ways to enhance the songs including instrumental improvisation, ASL gestures, and choreography.

1st Grade: First graders are diving into treble clef music reading. They are practicing notes identification and playing melodies using instruments like handbells, boomwhackers, and xylophones. This hands-on experience helps them connect notations with sound and makes learning fun and interactive.

2nd Grade: Second graders are building on their music reading skills while continuing to explore world music! The wealth of musical and cultural exposure helps students become citizens of the world and music connoisseurs. Each student gets ample hands-on playing on xylophones and keyboards.

3rd Grade: Third graders are transforming the recorder pieces they had learned and performed at the December concert into keyboard compositions by adding harmonies and articulations. This exciting challenge helps them develop the skills to not only reproduce music but create their own.

5th Grade: Fifth graders are preparing for the graduation ceremony music acts. They are learning advanced ukulele techniques, practicing the fundamentals of guitar playing, and singing arrangements of popular songs. One student will be a featured electric guitar player at the graduation.

North Hills Voices: NHV members have busy weeks ahead. The solo singing audition for “What Was I Made For” will take place in April. Dancers and instrument players will also meet with me once a week in small groups for extra practice.

“In a world where everything is online, music is in-person. In a world where everything is instant, music takes time. In a world where everything is increasingly confronting, music is calming.”

- Vaughan Fleischfresser





APRIL
2026



PS 221Q

North Hills School
Little Neck, NY
www.PS221Q.org

Principal: Allison Myers
Asst. Principal: Diane Malanga

Computer Science- Mr. Caniano



Kindergarten

This month, our kindergarten students will continue working with *ABC Mouse*. We will be focusing on Science, Music, and Art activities. *ABC Mouse* is an excellent resource for our students to work on reading, math, science, and art. Students will also continue to work on a variety of math and reading activities this month.

A Way to Help Your Child:

The link to *ABC Mouse* can be found at PS221q.org. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on how you can use *ABC Mouse* at home. The username is Tcaniano@schools.nyc.gov and the password is ps221qps221q.



First Grade

This month, our first graders will be completing their unit on typing. We will be working on typing the bottom row of the keyboard. In addition, we will also learn how to make capital letters by using the shift key.

A Way to Help Your Child:

Please encourage your child to use *Dance Mat Typing* at home. The link can be found at Ps221q.org. Just five to ten minutes of typing practice a day can really make a big difference.



Second Grade

This month, our second graders will begin using *PowerPoint*. Each child will complete a PowerPoint presentation on their lives. The students will not only learn how to write with *PowerPoint*, but they will also learn to add photos, animations, and slide transitions.

A Way to Help Your Child:

Please encourage your child to work on *PowerPoint* while at home. Students can also continue to work on their typing speed and accuracy by using the resources on our school website.



Third Grade

This month, our third graders will be working with *Microsoft Word*. Initially, we will spend time reviewing the formatting features we learned last year. The students will be able to add pictures, a border, a centered title, and use spell check when they finalize their work.

A Way to Help Your Child:

Please encourage your child to work with *Microsoft Word* at home. In addition, the children can continue their typing practice. There are many resources and activities available on the school website. Each child has their own account with Typing.com to track their progress.



Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders will be resuming their work with Code.org this month. Our intention is to complete the lessons on drawing shapes with code, nested loops, and functions. If time permits, we will begin our lessons on conditionals.

A Way to Help Your Child:

Please encourage your child to use Code.org at home. Each child has their own individual account with a unique password so they can keep track of their progress.



Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders will be finishing up their websites on the ancient Mayan culture this month. Each website will include pictures and information on the Mayans including their social structure and daily life. The students will be using Google Sites to create their website. The link to access their website can be found by logging into the NYC DOE Teach Hub page.

A Way to Help Your Child:

Please encourage your child to continue practicing their typing at home. Just a few minutes a day can make a big difference. All students have accounts with Typing.com to track their progress. In addition, students who wish to have additional practice with creating websites can access *Google Sites* through *Google Classroom*. The link can be found through Teach Hub.

“The skills you learn today will let you shape tomorrow’s future.”

Javier Agüera,
founder of
Geeksphone and
developer of
open source
smartphones



Anybody can learn!
Start with an Hour of Code. <http://code.org>



Helpful Tips:

- Please have your child practice their Teach Hub username and password so they can easily log in while at school.
- Students in grades 3-5 all have individual logins for Scratch and Typing.com.
- Please make sure you child can access Google Classroom in case we have a remote day.

- April 2-April 12 Spring Recess