

# Classroom News

May 2026

## Notes

For our May conference opportunity, please note that this is an optional meeting and is for any concerns you may have about your child's developmental progress or readiness for PreK. If you have no issues or concerns, we do not need to have a meeting. If I feel that we need to meet, I will invite you to a conference time.

Reminder:

\*As the weather gets warmer, please make sure your child wears proper footwear for outside playtime. Open toed sandals are not safe on the playground. Thank you.

### Upcoming important dates:

**3K Stepping up ceremony-  
Thurs, June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am  
Reception to follow**

**"Dads and Doughnuts" Father's Day  
event  
Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am-9:00am**

## What We Are Learning

Welcome to May! During this month we will begin our unit "Insects". Through informational texts, play and our own class animals, we will discover all about how insects live and provide for our environment.

We will explore our **Essential Question...**  
What do we want to learn about insects?

Our **Investigation questions** are...  
What are the characteristics of insects?  
Where do insects live? How do they live?  
What insects are in our community?  
How do insects change?  
Who works with insects?  
How do insects help the earth?

Please see our Together Time project for May. Please choose a project and send it in by Wednesday, **May 20<sup>th</sup>**

## Upcoming Events

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

- May 4<sup>th</sup> Star Wars Day
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Optional PTC (evening)
- May 8<sup>th</sup> "Moms and Muffins" Mother's Day event @ 8:30am-9:00am
- May 8<sup>th</sup> 3K Olympics- Families invited to watch our athletes compete in several challenges @1:45pm (in covered yard)
- May 11<sup>th</sup> Begin Insect Study
- May 15<sup>th</sup> International Food Festival 6pm-8pm
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Walking trip to the Library 10:30am

Parents welcome to come chaperone.

May 20<sup>th</sup> Family Project due/PTA Carnival

- May 25<sup>th</sup> No School- Memorial Day

**May birthdays:** Dawud 5/31



# Classroom News

What's Happening in Pre-K

May 2026

## Notes

\*\*As the weather gets warmer, please make sure your child wears proper footwear for outside playtime. Open toed sandals are not safe on the playground, Sneakers are needed. Also, a fresh, cold, water bottle is important on hot days.

Thank you.

Just a reminder parents need to bring back cot sheets washed every Monday. Please try not to forget.

Another reminder Oreos and cookies are not acceptable snacks for snack time. Please send in water in water bottles and a healthy snack for snack time. Thank you for your help and consideration.

## What We Are Learning

Welcome to May! We have begun our study of "Balls." We will; discover what types of balls people use, how they are made, and what we can do with them. If you have any type of balls that you would like to loan or donate to our class, please let me know.

## Upcoming Events

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

**May Birthdays:** (14) Lyra Ovanessian (16) Espyn Yu

### Looking ahead:

- 1- Principal Appreciation Day
- 4-Star Wars Day/ EOY Progress Monitoring Starts/Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5- MTSS Coach/ Vision Screening PK, K,1
- 6-Vision Screening PK, K,1/ School Nurse Appreciation (Melvin Lopez)
- 7- Optional PTC
- 8- Open Mic Night
- 11- Middle School Articulation (Bonilla/Villacres)
- 12-NYS Science Test
- 14- LAST HMH Visit w Rebecca
- 15- International Food Festival/ Book of the Month Due
- 18- 7:45 Grade Leader/SLT/Speech Teacher Appreciation
- 19- Principal's Conference
- 20- Library Closed OT Meeting/ PTA Carnival
- 21- AP Conference
- 22- NYSESLAT Ends/ Newsletters Due
- 25- NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
- 26-Senior Trip- Coleman Camp/ New AP Meeting Library Closed until 11 am
- 27-No School Eid
- 28-SEL Leads/ 9:45 MS 67 Orientation Grade 5/ PTA Elections
- 29 Field Day/ 529 Day Activities in Classrooms





# Kindergarten

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



## Dear Kindergarten Families,

Hello Kindergarten families, and happy May! As we embrace the joys of spring, we're excited to dive into a month of exploration and discovery. This month, our focus will be on the changing seasons and the incredible transformations happening all around us. We'll learn about the life cycles of plants and animals, investigate the world of butterflies and other creatures, and explore how the Earth continues to grow and change. May will be filled with exciting hands-on activities, outdoor adventures, and lots of opportunities for creativity. We can't wait to see what discoveries the month will bring!

## Classroom News

### Into Reading: From Plant to Plate

Students will learn how food grows and gets to us, helping them understand the journey from plants to the meals we eat. They will build knowledge about plants, farming, and healthy eating while connecting reading, writing, and real-world experiences.

### Into Writing: Opinion Writing

Students will share their opinion and give reasons about a topic. For example- what is your favorite fruit or vegetable?

### Foundations (Word Work):

Students will work on sentence structure. They will read short sentences, write sentences from dictation, and practice fluent reading.

### Illustrative Math: Solid Shapes All Around Us

Students will identify, describe, and analyze two- and three-dimensional shapes, composing them from smaller shapes and solving problems involving counting, addition, and subtraction. Students will also compare the weight and capacity of objects, and describe and compare three-dimensional shapes.

### Social Studies: Families, Change, and Time

Students will continue to learn how families grow and change over time.

### Science: Sunlight and Warmth

Students will continue to make observations to explore how sunlight warms the Earth's surface. We will also look closely at solids and liquids.

## Upcoming Events

-  5/1 Principal Appreciation day
-  5/4 Star Wars Day
-  5/4 Teacher Appreciation Week
-  5/5-6 Vision Screening, School nurse appreciation
-  5/7 Optional parent conferences
-  5/ 8 Open Mic Night
-  5/15 Internationa Food Festival
-  5/25 No School, Memorial Day
-  5/27 No School, Eid
-  5/29 Field Day and 529 Day

## Ways to help your child at home

**Reading:** Have your child engage in planting seeds, talking about where food comes from, and include them in cooking and grocery shopping.



**Writing:** Ask your child to share their favorite foods and explain why using simple reasons. Encourage them to draw and write about their opinions, using sentence starters like "I like \_\_\_ because \_\_\_."

**Foundations:** Show your child a picture, and ask them to create a short sentence based on what they see. For example, show them a picture of a dog and dictate "The dog is big." Have your child write it down.

**Math:** Go on a shape scavenger hunt around the house or outside. Ask your child to find objects that are circles, squares, triangles, rectangles (2D shapes), and cubes, spheres, pyramids, cones (3D shapes). Have them describe the objects and discuss their properties such as the number of sides, angles, faces, edges, and vertices.



## Reminders

-  Log on to your TeachHub account and complete iReady for 10 minutes at least 3 times per week.
-  Practice zipping up your jacket and tying your shoelaces



# May 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 Math and Reading.

### Dates to Remember

5/1 Principal's Day  
5/4 Star Wars Day  
5/4- 8 Teacher Appreciation Week  
5/6 School Nurse Day  
5/8 Open Mic Night 6:30 p.m.  
5/10 Mother's Day  
5/12 5th Grade NYS Science Test  
5/15 International Food Festival 6:00 p.m.  
5/18 Speech Teacher Appreciation Day  
5/20 PTA Carnival  
5/25 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day  
5/26 Senior Trip-Coleman Camp  
5/27 No School Eid  
5/28 Chancellor Samuels at MS 67Q  
Town Hall Meeting  
5/29 North Hills FIELD Day!

### Word Work:(Foundations and Heggerty):

We will begin **Unit 11** in FUNdations.

-Vowel-consonant-e syllable in one syllable words.

-Long vowel sounds

Ex: stove, hope, and caves

**Reading:** We will complete Module 8 and begin Module 10: Dare to Dream

Essential Question: How can thinking in new ways help solve problems?

Texts include: Kids Are Inventors, Too! , Young Frank Architect, Sky Color, We Are The Future, and Joaquin's Zoo

Strategies: Topic and Central Idea, Retelling, Setting, making Inferences, Theme, Creating Mental Images, Elements of Poetry,

Text Organization, Making Connections and Characters.

### Writing:

We will be creating a Biographical Essay.

Focus Statement: People who follow their dreams can inspire us.

Focal Text: The Girl Who Could Dance in Outer Space: An

Inspirational Tale About Mae Jemison by Maya Cointreau

Skills: Ask and answer questions about an inspirational person.

- Chronological order
- Write complete thoughts
- Use illustrations to expand our writing

**Math:** We will begin unit 7: Geometry and Time

- Flat and Solid Shapes
- Halves and Quarters
- Telling time in Hours and Half Hours

### Social Studies:

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

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

We will focus on:

- How technology and communication affected family life long ago.
- How lives of children from long ago are similar to and different from children's lives today?
- In what ways do families hold on to their memories?

# **Second Grade May Newsletter**

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

## **MATH Unit 7: Adding and Subtracting within 1,000**

Students will:

- Use place value concepts to add and subtract within 1,000.
- Use drawings, base ten blocks, and number lines to understand the concepts.

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?**

Students will:

- Learn about different habitats where animals live.
- Help your child: Discuss any text features they notice when reading nonfiction text and how the author organizes a text. Children can jot any questions on post its they have as they are reading.

## **Writing Module 9 Unit: Informational Writing**

Students will:

- Choose a non-fiction topic to write about.
- Students will include an introduction, body and conclusion of their topic

Help Your Child: Take our child to the library and explore non-fiction stories.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES Unit 3: Urban, Suburban, Rural Communities**

Students will:

- Be introduced to all three communities and their features

- They will be able to compare and contrast each community and their population density
- Students will learn about the transportation and activities in each community

Help your child by observing different communities as you travel from place to place and discuss the features. Have your child give you their opinion of which you like better.

### **Looking Ahead:**

May

- 1- Principal Appreciation Day
- 4-Star Wars Day/ EOY Progress Monitoring Starts/Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5- MTSS Coach/ Vision Screening PK, K,1
- 6-Vision Screening PK, K,1/ School Nurse Appreciation (Melvin Lopez)
- 7- Optional PTC
- 8- Open Mic Night
- 11- Middle School Articulation (Bonilla/Villacres)
- 12-NYS Science Test
- 14- LAST HMH Visit w Rebecca
- 15- International Food Festival/ Book of the Month Due
- 18- 7:45 Grade Leader/SLT/Speech Teacher Appreciation
- 19- Principal's Conference
- 20- Library Closed OT Meeting/ PTA Carnival
- 21- AP Conference
- 22- NYSESLAT Ends/ Newsletters Due
- 25- NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
- 26-Senior Trip- Coleman Camp/ New AP Meeting Library Closed until 11 am
- 27-No School Eid
- 28-SEL Leads/ 9:45 MS 67 Orientation Grade 5/ PTA Elections
- 29 Field Day/ 529 Day Activities in Classrooms

Practice logging onto Teach hub with your username and passwords.  
Continue working on I-Ready Reading and Math lessons.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Newsletter

Mrs. Gomes, Ms. Lam, Ms. Lykos, and Mrs. Velic **MAY 2026**

### READING

#### Module 9: "From Farm to Table"

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about food sources, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how foods reach our tables.



### WRITING

Children will be explore how to write an expository essay. They will learn the different parts of an essay and how to construct a well-written essay.

### MATHEMATICS

#### Unit 8: Putting It All Together

##### Section A Goals

- Understand a fraction as a number and represent fractions on the number line.

##### Section B Goals

- Apply concepts of measurement and data to solve problems.

##### Section C Goals

- Develop fluency with single-digit multiplication facts and their related division facts.

##### Section D Goals

- Review the major work of the grade by creating and designing instructional routines.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

#### Introduction to World Geography and World Communities

Students will be learning all about different continents. They will be researching and learning about different characteristics of that continent.

### REMINDERS

5/1: Principal's Day  
5/4: Star Wars Day  
5/4-5/8: Teacher Appreciation Week  
5/7: Open Mic Night at 6:30 pm  
5/18: SLT Meeting  
5/20: PTA Carnival

5/25: Memorial Day No School  
5/26: 3-105 Trip to the MET  
5/27: EID No School  
5/28: 3-101 & 3-103 Trip to the MET and 3-105 Trip to Bayside HS  
5/29: Field Day



# Fabulous Fourth Grade

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

May 2026

P.S. 221Q

## Reading

### Unit of Study: Reading Module 9 – Global Guardians

- o Students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about conservation.
- o Students will focus on persuasive text that provides students with opportunities to identify ideas and support, text and graphic features, and author's craft to better understand unfamiliar texts.
- o Students will encounter a graphic novel, realistic fiction, and a biography to build across genres.

#### *How to help at home*

- o This month, continue to ask children to summarize text in their own words. What is it mostly about? What are some major details?
- o Spend time outdoors and reflect on how what you observe relates to what your children are reading about in their nature texts.
- o Give your children a chance to read books from different genres from the library or online.

## Writing

### Unit of Study: Informational writing

- o Students will be working on writing an informational writing piece.
- o Students will conduct research about a plant or animal of their choosing.
- o Students will organize their writing by providing facts and details. about why that plant or animal should be protected.

#### *How to help at home:*

- o Use background knowledge to help prepare your child for their choice of research.
- o Discuss different features of nonfiction texts in your home.
- o Speak using content-area vocabulary.

## Math:

### Units of Study 9: Putting it All Together

- o Students consolidate and solidify their understanding of various concepts and skills related to the major work of the grade.
- o Students will revisit the fluency goals of the grade, applying their learning from the year.

#### *How to help at home:*

- o Xtra Math should be completed by the end of May.
- o Continue to have your children practice their math fluency skills- multiplication and division.

## Social Studies

### Unit of Study: U.S. Government and Events Leading to the Civil War

- o 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.
- o *How to help at home:*
- o Visit the NYPL library website for resources to further their learning

### Looking Ahead:

May 1: Principal's Day  
May 4: Star Wars Day  
May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 6: School Nurse Day  
May 8: Open Mic Night 6:30 p.m.  
May 10: Mother's Day  
May 12: NYS Science Test **Grade 5**  
May 18: Speech Teacher Appreciation Day  
May 20: Trip- Queensborough PAC / PTA Carnival  
May 25: No School, Memorial Day  
May 26: Senior Trip, Coleman Camp  
May 27: No school, Eid  
May 28: Chancellor Samuels at MS 67Q Town Hall Meeting  
May 28: PTA meeting  
May 29: North Hills Field Day (Rain Date-June 2nd)





# FANTASTIC FIFTH GRADE

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

PS21Q –North Hills School  
Little Neck, NY

May 2026

## Math

Unit of study: Shapes on the coordinate plane

In this unit, students are introduced to the structure of the coordinate grid, and the convention and notation of coordinates to name points□

They classify triangles and quadrilaterals in a hierarchy, based on the properties of side length and angle measure□

In their work with numerical patterns, students generate two different numerical patterns, and identify relationships between the corresponding terms in the patterns.

## Science Unit of Study: Geosphere

In science, our fifth graders are wrapping up our unit on **Forces and Energy**, where students have been exploring how forces cause motion, how energy is transferred, and how these concepts apply to the world around them. As we move forward, we'll be diving into an exciting new unit on the **Geosphere!** Students will learn about Earth's structure, including rocks, minerals, landforms, and the processes that shape our planet over time. We're looking forward to lots of hands-on investigations and meaningful discussions as we continue our science learning journey.

### A way to help at home

Families can help at home by encouraging students to observe forces and energy in their daily lives (such as pushing, pulling, or changes in motion) and by discussing natural features they notice outdoors, like rocks, soil, or landforms. Talking about these observations, watching short science videos, or reading nonfiction books about Earth science together are great ways to support and extend classroom learning.

## Writing

Unit of Study: Imaginative stories.

Students will:

write an imaginative story in which they develop a character whose personality and actions drive the plot.

The students will have:

1. a beginning, middle, and end
2. a main character and secondary characters
3. details to describe what the character hears, sees, smells, touches, and tastes
4. to create a setting using sensory details
5. to give their character a problem to solve
6. to let the character solve his or her own problem
7. include dialogue

### A way to help at home

Ask them questions about the character they have created.

What problems are their characters facing and how do they plan on helping them figure out the solution.

## Social Studies

Unit of Study: European Exploration

Student will begin learning about European Exploration

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
- We will discuss the differences between the words invade and explore
- 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?

### ***A way to help at home:***

Discuss the explorers we are learning about, including Christopher Columbus, the Vikings, Hernán Cortés, Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain. Discuss why they wanted to explore and what they were in search of.

Reading

Unit of Study: Unexpected, Unexplained

In this module, students will continue listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information about mysteries.

A genre focus on mystery provides students with opportunities to make inferences, to make and confirm predictions, and to identify literary elements and figurative language in order to better understand unfamiliar texts. Students will also encounter informational text to build knowledge across genres. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about different types of intriguing mysteries and the methods people use to try to solve them.

### **A way to help at home**

Go over and read different Genres at home. Go over the difference between a what could be real and what could be make believe. Ask: What makes something mysterious, and what makes people want to solve mysteries?

## **Sanford Harmony**

Unit of Study: Diversity & Inclusion

Students will continue to:

- Participate in activities to promote an inclusive environment in our classrooms
- Engage in opportunities to get to know each other
- Learn to appreciate one another's similarities and differences

### **A way to help at home:**

Ask your child about their experiences interacting and learning from peers who are similar and different from themselves



## Looking Ahead

1. May 1- Principal's Day
2. 4- Star Wars Day-May the 4th Be With You!
3. 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
4. 6-School Nurse Day
5. 8-Open Mic Night 6:30pm
6. 10-Mother's day
7. 12-5th Grade NYS Science Test
8. 15-International Food Festival 6pm
9. 18-Speech Teacher Appreciation Day!
10. 20- PTA Carnival
11. 25- NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
12. 26- Senior Trip-Coleman Camp
13. 27- NO SCHOOL EID
14. 28- Chancellor Samuels at MS 67Q Town Hall Meeting
15. 29- North Hills FIELD DAY!



MAY  
2026



PS 221Q

North Hills School  
Little Neck, NY  
[www.PS221Q.org](http://www.PS221Q.org)

Principal: Allison Myers  
Asst. Principal: Diane Malanga

# Computer Science- Mr. Caniano



## Kindergarten

This month, our kindergarten students will be working on their typing skills. We will be working mostly with the keys on the home row. Our goal is for the students to be proficient at navigating the keyboard and locating the letters. Typing is about repetition, and we will continue to work on typing in the coming years, with a continued emphasis on using the correct position when using the keyboard.

### **A Way to Help Your Child:**

Please encourage your child to continue working on their typing while at home. Many resources can be found at our school website [PS221Q.org](http://PS221Q.org) under the student section.



## 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 and will also learn how to make capital letters. In addition, our students will also be working on creating writing pieces using *Microsoft Word*. We will discuss how to open *Word*, how to adjust the size of text, and how to change the font and color of our writing.

### **A Way to Help Your Child:**

Please encourage your child to use *Dance Mat Typing* at home for added practice. The link can be found at [Ps221q.org](http://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 work with M.I.T.'S *Scratch*. *Scratch* is an excellent online tool that takes the concepts we learn in computer science and shows the real-world applications in the creations of computer games and animations. We will introduce some movement and control blocks this year in preparation for more in depth work in third grade.

### **A Way to Help Your Child:**

Please encourage your child to use *Scratch* at home for added practice. Students can also continue to work on their typing speed and accuracy by using the resources on our school website.



## Third Grade

Our third graders will be working with [Code.org](http://Code.org) Course D this month. Our main focus will be on working with the concepts of if / else as well as "while" loops. We will use these concepts to create code to simply and easily navigate through mazes. We will also be working with our Lego Spike equipment to create an "Amazing Amusement Park."

### **A Way to Help Your Child:**

Please encourage your child to work with [Code.org](http://Code.org) at home. The link to [Code.org](http://Code.org) can be found on our school website. Each child has an individual account to track their progress. 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](http://Typing.com) to track their progress.



## Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders will be working with Code.org Course E this month. Our main focus will be on working with functions and conditionals. We will use functions to simplify our code while completing mazes. In addition, we will use conditionals to code directions so that sprites know under which conditions to move left or right. We will also finish up our Lego Spike unit on transportation.

### **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 working with Code.org Course F this month. Our main focus will be on working with loops and variables. After reviewing repeat loops, we work with variables in order to efficiently code small changes in our loops, such as changes in length while drawing shapes. We will also continue our Lego Spike unit on creating a "Crazy Carnival."

### **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 are encouraged to work with Code.org while at home. The link to Code.org can be found on our school website. Each child has an individual account to track their progress and is encouraged to continue their progress with Code.org while at home.



### 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.

- May 25- Memorial Day



May 2026

## Kindergarten

Students will be exploring the Wonderful World of Dinosaurs...in ART Class! Roooooaar!!!! 😊

## 1st Grade

Students will be creating AMAZING floral artworks in the style of Artist, Pablo Picasso! 😊

### Supporting the Arts at Home:

Create a sketchbook with your child! Spring is the perfect time of year to go outside and try drawing from life. Here is a link that will guide you to create your own handmade sketchbook: <https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/drawing/make-sketchbook/>

## 2nd Grade

Students will be creating realistic bird illustrations. 😊

## 3rd Grade

Students will be exploring the 'Art of Comic Strips'. They will be creating 3 Panel Comic Strips in which they will design their own unique characters and dialogue. 😊

## 4TH GRADE

Students will work on a drawing lesson that incorporates the design elements of scale, perspective, and proportion. This 'close-up' artwork is reminiscent of Stuart Little and the movie 'Honey, I Shrunk the Kids'

## 5th Grade

Students will work on a variety of lessons exploring diverse artistic mediums and techniques in art class.

“

**ART**  
IS SOMETHING  
THAT MAKES YOU BREATHE  
WITH A DIFFERENT KIND  
OF HAPPINESS.

ANNI ALBERS



## ART ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Devoting time to art, even just 30 minutes a day, allows children to explore and expand on their thoughts. As we get older, we tend to forget that art is one of the few things in life that doesn't have any right answers or failures- just happy little mistakes. Nurturing this idea in children helps to cultivate confidence and remind them that their ideas and voices matter. Here are fun ways to help your children (and you) think outside of the box, have fun without any pressure, and learn something along the way!

### ACTIVITY NO. 1: DRAWING JAM JAR

1. Think of open ended prompts that could be expanded on.

Examples: If you shrunk to be 1" tall, what would your life look like? Imagine if you looked outside and it was raining popsicles. How would you spend your day? Etc. Etc. Google prompts if you need a little help forming plots.

2. Write the prompts on a slips of paper and fill a jar with them.

3. Have your child pull a slip, tell you a story, and draw a portion of it. They could draw the main character, the setting, or their favorite part.

This activity will help you and your child to explore story structure and character building. Don't be afraid to get silly and use your imagination too! Make sure to help guide them and ask them more open ended questions to progress the story.

Remember: who, what, when, where & why if you get stumped.

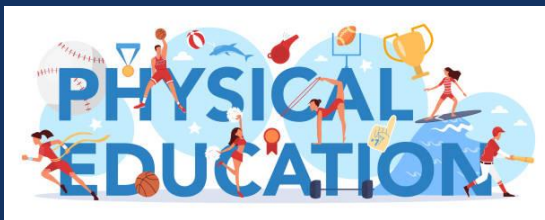


## ARTIST PUNS:

How do Artists greet each other?  
....Yellow!

The Artist's favorite swimming  
technique was the brushstroke!





May 2026

PS21Q –North Hills School  
Little Neck, NY

# NORTH HILLS NEWS

## Kindergarten

This May will be a great time to get moving at PS221! Students are continuing to explore the gym and challenge their fitness and skills at modified stations. At our strength station students pull a tire to a specific distance. If they need support the tire is placed on wheels to reduce friction. This is an example of how stations are modified to meet individual needs. Our Kindergarten students will continue learning a group dance. They will also continue learning how to run bases and strike with various implements. I hope these activities boost students' self-confidence and provide more opportunities for them to interact responsibly with their peers.

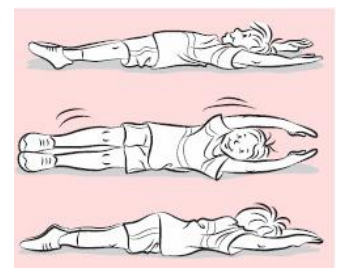
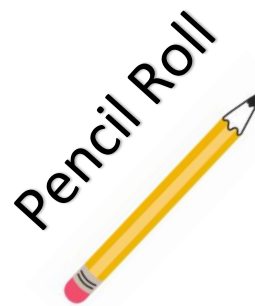


*Please ensure that your student comes to school prepared with sneakers and weather appropriate clothing in case their class goes outside for PE or recess.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will continue to explore body control and object manipulation. For body control we will be learning basic tumbling. Our first task will be completing a Pencil roll, Barrel roll and partner wheelbarrow. Creating modified games will continue to be a focus at this point in the year. We will incorporate group dance warm-ups for rhythm and aerobic endurance. Students should be able to identify both static and dynamic stretches.

## May Self-Care



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



In May our students will continue to work on skill & health related fitness. We will measure our performance to set personal goals. Using pulse oximeters (HR), pedometers (steps) and other tools we will be able to set specific, measurable, and realistic goals. We will continue creating stations to measure performance. We will introduce tech in PE by using a gamified fitness app called Walkr. Download it at home!

- Sedentary is less than 5,000 **steps** per day.
- Low active is 5,000 to 7,499 **steps** per day.
- Somewhat active is 7,500 to 9,999 **steps** per day.
- Active is 10,000+ **steps** per day.
- Highly active is more than 12,500.
- 2,000 steps is equivalent to one mile (depending on stride)

### NYC Phys Ed Scope & Sequence

[www.weteachnyc.org](http://www.weteachnyc.org)

### SHAPE America Standards

<https://www.shapeamerica.org/standards/pe/>

**Contact:** Tstewart3@schools.nyc.gov



### 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



This month we will continue applying our knowledge of fitness concepts. One project will be to create a station with activities/games that improve a specific part of skill/health related fitness. Through creation students show their true understanding of concepts. Students will also be tasked with assessing various movements like exercises and sports skills. Student will create a rubric that helps them assess a movement skill. They will assess themselves and peers for mastery. Students should be able to identify all the body parts and major muscle groups when discussing these movement skills.

## FITNESSGRAM<sup>®</sup>

The Cooper Institute<sup>®</sup>

### K-5<sup>th</sup>

New Students, Make-ups & Re-takes!



STRENGTH



CARDIOVASCULAR  
ENDURANCE



FLEXIBILITY



MUSCULAR  
ENDURANCE



BODY  
COMPOSITION



May 29<sup>th</sup>!

May 2026

# MUSIC NEWSLETTER

Mr. Lin

CLin2794@schools.nyc.gov

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarteners are already experts at singing their Step-Up songs. In May, they explore ways to augment musical performances by thinking big and outside the box. Through instruments, movements, and hand gestures, the beauty of their singing is amplified.

**1st Grade:** First graders are playing the first five notes of the treble clef (C-D-E-F-G) with increasing independence. They will experience the universality of their newly acquired music skills by singing and playing the same melodies on vastly different instruments—keyboards, handbells, and xylophones.

**2nd Grade:** Second graders are learning the first eight notes of the treble clef (C to C). Each additional note presents a considerable challenge. However, second graders are risk-takers and like to outdo themselves. Overcoming challenges is just what they do, and they will do it while having fun.

**3rd Grade:** Third graders are becoming increasingly confident keyboardists. They are developing stronger finger coordination and are learning to navigate more complex patterns. Students will also be introduced to choral singing through folk rounds and developing ensemble awareness.

**4th Grade:** Fourth graders are learning to transfer their skills from our classroom keyboards to full-sized instruments. As they explore the expanded range of full-sized keys, they will develop greater control, expression, and dynamic awareness—skills that pianists continue to refine over a lifetime.

**5th Grade:** Fifth graders are exploring advanced ukulele playing and all the ways it has planted firmly in our cultural awareness. Graduation practices are also in full swing. Students' energy and passion for music continue to breathe new ideas and inspire the planning process.

**North Hills Voices:** NHV members are polishing the existing acts and learning additional songs. The next song is a tender, vulnerable, and heartfelt work that promises to be the emotional nucleus of the show. Come to the Spring Musical to see (and hear) for yourself.

"I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom for me and you  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world."

- Louis Armstrong in 'What a Wonderful World'

**MAY**

**SCIENCE NEWSLETTER**

*Mrs. Clarke*

**1st Grade**

Unit of Study: Design a Voice Muffler

First grade engineers will continue to:

- compare the efficacy of different materials for absorbing and blocking sound.
- use the results of their experimentation and observations to make decisions about materials that would work best to create their voice muffler.
- use the engineering design process to design, test and improve their voice muffler.

Ways to engage with your scientists:

Discuss the Core Vocabulary we are learning in this unit, including the words: *sound, vibration, medium, absorb, and decibel.*

**2nd Grade**

Unit of Study: Flight of the Pollinators

Second grade agricultural engineers will:

- compare the efficacy of different materials for picking up and depositing 'pollen.'
- use the results of their experimentation and observations to make decisions about materials that would work best to create their hand pollinator.
- use the engineering design process to design, test and improve their hand pollinator.

Ways to engage with your scientists:

We have been learning about plants that attract pollinators. Now that spring is here, plant some seeds or flowers that will attract these important members of our ecosystem.

**3rd Grade**

Unit of Study: Life Cycles, Traits, and Variation

As wildlife biologists, students will continue to:

- collect and organize data to reveal patterns of traits shared by parents and offspring
- create a graphical representation that shows variation of traits among siblings
- describe the relationship between populations and ecosystems
- read and learn about the environment and its effect on plant traits

Ways to engage with your scientists:

Discuss the Core Vocabulary we are learning in this unit, including the words: *ecosystem, population, species, and variation.*

**4th Grade**

Unit of Study: Structure & Function of Living Things

As biologists, students will continue to:

- describe the relationship between stimulus and response
- discuss the types of senses animals have that allow them to survive
- learn about how certain animal responses to stimuli are voluntary or involuntary
- learn about a phenomenon known as tropism, as well as the ways in which plants can respond to stimuli in their environments

Ways to engage with your scientists:

Discuss the Core Vocabulary we are learning in this unit, including the words: *behaviors, involuntary, response, stimulus and tropism.*