



Elias Howe News

PS 51

June 2008



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I have been reflecting with teachers, and school committees about the school year. This school year was been extremely successful. The Hudson River Learning Fair was wonderful on May 17. Many families, friends, and even tourists were able to see what we have learned about our two month schoolwide study on the Hudson River through murals, paintings, poetry, big books, boat constructions, experiments, and music. I hope all of you enjoyed this special celebration on Pier 84. We put on the Learning Fair the next day in the school yard enabling students who were not able to attend May 17 to visit the fair right

here at at PS 51.

The 3rd Annual Art Benefit was a extraordinary night. We made \$14,309 through the online auction, live auction, art sale, flower sale, online cash donations, money collected for tickets in advance and at the door and the raffle. After expenses, the final profit was \$12,090. I want to thank all the staff, parents, and friends who worked incredibly hard to make this event such a success.

We are having a bake sale next Friday, May 30 for the people in China who have suffered a horrible earthquake where over 40,000 people have died. This idea came from Rui Shi our 1st grader who approached me with a letter he had written. Thank you Rui Shi Li who has reminded us that we need to take care of one another during a crisis.

On Sat, June 7 we are going to have a family pot-luck picnic. Families can bring their own food, blankets, and chairs for this end of the year party. Baruch College Campus High School students are having a carnival where children will

be able to participate in games. This is a fundraiser for their high school. Games will be less than \$1.00 to play.

As we approach the end of the school year, please think about summer opportunities for your children. Talk to Ms. Leon, parent coordinator to find out about summer programs. Visit the public libraries, museums, concerts in the city parks, swimming lessons that the city offer, row on Pier 84, and enjoy all the free events that our wonderful city offers. Teachers are preparing summer packets for your children. I cannot stress enough how important it is that your child continues to read, write, and practice math. Learning is fun; make it a family activity. Have your child keep a journal about his/her summer activities. We want your children, our students to continue to grow and progress in their academic learning and socially.

Most importantly enjoy this special time with your families to replenish, renew and rejuvenate for the upcoming school year 2008-09.

Your Proud Principal, Nancy Sing-Bock

The Library Committee has been busy looking into grants, funding opportunities and ways in which our library can reach its full potential. The committee has met with the extremely helpful Dan Feigelson and the School Construction Authority, surveyed model libraries at other schools, and spoken with Christine Quinn's office about city council support. Exciting plans include the possibility of establishing a new library media center to meet the educational and technological needs of PS 51's diverse student body, and serve as a resource for the entire Hells Kitchen community. The new library media center would function as the school's information hub -a vital organ in the daily academic and social life of P.S. 51. The school has requested funding from the Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and hopes to have news on this project by August. Committee members are Leslie Preston, Rochelle Grant, Stephanie Thomas, Raphael Mejia, Lauren Harris, Celine Havard, Cathy Myers-Jusko, Giselle Leon, Stacey Krasnow and our tireless Principal Ms. Sing-Bock..

By Celine Havard

The PTA Executive Board would like to first thank all the parents who helped during the Hudson River Learning Fair. The PTA would also like to thank the Auction Committee for such a successful auction/art benefit. Most of all we would like to thank the parents who volunteer everyday at P.S.51. On Saturday, May 30 the P.S. 51 Art Committee will be participating in the 44th St. Better Block Association Garage Sale. The Art Committee is raising money for a SMART BOARD for the art and science department. We are looking for donations of gently used clothing, toys, brick brack and water donations. All these items will be collected under the PTA table or you can drop them off the day of the sale at the P.S. 51 table. We also need volunteers for the garage sale. A sign up sheet will be posted downstairs by the front door. On June 7, 2008 a Spring Festival will be held at P.S. 51. The PTA executive board would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Teachers of P.S. 51 for such a great school year! Our school is awesome because we have fabulous teachers. Thank you all so much!

By Katherine Johnson

Keep the Learning Going by Shelley Grant, Literacy Coach

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is so near. Your children have learned so much about reading and writing this year! It's very important to keep the learning going over the summer. Did you know that children who read over the summer either maintain or even improve their reading level? Did you know that children who don't read during the summer could lose two whole reading levels? Here are two tips that have been proven by reading researchers to help you make sure your children keep improving in their reading over the summer:

1. Make sure your child reads at least 8 books over the summer. That's about one book a week. They should read at least three times a week for a long chunk of time (at least 45 minutes for upper grades). Encourage your child to read any book they're interested in. You can find any book you want at the public library. If the local library doesn't have your book, they'll order it from another library for you. You can even reserve the book you want online and pick it up at the library. (I love doing this.) Our neighborhood public library is

located at 742 10th Avenue, which is between 50th and 51st Streets. The hours are: Mon. and Wed. from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Fri. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library cards are free for everyone.

2. Take your child to museums. In New York City we have so many great museums. One of the best (and one of my favorites) is the American Museum of Natural History. It has wonderful exhibits from astronomy and space to dinosaur fossils to Native American artifacts to ocean animals and lots lots more. You and your child can learn about almost anything at this museum. Although the suggested admission is a little expensive, you could pay whatever you want - as little as 50 cents or \$1.00 (that's what I do!). This museum is located on Central Park West between 77th and 81st Streets. The C train stops near the lower level of the museum. I hope you have a great summer with your children. I'd love to hear about your reading and museum adventures with your family. You can email me at rgrant4@schools.nyc.gov. Happy summer!

SCHOOL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS by Cathy Myers-Jusko, AP

We have just received a letter from Andy Lautenbacher, the Hess executive who has been instrumental in making our safety plan for the Hess gas station a reality. Andy updated us on the progress so far. Hess has filed all the required applications necessary to begin the work on the safety improvements, and they are waiting for the approvals from the various city agencies. Hess has also hired a contractor who is ready to start work once the applications have been approved. They have also ordered all the necessary materials so work can quickly begin once the applications are approved. The Committee has sent Andy a thank-you letter and will continue to monitor the progress of these important safety improvements to the gas station on the corner.

The Health & Safety Committee has also been monitoring the health and safety issues around the electrical upgrade taking place in our school building during the evening and weekend hours. Ms. Sing-Bock, Ms. Myers, and Ms. Garcia have been meeting regularly with the School Construction Authority, which is overseeing the upgrade, and the contractor who is performing the work. Detailed regulations are in effect while the work is going on to ensure that students and staff enter a clean, safe school each morning after the night or weekend work has taken place. When the electrical upgrade is finished, our school will have a more modern, efficient electrical system.

School Leadership Team Shelley Grant, School Leadership Team Chairperson

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. One project that the SLT has accomplished under the leadership of our computer teacher, Norka Garcia, has been to redesign the P.S. 51 website. It's much more user-friendly and informative. If you haven't yet checked it out, here is the website: ps51.org. Another important project that the SLT has been working on this year and will continue to work on next year is obtaining a grant for a new school library media center. We are also forming a committee to explore the possibility of obtaining a new building for our school. Next year should be a very exciting year! All parents are welcome to come to and participate in our meetings, although only SLT members are eligible to vote. The School Leadership Team meets every month in room 222. The meeting schedule is posted on the Parent Bulletin Board in the lunchroom and on the P.S. 51 website.

Parent Coordinator News by Giselle Leon

I am proud to announce that we had 100% response rate on the submission of our school's Learning Environment Surveys. This would not have been possible without all of our families taking the time and energy to complete and submit this very important document. Thank you!

Class 5-421 Greet the Sailors

Ms. Perlas Class took a walking trip during Fleet Week to welcome the American Sailors on the USS Kearsage to New York City. After the trip, Amirah and Monae's mothers invited the sailors to join us on May 22 during our morning Salute to the Flag. The sailors then answered questions from the students. Here is a photo of Amirah and Monae with the soldiers.



Music at 51 by Erin Cain, Music Teacher

The 3rd Annual Arts Benefit on April 17th was a huge success! Thanks to all the parents, teachers, and staff that worked so hard to create such an enchanting evening. The students' performances were wonderful. Other dates coming up include our school-wide Spring Concerts: PreK-2: June 11th, 8:45 AM; 3rd-5th Grade: June 12th, 8:45 A.M. Ms. Cain's Composition Class in the extended time program performed their original music on May 28th. They were terrific!

PS 51

520 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212 757-3067

Fax: 212 582-8661
Nancy Sing-Bock,
Principal

Cathleen Myers-Jusko,
Assistant Principal

www.ps51m.org
page 2

Ms. Jackson's Class PreK-226 and Ms. Madera's Class PreK-223

Students at P. S. 51, The Elias Howe School are all studying about the Hudson River. Each class has an essential question that indicates what aspect of the Hudson River they are studying. The Pre-kindergarten classes decided to explore the most essential question: What is water? In order to do this, students conducted various experiments in the classroom, visited the Hudson River Pier 84 numerous times, studied and investigated the Hudson River and traveled on the New York Water Taxi. We look forward to planting and other wonderful activities. Our Moving Up Ceremony will be June 18th. Our students are getting ready to be next school year's kindergartners.



Both classes made this beautiful mural of the Hudson River.

Ms. Catechis' K/1-325, Ms. Collazo's K-221, Ms. Berman & Ms. Whiting's K-321

Kindergarten has been learning so many exciting things over the past couple of months. We just finished our Hudson River study and were so proud to showcase everything we have learned at the Hudson River Learning Fair and at school in the yard. Now that we finished with the Hudson River we are moving on to study butterflies! We are so excited to begin learning about these beautiful creatures! In reading we have been studying the characters in our books. We even started acting out what they do in the books and how we think they feel! In writing we just finished our "How To" books and we are now beginning to work on "All About" books. We are experts on so many things! In math we have been working on measurement and word stories. We are going to be learning more about shapes and creating our own "shape museum".

Ms. Krasnow's Class K-323

There are so many exciting things going on in 1-323! During Cookshop the students have been exploring and cooking with different foods. We recently completed our last lesson which focused on lettuce. To celebrate the completion of the Cookshop program the students will be having a graduation with the other classes who participated in the program. Our school-wide Hudson River study has been so exciting and fulfilling for the first graders. We have been focused on our essential question: what animals live in and around the river? First, the students learned about various fish that live in the Hudson River. As we explored each fish, we learned how their physical traits contribute to their survival, adaptations they make, their habitats, and other fun facts. Next, the students learned about animals that live in and around rivers such as beavers, frogs, turtles, and otters. They learned how each animal is unique, how their physical traits contribute to their survival, their habitats, and how they utilize the river.

Ms. Fuchs' Class 1-322

All of the students in Room 322 continue the Hudson River study. We are learning about frogs, turtles, beavers and otters. Students have started to compare these animals and their structure and functions. We are busy preparing for the Learning Fair and can't wait to show you all that we have learned. In math, the class has started the Color, Shape, and Number Patterns unit. In this unit, students will create, describe, extend and analyze repeating patterns in which two or three elements alternate. Students will also investigate number sequences generated by three situations that have a constant increase, like collecting pennies in a jar. Now

that the students have been immersed in the poetry genre, they have begun to look at the world through a poet's eyes. They are learning that poems are filled with meaningful topics and feelings and that they use powerful language to convey meaning, mood and rhythm.

Ms. Manchester's Class 2-326 and Ms. Miller's Class 2-324

We can't believe how much we have learned this year in 2nd grade! We spent a lot of time in May learning about the history and geography of the Hudson River. We also focused on how the River has changed from the past to the present. As our final project about the Hudson River, we made a 3D model of the Hudson that was over 8 feet long (it was the length of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ kids in our class). We took many trips, including multiple trips to the Hudson River; we went fishing, went on a water taxi, wrote poems on Pier 84, and went to the Museum of the City of New York. We are beginning to learn about New Amsterdam and New York City for the remainder of the year. In writing, we worked on our poetry and are beginning to learn about letter writing. We also worked with our art partner the "Story Pirates" to write creative stories. Some of our stories will be chosen to be acted out at a performance in June. We are very excited to see our words come to life! In reading, we have been reading both nonfiction texts about rivers and now New Amsterdam, as we also continue to read our "just-right" books. In math, we have been busy learning about sorting data, patterns, and fractions. We are also looking forward to some more wonderful trips and performances, including our final performance for Spotlight on Fitness in June. It is a busy and stimulating time in our room.

Ms. Harris' Class 3-424

The student's in Ms. Harris's third grade class have been continuing to work hard in all subject areas. In Reading Workshop, they have been really enjoying reading in mystery books clubs. They love to read the books, looking for clues in order to solve the crime before the crime - solver. They have been stopping and jotting ideas that they have about possible suspects, suspects motives, and predictions. In Writing, the students have been working on poetry. They have been writing some beautiful poems based on the Hudson River and small moments in their lives! In Social Studies, the students have been studying the Hudson River and the Yellow River and how the communities use the rivers. In order to enhance their learning of these rivers, the students have taken a few trips to Pier 84. They were able to observe the river and take part in the Changing Waterfronts program. The class enjoyed their trip to The Water Exhibit at the Museum of Natural History. In Math, the students have been working on organizing data, while using charts and graphs to represent it. The students are really growing as learners and successfully working on applying the strategies learned.

Ms. Dijounas' Class 3-425

The third graders in class 3-425 have enjoyed their Hudson River & Yellow River. They worked hard learning about the rivers and learning how the rivers are used. The third graders learned how the community use the river for transportation, recreation, food, and work. They built a model of the Yellow River in art class. They enjoyed interviewing a famous author who wrote a book on the Yellow River. In reading they completed Mystery Book clubs. They worked with their club to try to solve the mystery before the crime solver in the book! In writing, the students published an Anthology of Poems. They each chose a topic to write a collection of poems about. They are now starting to study the genre of Literary Nonfiction. In math, the they are studying line graphs. They are studying line graphs to organize and analyze data. As the year comes to an end, I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Ms. Goldberg's Class 4-523

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. Class 4-523 is still hard at work! We are wrapping up our realistic fiction writing unit as well as our book clubs. In social studies, we will begin studying the Iroquois and then Colonial Times. In Math Workshop we are still working on our fractions/decimals unit. Even though we are busy learning, we are also having fun! We have a lot of wonderful trips to look forward to including a visit to the water exhibition at The Museum of Natural History and a trip back into the past at the Fraunces Tavern downtown. We will also sail on the Clearwater in June. Class 4-523 is busy learning AND having fun! It has been a great year and we will be sad when it comes to an end!

Ms. Benowitz' Class 4/5-521

It's hard to believe we are in our final weeks of school. We have been busy with reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. We finished our Hudson River study, as the students studied how living things interact with the Hudson River. We participated in experiments, including testing the salinity of the water, testing the temperature, and measuring the pH of the water. For writing, the class has done a wonderful job with writing their Realistic Fiction pieces. They did a nice job of developing each scene. Our Ballroom Dancing program is coming to an end. The students learned different dances from around the world, such as the merengue, tango, fox trot, rumba, and swing. Everyone enjoyed the program as they worked together in practicing the dances. We have many trips planned for June, and look forward to seeing many of you.

Ms. Perlas' Class 5-421

The 5th graders have wrapped up another great year of Ballroom Dance. We learned many different dances! From the smooth Fox-Trot to the energetic Swing, everyone had a favorite ... On an academic note, we are finishing our realistic fiction pieces, and getting ready to conclude our Book Clubs. We are also finishing up our Social Studies Civil War unit. We have taken many field trips and have learned much about the formation of the Hudson River. All in all, this has been a good year. "Perlas' Precious Pearls" continue to grow, learn, and mature, and with eager anticipation look forward to their June 24th graduation!

PS 51 JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2 Half Day School Dismissal at 11:30	3	4	5 School Closed	6	7																																																																																				
8	9 School Spirit Week Ballroom Competition PS 33 4:30-6:30	10 School Spirit Week Spotlight on Fitness Show Pre-K at 1:30 PM	11 School Spirit Week Spring Concert Pre K - 2nd Grade 8:45 AM	12 School Spirit Week Half Day School Spring Concert 3rd to 5th Grade 8:45 AM	13 School Spirit Week Spotlight on Fitness Show 2nd Grade 9:30 AM Peer Mediation Party 12:45	14 Flag Day																																																																																				
15 Father's Day	16	17	18 Pre-K Ceremony 9:00 AM	19 PTA Meeting 8:30 AM	20 Kindergarten Ceremony 9 AM	21																																																																																				
22	23 5th Grade Talent Show 1:30	24 5th Grade Graduation 9:30 at PS 111	25 School Safety Meeting 8:30 AM	26 Last Day of School	27	28																																																																																				
29	30																																																																																									
		<table border="1"> <caption>May 2008</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<table border="1"> <caption>July 2008</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p>Notes:</p> <p>11:30 dismissal on June 2 and June 12</p> <p>School Begins September 2, 2008</p>
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
				1	2	3																																																																																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																				
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																						