

EDUCATION MATTERS

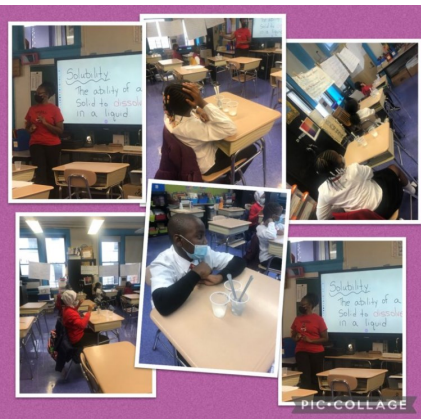
Education is back in business! New York City schools have reopened and students are finally able to enjoy some live interactions after a year and a half of remote learning, virtual science experiments and college visits, cancellation of our annual Super Saturday STEM fair, online FAFSA applications, and so much more that was thrown off course due to the pandemic.

Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School (TMALS): ADC sought to keep students engaged in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) learning. With a grant from Con Edison ADC shifted focus to Expanded Learning Time (ELT) programming, supporting Ms. Steph's Science Club, as well as the Extended Day Academic Tutoring Program that strengthens math and language skills essential for STEM learning.



This meant figuring out how to safely get science supplies to the homes of young students where they could learn how to conduct virtual science experiments under the watchful eye and supervision of Ms. Stephanie.

Now with the academic year in full swing, all kids are back in the classroom where they are experiencing the live thrill of seeing bottles expand when alkali seltzer and water are captured in a bottle, and so much more.



Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (TMA): Students faced many challenges in the past year as the pandemic went through wave after wave, closing schools and disrupting their lives. With students now back in the classroom after a full year of remote learning, keeping all communication channels open is key to helping students feel as comfortable as possible as they reacclimate to physical classrooms.

Under the leadership of TMA College/Career Prep Counselor Danielle Pankovcin, working in close collaboration with the new guidance counselor Marissa McDaniel-Francis, the TMA College Office is back in action, providing a haven of calm where students can access postsecondary resources, reflect on their future in a quiet



space, and seek advice. The office has also taken on a new name - *TMA Resource Center* - and is integrating virtual and in person supports that keep students on track to graduation and their postsecondary lives as young adults.

SENIOR SERVICES



Two admission representatives from State University of New York (SUNY) Potsdam met in person with interested Seniors who learned about the school's programs and campus life.

Students also met with reps from SUNY Brockport EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) Instant Decision Day for financial aid and on the spot admissions.

TMA Resource Center Presents:

SUNY Brockport EOP Day

SCAN CODE to register to learn more about admissions & what EOP offers!

Two FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student

TMA FALL 2021: FINANCIAL AID KICKOFF EVENT
INTRODUCTION TO THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Scan for Virtual Event

Hosted by The TMA Resource Center: Ms. Florentin in partnership with Ms. Patricia Escobar (TRIO EOC)

- Open to Juniors, Seniors, & Families!
- FAFSA Application, different types of financial aid, important dates & deadlines, & Q&A forum

PLEASE REGISTER PRIOR TO ATTENDING* (Must submit consent forms*)

Virtual Events via Zoom
October 6th, 2021 | Nov. 8th, 2021 6:00 PM (More events to come!)

October 6th, 2021
Passcode: 204955

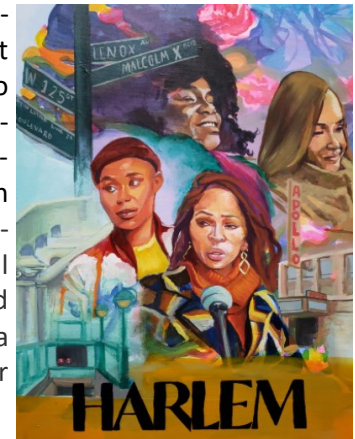
November 3rd, 2021
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Aid) workshops were held in collaboration with the SUNY MEOC (Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center), and virtual college visits during 6th period are taking place on a weekly basis.

Middle School is getting an upgrade to inspire students with early college awareness, with six homerooms renamed after such colleges as Morehouse and SUNY Brockport, and homeroom doors displaying college pennants. A soft launch of College Fridays is also in the works where students wear college sweatshirts, and the 2nd floor will have a wall of teachers and their colleges for visual inspiration.



Senior Services kicked off the Fall season with an exciting new project in partnership with the New York Junior League (NYJL). ADC was one of two selected community organizations to participate in NYJL's Community Improvement Project (CIP), which provides volunteers, funding support and in-kind services to re-invigorate community spaces. The Community Room at Abyssinian Towers will be renovated with a beautiful wall mural and upgraded equipment, including a karaoke machine for some local talent!



The Community Room is an important space that brings senior residents together to help relieve feelings of isolation and loneliness. This has been especially exacerbated by the pandemic, so reinvigorating the space is timely and



extra special, creating an uplifting atmosphere for seniors as they come together to attend various workshops, seminars, and community events.

Senior Services continues to do its part to fight the pandemic so seniors can return to a life of normalcy, where they can participate in activities that have been on hold for 18 months. Monthly COVID-19 testing is offered onsite at Abyssinian Towers, along with Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, courtesy of Medrite Urgent Care under the direction of Dr. Karen E. Thornton, and in collaboration with property manager Prestige Management under the direction of Devon Kelley. This collaboration helps seniors to stay home during these challenging times.



One sure sign there is a light at the end of the tunnel is the return of chair exercises, tentatively scheduled to begin in January. Thanks to our longstanding partnership with HAFOP (Health Advocates for Older People, Inc.), seniors will be able to do weekly strength and balance exercises that help them age with vitality and independence.



Under the oversight of Senior Services, the food pantry continues to provide nourishment every 3rd Tuesday on a monthly basis for Abby Towers residents and the community. Recipients still practice social distancing, wear masks, and have their temperature taken.

A special welcome back to Ms. Garis who is once again bringing her MC bingo skills to the residents, and not a moment too soon. For Halloween the community room was decked out with orange and black tablecloths, and seniors enjoyed some cupcakes and cookies. Ms. Garis, you were gone too long!



Last but not least, the senior services team has successfully built up the AASC (American Association of Service Coordinators) online database of



Service Logs



Progress Notes



Cost Savings



Service Management Plans

demographics and other data that enable the team to meet HUD's annual standardized reporting requirements and improve service delivery. Shoutout to summer intern Jade Valerio, CUNY undergrad who helped get this project over the finish line!

**MESSAGE FROM:
HARLEM ECONOMIC LITERACY
PROGRAM
HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELOR**

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Homeownership education is and always will be the key component to owning property. A participant in our November 2021 series stated the following:

"I wanted to thank you very much for all you have done during the workshops. I have learned so much & took a lot of notes I will be using as guidance when taking the steps necessary to buy a home. The guest speakers were wonderful & very helpful also. I think everyone should learn these basics before jumping into buying their first home."



The one thing that remains the same is that when you own, you pay yourself first. Every time you make a monthly mortgage payment it is payment to own. Some first time homebuyers

jump into homeownership full speed ahead without having homebuyer education. These homeowners usually find themselves lacking in an abundance of knowledge when it comes to making sound decisions. Sound decisions are essential to sustaining your home. Our homeownership workshops speak to not only purchasing your home, but maintaining and sustaining your home.

If you would like to attend the ADC-HELP Homeownership Program, please visit www.adcorp.org to register. You may also send an email of interest to Andrea Britton at abritton@adcorp.org, or call 646-442-6545.

7 PILLARS TO IMPLEMENTATION CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEADERSHIP (CRSEL)

- 1  **SELF-AWARENESS/RACIAL REFLECTION**
- 2  **UTILIZING RESEARCH BASED PRACTICES IN CRSE & SEL**
- 3  **SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS REFLECTIVE SEL AND CRSE DATA ANALYSIS**
- 4  **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM**
- 5  **INTER-VISITATION/LAB SITE SERIES: CONNECTING TO SCHOOLS WITH EFFECTIVE SEL AND CRSL PRACTICES**
- 6  **MINDFULNESS AND A SELF-CARE PLAN FOR SCHOOL LEADERS**
- 7  **MPPR & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP STANDARDS CLINIC & CROSSWALK**

Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline

HREP is going full speed ahead to advance racial equity in the community. The team just received a grant from West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) to pilot a Culturally Responsive and Affirming Social Emotional Leadership (CRASEL) project in collaboration with District 5. Five public schools have been identified, the program agenda set, and logistics finalized for rollout.

The first meeting was held in December at Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School (TMALS), which is serving as the pilot’s lab school, and it went very well. Dr. Dawn DeCosta, principal of TMALS, developed the training model for school principals, and is an expert in the field. She will be leading a school team who learn social emotional leadership skills that they will share with their respective school communities, including students and parents.

Each school team member will produce a visual racial autobiography, and work with their school community to establish their school’s CRASEL framework, build social justice lesson plans, and much more. Equity audits of school data will be conducted, and a video is being planned in collaboration with Tech Row.

This pilot is an important opportunity to build a strong foundation for a racial equity framework that yields fundamental and long overdue change in District 5!

In other news... Youth on the Move (YOTM) ushered in the new academic year with the Harlem Night Lights Program, which was the perfect transition from months of isolation and little human contact to reentry into school and social life. Each day was filled with each young person’s chosen sport — basketball and/or football — and was skills driven with conditioning and time for free play. COVID safety protocols were followed including masks and social distancing. Hand sanitizers were provided and used throughout the day. The program closed out with a final day cookout that included barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, macaroni salad, jerk chicken and green salad. There was no way YOTM was going to allow the pandemic to shut down Harlem youth’s appetite for sports and good food!

