

## **EDUCATION MATTERS**

Remote learning environments, google classrooms, hybrid instruction. These words have taken on new meaning with virtually every aspect of education life impacted by the pandemic. While there is finally some light at the end of the tunnel, we still have much work to do to make sure our partner schools are prepared to hit the ground running when normalcy resumes.

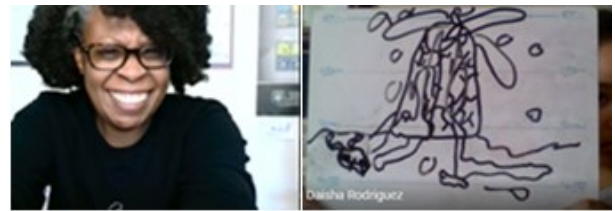
**Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School (TMALS):** Addressing the social-emotional needs of our students in these challenging times is more crucial than ever as teachers strive to teach through the framework of social justice and culturally responsive pedagogy. Leading the helm is Dr. DeCosta, principal of TMALS, who recently led an inspiring webinar



presentation for MoMA's School and Teacher Programs entitled *Educator Activism: Social Justice, Anti-racist Education, and Cultural Responsiveness*. Dr. DeCosta discussed what social emotional learning in practice looks like at TMALS, and shared strategies and actionable steps educators can take to create a school culture that fosters students' social emotional health and role as agents of change.

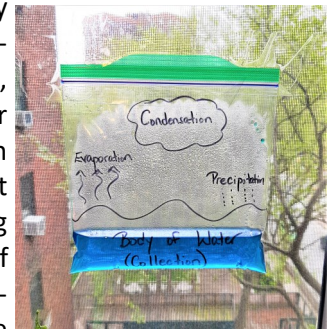
Expanded Learning Time (ELT) at TMALS has made a smooth transition to virtual learning. ADC supports two ELT programs that help students stay engaged and inspired to learn. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is an important part of the ELT program and we are deeply appreciative of the continued commitment of the Con Edison Foundation.

*Miss Steph's Science Club* teaches budding scientists key STEM concepts, thanks to the dedicat-



**Student drawing of volcanic eruption for Miss Steph**

ed and knowledgeable Stephanie Farmer who inspires young minds with all things STEM. Lessons cover a variety of topics: Storm in a Cup, Plants & Earth Day, Water Cycle Baggie. Students receive STEM supply kits that Miss Stephanie leaves at TMALS, and the instructor leads them through fun experiments at home. As one young student says, "all of my other stuff is boring, but science is the best!".



**Water Cycle Experiment**

ADC also supports the Extended Day Academic Intervention Program, which provides some 30 students academic reinforcement and practice from experienced tutors in small group instruction on key grade level standards.

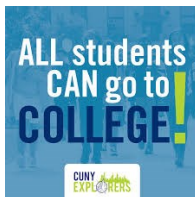
**Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (TMA):** Amid the numerous challenges posed by the pandemic, the College & Career Prep office at TMA has been focused on making sure students stay focused on learning about their post-secondary options.



Seventy 9th and 10th graders attended the CUNY Explorers High School Pilot Program, a virtual, interactive college and career exploration workshop series on different topics, such as *A Day in the Life*, offered by the City Tech campus. The workshop looked at the difference

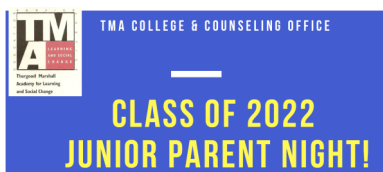


between high school and college, online learning skills, and how to balance social and academic life. It also included virtual college tours with current college students, so prospective applicants could learn from their peers.



CUNY Explorers was also offered to TMA middle school students, reinforcing CUNY's message: **all students CAN GO to college, college is AFFORDABLE, and students can take steps NOW to achieve their college goals.**

Writopia Writing Lab returned for 3 virtual sessions. Junior students worked on their personal essays for college, sharing what they are proud of to put in their stories and really opening up about their diverse interests. Several students are into Tarot cards and healing crystals!



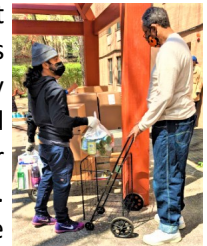
Junior Parent Night was a virtual information session that got students and families thinking ahead to 2022, with college prep and graduation requirements the main focus of conversation. Many topics were covered from credits to graduation requirements, and the students are looking forward to their senior year!

## SENIOR SERVICES

From a new online reporting system to onsite COVID testing, Senior Services has been all about smooth and safe delivery of services.

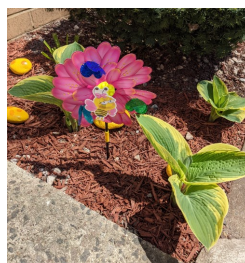


Medrite Urgent Care continues to provide onsite monthly COVID testing for seniors at Abby Towers



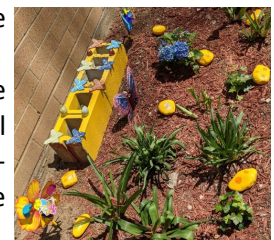
Outdoor Food Pantry

and community residents so they can remain at home, and the food pantry transitioned to the outdoor backyard with the warmer weather. Seniors at Ennis Francis also receive food pantry items, and residents at both buildings are very grateful.



Garden flowers

The outdoor space is a hub of activity, with one creative resident contributing flowering plants and spring decorations that bring a smile to your face. Bright yellow-colored rocks adorn the ground,

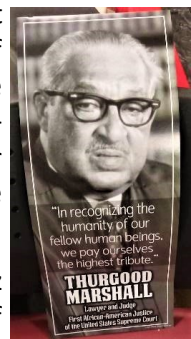


Rock Garden

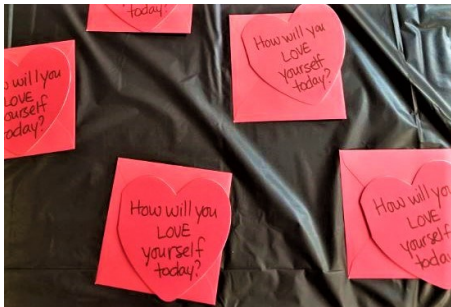
and she keeps adding more beautiful objects, like butterfly decorations that look so real people think they are alive. It is a true fantasy garden growing in the heart of Harlem!

**Black History Month and Women's History Month** ushered in some indoors activities as well, with displays in the Community Room that enticed residents to venture out of their apartments. The events were COVID conscious with residents required to wear masks and keep their distance. Temperature checks were also conducted.

Seniors enjoyed some smooth jazz music while browsing images of



great cultural icons such as Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, Cicely Tyson, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Bilingual Service Coordinator Alexandra Quinones accompanied Spanish speaking residents, and helped interpret the biographical information. Residents received gift bags of goodies as well.



Some Valentine's Day love was also on hand, with hearts and cards donated by a school. Residents were asked "What is one thing they can do today to love themselves?", a lovely and thought-provoking exercise, especially for those without families.

### Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline

HREP is spearheading a District 5 (D5) Equity Team focused on eradicating racial inequality across D5 public schools. The team, made up of students, families and community members across the district, meets weekly to move the needle on strategic priorities: creating and implementing student-centered educational practices, building and nurturing strong partnership alignments, and unpacking and uprooting racist policies and practices through collective accountability.



Three excellent trainings have taken place through the Center for Strategic Solutions at New York University's Metro Center. These trainings focus on

ways to dismantle white supremacy and systemic racism in the education system so children can see themselves reflected and valued across curriculum and classroom practices.

For instance, did you know that more than 400,000 Black, Latinx, and Asian students who attend public elementary school complete 5th grade having rarely read a book by an author who is of their cultural background?



Or that of the eighteen books that children are exposed to and learn from in kindergarten or 1st grade, seventeen of the authors are white, exposing a multicultural gap in words and images that are molding young minds at an impressionable age?

The training is a wealth of information on the history of systemic racism, and shares specific ways to disrupt harmful practices and create a more relevant educational experience, one that gives children opportunities to see themselves reflected in daily lessons that are inspiring and engaging.



D5 Equity Team hard at work

If you're interested in learning more and attending one of our trainings, we welcome your participation! For further information please contact **HREP Co-Director Ocyntia Williams at 646-442-6565, or you can also email [owilliams@hrepinc.org](mailto:owilliams@hrepinc.org).**

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

**Back to life, back to reality. Back to normal/new normal or back to an abnormal that is now the new reality. Either way you look at it, we all have to move forward in a positive direction.**



With many consumers working from home, the thought of living at work is real. The every day commute has become the new telecommute, allowing for less time spent on public transportation and in cars unless absolutely necessary. Consumers have adapted to this new reality. First time homebuyers are now looking for condominiums, cooperatives and 1-4 family homes that have that extra room for office space. Life filled with convenience and work.

The pandemic created new opportunities for some existing homeowners. One homeowner who participated in the ADC HELP Homeownership Program workshops purchased a condominium six years ago and is now in a position to sell that home and purchase their dream 1-family home. The homeowner continues to seek advice from HELP.

First-time homebuyers have to be especially careful during these times. Scams and fraud are more prevalent than ever. If you want to become a homeowner, you must do your homework first. Homework is upfront education that prepares you for the homeownership process.



The ADC HELP Homeownership Program provides a wealth of knowledge on the homeownership process. The program answers questions such as “Can I afford to buy a house? How much money will I be able to borrow? Will I qualify for a mortgage loan if I have past credit problems? What types of mortgages and grants are available? Do I need a broker? These are some of the questions that you need the answers to upfront before you start the homeownership process.

If you are interested in participating in the ADC HELP Homeownership Program workshops, our registration process is on line at [www.adcorp.org](http://www.adcorp.org). All of our workshops are through virtual webinars. You may also send an email of interest or inquiry to Ms. Andrea Britton at [abritton@adcorp.org](mailto:abritton@adcorp.org), or call 646-442-6545.

**In other news...** Youth on the Move (YOTM) is starting a new athletic program at Boys & Girls Club of Harlem’s Club House on 145th St. The program takes place every Thursday from 4:30 - 6:00pm and runs through June 22nd. Each week is an introduction to a different sport: soccer, basketball, baseball, and football. We’re excited for this new partnership, which comes at a great time as the City opens up. Harlem’s youth are more than ready to release over a year’s worth of pent up energy!

