Just when you think TMALS is as good as it gets, it gets even better with arts, enrichments and creative juices flowing! Students are showing off their fancy footwork, tapping and swinging in dance classes that are rocking the school house.

Music is also filling the classrooms. The Noel Pointer Foundation’s violin program, now in its 3rd year, is helping budding music virtuosos advance their music skills. Also new this year, Julliard’s Morse Teaching Artist Fellowship program has brought a Julliard Teaching Fellow to TMALS to teach basic techniques and music theory concepts to our students.

There’s more… these pictures speak a thousand words!

TMALS will also enjoy continued funding from Con Edison for vital STEM programming. Classrooms will be enriched with the wonders of STEM, from Magic Science for Wizards to Glow in the Dark Slime Science Kits, keeping our young students’ minds active and their spirits excited about the future.

Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline

HREP is going strong under the inspired leadership of Co-Directors Ocynthia Williams and Dr. Sandye Johnson! The Baseline Report was completed in June and presented to the community, marking HREP’s official transition into the next stage of StriveTogether’s network, Sustaining. The focus now is on using data for continuous improvement in educational outcomes for students attending District 5 public schools.

Two Collaborating Action Networks (CANs) have formed to address areas of urgent need: a Parent Pipeline, which is developing a District 5 Resource Directory app for parents, and College and Career Prep, which
Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change is truly living up to its name. College Prep is as strong as ever, helping our students turn their dreams of college into reality each and every step of the way.

Over the summer ADC’s new Summer Melt College Outreach Program focused on the critical time between high school and college, when many students forego college at the last minute as they come up against daunting obstacles.

The program assisted graduates with understanding tuition bills, utilizing online college portals, course registration, and much more.

Students were especially grateful for guidance on financial aid, which is often the central issue for why a student will not take that last step across the threshold to college. Many students are uncomfortable advocating for themselves and need support.

Now it’s time to ready a new cohort of college-bound TMA students for the college life. Ms. Mondesire supports TMA’s Guidance Counselor Ms. James in Push Into Classes, helping students navigate college including FAFSA applications and Naviance, the work greatly helped by new chrome books courtesy of Con Edison funding.

Swift Resilience - Ms. Mondesire called Ahmed during the Summer Melt program to find out how college enrollment process was going, only to learn that his chosen school, City College, sent him a note saying that he had a balance to pay. This left Ahmed with a big bill and even bigger dilemma. Together they learned that City College was not listed on his FAFSA and TAP. He submitted this new information, and received full TAP and Pell grants to cover all tuition and fees. He even received a refund check!
College visits are also taking place in the TMA library, where students have already met with admissions reps from Spelman, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Oswego, and LIU to name a few. Every student has been able to connect with his or her top choice school!

And let’s not forget FAFSA night, attended by parents and students.

If you’ve ever had to fill out a FAFSA application then you know how important, and challenging, this can be.

Ms. Adrienne King Senior, Associate Director of Financial Aid at Bank Street College, presented a workshop entitled “What, When, and How of the Financial Aid World”, and families worked on their FAFSA applications to make sure everything was in order.

Over the years, the ADC HELP Homeownership Program has graduated 2,746 participants and helped 296 purchase homes as a result of the knowledge gained through the program. The one thing graduates are thankful for is that despite the current economy they continue to meet their financial obligations without it being a challenge.

This is because all of the homeowners received thorough one-on-one counseling sessions that help them understand how to make better choices regarding financial decisions around money management. ADC’s Homeownership Counselor Andrea Britton keeps in contact with the homeowners after they have purchased their home to maintain an open line of communication on how they are doing.

Come and be a part of ADC’s HELP-Homeownership Program and get the knowledge you need to achieve and sustain the goal of homeownership! The next set of classes will be held January 18th and January 25th, 2018. For further information please visit our website at www.adcorp.org. You can also contact Ms Britton directly: abritton@adcorp.org, or call 646-442-6545.

From the beginning of 2017 to date, 115 participants have graduated ADC’s HELP Program and 68 have received one-on-one counseling.
Seniors continue to enjoy an array of exciting activities under the dedicated leadership of Ms. Cynthia Scarborough. During the summer Ms. Scarborough took our Seniors to a wonderful cookout sponsored by Health Advocates for Older People.

And let’s not forget a high-energy Senior Game Day sponsored by Deutsche Bank through ADC’s partnership with NY Cares. The fun-filled afternoon included Charades, Pictionary and Hangman, even dancing along to Motown tunes during and in between game rounds.

Raffle tickets were given out to the winner of each round, adding to the fun. Winners received colorful stationary, colored pencils and pens, even lovely coloring books. You can see very happy game faces in these photos!

The Harlem-Ween celebration with Wellcare kept the beat going, with a DJ for some more dancing and giveaways, as well as nourishment to keep up the energy, including sandwiches, sodas, and desserts.

The most recent excitement was A Touch from Heaven Manicure Day, when 5 volunteers pampered 15 Seniors with beautiful nails, more giveaways, as well as fruit platters. Senior Services provided Subway sandwiches and sodas.

ADC also coordinated a very important Senior Safety Lecture presentation by Officer Dawn Waller at Abby Towers, sponsored by the 32nd Police Precinct in Harlem, with 60 seniors in attendance.

Activities continued this Fall with Fitness Hour with Joe Schwartz from Broadway Systems Inc., provider of home care services. Joe had Seniors moving and grooving to chair exercises accompanied by upbeat blues and hip hop music.

Of course our ongoing events continue, including Pantry, Bingo, Chair Exercises and Nutrition, to name a few.
IN THE NEWS...

REVEREND BACHUS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AT CITY COLLEGE
On November 28th, Rev. Bachus joined with guest speakers Samuel Stein, a PhD student who is researching neighborhood land issues such as rezoning, and activist Imani Henry who works on gentrification, in a panel discussion on non-profit community development and advocacy in Harlem. The conversation was part of CUNY’s Guest Presentation Series at City College’s Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

Approximately 40-50 students in the social sciences participated in the event, and Rev. Bachus has already been invited to return.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Abyssinian Development Corporation welcomes a new member to the family! Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus wed Brittany Erin Kess on October 14th, 2017 in a beautiful ceremony and celebration at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. We wish them a long life full of joy, love and laughter!
It is with great sorrow we share the news of the passing of Mavis Marie Roberts Vann on May 25, 2017. A seasoned development professional, Mavis was Vice President for Resource Development at ADC, where she was responsible for all fundraising and development activities. She moved on to share her talents with the YWCA and the Eagle Academy Foundation, touching many lives. The world has lost a beautiful spirit much too soon.