Thurgood Marshall Academy
Lower School

TMALS continues to shine as a true gem in Harlem. A spring concert by the Harlem Chamber Players marked the end of ELA and Math testing, and the sound of music continued with student violinists performing at The Noel Pointer Fiddlefest in Brooklyn alongside students from all 5 boroughs.

Second graders also participated in two cultural partnerships with the Museum of Modern Art and The Studio Museum in Harlem, learning about artists, developing their artmaking skills and creating beautiful art.

While students learn the art of the impossible through creativity, they learn the art of the possible through civic engagement. Students led a school tour for Assemblyman Al Taylor, and advocated for change in the lunch menu at the Office of School Food, where they rated new dishes for NYC school lunches.

TMALS still has seats available for grades 1, 2, and 3. Need convincing? Just visit the Great Schools website for parent reviews. You can download an application at https://bit.ly/2LNOUeL, or stop by TMALS to pick one up.

Harlem Renaissance
Education Pipeline

ADC is proud to serve as an anchor partner for HREP to make sure District 5 public school students shine. In March HREP co-sponsored The D5 Writing Challenge for K-8 students to promote a love of writing and strengthen writing skills. Essays centered on Joy, Pride and Focus, with awards presented to three outstanding winners including a visually-impaired student who wrote in Braille.

HREP also helped bring Juilliard’s Music Advancement Program Spring Concert Series to District 5, with interactive concerts featuring New Orleans style jazz and an opera. Students learned about brass instruments and got their groove on dancing in a Conga line at the jazz concert.

In April HREP screened Backpack Full of Cash to a packed audience at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. After the film a distinguished group of panelists gave their insights to the privatization of public schools, with thought-provoking questions from the audience.

HREP’s Collaborative Action Networks are going strong, with 122 students getting a jump start on college in the Early High School College Access program, and parents strengthening their parenting skills in the 6-week Parenting Journey workshop. The feedback has been great, and a September training is on the calendar. To sign up call Co-Director Ocynthia Williams at 646-442-6565.

Contest winner

Students unite!
Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change

TMA’s College Prep program is soaring under the leadership of its dynamic new College Counselor Tamara McCallum, supported by the gentle touch of Assistant College Counselor Dana Mondesire. College tours are in full swing, with SIX college trips and eight campus visits in three months, including Rochester Institute of Technology, Cortland University, and Columbia University to name a few.

At Columbia University students experienced a mid-day Muslim prayer right in the middle of campus, and a food festival where they sampled foods from 15 local restaurants.

At SUNY Cortland a college student captivated TMA students with a telescope demonstration, while Rochester Institute of Technology got the wheels churning in many students’ minds for all that’s possible after graduation.

TMA seniors are leaving a great impression through community service. On March 28th they volunteered for the Harlem Advocates for Seniors (H.A.S.) fundraiser at the Harlem Alhambra Ballroom, where they performed their assignment with maturity and confidence. H.A.S. President William Hamer said the event would not have been as successful without them!

TMA’s College Office is in full swing with all things college, from follow up with admissions officers to helping families navigate a maze of financial aid paperwork.

The Monthly Financial Aid Bulletin is a great new resource which scrubs the internet for scholarships. If you don’t like writing essays, you can just write a tweet to win an award. Also new this year: TMA Alumni Outreach Days, the first held on May 24th when TMA alums spoke on the good, the bad, and the ugly of post-grad life; and Decision Day held on May 31st, when seniors celebrated their post-graduation plans.

ABYSSINIAN TOWERS

Abby Towers keeps bringing on the love. The 8th Annual Intergenerational Valentine’s Day Event took place on Feb 14th, with twenty students from P.S. 133 performing dance and poetry, and giving seniors Valentine cards they made by hand.

To close out the day, Ms. Lucille Young who turned 102 years young in February was celebrated. Ms. Young has no home attendant and still does her own shopping. Her secret? No medicine and good genes, her two daughters are 80 and 87 years old!
Ms. Young was also honored for the Celebration of Phenomenal Women day held at Abby Towers, which was co-sponsored with HREP.

MLK Day had more intergenerational activities with open discussion between students and seniors who shared memories of the Civil Rights movement. Students learned the significance of that era through live testimony, which at the time was only possible in protest mode or behind closed doors. Monetary raffles and a quiz on MLK’s life closed out the animated discussion.

Two Manicure Days in two months, compliments of A Touch From Heaven, brought beautiful colors to the lovely hands of our seniors! Ms. Scarborough, whose love and devotion knows no bounds, provided music and delicious food, and volunteers had heart-to-heart conversations with seniors during the manicures.

There was more love to give at a pre-Mother’s Day event, when flowers and balloons were distributed to approximately 50 seniors, home attendants and staff.

A Grief & Bereavement Ministry has been introduced for seniors, providing healing and comfort to those who have lost a loved one, friend, or neighbor.

The upcoming set of classes is scheduled for July 12th and July 19th. If you are interested in attending, please visit www.adcorp.org, or call Ms. Britton at 646-442-6545.
RECENT NEWS

SUPER SATURDAY STEM EXPO 2018!

No amount of rain could dampen the excitement for this year’s 10th ANNUAL SUPER SATURDAY STEM EXPO on May 19th at The Harlem Armory. The Expo featured STEM projects presented by Harlem’s own District 5 students from Pre-K to 12th grade, as well as interactive exhibits from some of New York City’s most prominent museums, science centers and tech labs. Youth of all ages and adults were inspired to try something new, dig a little deeper, and learn about a variety of STEM disciplines in fun and creative ways. The Harlem Armory was packed! People were excited! From robotics to chess tournaments everyone was motivated to learn!

There was a host of new indoor and outdoor exhibits, all grade A caliber, including live demonstrations, dissections, aviation simulation, robotics competitions, a BioBus mobile science lab, GOOGLE exhibition, and so much more. The shows and competitions were inspiring, and the Expo’s reach into the community was broader than ever with guests from all five boroughs. Altogether we had over 2,500 visitors who explored the Harlem Armory event, which included 25 schools exhibiting science projects, 30 indoor exhibitors, and two outdoor exhibitors. Shout out to Moshe Crone who pulled off a GREAT event!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT… Lena McKnight… start a conversation with Lena and good luck keeping up. Lena works three jobs, 24/7, as a Family Communications Coordinator and Waiver Service Provider.

Lena recently started a mentorship program, Who.Am.Eye.To.You, and has had three community events: a Meet & Greet, Women Empowerment, and Clothing Drive at three shelters. In the next few weeks she’ll have her website up and running. Next is grad school. Her wheels are spinning a million miles a second so stay tuned or you’ll miss out.

Lena is grateful for her time at ADC as a ServiceWorks Volunteer. She said the experience taught her amazing skills: how to put events together and build community partnerships.

Lena still feels like she’s not doing enough, and could be doing more. From our vantage point it looks like she’s going places, and going far… we look forward to learning what’s next!