



WEDS NEWS

Winter 2018

Message from Head of School

We survived the season of Nor'easters this winter, and in spite of the weather, our program was in full swing here at WEDS! In the pages ahead, you'll get a glimpse of how much we celebrated learning and our student's triumphs. I also wanted to take a moment to brag about the success of our Fresh Air Initiative this year. We recognized the need for more outdoor time and developed plans that incorporated periods on the roof into our student's busy schedules. One additional initiative was for the social workers leading Outdoor Social Development on the roof, which the kids eagerly anticipate each week! Teachers, specialists and clinicians have also been getting our students out for small groups, snack, therapy sessions and PE time at Riverside Park!

All of us have been in full planning mode for our most exciting semester of community events. Our biggest celebration, the Annual Spring Benefit, is just around the corner. On May 3rd, we'll honor Jessica Chambers and all of her achievements over the past decade at WEDS! Together we will unite to raise funds to renovate our entire ground floor. This will be one of our biggest projects yet and I'm particularly enthusiastic about the design and lighting initiatives to brighten up the space.

Enjoy!

Carrie Catapano, LCSW
Head of School

Upcoming Events

April 26th: Science Fair

May 3rd: Annual Spring Benefit

May 24th: Field Day & Year End Picnic

June 7th: June Show & Moving on Celebration

June 8th: June Show & Graduation



Message from Education Heads

This winter has been filled with collaboration. It all started with our amazing art show, which highlighted the collaboration between authors and illustrators, and was reflected in the collaboration between faculty, students, and families. All of the children worked so hard with Mr. Robert to complete their beautiful projects, and worked just as hard with Ms. Rumley and Ms. Moore on a writing piece that fit their artwork perfectly. The winter sing was also an amazing event, as the students sang songs that "moved us." Mr. Henson did a terrific job preparing the students and we were so impressed with the work that the students put into this performance.

The children have spent some valuable time exploring multicultural curriculum. For Black History Month, the students participated in lessons and activities celebrating our African American leaders, artists, and historical figures. We also had a Symphony Space assembly demonstrating African instruments and traditional music. To celebrate Chinese New Year, each class discussed some of the traditions and symbols that play an important role in the Chinese culture. The students participated in activities and crafts, including creating decorations in honor of this holiday.

The winter season ended with an all school assembly on opera music from the Manhattan School of Music, and we are looking forward to an author assembly this spring with Jacqueline Resnick, who will be speaking with the students about writing, the publishing process, and the job of an author.

We are looking forward to a spring filled with many exciting learning opportunities!

Jessica Chambers & Katy Jenkins, Co-Education Heads



Visit us at www.westenddayschool.org



Ms. Richard & Ms. Henry's Class

Ms. Richard and Ms. Henry's class participated in an in depth Author Study unit on Eric Carle in January! After introducing the students to his writing style, his illustrations, and his personal background, the class began reading his work. They compared similarities and differences between stories. They explored more about Carle's love for nature and how this interest is found in all his books. They noted when he included components such as animals, plants, and weather. To coincide with this unit, Mr. Robert and Ms. Rumley designed their Art Show projects to be based off this author as well. Each child proudly displayed their collage animals and poems inspired by Eric Carle's illustrations in "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" at the Art Show in late January. To conclude their work on Eric Carle, the class went on a field trip to the DR2 Theater in Union Square where they saw a live performance titled "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". The performance featured puppets that told the stories from four of Eric Carle's popular books. The students were thrilled to get to experience the stories they love so much in a different light.

The class has been focusing on how communities have changed over time during their social studies class. They have examined images and watched videos that have highlighted changes in history from a variety of areas, including in classrooms, technology, games, and food. This winter, the class also explored States of Matter and the water cycle in science class. One of the class's favorite lessons was reading "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" and creating their own oobleck. They experienced first-hand the changing state of this material from liquid to solid as pressure was applied to it.



Ms. Berger & Ms. Kaufman's Class

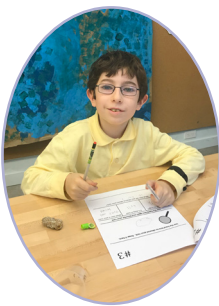
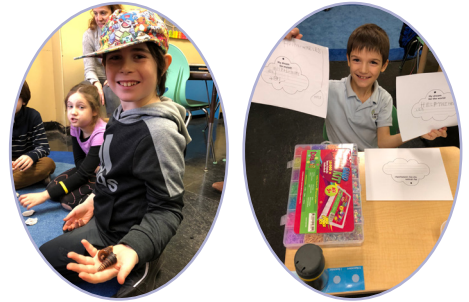
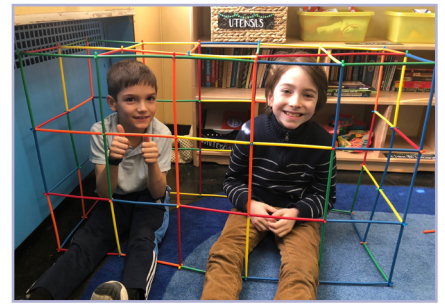
The scientists in Ms. Berger and Ms. Kaufman's class were put to the test by imagining what life would be like without gravity. Their unit on forces and motion was full of experiments, including one that represented how solids and liquids fall due to gravitational pull. It was interesting to watch water flow out of a cup in a certain direction based on how the cup was held and where the hole in the cup was placed. The students are looking forward to their next unit on plant diversity!

Sticking with their social studies curriculum of New York City, the students compared their urban community to other communities across the country. Learning about suburban and rural communities presented many comparisons for the students, especially when they found out that some people live miles away from their next-door neighbors! Overall, the students voted that public transportation in NYC is the easiest way to travel when compared to other modes of transportation. The students are looking forward to an eventful spring where they will continue to grow academically and travel back to outer space on their field trip to the planetarium!

Ms. Carhart & Ms. Flerx's Class

In science this semester, Ms. Carhart and Ms. Flerx's class explored magnetism and electricity. Throughout the unit the class explored circuits and determined what components are necessary to create a full circuit loop. The class defined conductors and insulators, sorting which forms of matter fall within each category. They also used their knowledge of conductors and insulators to explore magnetism. After collecting everyday materials, the class predicted whether the object would be magnetic based on their properties. Following the tests, the students revisited their predictions and reflected on their scientific thinking. Currently, the class is learning about matter. The students described the difference between the building blocks of all matter, including particles, atoms, and molecules. The class has reviewed the phases and properties of matter using diagrams and models. The properties consisted of the physical state, relative density, solubility, and conductivity of each form of matter. The class used water as an example to further explore the states of matter. They studied the terms melting, freezing, boiling, condensing, and evaporating. The class applied these terms to various activities and simulations. Throughout the units, the class has used online simulators to provide an interactive approach to scientific concepts.

Their social studies class has been making exciting discoveries about the history of New York State. The students were able to apply their background knowledge of their home state to their understanding of what makes up a complex society. The class studied the first inhabitants of New York State and how these civilizations interacted with the environment. They discussed how geographic features affect the way people lived and why certain groups settled in New York. To support these ideas, the class took a field trip to the New York Historical Society. The students visited an exhibit that displayed how New York State has changed over time. The class explored various objects and images that depicted the evolution of the local flora and fauna. The class then compared twenty-first century technologies to those of the past. The field trip ended with a video of actual historical footage of New York. To conclude their unit on pre-European New York State, the students used their knowledge from discussions and hands-on activities to compare and contrast the Iroquois and Algonquin tribes.



Ms. Fiasconaro & Ms. Pile-Spellman's Class

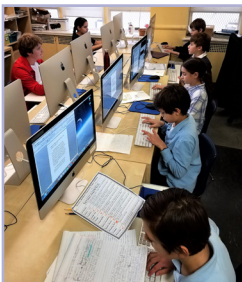
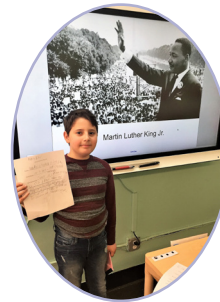
Ms. Fiasconaro and Ms. Pile-Spellman's science class journeyed outside the classroom to expand their scientific knowledge. For their most recent field trip, the students visited the Hayden Planetarium to see the IMAX film Dark Universe. After the show, they explored the new "Senses" exhibit that tested their sense of sound and smell. There were also virtual exhibits that tricked their perspectives. The class also traveled with Ms. Moss' group to MoMath. They took part in the "Secrets of Telling Secrets" workshop, which centered on cryptography. They used substitution ciphers and practiced encrypting and decrypting messages.

In Science, these geologists took part in a rocks and mineral unit that lead to a geographical survey of the Earth. The class explored the differences between rocks and minerals by observing the properties of various rock samples, sorting them based on properties such as luster, hardness, color, and the ability to transmit light. They gathered their new vocabulary and observations in a Rocks and Minerals Lab Notebook that helped them to categorize their samples as igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. This knowledge of rocks has segued into the beginning of an Earth Science unit, which has included labeling the layers of the Earth and exploring tectonic plates. The students will be diving deeper into the Earth's interior as the year progresses!

Ms. Moss & Ms. McGowan's Class

Ms. Moss and Ms. McGowan's geologists began the Earth Science unit with a study of rocks and minerals. They investigated and identified the different types of rocks and minerals based on their physical properties. Then, the students studied the layers of the earth and designed their own layers of the earth flipbook where they stated the names of the layers and depth of each layer. After learning about the earth's topography and landforms, they moved on to the unit on natural disasters. They studied earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis. The students participated in a variety of hands-on activities including an earthquake simulation activity. First, they designed their structure and sketched it out. Each student built a structure using raw spaghetti, marshmallows, and toothpicks. They tested the stability of their structures by shaking their desks at three different forces (to represent an earthquake). Most of the structures were sturdy enough to survive the "earthquakes"!

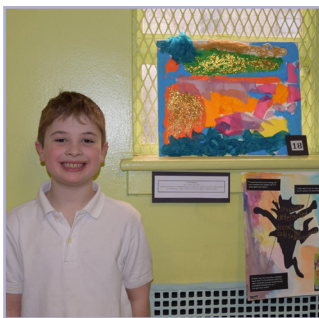
In social studies, the class researched explorers from different European countries and mapped out the areas of the Western Hemisphere where they explored. Each student chose an explorer and conducted research. Then, the students created a PowerPoint presentation on the explorer and presented it to the class. They discussed how the Europeans traveled to the Americas in search of new trade routes and resources. The class continued learning about countries of the Western Hemisphere, including a case study on Mexico. They learned about the geography, history, government, culture, holidays, and traditions. They also identified cultural contributions of influential Mexican artists such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.



Mr. Kassel & Ms. Michilovich's

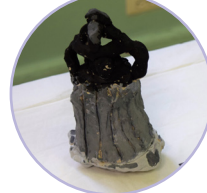
Mr. Kassel and Ms. Michilovich's students have traveled through time during their survey of the Eastern Hemisphere. This semester, the class completed their unit on ancient river civilizations. To end this study, the students created a study guide to prepare for a cumulative unit test on the four civilizations they covered. Their next unit was on classical civilizations, namely the Greeks, Romans, and Han Chinese. They concentrated on defining a civilization and what factors lead to the growth of a civilization to dominate their region. Starting with the Greeks, the students worked together to research the key characteristics of each peoples. They researched the four forms of government contemporary civilizations inherited from the Greeks. They also discussed the contributions the Romans have made to modern life. Following the Spring Recess, the class will delve into the Han civilization and how it developed from an ancient river civilization.

In science, the students worked on their unit on the Weather. To begin the semester, the students presented their research on the various forms of extreme weather. They created wonderful PowerPoint presentations and practiced being good audience members as their classmates shared their knowledge. Next, they created water cycles in plastic bags hung on the window. The suns warmed caused the water to move through the steps of the water cycle, including evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. The students were able to observe these steps as they occurred. The class concluded the unit with a test on the information they covered throughout the unit. For their next science unit, the class has been exploring the diversity of life. The class participated in classroom discussions beginning with the most basic building blocks of life, cells. They compared and described animal and plant cells. They constructed a model of cells using fruit and candy. They will continue this unit with a discussion of the jobs organisms has within an ecosystem to support healthy life.



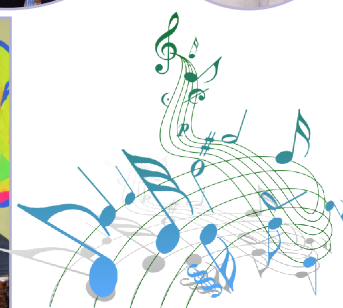
Our Budding Writers and Illustrators

This year's Annual Art Exhibit took inspiration from popular illustrators for the theme of "Illustrations Coming to Life". Each class had a specific illustrator from beloved picture books or literary series to base their art on for this year's show. They also wrote a creative piece to accompany their art. Mr. Robert, Ms. Rumley, and Ms. Moore guided the students for another fantastic display of their talents!



Moving to the Music

This year, the Winter Sing was titled "Music That Moves Us". The songs drew from themes of what inspires the students and faculty at WEDS. Mr. Henson put together a fantastic line-up of songs and Mr. Robert directed the students as they designed the art for the stage. All six classes came together for the finale of "Sunshine Day", which captured all the motivational themes celebrated during the event.





Skate the Day Away!

The WEDS community gathered for the annual All-School Skate. Our WEDS students joined their families and the faculty at Chelsea Piers to spend the afternoon showing off their skating skills. The students always are delighted for the opportunity to have fun with their friends and family at this special event.

