



SEPTEMBER 2021

LAUNCH BLAST

Monthly Newsletter of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School

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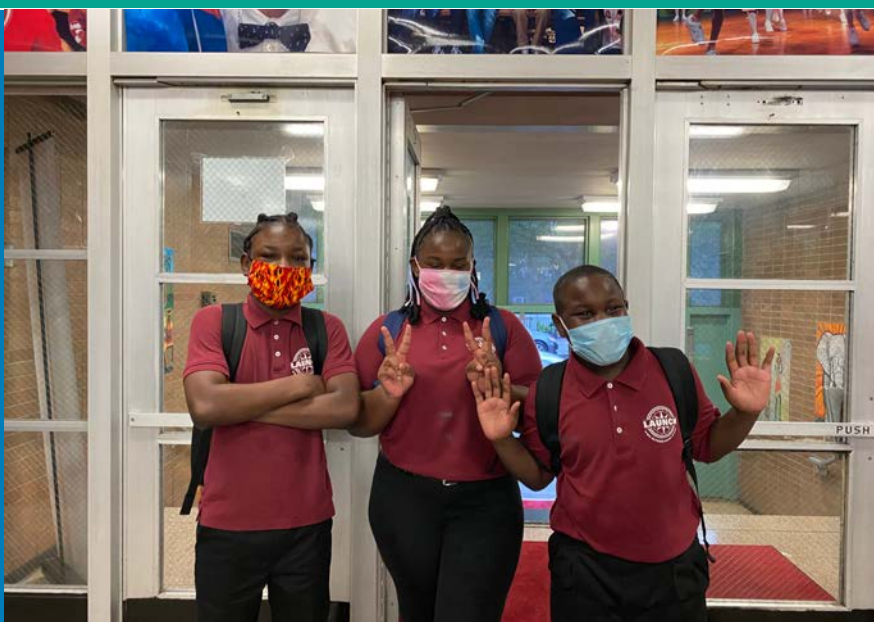
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Back To School

After a year and a half of remote learning it was exciting and inspiring to see our students back in the building and the relationships that are already being formed to support a year of thriving.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Please text YES to **67587** to opt in to receive messages from the Launch communication system.



A Message From The Principal

Dear Launch Families,

This school year, Launch has one shared community goal:

Every student can thrive in school because they feel like they belong and can succeed.

Our **YEAR of THRIVING** is off to a fantastic start due to the spirit, collaboration and dedication of our entire school community. We are focused on building belonging because we know that when students feel **SEEN, SUPPORTED, and CELEBRATED**, they can **ACHIEVE** at their highest levels.

We have also been keeping our health and safety at the forefront each day. All staff has been trained on our safety procedures, our community is all wearing masks, socially distant and keeping safe with sanitizer and hand washing. Thank you, Launch families, for being vigilant at home and messaging the importance of masking up to your children. We could not do it without ALL of you!

#parentsarepartners #ubuntu

We look forward to collaborating with you and seeing every student thrive academically and social-emotionally. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of our Launch Crew with any questions, suggestions or concerns. We are your partners!

Ubuntu,

Efrat Kussell

Principal

ekussell@launchschool.org

(718) 715-1180

"We look forward to collaborating with you and seeing every student thrive academically and social-emotionally."

Efrat Kussell
**HEAD OF SCHOOL
(PRINCIPAL)**



"We are looking forward to partnering with you this year"

Sheryl Davis
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR



A Message from our Family Engagement Coordinator

Welcome all Launch Families, and Students to the beginning of a new school year!! We are lifting up our community with academic excellence, cultural enrichment, and belonging with an environment designed for every student to thrive.

We are looking forward to partnering with you this year.

Your PA is planning some social events coming soon for Adults and families. Look for upcoming emails for details.

On Wednesday, September 15th at 6:00pm the Parent Association will host the first PA meeting of the year! The meeting will be virtual, on Zoom. Link will be sent via email prior to the meeting.

Ubuntu/ We are Crew!

Sheryl Davis
Family Engagement Coordinator
Sdavis@launchschool.org





Crew At Launch

“As an EL school, school culture is planned for, developed, and sustained through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers. The structure of crew allows for relationship building, academic progress monitoring, and character development. Crew allows students to build positive connections with their peers and with their crew leader. Crew leaders strategically plan crew to address and assess these multiple goals.” - Core Practice 27

The Goals of Crew

- RELATIONSHIPS - Build strong, positive relationships between crew advisors and students where all students are well known and well supported through advocacy and accountability.
- BELONGING - Build a sense of community, belonging, and positive engagement at Launch.
- CHARACTER - Building Character by supporting students in becoming ethical people who contribute to their community and build a better world.
- ACADEMICS - Supporting students in becoming effective learners, through progress and report card reflection, SLC/Passages and Academic Goal Setting.

Crews meet 3 times a week. Our objective is to be able to provide strong, individualized support to our students by ensuring that they are all well known by at least one person – their crew advisor.





Welcome Weeks

WHAT ARE WELCOME WEEKS

We just finished up two amazing Welcome Weeks - it was a time for students to ease back into the routine of school, build relationships and a sense of belonging. We believe that when students feel like they belong at school, they are able to make tremendous academic growth and reach high levels of academic achievement. Students learned about our community, restorative justice and mindfulness. Students also learned about a variety of enrichment programs we offer this year including art, PE, Asase Yaa dance and drumming and Launch Clubs.

What students Are Saying

“**Crew** is very fun and we get to do a lot of activities with my crewbies.” (Christian Semprit, 7th grade)

“I loved reading and discussing **This Book is Anti-Racist**; it is basically teaching kids to discuss their identities and not to be racist and that is very important in today’s society.” (Genesis Regis, 7th grade)

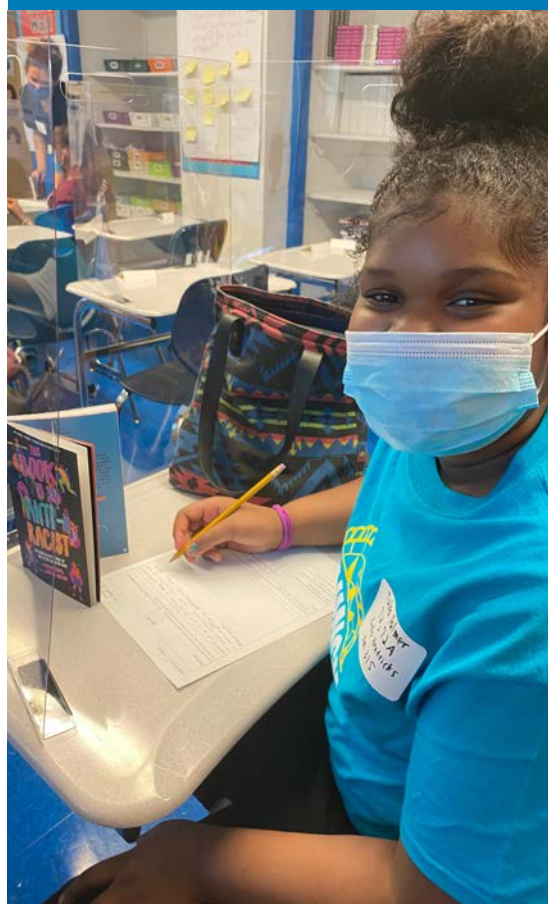
“I am excited about **Asase Yaa** because I want to learn new things, different dance techniques and styles.” (Rebecca Brown, 8th grade)

“I am excited for **Launch Clubs** because I haven’t been dancing in a while and I want to start dancing now!” (Aliyah Mercado, 8th grade)

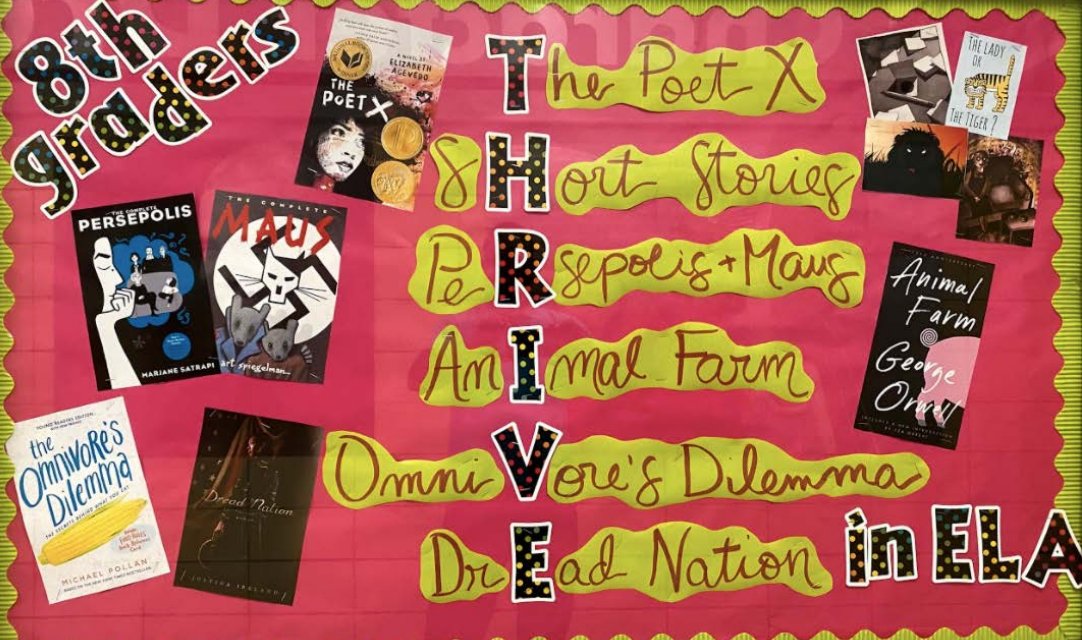
“I joined **Asase Yaa** camp over the summer and it was so fun and the people were very nice to me. I have been drumming since pre-k and I really enjoy it. I am excited for the Launch community to have this chance” (Gianna Brown, 8th grade)

“I did not know what to expect on the first day of school, but actually it was really great. So much fun! We got to do so many activities and I think this year will be amazing.”

Khalia Burgess
(6TH GRADE)



8th graders



Bulletin Board Challenge

Huge shout out to all teachers who made our hallway look and feel incredible. The bulletin boards are uplifting and inspiring.

Special congratulations to 8th grade ELA teachers for winning the Best Bulletin Board Award for demonstrating our values and highlighting books they will read this year.

Students also livened up the auditorium with some dancing. Shout out to all of our students who participated in the TIKTOK Challenge during assemblies last week.

Jahaira Welch

Culture Coordinator and Culture Department Chair

jwelch@launchschool.org



A Message from our Restorative Practices Coordinator



Conflict is part of life! Launch acknowledges we cannot create a school free from conflict. However, we, as a school, strive to create an environment that approaches conflict as an opportunity for healing. Launch believes in engaging the whole community in resolving conflicts and seeks to promote a school where young people are empowered with the tools to navigate the challenging world around them and effectively change their communities through values of restorative practices. Launch strives to build community relationships and provide students the necessary support and tools to improve positive work skills and develop healthy relationship-building habits.

"As a community,
we will learn, grow
and heal!"

Windy Antoine
**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**

As we move forward in our school culture, we must acknowledge the influence of the larger community, cultures, and country. These models shape the attitudes, behaviors, and implicit biases we all struggle with.

We will face many challenges together, and will draw upon the love and respect we have for one another. As a community, we will learn, grow and heal! With the great cultural enrichment of Launch, we hold various beliefs, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and races. Our goal as a Launch family is to embrace different beliefs and be supportive.

We strive to create an inclusive community and culture that allows students to grow, make mistakes, be heard, and communicate effectively.

Windy Antoine
Restorative Practices Coordinator
Wantoine@launchschool.org



Book of the Month

From: Justine Duran
8th Grade ELA teacher & ELA department chair

Launch Literacy Committee is excited to begin our Book of the Month initiative with our titles for September: Quincredible and Nubia: Real One. These two graphic novels feature black teen superheroes as they navigate their powers, society's pressures, and high school.

Each month, we will encourage as much of the school as possible to read the books or books of the month and talk to each other about them to build a strong community of readers.



Asase Yaa

We are excited to continue our long lasting partnership with Asase Yaa. All students participate in Asase Yaa and will have a choice about which class they would like to take.

Each Grade Level has an Asase Yaa Day! It will take place during last period and will be taught by Asase Yaa teachers.

6th Grade: Thursdays

7th Grade: Wednesdays

8th Grade: Tuesdays

Asase Yaa Class Options are:

West African Djembe Drum

Djembe drum teaches West African drumming history, techniques, and rhythm.

African Diasporic Dance

African Diasporic dance introduces different styles and techniques to dancers of all levels.

Hip Hop Dance

Hip Hop Dance focuses on the most popular dance moves seen today as well as the development of coordination, body awareness, build self-esteem and confidence.



SEL Afternoon At Launch


Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)).

Launch’s vision of SEL afternoon is geared towards creating a supportive, collaborative and positive community by implementing the 5 components of SEL (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making). And lastly, “trusting the process” by committing to building and strengthening our community daily through practices that incorporate Launch’s Habits of Heart and Mind: Integrity & Stewardship, Imagination & Spirit, Kindness & Collaboration and Dedication & Practice.


2021-22 SEL Afternoons Schedule	
6th Grade	Wednesdays: 2:05pm-3pm
7th Grade	Tuesdays: 2:05pm-3pm
8th grade	Thursdays: 2:05pm-3pm
<i>Multi-Subject students will join their individual grade level day**</i>	




We focus on developing student’s character through our habits of heart and mind.




Habits of Heart and Mind




Integrity & Stewardship



Imagination & Spirit



Kindness & Collaboration



Dedication & Practice

"Having parents as partners helps every student achieve at the highest level."

Efrat Kussell
PRINCIPAL



Back To School Afternoon

On Thursday, September 2, 2021 Launch hosted a **Back To School Afternoon**. This event was focused on parents and family members getting a chance to meet our teachers, learn about our classes, ask questions about our curriculum, health and safety protocols. We loved meeting so many families! All handouts from this event are available in the family portal on the Launch website and sent home with students.

As we often say "**parents are partners**" and we would like to thank every single one of you for attending and for your continued trust.

We look forward to to partnering with you for a year of thriving!



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Back to School Event	3	4
5	6 No School Labor Day	7 First day of regular classes (8am-3pm, breakfast and lunch provided) First day of afterschool for 6 th grade only	8 Afterschool for all students (6 th , 7 th and 8 th graders)	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Parent Association Meeting on Zoom 6:00pm- 7:30pm	16	17	18 On-site Flu/Covid- 19 Vaccine Pop-Up (11am-3pm)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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