



FROM THE LION'S DEN

MARCH 7, 2024

What's Happening This Month?



Phenomenal Woman

By Maya Angelou

Pretty women wonder where my
secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a
fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman

Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

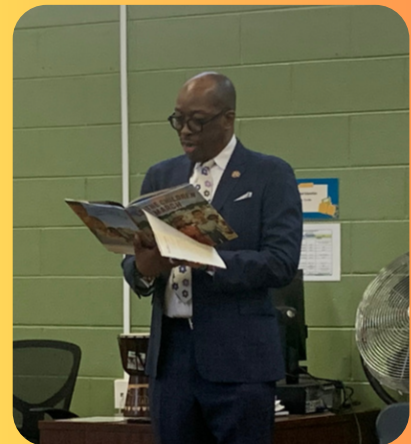
YMLA celebrates and salutes our Queens!
Thank you for nurturing and educating our
young men. You are all appreciated!



Read Across America



Pastor Clayton visited us during our week-long celebration of reading. His message spoke about the importance of literacy. The featured book was *Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson and Illustrated by Frank Morrison. Students understood the importance of self-advocacy and the impact they can have when they stand together for a worthwhile cause.



The New York Life Foundation provides resources to organizations that assist young people, with grief and loss. The foundation generously donated three books to YMLA: *The Golden Sweater*, *The Girls with the Jacket*, and *The Fishless Lake*. The books depicted young Kai learning to cope with grief and demonstrating empathy towards others. In our community circle, Ms. Clifford and Mr. Medley read each book to students in grades four and five. The students learned strategies to cope with grief and used context clues from the stories to draw conclusions about Kai and his relationship with his father. Afterwards, students took home a copy of the book they read.



Lean on Me



The musical group, RIFF, visited YMLA as part of the citywide celebration of the 35th anniversary of the biographical-drama film about an unconventional and often defiant principal, Joe Luis Clark. RIFF, former students from Eastside High School and recording artists with Top Ten Billboard Hits, shared their experiences as touring musicians and being featured in the movie "Lean on Me."

Mr. Clark, the tough yet inspirational Paterson, New Jersey, High School principal was portrayed by Morgan Freeman. During his tenure, Mr. Clark faced criticism for his no nonsense approach to managing the students and the staff; however, Mr. Clark undoubtedly left an impact on everyone he encountered. Although Mr. Clark passed away in 2020 his legacy lives on in the Silk City.

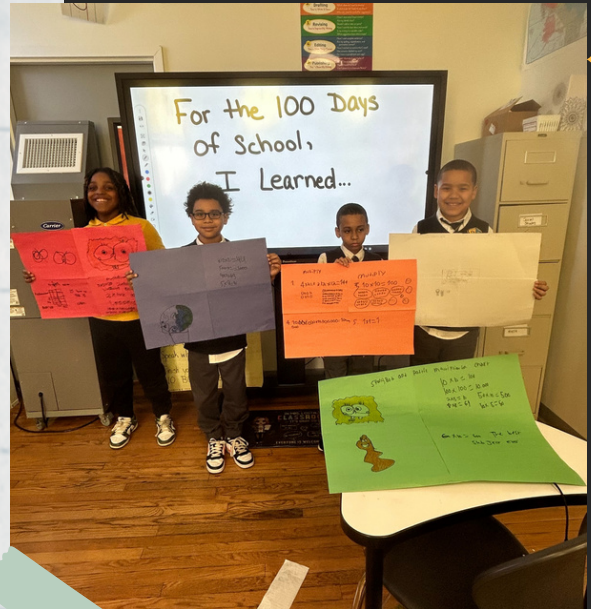


YMLA students were gifted the opportunity to attend the celebratory viewing of Lean On Me.



3rd Grade

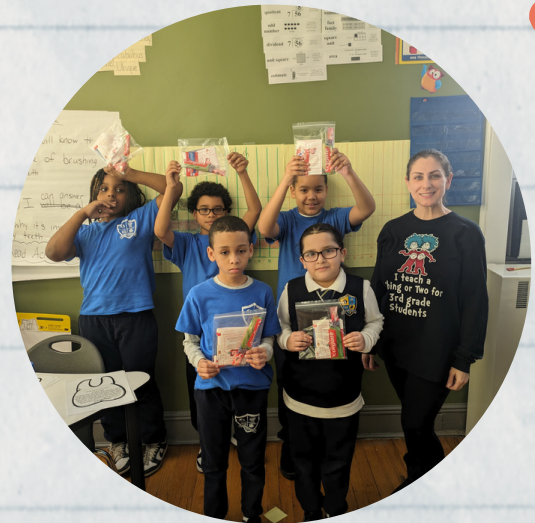
The students learned about the five layers of the atmosphere and then began working on their hands-on projects. In collaborative groups, students researched each layer and decided which pictures they wanted to incorporate into their projects. Students were given directions to draw and then label each layer of the atmosphere.



Third-graders demonstrated what they learned during the first 100 days of school!



SEL is integrated into every lesson. Today, students worked on a writing piece focused on self-improvement and self-motivation. Students wrote affirmations to provide themselves with daily encouragement.

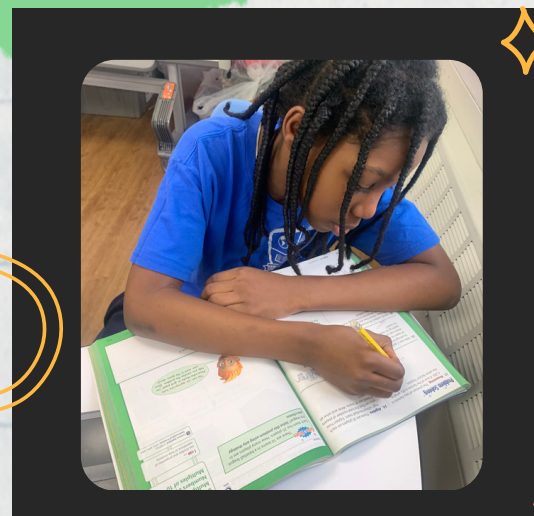
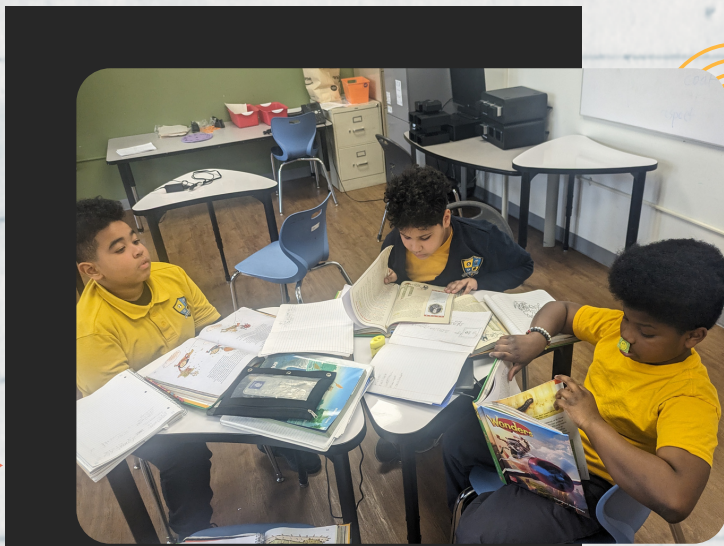


National Read Across America Day!



4th Grade

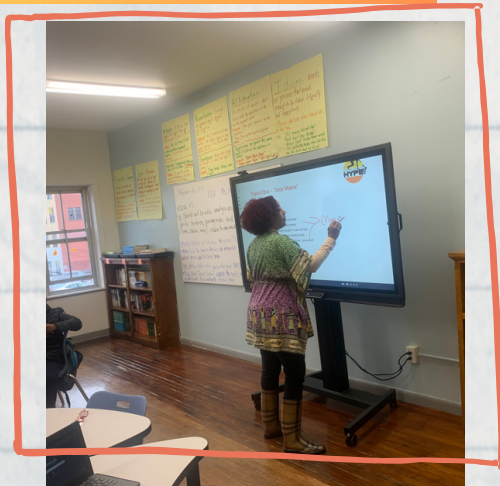
Fourth graders working independently to identify unfamiliar vocabulary words!



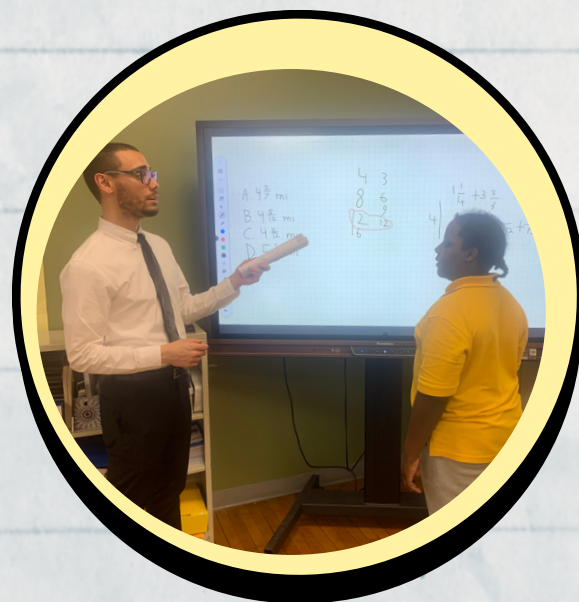
Students know that staying focused on difficult tasks require dedication; however, with a growth mindset they can solve most problems!

5th Grade

6th Grade ELA



Ms. Williams-Nutter, introduced students to the art of poetry using the words of the poetic lyricist, Tupac Shakur. Students analyzed and interpreted each line and verse to determine the message, tone, and implicit meaning. Students learned that *Dear Mama* was a tribute to Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur, to show appreciation for her unwavering love and support for him despite her personal struggles.



Mr. Sanchez is working one-on-one with A'Kereon to assist him with breaking down fractions and understanding the connections between addition and equal parts.

School Counseling Services

Lunch groups meet regularly with Ms. Clifford to chill and learn (shh). Semi-structured activities allow students to connect with their peers, promote positive behaviors in school, and enhance their social and emotional competency. Activities range from puppetry, sand tray, and various board games. Students are not allowed to use their cellphone for entertainment and positive behaviors are tracked and celebrated for reinforcement. Supplies are funded by the Guidance and School Counseling department under the supervision Dr. Dubose.



Community Partners



Ms. Wel from NJ4S, met with our eighth-graders to discuss their transition to high school. Students were given the space and opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns. The young men ended their session by creating goals for their first year in high school.



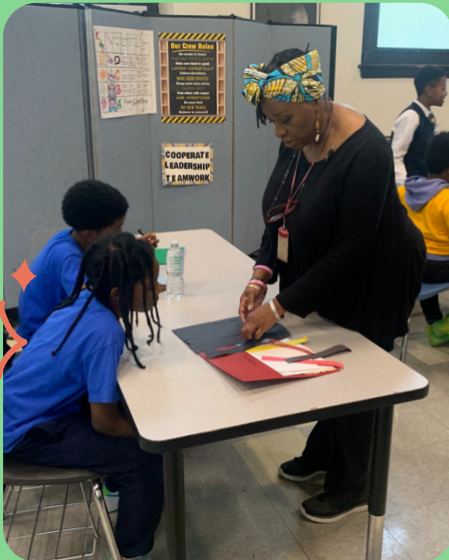
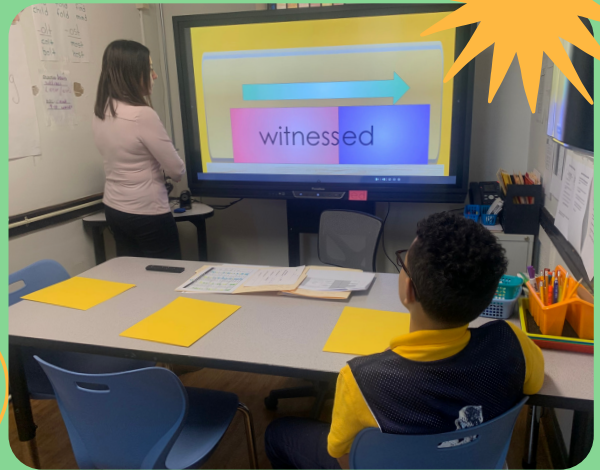
SEL Lesson: Your Body is A Work of Art
This social-emotional learning lesson acknowledges the unique features of individuals.

Reading Specialist

Ms. LoBrutto taught students about morphology. Morphology is the form and structure of words and their parts. Students demonstrated their ability to read eight to ten multisyllabic words and their parts of speech.

Art

Ms. Lomax and students in grades four and five, completed their Black History Month project. What is their secret message?!



Basketball Team



Coach Rimoh and the YMLA Lions...Ranny, David, Jeremy, Jonathan, Alejandro, Semaj, Anderson, Messiah, Kaveon, and Sebastian. Game day gives our student the opportunity to practice good sportsmanship on and off the court. We win everyday!

Student-Led Activities



House News

For two weeks, house leaders and group members chose topics to discuss during our school-wide morning assemblies. Carver House, with the leadership of Ranny, stepped up and modeled how to lead a group. This leadership house provided peer-led education about the effects of bullying, which included social anxiety and depression. Also, they set the tone for Drop Everything And Read Wednesday. During this time, the entire school grab their favorite books and spend for first twenty-minutes of the day reading.



CONGRATS



Newsletter Committee

THANK YOU!



The following students dedicated their time and effort to help create this month's edition of the newsletter: Alejandro, Kaveon, Jayden, Ranny, and Sebastian.
Thank you for your contribution!

