



THE LANDMARK TIMES

Bravo Readers!

This year fourth-graders' scores rose 26 points on the state reading test, placing PS 39 at the top of the list of most improved schools in Brooklyn. 100% of our fourth-graders passed the test! Principal Anita De Paz emphasized that the focus was on practicing, not lectures. "The majority of time in the workshop is children actually spending time reading and writing," she said. Congratulations to all!

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Every Penny Counts

For the fifth consecutive year PS 39 participated in the Fall Penny Harvest. Those bags of pennies added up, and this year our young philanthropists distributed the funds to local community service organizations including C.H.I.P.S., The Peace Corps, The ASPCA, and God's Love We Deliver.



Donna Baker and students deliver proceeds from the Penny Harvest to Gods Love We Deliver



Students created colorful sidewalk art as part of the "Making Books Sing" program.



Making Books Sing

PS 39 once again participated in the educational and family workshops produced by "Making Books Sing". Kindergartners had the opportunity to explore contemporary childrens' literature, historical topics, and social issues through theater based arts. But most of all, they have fun and let their creative juices flow!

In addition to being integrated into the school day curriculum, several "Making Books Sing" family workshops were held to get everyone involved. Based on the creativity and enthusiasm shown, it was a great success!

Congratulations and best of luck to all of our graduating 5th Graders!



Principal's Column



Dear P.S. 39 Families,

Incredibly, another successful year has come and gone and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we've been privileged to share. As a school family of students, educators and parents we collectively moved our school to new heights and continued to provide an enriching and joyful learning community for all.

This year we've continued to broaden the scope of the School Wide Enrichment Model for our students. In addition to our extremely popular and enormously successful interest based enrichment clusters we added an additional cycle of curriculum based enrichment cycles last fall. Both types of enrichment clusters have provided all of our students opportunities to explore their personal interests through self-selected project work that addressed students' interests, learning and styles and preferred presentation modalities. These authentic learning opportunities have proven to be well loved and

meaningful to our students as evidenced by their enthusiastic participation and feedback to our teachers and families.

In these increasingly challenging financial times we've also expanded arts enrichment for our children through the fund-raising efforts of the PTA, your generosity and our school's dedication to community outreach. In addition to our long standing relationships with the NY Philharmonic, Making Books Sing, Chess Instruction, the Jewish Museum, Arts Connection and the CUNY Poetry Project we have forged new partnerships with the Mark Morris Dance Project, Story Pirates, New Victory Theater, Circuit Productions, the NY Public Library and the YMCA. PS 39 proudly boasts an ever increasing cadre of published poets and composers whose works have been performed by an internationally acclaimed orchestra. Together we've ensured that our children are able to take full advantage of the many cultural resources available to them in this most amazing city.

On the academic front, we continue to make impressive advances. Thanks to the hard work of our students, the continuing efforts and dedication of our staff and the support of our families, PS 39 has seen remarkable gains in student achievement for three consecutive years in both ELA and Math. In fact, this year we were recognized as the school with the greatest gains in fourth grade ELA scores

in the entire borough of Brooklyn with 100% of our fourth grade students performing at or above grade level! I'm also proud to inform you that PS 39 is a national Blue Ribbon Award winning school in recognition of improving student achievement for all of our students! Clearly our collaborative efforts have resulted in a successful school experience for our students.

Because we believe that it's important for our children to recognize how fortunate they are and the importance of helping those in need, this year we have also increased our focus on community service. I'm extremely proud to report that our students have had numerous food drives this year as well as a book drive for a pre-school center, a holiday toy drive, a drive to provide needed items for merchant seaman and coordinated our annual "Penny Harvest" to raise funds for C.H.I.P.S. (a food pantry in Park Slope), "God's Love We Deliver" (an organization that provides meals to home bound, critically ill individuals) and the ASPCA.

This year has also been one of capital improvements to our school. Did you ever think that the scaffolding would come down?! After many months of patience and flexibility we now have new, energy efficient windows in our school and this summer our student restrooms will be renovated and our school phone system will be upgraded. While the thought of

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New Faces at PS 39

For those who did not have the opportunity to meet all of the new staff at PS 39 this past school year, here is a brief introduction:



Annie Gabriel, 2nd Grade

Annie Gabriel is a born and bred Park Sloper who even attended kindergarten at PS 39! She stepped in to take over Mrs. Hannan's class mid-term and feels privileged to work with such wonderful, professional colleagues, and lovely students at PS 39 this year.

Elana Rabinowitz, ESL Teacher



Elana is thrilled to be a part of the 39 family, albeit only two days a week. She works with all the English Language Learners ranging from Kindergarten to Fifth graders. She has been teaching English for over 10 years both locally and internationally, and considers herself lucky to be working with such beautiful children who teach her about their cultures daily.

Denise Racioppo, 4th Grade



Born and raised in Park Slope, Brooklyn, this was Denise's first year teaching at PS 39. Her other professional experiences include teaching second grade as well as five years in a first grade Gifted and Talented program. She would like to thank the wonderful staff, students, and parents who made her first year at 39 feel like a homecoming! Denise is looking forward to many more successful years at PS 39!

Also joining PS 39 this year was: Brian Carter teaching music, first year teacher John Ressos for Physical Education, and Marlo Fedeli who teaches kindergarten. We welcome them all!



Kindergartners play a game of giant chess on a field trip to the Staten Island Children's Museum

Join the P.S. 39 Discussion Group

The discussion group is a great way to send questions to other parents, hear more about school issues, and get to know other people in your school community.

Go to the URL below and click on the button that says "Join this group".
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ps39/>

Principal's Letter (cont. from Page 2)

MORE renovation work is a bit daunting, these changes are much needed and will improve life at PS 39 for generations to come.

As we all head off for some much deserved downtime to relax in the company of family and friends I'd like to thank everyone-our children, staff, families and community partners- for making this school year an amazing success. I feel honored to lead a school where so many dedicated individuals work tirelessly and selflessly to provide the very best educational experience possible for every child. I am eternally grateful.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer vacation and look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

Gratefully,

Anita de Paz
Principal





Incoming PTA members for 2009-2010 from L to R, front row: Jennifer Jacobs, President; Susan Moesker, Member-at-large; Glenda Hoffman, Co-Secretary (and son). Back row L to R: Paul English, Member-at-large; Elaine Kleinberg, Member-at-large; Alicia Kasnia, Co-Treasurer; Jane Carleton, Co-Secretary; Melissa Williams, Member-at-large; George Winter, Co-Treasurer. Missing Alan Siege, Vice President.

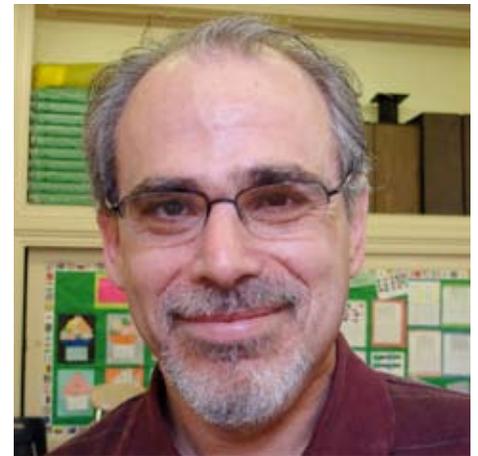
In Memoriam: **Mr. Larry Kahn**

This past Fall, the PS 39 community was sad to say goodbye to our beloved music teacher Mr. Larry Kahn. Larry brought his enthusiasm, humor, and dedication to PS 39 for 13 years teaching students from Pre-K through 5th grade.

Students performed his selections at the Winter Concert as a tribute to him under the direction of the new music teacher, Brian Carter. This year's Dance Festival was also dedicated to Mr. Kahn, it was one of his favorite school events. He is certainly missed, but will always be remembered fondly by the students, staff, and parents of PS 39.

What does the PTA do? Join us and find out!

This was a busy year for the PTA. We thank all the PTA members, parents, staff, and community members who helped us contribute to making PS 39 the stellar school that it is! Some of the things that the money raised by the PTA funded this year include: Mini-grants for teachers to supplement their classrooms, The Story Pirates Assembly and Workshop, art room furniture, gym equipment, parenting workshops, math coaching, the NY Philharmonic Residency program for grades 3-5, and much, much, more. In addition to all of the great children's programs, the PTA also sponsored their first adults only Auction Night which was a huge success. The PTA welcomes everyone to get involved in anyway possible- donate your time, money, enthusiasm, expertise - we welcome it all. Your participation makes the difference in our school!



Dance Fever!

The rain couldn't put a damper on this year's Dance Festival. It was standing room only as everyone packed into Camp Friendship to hear the kids sing their tributes to Mr. Kahn, and put their groove on to 70's music.

