



# THE PAWPRINT

## TEACHER PERSPECTIVE

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Engagement



# NYC READS

2024-2025 School Year

# THE SCIENCE OF READING

# INSTRUCTIONAL NEWSLETTER

PS143Q Louis Armstrong School's  
Pedagogical Updates



# THE PAWPRINT

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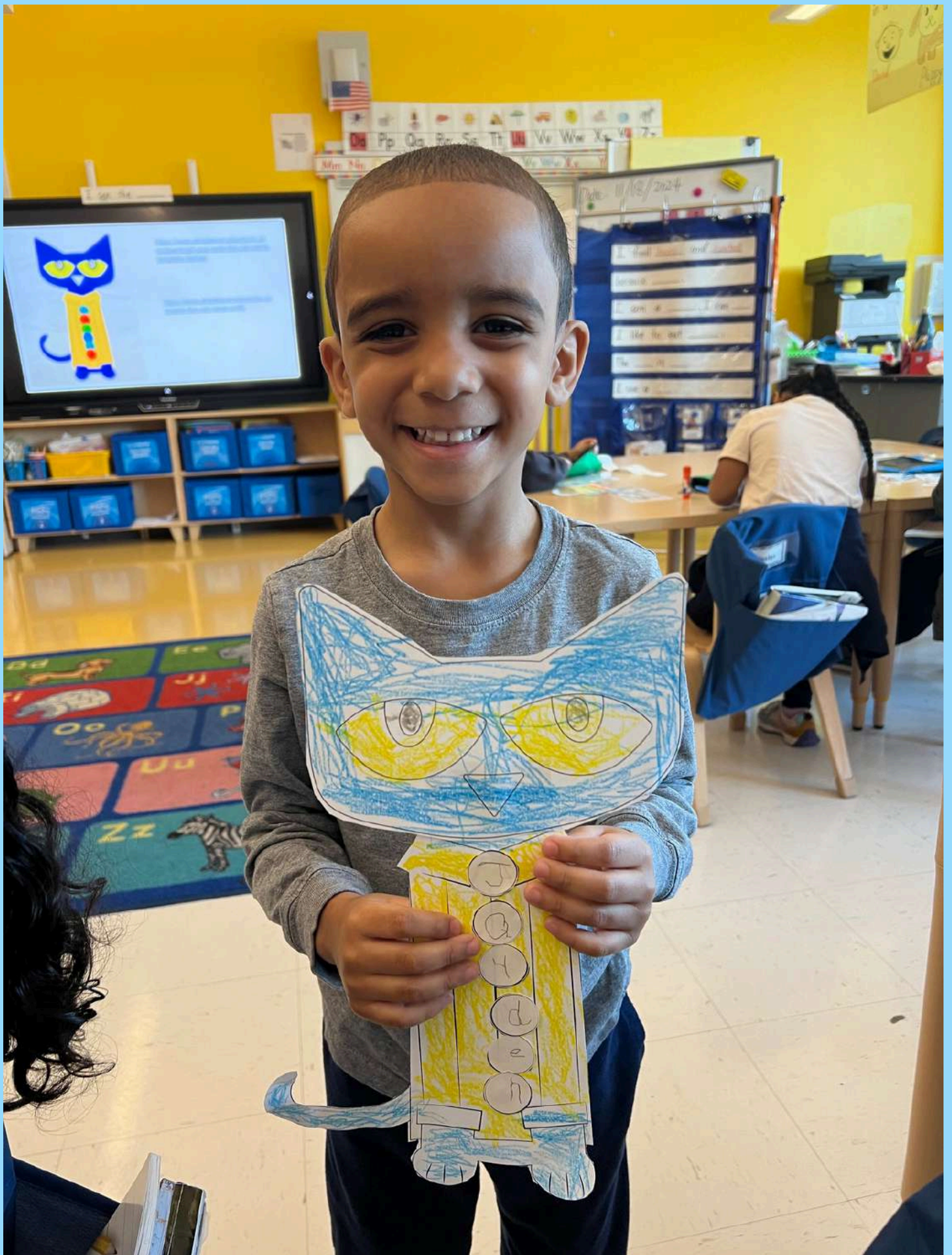
### NYC READS

2024-2025 School Year

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Pedagogical Updates



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# THE PROUD 143 COMMUNITY INSTRUCTIONAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER EDITION 2024

## *A Message from Principal Lucas*

Dear Lions,

As we approach the 40th day of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made together and express how truly proud I am of each of you. Your unwavering commitment and the positive energy you bring to our school are making a powerful impact on our students and their families. In just a short time, we've already achieved so much—from seamlessly ushering 1,400 students through four exits each day to welcoming 200 kindergarten families on a crisp fall Saturday morning. It's clear that our dedication to our students and to the PS 143Q community is strong, and I am grateful for each one of you.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to our assistant principals, whose leadership continues to guide our efforts while maintaining high expectations for instructional quality. They have been instrumental in ensuring that we uphold the vision of excellence for every student, while supporting the diverse learning styles in our classrooms. Our instructional coaches, too, have been invaluable, helping us to refine our teaching practices and grow professionally. Through their leadership in our weekly planning sessions and the personalized support they offer, both veteran and new teachers alike are continuously evolving in their craft.





The sense of camaraderie among our staff is inspiring. The collaboration and mutual encouragement that you all share with one another is building a culture of excellence that is evident in everything we do. Together, we are shaping an exceptional learning environment for our students, and I am excited to see all the achievements that await us in the months ahead.

As I've shared in various staff meetings and one-on-one conversations, I remain committed to creating a school where both students and staff are at the heart of every decision. Your voices are vital to shaping the direction of our school, and I look forward to continuing our collective work in this process. This instructional newsletter is just one example of the incredible work happening in and outside of classrooms, supported by a wide range of colleagues in different roles.

I encourage you to take bold risks and embrace the rewards they bring. Lean on one another—your best resources are right here, on every floor and behind every door. Let's continue working together to make the entire year—and beyond—memorable, impactful, and filled with progress.

With pride and gratitude,

*Justine Lucas*

Justine Lucas



# DISTCIT 24 PRIORITIES

### DISTRICT 24 PRIORITIES

**HIGH QUALITY  
CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE  
INSTRUCTION**

**MTSS  
MEETING THE NEEDS  
OF ALL LEARNERS**

**DATA INFORMED  
DECISION MAKING AND  
PROGRESS MONITORING**

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING**

**COMMUNITY AND  
FAMILY  
ENGAGEMENT**

### P.S. 143Q EXAMPLES

P.S. 143Q's Diversity and Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education CRSE team has selected books of the month that align with heritage months. CRSE can be found in lessons and book displays throughout the school.

P.S. 143Q's bi-lingual classes, Integrated Co-Teaching classes, and 12-1 organized classes paired with differentiated instruction and small group interventions are designed to meet the needs of all learners.

P.S. 143Q's instructional coaches and common planning teams regularly meet with grade level teams to review data from various assessments. Teachers collaboratively make decisions informed by progress data monitoring.

P.S. 143Q's teachers use Class Dojo schoolwide to award points for positive behaviors. Teachers regularly compliment students and foster rapport and relationships. Students in crisis are supported swiftly by trained deans.

P.S. 143Q boasted a large amount of parents in the building during our grade level Open Houses. Parents enjoyed participating in learning and taking photos. The PTA has made their presence in the Fall-Tastic event and more!

# DISTRICT 24 SUPPORT

### GET TO KNOW THE SUPPORTIVE LEADS IN DISTRICT 24



#### **HMH - Cassie Francis**

Cassie is our HMH Implementation Coach who will support grade bands with Into Reading Curriculum, along with honing in on instructional best practice in literacy.



#### **ELL - Giuvela Browning**

Giuvela is our ML/ELL district support who will work with administration, coaches and teachers in an ELL support cycle. The cycle will provide teachers with supportive instructional classroom visits and coaching sessions.



#### **AIS - Alexander Lunz**

Our AIS Coordinator will support specific grades with data analysis protocols and instructional improvements to develop the learners through core and Tier 2 structure.



#### **Math - Liz Fisher**

Liz is our District Math Lead who will work with administration, coaches and teachers to provide a range of support from analyzing math state data to enhancing teacher practice.



#### **SpED- Jackie Atkins**

Jackie is our District Specialized Student Support Lead who intends to share her expertise on SDI for students with our SpEd team.



#### **Civics For All- Ellen Darensbourg**

Ellen serves as our District's Grants Manager & STEM/ Science/ Social Studies Support leading the Civics For All initiative.

# SPOTLIGHT: LITERACY

## HMH: INTO READING ACROSS K-5 CLASSROOMS



## PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR: 2023-2024

- 21 classroom teachers participated in the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt pilot.
- Curriculum resources were delivered in waves and we self-guided our implementation.
- Teachers led most of their learning, with support from 143 instructional coaches.
- Saturdays were used to develop and construct curriculum maps.

## PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR: 2024-2025

- 60 teachers have implemented the new reading curriculum in their classrooms
- All curriculum resources were delivered to K-5 rooms in August to devote more time for teacher and classroom setup
- Teachers are utilizing the curriculum maps during planning to dictate instructional moves
- Within each grade band, there are 2-4 teachers that can immediately support colleagues with instructional decisions and misconceptions
- During common planning meetings, teachers have time to navigate the digital platform through guided practice
- A few grade bands have initiated their own professional learning with their colleagues prior to the school day
- Teachers work collaboratively to enhance writing instruction to reflect student needs

# SPOTLIGHT: LITERACY



## PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

### Demo Lessons

As a community, we are our best resource when it comes to navigating new curriculum and becoming new team members on a grade. Kudos to Ms. Goldman, Ms. Fortin, Ms. Fratangelo and Ms. Ayala for opening their classrooms to demonstrate OG lessons for our colleagues. There is so much value when in-house teachers model instructional practices for one another.

## ORTON-GILLINGHAM: SCIENCE OF READING TRAINING

Although we've embarked on a new year, the goal still remains the same when it comes to equipping teachers with the necessary tools to teach children how to read. Although the EOG training is designed to occur for 5 consecutive days, trainees have the ability to immediately apply what they're learning into practice. They're often found discussing what they did with students and how confident they feel knowing the rules of the language.



# O.G. TRAINING

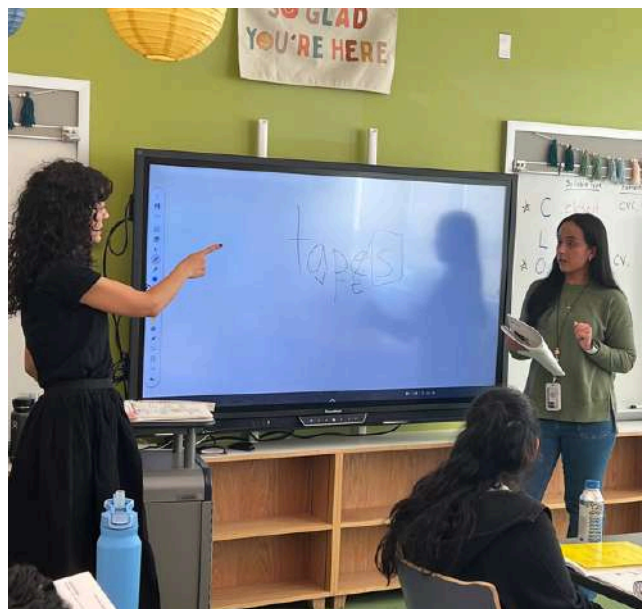
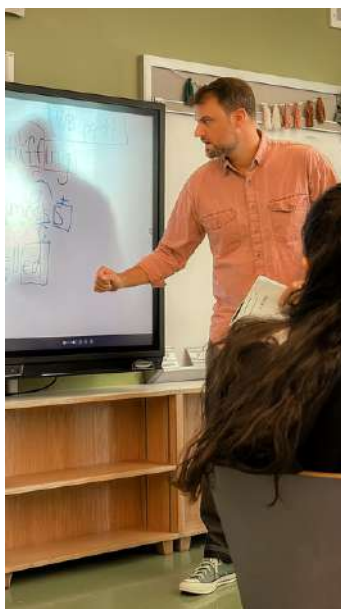
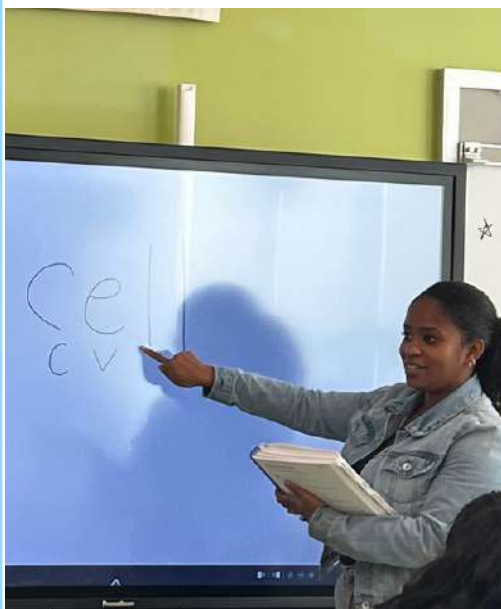


TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN A TURN AND TALK DURING AN O.G. TRAINING IN NOVEMBER 2024.

I was fortunate to be accepted to participate in the Orton Gillingham Science of Reading trainings that were offered by P.S. 143Q Louis Armstrong Elementary School this past October-December of the 2024-2025 school year. These session offerings has shows our school's commitment to empowering all of our teachers with the tools needed to teach children to read and provide reading intervention at any entry point.

The trainings were organized by Ms. Keshia Tinglin-Criner, Instructional Coach and revered in-house expert at teaching the science of reading. The five full-day training sessions were lead by a master facilitator who our school has an ongoing rapport with in providing the highest level of O.G. training instruction based on her experience both in





MS. PIMENTEL, MR. BLUMAN, AND MS. BAEZ TAKE TURNS PRACTICING LEADING O.G. INSTRUCTION.

in the classroom, teaching speech, and mastering the art of the English language in facilitating the Orton Gillingham science of reading approach.

The staff who participated in the trainings included several teachers across grade levels K-5 and even a few members from neighboring District 24 schools. The recent graduates of these OG. trainings include: Ms. Bisaccio, Ms. Pimentel, Ms. Sanchez-Tenesa, Ms. Novoa, Ms. Contreras, Ms. Ayala, Ms. Sarmiento, Ms. Sanz, Ms. Baez, Ms. Rendon, Mr. Mantilla, Ms. Caceres, Ms. Ries, Mr. Mercaldo, Ms. Cucinotta, Mr. Chan, Ms. Calderon, Mr. Bluman, Mr.

Partenza, and Ms. Litterello. There was camaraderie and commitment to the trainings amongst us that felt like a professional learning community.

Overall the O.G. training, has empowered me to



MR. MERCALDO LEARNS THROUGH TRIAL AND ERROR WITH O.G. GROUP.

provide meaningful reading instruction and interventions for students at any emergent reading level including those with dyslexia.

**“The O.G. training has empowered me.”**  
-Mr. Mercaldo

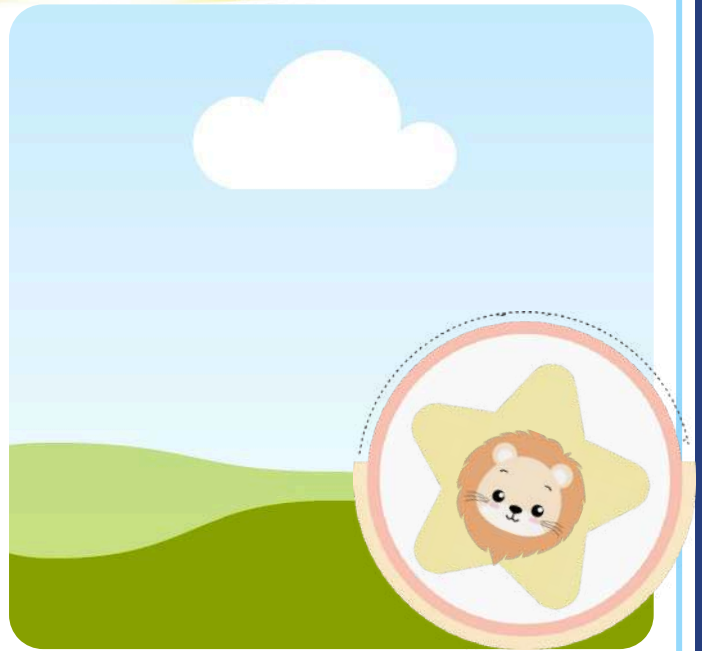
It is priceless as an educator, to have the blueprint and tools to teach anyone to read. I am grateful for the training and look forward to opportunities to implement and observe other experienced O.G. teachers.

By Mr. Mercaldo  
*Proud School Librarian*

# SPOTLIGHT: MATH

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023-2024 4TH GRADE CUBS!

Congratulations to our outstanding 2023-24 4th Grade team of students and teachers for an incredible achievement! For the past three years, 4th Grade has consistently increased proficiency, and this year they surpassed expectations with an impressive 14-point gain—an extraordinary 63% growth! This remarkable success is a testament to our teachers' collaboration, commitment to the curriculum, and our students' dedication and strong work habits, resulting in the highest math proficiency rating in our school's history!



### PS 143Q 4th Grade Math Test Results



# MATH MOTIVATION

## MAP GROWTH



P.S. 143's commitment to student success is evident from the timely analysis of our MAP Growth Assessment results. We utilize the MAP Growth Assessment as a valuable screener to measure student proficiency levels in mathematics. A special shout out goes to Mr. Silverio and Mr. Bergman, who played pivotal roles in making sure all MAP sessions run smoothly. As we eagerly await the Beginning of Year (B.O.Y.) assessment results, we anticipate celebrating the growth achieved by our scholars from the Middle of Year (M.O.Y.) assessments!

## SUCCESS MAKER

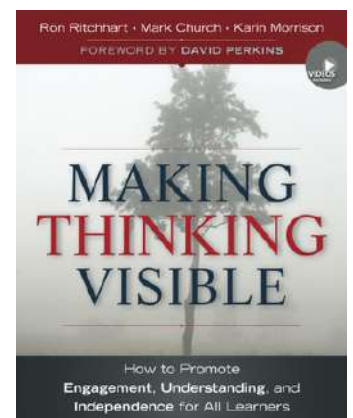


Success Maker provides all students with a personalized learning experience that adjusts in real time to their specific individual learning needs. Students in Grades 1-5 are using it daily, and we already see gains in their performance levels! Kindergartners will begin implementing this tool in the new year.

## MAKING THINKING VISIBLE: MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS

- K** Ms. G. Ramirez & Ms. K. Sarmiento
- 1** Ms. Zettler & Ms. Lombardo
- 2** Ms. Fortin & Ms. Miskovsky
- 3** Ms. Guth & Ms. Pineda
- 4** Ms. Russo & Ms. Valle
- 5** Mr. Chan & Ms. Ng

The Math Team launched this month with an empowering session focused on shifting toward asset-based support and guiding teachers in creating more opportunities to make student thinking visible. The session set a strong foundation for collaborative practices that emphasize student strengths and promote deeper engagement with mathematical concepts.



# PROUD MOMENTS

## LITERACY: INTO READING & OG

"We were practicing blending using alligator hands and one of my students was able to look at the word and just decode it right away. And it's only September!"

-Ms. Bermeo

"50 percent of my children are recognizing the letters that we've taught without hesitation!"

-K Teacher

"My students have had OG since kindergarten, and it shows! The NWF isn't a struggle for them anymore because they're self correcting by applying the rules they've learned!"

-Ms. Heckel

"I like having 2 ENL teachers because they provide different perspectives!"

-Ms. Cuccinotta

"20% of my students are at or above benchmark on the BOY assessment."

-Ms. Zettler & Ms. Lombardo

"We have students using their math tools to help them solve expressions and word problems."

-Ms. Pineda

"47% of the class is performing At Benchmark and 2 students are Above Benchmark in Spanish."

-Ms. Coppolino

"I have a Newcomer who scored very well on the BOY mCLASS measure!"

-Ms. Lerner

## MATH

"My small group instruction is flowing much better this year! I can focus more on the children in front of me because the other groups are independent."

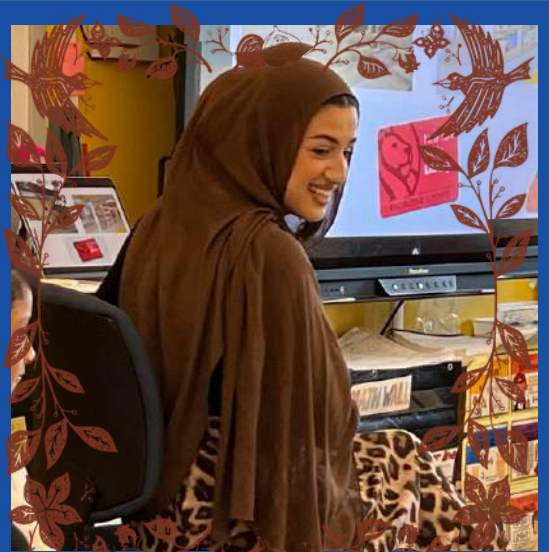
-3rd Grade Teacher

"I recently introduced a new vocabulary station from Into Reading resources. The group is responsible for taking turns to give clues about specific words, while one member guesses the term."

-5th Grade Teacher

"I want to shoutout my co-teacher. Our groups are underway and students are on task! Now, I'm able to meet with my math groups regularly. That's a WIN!"

-Ms. Descalzo



# PROUD MOMENTS

## INTO READING & OG

"We began to incorporate *Readers Theater* into our routines and the children are so animated! They're reading with intonation and fluency!"

Ms. Freeman & Mr. Chan

"We've installed a literacy station during the WIN period that is comparable to the MAZE. After assessing 20 students, 17 of them improved drastically after the first PM."

-Ms. Frenzel

"Some students in my class (special class) are coding and reading CVC words!"

Ms. Pimentel

"During PTC one of my parents expressed how thankful they were because their child is more verbally expressive this year."

-Ms. Bisaccio

"I'm so impressed with my students! They picked a place of interest and used the internet to research, share and write new facts about it."

-Ms. Lombardi

"I dug into the Rigby Library boxes and discovered that the books come with activities that can potentially be used within centers."

-Ms. Guth

"I'm proud that I've created differentiated HW assignments for my students and the parents are able to support their child through it."

-Ms. Miskovsky

"The students who are hesitant to share due to limited English language acquisition, are more inclined to verbally participate whenever I provide sentence starters."

--Ms. Gironza

"This year, I've noticed a considerable amount of my students are automatically identifying and actively using HFW in context due to their consistent use of oral language in and outside of the classroom."

-Ms. Hotaky

"Many students in our class are able to correctly spell CVC words. One student got all three CVC words spelled correctly for dictation.

Impressive!"

-Ms. Peguero

"An emerging student that has only been here for one year, received an 8.5 on the Maze. Even though it's well below, it is a considerably high score."

-Ms. Tia & Ms. Singleton



# COLLABORATION

### OCTOBER FOCUS: RESTATING

Ms. Osso hosted inter-visitations focused on using restating as a listening strategy. Restating is a way to ensure that you understood what was said. Students use prompts to restate and provide feedback to each other to verify if what they said was accurate.



### NOVEMBER FOCUS: VOCABULARY NOTEBOOKS

Ms. Osso will be hosting inter-visitations focused on using vocabulary notebooks as a reading strategy. Building vocabulary helps students become effective readers and writers. Students write a word using HMH vocabulary cards and create meaning to use when they read and write.

### SIDE-BY-SIDE MODELING

Ms. Contreras and Ms. Osso worked with ELLs/MLLs in Class 110. Ms. Osso modeled a demo lesson using HMH English Language Development Tabletop Minilessons to support the students in understanding sequence words and using them when they speak.



# COLLABORATION

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES

To prepare for a parent workshop focused around literacy, Ms. Cumbo, Ms. Delacruz, Ms. DeLeon, Ms. Rendon and Ms. Osso discussed the options, collaborated and decided to highlight reading strategies based on the specific groups of students they service.

The selected reading strategies were Setting, Ask & Answer Questions, Make Connections, Story Structure, and Connect Text to Visuals. This workshop prepared and encouraged families with ways to replicate the reading behaviors at home through a live demonstration. In the coming weeks, this workshop will be presented to other second grade families.



PARENTS AND THEIR STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CLASS 205'S FALL 2024 OPEN HOUSE.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### COMMON PLANNING

Ms. Lucas was very intentional about creating space for teachers to actively collaborate with their colleagues through a series of topics related to student needs and pedagogical expectations. Throughout the school year, our admin team, instructional coaches and teacher teams will facilitate sessions covering all content areas to maintain the school's vision. Our journey thus far has been insightful and thoughtfully planned to ensure students and teachers are at the core of each meeting.



Expectations  
of Common  
Planning &  
Instructional  
Expectations

**mCLASS  
Administration  
&  
Math  
Instruction**

Analyzing EOY  
NYSESLAT  
Data  
and NYSITELL  
Reports

**mCLASS  
Data Dive  
to Create  
Small Groups**

Constructing  
S.M.A.R.T.  
Goals for  
Tier 2 Support

**Norming  
Probes to  
Progress  
Monitor w/  
Accuracy**

Collaborating  
to Improve  
Explicit  
Writing  
Instruction



TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMON PLANNING.

## INSTRUCTIONAL NEWS

# MULTI LINGUAL AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AT 143Q

Our English Language Learners are a vital part of our school community, their growth and success matter deeply to us. Ms. Lucas, our administration team, coaches and teachers are committed to ensure every student has the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Closing the month of November 2024, our school is currently serving 935 (71%) amazing students who are learning English as a second language. We are deeply proud of the strides our ELLs make each and every day.

Our thriving ELLs deserve the best instruction to support, as well as challenge English language development and grade-level academic skills. Ms. Lucas and our administration staff value the importance of providing teachers with the necessary tools needed to provide students with meaningful and data-driven instruction.

### Bilingual Programs Offered at P.S. 143Q

- Spanish SC**  
Our English and Bilingual SC program is designed to meet the needs of English Language Learners with identified Special Education needs. The Bilingual SC program allows English Language Learners to receive instruction according to their IEP in a Special Class (SC) with support in the language of instruction.
- Dual ICT**  
Our Dual Language ICT program is designed to meet the needs of students with identified Special Education needs. The Dual Language ICT program allows English Language Learners to receive instruction according to their IEP in a Special Class (SC) with support in the language of instruction.
- Dual GE**  
Our GE Dual Language program is designed to meet the needs of students in general education. It is a unique Dual Language program that allows students to receive instruction in both English and Spanish. This program provides the opportunity for students to learn in both languages.

### Get in touch!

718-429-5700

Ask to speak with  
Ms. Julia Casella-Harris,  
Principal/Accounting Secretary

or  
Ms. Jennifer Linguito  
PS-143Q Coach

34-55 112th St, Corona, NY 11368

@ps143q

### Benefits Of Bilingual Ed

#### Cognitive Benefits:

Improved memory, increased mental flexibility and enhanced executive function.

#### Cultural Benefits:

Greater cultural awareness, increased global understanding of values and traditions, and better communication skills.

#### Academic Benefits:

Higher academic achievement, supporting students in reaching their goals in all subjects.

#### Language Benefits:

Students gain proficiency in both languages and develop improved problem-solving skills and critical thinking.

#### Personal Benefits:

Students gain confidence, personal growth, global awareness and become more open to learning.

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THE PS143Q DUAL LANGUAGE BROCHURE.

**Current Number of ELLs: 935**  
**Percentage of ELLs: 71%**

## ENL PARENT MEETINGS

At PS143Q we recognize the importance of communication with families. During our Parent Engagement time, ENL providers connect with the families of our ELL students to communicate important information regarding the NYSESLAT, ENL levels and strategies that are used at school and can be used at home to support and develop English language proficiency.



THE PS143Q ENL TEAM  
MEET WITH PARENTS IN OUR  
SCHOOL LIBRARY.

Hi!

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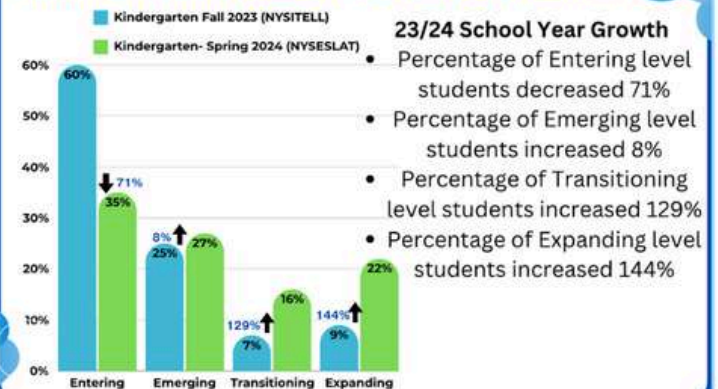
Hola!

# ENL DATA DIVE

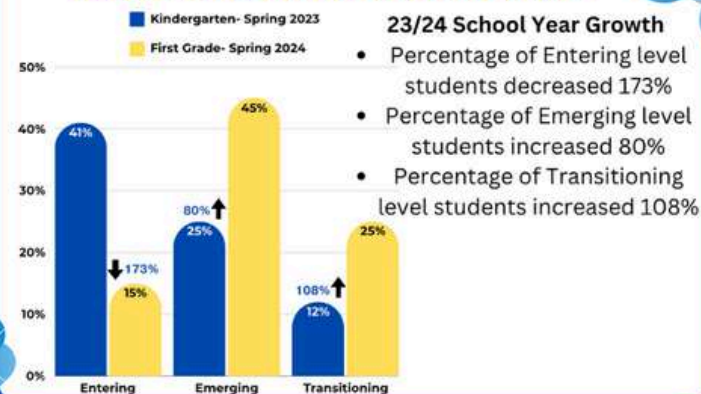
## NYSITELL FALL 2023 DATA AND THE NYSESLAT 2024 DATA

The data for our growth on the NYSITELL and NYSESLAT from 2023 to 2024 is compelling. Colorful visual graphs and percentage of increase are effective ways we communicate our growth to our data teams. These slides are communicated to our teachers in grade team meetings and to the stakeholders who read our instructional magazine.

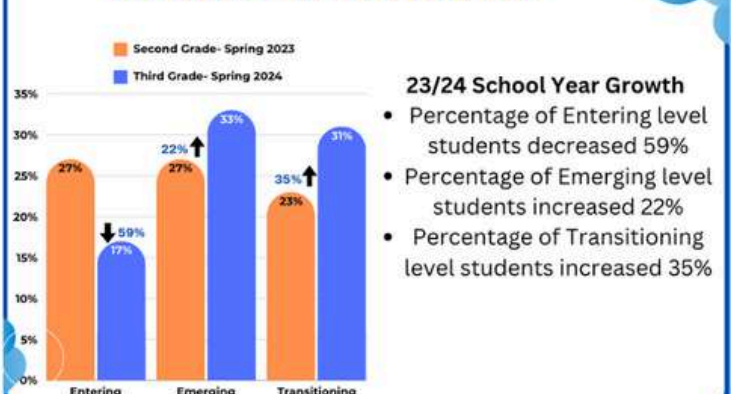
### PS 143Q Kindergarten NYSITELL FALL 23 & Kindergarten NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



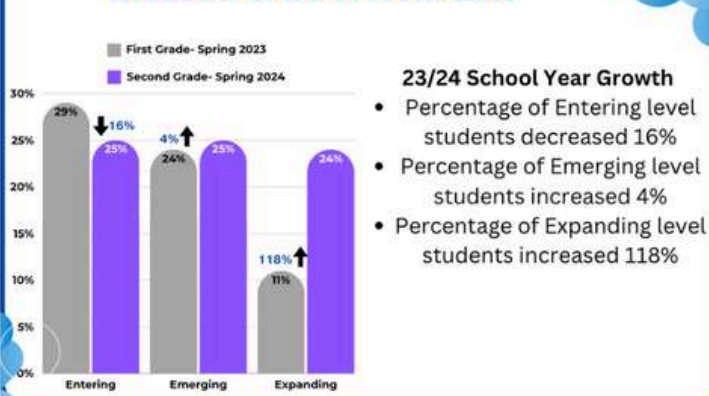
### PS 143Q Kindergarten NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 1 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



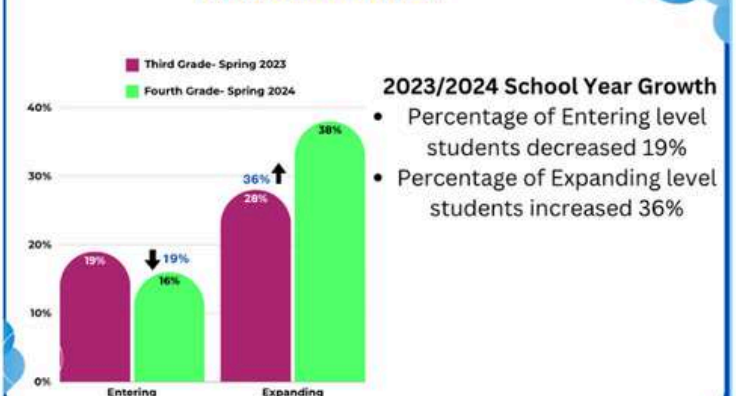
### PS 143Q Grade 2 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 3 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### PS 143Q Grade 1 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 2 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### PS 143Q Grade 3 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 4 NYSESLAT SPR 24



## ENL DATA AND COMMON PLANNING

During our Common Planning sessions, teachers from every grade engaged in an ENL Data Dive. Teachers received individualized ELL data for their class and analyzed the data based on proficiency levels across the four modalities (listening, speaking, reading and writing), utilizing the ELL Planning Template to record their current ELLs. This data is intended to be utilized to tailor instruction by focusing on proficiency levels within each modality, providing data-driven scaffolds, and resources to meet individual needs. To close our session, we discussed resources on various scaffolds and strategies to support ELLs.



THIRD GRADE TEACHERS MS. RAMIREZ AND MS. SANATANA DIVE INTO THE ENL DATA DURING THEIR COMMON PLANNING.

OUR IN-HOUSE MADE SHEETS MAKE DATA TRACKING EASY FOR OUR TEACHERS!

Student Name	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	Overall Proficiency

## NYSITELL & NYSESLAT GROWTH EARN ATTENTION FROM LEADERSHIP

In analyzing the NYSITELL Fall 2023 Data and the NYSESLAT 2024 Data (Grades 1-5), the school has made tremendous gains in moving proficiency levels. Because of our amazing growth, Deputy Chancellor Christina Foti from the Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning came to visit our school. The growth of our English Language Learners strengthens our school community in powerful ways. We are dedicated to supporting their development through tailored resources and a nurturing environment that celebrates their progress.



DEPUTY CHANCELLOR CHRISTINA FOTI AND PRINCIPAL LUCAS.

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

### PAWS SYSTEM KICKOFF

At PS 143, supporting our Cubs in learning and regularly reviewing the PAWS System helps create an understanding of schoolwide expectations. We use the PAWS matrix to provide a guide for our students to demonstrate ...

- *Practicing safety*
- *Acting responsibly*
- *Working hard and*
- *Showing respect throughout all areas of the building.*



Teachers and staff review these expectations frequently with students to ensure consistency as well as to introduce the system to our newcomers. The PAWS System is the foundation for creating and maintaining a safe and respectful school environment for all of our Lions and Cubs.



### CARING FOR CUBS

The Caring for Cubs Team provides support for helping our Cubs build, develop and strengthen skills in social and emotional learning.

Establishing a positive rapport with students helps increase student engagement and participation as well as successfully establishing clear behavioral and academic expectations.



### HOUSE POINTS



The House Points system is up and running on Class Dojo. All staff, please be sure to accept the invitation sent by Mr. Silverio and begin awarding points to any class who demonstrates safety, responsibility and kindness.

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### QUEENS LIBRARY CARDS & READING STRATEGIES

Families in Classes 201, 202 & 205 joined us and Queens Library-Corona Branch staff on October 15th to apply for a Queens Library card and to learn about what the library offers.



SECOND GRADE FAMILIES ATTENDING A PARENT WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE CORONA LIBRARY BRANCH.

On October 29th, families in Classes 201, 202 & 205 attended a workshop to learn about current reading strategies based on Into Reading Module skills. Teachers demonstrated ways parents can use the same reading strategies at home.



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY CARDS



PARENTS LEARNED ABOUT READING STRATEGIES WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CORONA BRANCH OF THE QUEENS LIBRARY.

# EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES



OUR PARENT ENGAGEMENT TEAM PREPARED TO WELCOME FAMILIES.  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MS. CUASQUER, MRS. BATISTA, AND MRS. YOUSSEF.

We recently hosted an enriching Emotional Intelligence Workshop aimed at equipping families with the tools and knowledge to support their children's academic and emotional growth. This event focused on practical strategies to strengthen emotional awareness, foster

resilience, and promote positive communication. By partnering with families, we're excited to build a strong foundation for student success. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we look forward to continuing this important work together!

**The workshop was a great success, with families engaging in meaningful discussions and sharing personal experiences in a safe, supportive environment.**

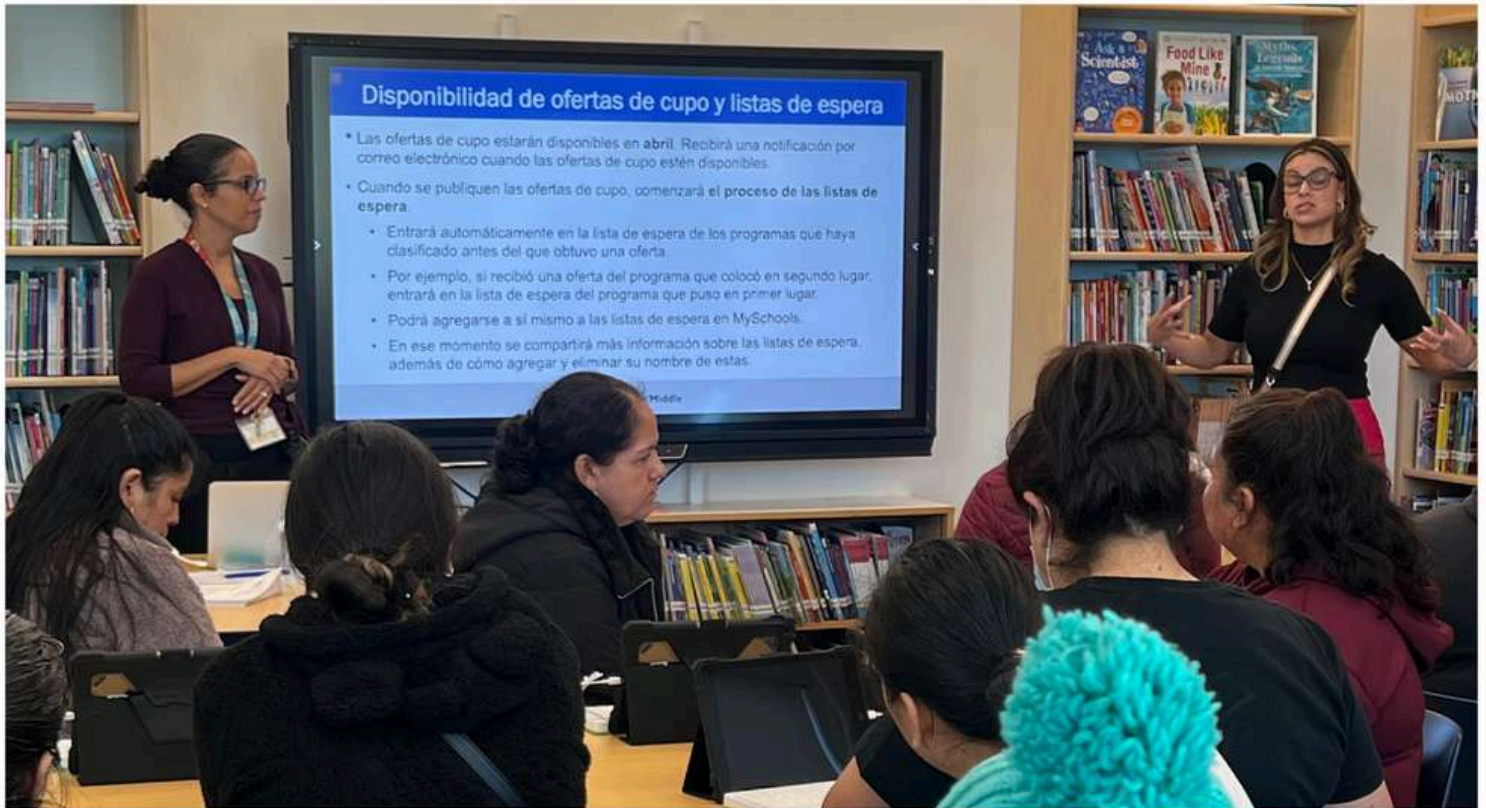


PROUD BILINGUAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MRS. YOUSSEF, PRESENTS TO PARENTS.

# INSTRUCTIONAL NEWS

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## MIDDLE SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS



MRS. YOUSSEF AND MS. BATISTA DELIVERING ONE OF SEVERAL MIDDLE SCHOOL APPLICATION TUTORIALS FOR PARENTS IN OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY.

We were excited to announce our recent Middle School Applications Workshops!

Families joined us for informative sessions in the morning and afternoon, designed to assist them in submitting their applications. We provided guidance and answered any questions.

To ensure everyone was informed, we communicated details through Class Dojo, S'mores, backpacked flyers and

letters, as well as partnering with our PTA and advertising it on our 143 Instagram account. We were glad to help families navigate the application process!



# GRADE K NYC READS EVENT

On Saturday, October 19, our "Falling into Reading" event was a wonderful way to welcome our new kindergarten students and their parents into the 143 family! Parents connected with our dedicated staff and teachers over a warm, welcoming breakfast, while our kindergarteners received special literacy bags to inspire their reading journey. The day ended in celebration on our school playground, where students' smiles lit up as they enjoyed a bouncy house, a live DJ, pony rides, and even a petting zoo. This joyous occasion highlighted our commitment to fostering a strong, supportive community and a love for learning from day one!



ON THIS DAY, CUB CAFE WAS FILLED WITH KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES WHO WERE EAGER TO FILL THEIR PLATES WITH LITERACY, LOVE, AND LEISURE! WHILE CONSUMING A HOT BREAKFAST ACCOMPANIED BY A LITERACY GOODY BAG, TEACHERS DEMONSTRATED AND SHARED ACTIVITIES ADULTS CAN LEAD TO STRENGTHEN THE READING BEHAVIORS OF OUR YOUNGEST CUBS.



A CUB WHO CONFIDENTLY SHOWS HOW EARLY READERS USE THE VISUAL DRILL ROUTINE TO DEVELOP THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF LETTERS AND SOUNDS CORRESPONDENCE BY RECITING AND TRACING THE OG BUMPY CARD.



## OUR GOAL

Our goal for "Falling into Reading" was to emphasize the incredible gift of reading and its impact on our students' futures. We encouraged parents to nurture a love of reading in both English and Spanish, highlighting the vital role they play in supporting literacy at home. We provided resources to guide them in creating a rich reading environment and reassured them that we are here as part of their team, ready to support their journey. Together, we're building a strong foundation that empowers our students to thrive and succeed!

OUR PROUD PRINCIPAL, MS. LUCAS, HOLDING AN O.G. LETTER CARD DURING THE NYC READS EVENT CELEBRATION.

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### COFFEE AND CROISSANTS WITH D24 STH COMMUNITY COORDINATOR TEAM



FAMILY COORDINATOR, MS. CUASQUER, POSES WITH SEVERAL FAMILY MEMBERS,

On October 18th, we held a "Coffee and Croissants" parent engagement event, bringing together our school's principal and District 24's STH Community Coordinators to share important resources with our families. During the event, local organizations and the support they provide were highlighted, ensuring families are aware of the services available to them. This gathering fostered strong communication between home and school, helping to build a supportive and informed community.



PROUD PRINCIPAL, MS. LUCAS TALKS WITH FAMILIES DURING THE COFFEE AND CROISSANTS EVENT.

# SCHOOL UNIFORMS AVAILABLE

### WARM HEARTS, BRIGHT FUTURES: UNIFORM AND ESSENTIALS GIVEAWAY

Part of our ongoing monthly initiative to support families by providing essential supplies and uniforms for our students. These events are a reflection of our commitment to ensuring every child is equipped for success. We're grateful for the continued community support that makes this possible and look forward to seeing you at next month's event!"

**PS143**  
*Shirt Sale*  
VENTA DE ROPA 143

**DATES:**  
December 16th-20th

8:20 AM - 9:20  
&  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**LOCATION: EXIT 8 ON 113TH STREET 8:20 AM**  
**SALIDA 8- EN LA CALLE 113 8:20 AM**

CASH ONLY  
SOLO EFECTIVO



Blue and orange V-neck shirt with "LION PRIDE" and paw print	Dark blue zip-up hoodie	Dark blue pants
\$20	\$20	SET \$25
Dark grey polo shirt	White polo shirt	Dark blue pants
\$15	\$15	\$15
White tote bag with paw print	Blue water bottle	Blue long-sleeved shirt with "QUEEN OF PSYCHE" and lion
\$10	\$3	\$10
		Yellow long-sleeved shirt with "QUEEN OF PSYCHE" and lion
		\$10



**SNEAKERS**  
**\$20**

Row 1: Grey and blue New Balance sneaker, Black New Balance sneaker

Row 2: Grey and white New Balance sneaker, Yellow New Balance sneaker

# STUDENT WELLNESS REPORT

## STUDENT DENTAL CARE

### RADIANT SMILES AT P.S. 143Q: BRINGING DENTAL CARE TO OUR CUBS

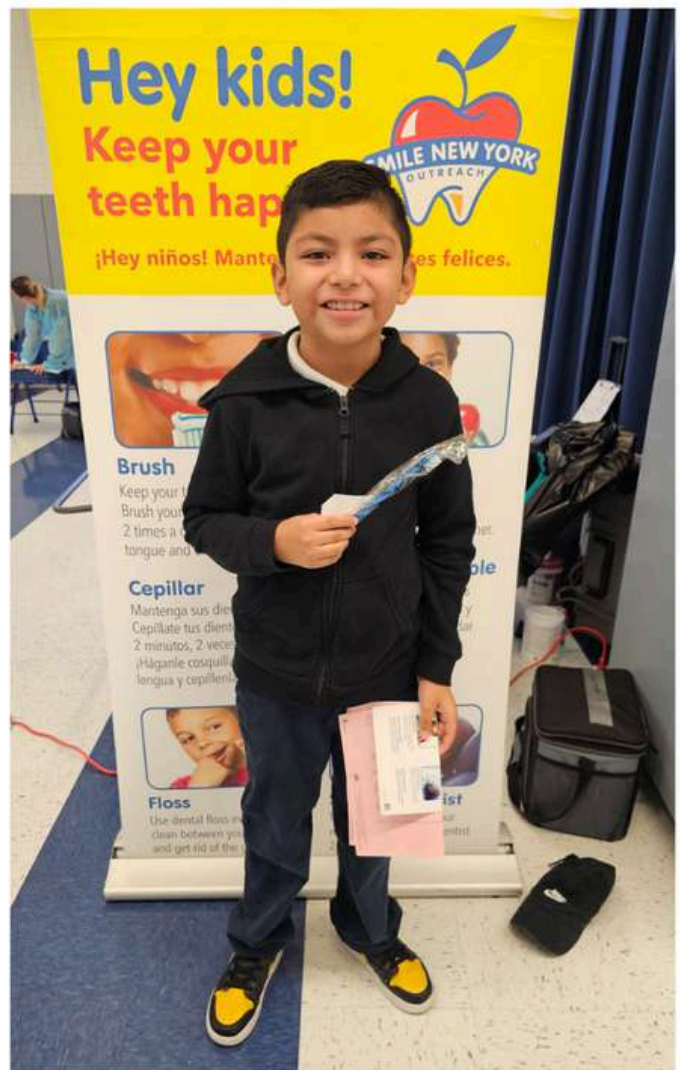
For the month of November, Smile NY visited P.S. 143Q to provide dental check-ups for our students. Over the course of their visit, they saw up to 500 students, helping to ensure their oral health and brighten their smiles. A heartfelt thank you to Smile NY for their incredible support and dedication to our students' well-being!



FOUR STUDENTS SHOW THEIR DAZZLING SMILES AT THE SCHOOL DENTAL CHECK-UP DAY.



A DENTIST PROVIDES A DENTAL CHECKUP FOR ONE OF PS143Q'S STUDENTS.



A STUDENT POSES WITH HIS NEW TOOTHBRUSH.

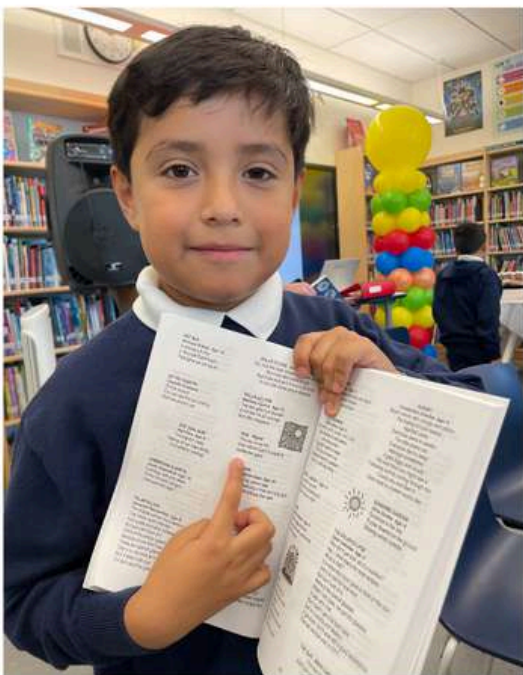


## LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

# PASTRIES AND POETRY EVENT



PUBLISHED POETS POSE WITH OUR PROUD SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, MR. MERCALDO.  
STUDENTS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MIGUEL, KIMBERLY, CRYSTAL, ANNELYS, KIM, CHRISTIAN, ARLETTE, CHRISTOPHER, JIMENA, AND JENNA. NOT DEPICTED: NATHAN AND MANDY.



THIRD GRADE STUDENT, MIGUEL, LOCATES HIS POEM IN THE PUBLISHED BOOK.

## YOUNG AMERICAN POETRY DIGEST 2024

A letter randomly came to Mr. Mercaldo in the school library, challenging our school to a poetry contest where the winning poetry submissions would be published in a book titled: *Young American Poetry Digest 2024*. It was good timing because Mr. Mercaldo was teaching all his K-4 library classes about poetry for the month of April 2023. Grades K-2 wrote poetry like a MadLib by filling in the blank words to create original poems inspired by the format of a read aloud poetry book. Jenna was in Kindergarten at the time and was able to write a poem about cats. In grades 2-4, students wrote haikus. All the students who completed their

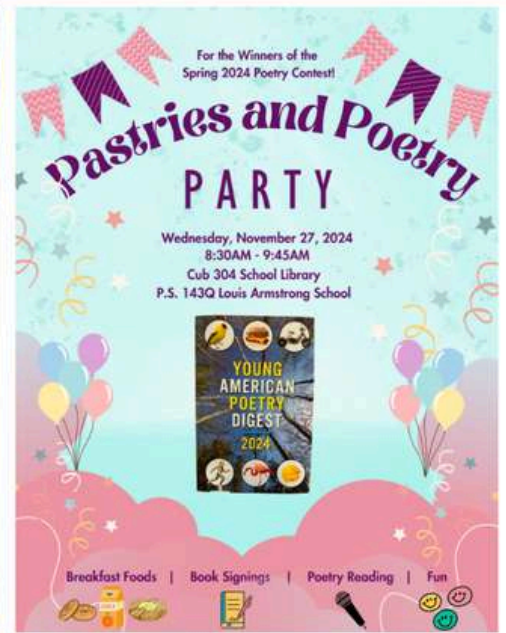


MANDY AND ANNELYS POSE AFTER SIGNING EACH OTHERS BOOKS.

haiku were submitted into the contest. A few weeks passed by and Mr. Mercado received a letter that 40 students from our school had won a chance to be published in the book if they returned their permission slip and paid \$20 for a copy of the book. Fourteen students returned the permission slip and paid for their books. Our school paid for a few extra copies and third grade teacher, Ms. Hiller, was very supportive of her students, purchasing two copies.

After waiting all summer, the books arrived this fall

and Mr. Mercado began working on planning this event with Mr. Silverio's support. Our purchasing secretary, Ms. Espinosa, was very helpful in making the event come together with ordering the balloon towers from Popparazzi Balloons, that transformed the appearance of the library and the most delicious cornbread



THE FYLER MADE FOR THE EVENT.

and pastries. Juice, water, tablecloths, and silverware were also provided. Ms. Urquilla translated to Spanish. Mr. Mercado set up his DJ speaker and microphone and the students each bravely read their haiku poems to a room full of families, signed each other's books, and enjoyed the breakfast on November 27, 2024.



MARIEL POSES WITH BOTH OF HER PARENTS AT THE POETRY AND PASTRIES EVENT.

## AFTER SCHOOL NEWS

# HAPPY CORONA AFTER SCHOOL



MS. BERMEO AND 5TH GRADERS FROM HAPPY CORONA POSE ON PS143Q'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE.

### ABOUT US

A special initiative was launched this school year, our very own Happy Corona After School! Our mission at Happy Corona is to balance academic and social-emotional learning to foster a positive after school environment. We are dedicated to empowering our students throughout each lesson, so that they grow into global citizens who live, learn, love, and lead. This program was designed to support and uplift our English Language Learners. It offers a welcoming space where students can build their confidence in English while



MS. DE LA CRUZ POSES WITH THE HAPPY CORONA 2ND GRADERS ON 10/31.

receiving academic support and engaging in fun, hands-on activities. Our dedicated team of teachers are committed to helping each child thrive, providing tailored learning experiences that cater to their unique needs and strengths.



HAPPY CORONA STUDENTS JOYFULLY ENGAGE IN THANKSGIVING ART ACTIVITY.

We have organized orientations for families as we embark on this collaborative partnership with our students, ensuring that we provide consistent support throughout their journey. Our third-grade students are actively participating in soccer practices in partnership with NYCFC, offering them valuable opportunities for skill development and teamwork. Additionally, we celebrated our first Fall Festival, a joyful occasion that brought together our community. Throughout the year, we continue to foster creativity and problem-solving skills through Fun Fridays, where students engage in arts and crafts as well as STEM activities.



STUDENTS PLAY SOCCER IN HAPPY CORONA.



STUDENTS POSE WITH THANKSGIVING ARTWORK IN HAPPY CORONA.





5TH GRADE HAPPY CORONA STUDENTS  
JOYFULLY ENGAGE IN A CRAFT ACTIVITY.

## MORE HAPPY EVENTS COMING

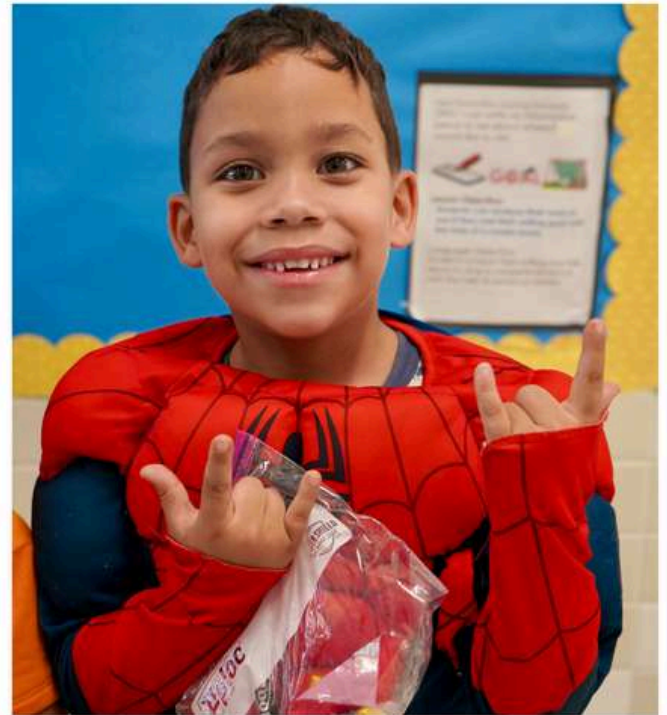
The Happy Corona teams has so many exciting events planned for the upcoming months, from holiday celebrations and team-building activities to community service projects that will help our students put their leadership skills into action. We will continue to blend academic learning with social-emotional lessons, making sure every child is equipped with the knowledge and the heart to succeed. Together, we will continue to inspire our students to live fully, learn with passion, love deeply, and lead with purpose.



MR. EKSTROM AND THE 4TH GRADE HAPPY  
CORONA CLASS GROUP ON OCTOBER 31ST.



THE HAPPY CORONA TEACHERS AND  
SUBSTITUTES POSE AFTER THE 10.31 EVENT.



STUDENTS OF HAPPY CORONA POSE  
AT THE OCTOBER 31ST EVENT,



HAPPY CORONA TEACHERS MS. RAMIREZ  
AND MS. HOTAKY.

# **After School Clubs Coming**



# THE PAWPRINT

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Corona  
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## NYC READS EVENT

2024-2025 School Year

## THE SCIENCE OF READING

## INSTRUCTIONAL NEWSLETTER

PS143Q Louis Armstrong School's  
Pedagogical Updates

# THE PROUD 143 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER EDITION 2024

## *A Message from Principal Lucas*

Dear Lions,

As we approach the 40th day of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made together and express how truly proud I am of each of you. Your unwavering commitment and the positive energy you bring to our school are making a powerful impact on our students and their families. In just a short time, we've already achieved so much—from seamlessly ushering 1,400 students through four exits each day to welcoming 200 kindergarten families on a crisp fall Saturday morning. It's clear that our dedication to our students and to the PS 143Q community is strong, and I am grateful for each one of you.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to our assistant principals, whose leadership continues to guide our efforts while maintaining high expectations for instructional quality. They have been instrumental in ensuring that we uphold the vision of excellence for every student, while supporting the diverse learning styles in our classrooms. Our instructional coaches, too, have been invaluable, helping us to refine our teaching practices and grow professionally. Through their leadership in our weekly planning sessions and the personalized support they offer, both veteran and new teachers alike are continuously evolving in their craft.



# THE PROUD 143 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER EDITION 2024

## *A Message from Principal Lucas*

The sense of camaraderie among our staff is inspiring. The collaboration and mutual encouragement that you all share with one another is building a culture of excellence that is evident in everything we do. Together, we are shaping an exceptional learning environment for our students, and I am excited to see all the achievements that await us in the months ahead.

As I've shared in various staff meetings and one-on-one conversations, I remain committed to creating a school where both students and staff are at the heart of every decision. Your voices are vital to shaping the direction of our school, and I look forward to continuing our collective work in this process. This instructional newsletter is just one example of the incredible work happening in and outside of classrooms, supported by a wide range of colleagues in different roles.

I encourage you to take bold risks and embrace the rewards they bring. Lean on one another—your best resources are right here, on every floor and behind every door. Let's continue working together to make the entire year—and beyond—memorable, impactful, and filled with progress.

With pride and gratitude,  
Justine Lucas



# LITERACY INSTRUCTIONAL NEWS

## HMH: INTO READING ACROSS K TO 5 CLASSROOMS

### PRESENT

*School Year 24-25*

- 60 teachers have implemented the new reading curriculum in their classrooms
- All curriculum resources were delivered to K-5 rooms in August to devote more time for teacher and classroom setup
- Teachers are utilizing the curriculum maps during planning to dictate instructional moves
- Within each grade band, there are 2-4 teachers that can immediately support colleagues with instructional decisions and misconceptions
- During common planning meetings, teachers have time to navigate the digital platform through guided practice
- A few grade bands have initiated their own professional learning with their colleagues prior to the school day
- Teachers work collaboratively to enhance writing instruction to reflect student needs

### PAST

*School Year 23-24*

- 21 classroom teachers participated in the HMH pilot
- Curriculum resources were delivered in waves and we self-guided our implementation
- Teachers led most of their learning with support from 143 instructional coaches
- Used Saturdays to develop and construct curriculum maps

## PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

### Demo Lessons

As a community, we are our best resource when it comes to navigating new curriculum and becoming new team members on a grade. Kudos to Ms. Goldman, Ms. Fortin, Ms. Fratangelo and Ms. Ayala for opening their classrooms to demonstrate OG lessons for our colleagues. There is so much value when in-house teachers model instructional practices for one another.



## ORTON-GILLINGHAM

### EOG Training

Although we've embarked on a new year, the goal still remains the same when it comes to equipping teachers with the necessary tools to teach children how to read. Although the EOG training is designed to occur for 5 consecutive days, trainees have the ability to immediately apply what they're learning into practice. They're often found discussing what they did with students and how confident they feel knowing the rules of the language.

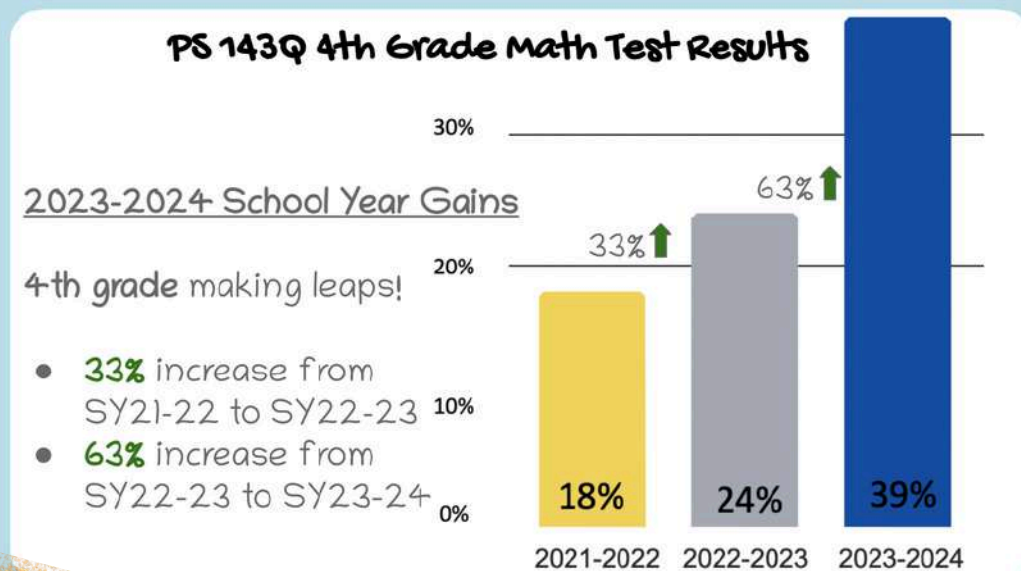


# MATH NEWS...

## Congratulations to our 2023-2024 4th Grade Cubs



Congratulations to our outstanding 2023-24 4th Grade team of students and teachers for an incredible achievement! For the past three years, 4th Grade has consistently increased proficiency, and this year they surpassed expectations with an impressive 14-point gain—an extraordinary 63% growth! This remarkable success is a testament to our teachers' collaboration, commitment to the curriculum, and our students' dedication and strong work habits, resulting in the highest math proficiency rating in our school's history!



# MATH MOTIVATION

## MAP GROWTH

PS 143's commitment to student success is evident from the MAP Growth Assessment as a valuable screener. A special shout out to Mr. Silverio and Mr. Bergman, who have played pivotal roles in making sure all MAP sessions run smoothly. As we eagerly await the BOY assessment results, we anticipate celebrating the growth achieved by our scholars from the MOY assessments!

## Success Maker:

Success Maker provides all students with a personalized learning experience that adjusts in real time to their specific individual learning needs. Students in Grades 1-5 are using it daily and we already see gains in their performance levels! Kindergartners will begin implementing this tool in the new year.

**143**  
**Math**  
**Team**

**K**

Ms. G. Ramirez & Ms. K. Sarmiento

**1**

Ms. Zettler & Ms. Lombardo

**2**

Ms. Fortin & Ms. Miskovsky

**3**

Ms. Guth & Ms. Pineda

**4**

Ms. Russo & Ms. Valle

**5**

Mr. Chan & Ms. Ng

The Math Team launched this month with an empowering session focused on shifting toward asset-based support and guiding teachers in creating more opportunities to make student thinking visible. The session set a strong foundation for collaborative practices that emphasize student strengths and promote deeper engagement with mathematical concepts.



# PROUD MOMENTS

## LITERACY: INTO READING & OG

We were practicing blending using alligator hands and one of my students was able to look at the word and just decode it right away. And it's only September!

-K Teacher

50 percent of my children are recognizing the letters that we've taught without hesitation!

-K Teacher

My students have had OG since kindergarten, and it shows! The NWF isn't a struggle for them anymore because they're self correcting by applying the rules they've learned!

-2nd Grade Teacher

I like having 2 ENL teachers because they provide different perspectives!

-5th Grade Teacher

20% of my students are at or above benchmark on the BOY assessment.

-1st Grade Teacher

## DATA DATA

## ENVISIONS

We have students using their math tools to help them solve expressions and word problems.

-2nd Grade Teacher

47% of the class is performing At Benchmark and 2 students are Above Benchmark in Spanish

-1st Grade Teacher

I have a Newcomer who scored very well on the BOY mCLASS measure!

-3rd Grade Teacher

## MATH

### SMALL GROUPS

My small group instruction is flowing much better this year! I can focus more on the children in front of me because the other groups are independent.

-3rd Grade Teacher

I recently introduced a new vocabulary station from Into Reading resources. The group is responsible for taking turns to give clues about specific words, while one member guesses the term.

-5th Grade Teacher

I want to shoutout my co-teacher. Our groups are underway and students are on task! Now, I'm able to meet with my math groups regularly. That's a WIN!

-5th Grade Teacher



# PROUD MOMENTS

We began to incorporate *Readers Theater* into our routines and the children are so animated! They're reading with intonation and fluency!

-5th Grade ICT

We've installed a literacy station during the WIN period that is comparable to the MAZE. After assessing 20 students, 17 of them improved drastically after the first PM

-5th Grade ICT

Some students in my class (special class) are coding and reading CVC words

-Kindergarten Teacher

I'm so impressed with my students! They picked a place of interest and used the internet to research, share and write new facts about it.

-2nd Grade Teacher

During PTC one of my parents expressed how thankful they were because their child is more verbally expressive this year.

-K Teacher

## ENVISIONS

I dug into the Rigby Library boxes and discovered that the books come with activities that can potentially be used within centers

-3rd Grade Teacher

I'm proud that I've created differentiated HW assignments for my students and the parents are able to support their child through it

-2nd Grade Teacher

The students who are hesitant to share due to limited English language acquisition, are more inclined to verbally participate whenever I provide sentence starters.

-4th Grade Teacher

## SMALL GROUPS

This year, I've noticed a considerable amount of my students are automatically identifying and actively using HFW in context due to their consistent use of oral language in and outside of the classroom.

-Kindergarten Teacher

Many students in our class are able to correctly spell CVC words. One student got all three CVC words spelled correctly for dictation.

Impressive!

-Kindergarten ICT Teacher

An emerging student that has only been here for one year, received an 8.5 on the Maze. Even though it's well below, it is a considerably high score.

-5th Grade Teacher



# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

## COMMON PLANNING

Ms. Lucas was very intentional about creating space for teachers to actively collaborate with their colleagues through a series of topics related to student needs and pedagogical expectations. Throughout the school year, our admin team, instructional coaches and teacher teams will facilitate sessions covering all content areas to maintain the school's vision.

Our journey thus far has been insightful and thoughtfully planned to ensure students and teachers are at the core of each meeting.



## REMINDERS...

Studies show that sharing best practices helps in identifying and closing knowledge gaps within an organization. This ensures that all members have access to the critical information they need to perform their roles effectively, leading to better decision-making and improved performance.

Be transparent and don't shy away from sharing practices that are improving student and teacher abilities.

## DISTRICT 24 SUPPORT

### **HMH - Cassie Francis**

Cassie is our HMH Implementation Coach who will support grade bands with Into Reading instruction, co-planning and debrief sessions, along with honing in on instructional best practice in literacy.

### **ELL - Giuvela Browning**

Giuvela is our ML/ELL district support who will work with administration, coaches and teachers in an ELL support cycle. The cycle will provide teachers with supportive instructional classroom visits and coaching sessions.

### **AIS - Alexander Lunz**

Our AIS Coordinator will support specific grades with data analysis protocols and instructional improvements to develop the learners through core and Tier 2/3 structures.

### **Math - Liz Fisher**

Liz is our District Math Lead who will work with administration, coaches and teachers to provide a range of support from analyzing math state data to enhancing teacher practice.

### **SpED- Jackie Atkins**

Jackie is our District Specialized Student Support Lead who intends to share her expertise on SDI for students with our SpEd team and through professional learning opportunities.

# ML/ELL NEWS

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AT 143Q



- Number of ELLs - 935 students
- Percentage of ELLs - 71%

Our English Language Learners (ELLs) are a vital part of our school community, their growth and success matter deeply to us. Ms. Lucas, our administration team, coaches and teachers are committed to ensure every student has the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Closing the month of November 2024, our school is currently serving 935 (71%) amazing students who are learning English as a second language. We are deeply proud of the strides our ELLs make each and every day.



## ENL DATA DIVE

Our thriving ELLs deserve the best instruction to support, as well as challenge English language development and grade-level academic skills. Ms. Lucas and our administration staff value the importance of providing teachers with the necessary tools needed to provide students with meaningful and data-driven instruction. During our Common Planning session, teachers from every grade engaged in an ENL Data Dive. Teachers received individualized ELL data for their class and analyzed the data based on proficiency levels across the four modalities (listening, speaking, reading and writing), utilizing the ELL Planning Template to record their current ELLs. This data is intended to be utilized to tailor instruction by focusing on proficiency levels within each modality, providing data-driven scaffolds, and resources to meet individual needs. To close our session, we discussed resources on various scaffolds and strategies to support ELLs.

Grade 2-4 (Students Took NYSESLAT in 1st-4th Grade)			
Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Emerging 2-3	Emerging 2-3	Emerging 2-3	Emerging 2-3
Emerging 4-5	Emerging 4-5	Emerging 4-5	Emerging 4-5
Translating 6-11	Translating 6-11	Translating 6-11	Translating 6-11
Expanding 12-15	Expanding 12-15	Expanding 12-15	Expanding 12-15
Commanding 16-20	Commanding 16-20	Commanding 16-20	Commanding 16-20
Non-ELLs			

Hi!

嗨

Hola!

## ENL PARENT MEETINGS

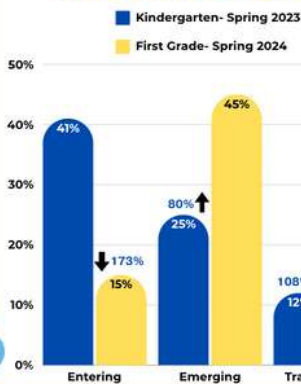
At PS143Q we recognize the importance of communication with families. During our Parent Engagement time, ENL providers connect with the families of our ELL students to communicate important information regarding the NYSESLAT, ENL levels and strategies that are used at school and can be used at home to support and develop English language proficiency.

# ML/ELL HIGHLIGHTS

In analyzing the NYSITELL Fall 2023 Data and the NYSESLAT 2024 Data (Grades 1-5), the school has made tremendous gains in moving proficiency levels. Because of our amazing growth, Deputy Chancellor Christina Foti from the Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning came to visit our school. The growth of our English Language Learners strengthens our school community in powerful ways. We are dedicated to supporting their development through tailored resources and a nurturing environment that celebrates their progress.



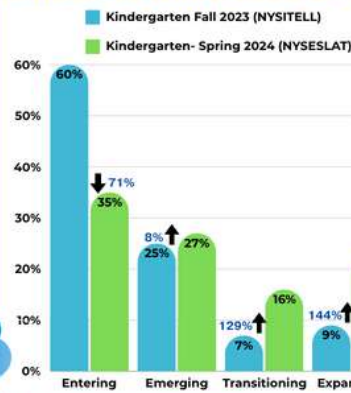
## PS 143Q Kindergarten NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 1 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### 23/24 School Year Growth

- Percentage of Entering level students decreased 173%
- Percentage of Emerging level students increased 80%
- Percentage of Transitioning level students increased 108%

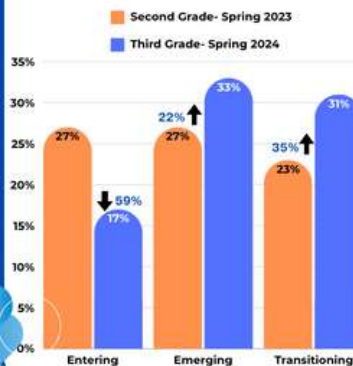
## PS 143Q Kindergarten NYSITELL FALL 23 & Kindergarten NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### 23/24 School Year Growth

- Percentage of Entering level students decreased 71%
- Percentage of Emerging level students increased 8%
- Percentage of Transitioning level students increased 129%
- Percentage of Expanding level students increased 144%

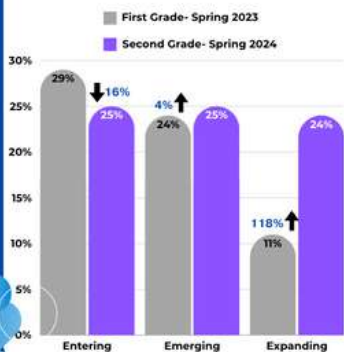
## PS 143Q Grade 2 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 3 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### 23/24 School Year Growth

- Percentage of Entering level students decreased 59%
- Percentage of Emerging level students increased 22%
- Percentage of Transitioning level students increased 35%

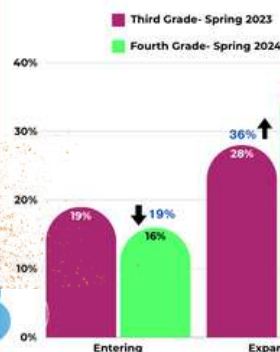
## PS 143Q Grade 1 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 2 NYSESLAT SPR 24 Test Results



### 23/24 School Year Growth

- Percentage of Entering level students decreased 16%
- Percentage of Emerging level students increased 4%
- Percentage of Expanding level students increased 118%

## PS 143Q Grade 3 NYSESLAT SPR 23 & Grade 4 NYSESLAT SPR 24



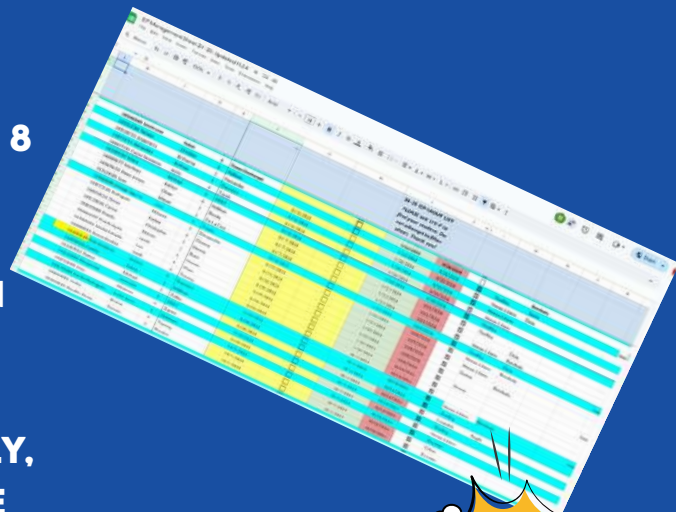
### 2023/2024 School Year Growth

- Percentage of Entering level students decreased 19%
- Percentage of Expanding level students increased 36%



# UNIQUE SPECIAL EDUCATION

THE UNIQUE TEAM AT PS 143 HAS HAD A STRONG START TO THE YEAR, FOCUSING ON SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN EVERY WAY. THE IEP TEAM, NOW WITH 8 DEDICATED MEMBERS, HAS ALREADY COMPLETED OVER 45 REVIEWS TO ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY FEEDBACK FOR EVERY PLAN. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS PARTICIPATED IN A GOALBOOK WORKSHOP, LEAVING THEM EQUIPPED AND CONFIDENT IN CRAFTING IEP GOALS. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM WARMLY WELCOMES MS. ATKINS AS THE DISTRICT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR THE YEAR. OVERALL, THE ENTIRE UNIQUE TEAM FROM SBST TO TEACHERS TO PARAS TO ADMIN IS ENERGIZED AND READY FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AHEAD!



# GOALBOOK!



# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## PAWS SYSTEM KICKOFF

At PS 143, supporting our Cubs in learning and regularly reviewing the PAWS System helps create an understanding of schoolwide expectations. We use the PAWS matrix to provide a guide for our students to demonstrate ...

- P**racticing safety
- A**cting responsibly
- W**orking hard and
- S**howing respect throughout all areas of the building.

Teachers and staff review these expectations frequently with students to ensure consistency as well as to introduce the system to our newcomers. The PAWS System is the foundation for creating and maintaining a safe and respectful school environment for all of our Lions and Cubs.



## CARING FOR CUBS

The Caring for Cubs Team provides support for helping our Cubs build, develop and strengthen skills in social and emotional learning.

Establishing a positive rapport with students helps increase student engagement and participation as well as successfully establishing clear behavioral and academic expectations.

## HOUSE POINTS



The House Points system is up and running on Class Dojo. All staff, please be sure to accept the invitation sent by Mr. Silverio and begin awarding points to any class who demonstrates safety, responsibility and kindness.

# PARENT ENGAGEMENT

## QUEENS LIBRARY CARDS & READING STRATEGIES

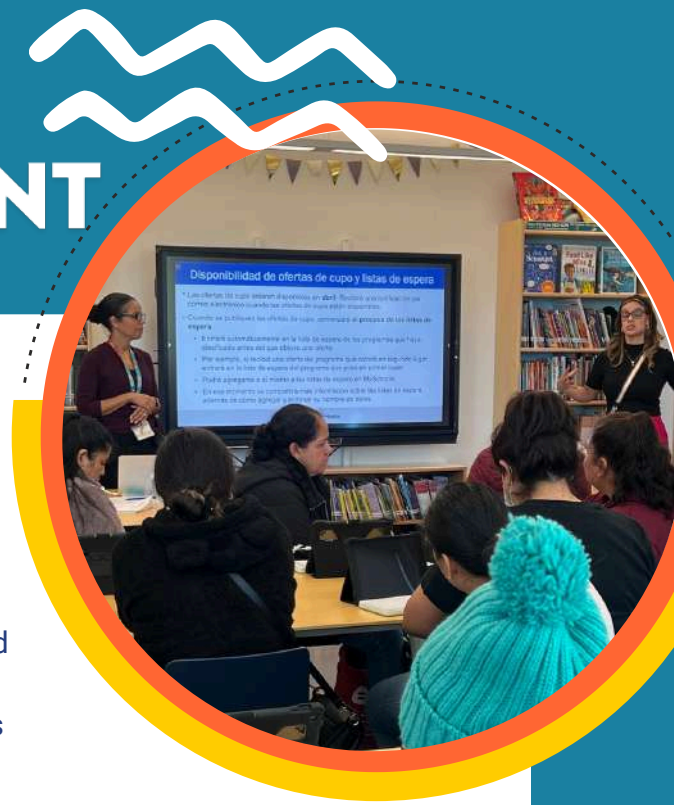
Families in Classes 201, 202 & 205 joined us and Queens Library-Corona Branch staff on October 15th to apply for a Queens Library card and to learn about what the library offers.

On October 29th, families in Classes 201, 202 & 205 attended a workshop to learn about current reading strategies based on Into Reading Module skills. Teachers demonstrated ways parents can use the same reading strategies at home.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

We were excited to announce our recent Middle School Applications Workshops! Families joined us for informative sessions in the morning and afternoon, designed to assist them in submitting their applications. We provided guidance and answered any questions.

To ensure everyone was informed, we communicated details through Class Dojo, S'mores, backpacked flyers and letters, as well as partnering with our PTA and advertising it on our 143 Instagram account. We were glad to help families navigate the application process!



Second Grade families attended a parent workshop hosted by the Corona Library Branch. During the session parents applied for library cards and inquired about ways to build a love for books in the household.

Parents learned about reading strategies with support from the Corona Branch of the Queens Library.



# PARENT ENGAGEMENT

## EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

We recently hosted an enriching Emotional Intelligence Workshop aimed at equipping families with the tools and knowledge to support their children's academic and emotional growth. This event focused on practical strategies to strengthen emotional awareness, foster resilience, and promote positive communication. By partnering with families, we're excited to build a strong foundation for student success. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we look forward to continuing this important work together!



The workshop was a great success, with families engaging in meaningful discussions and sharing personal experiences in a safe, supportive environment.

# 200 KINDERGARTEN PARENTS ATTENDED OUR NYC READS EVENT

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Our “Falling into Reading” event was a wonderful way to welcome our new kindergarten students and their parents into the 143 family! Parents connected with our dedicated staff and teachers over a warm, welcoming breakfast, while our kindergarteners received special literacy bags to inspire their reading journey. The day ended in celebration on our school playground, where students’ smiles lit up as they enjoyed a bouncy house, a live DJ, pony rides, and even a petting zoo. This joyous occasion highlighted our commitment to fostering a strong, supportive community and a love for learning from day one!

## OUR GOAL...

Our goal for “Falling into Reading” was to emphasize the incredible gift of reading and its impact on our students’ futures. We encouraged parents to nurture a love of reading in both English and Spanish, highlighting the vital role they play in supporting literacy at home. We provided resources to guide them in creating a rich reading environment and reassured them that we are here as part of their team, ready to support their journey. Together, we’re building a strong foundation that empowers our students to thrive and succeed!



On this day, Cub Cafe was filled with kindergarten families who were eager to fill their plates with literacy, love, and leisure! While consuming a hot breakfast accompanied by a literacy goody bag, teachers demonstrated and shared activities adults can lead to strengthen the reading behaviors of our youngest cubs.

Pictured below, is a cub who confidently shows how early readers use the *Visual Drill* routine to develop their knowledge of letters and sounds correspondence by reciting and tracing the OG bumpy card.



# COFFEE AND CROISSANTS WITH D24 STH COMMUNITY COORDINATOR TEAM



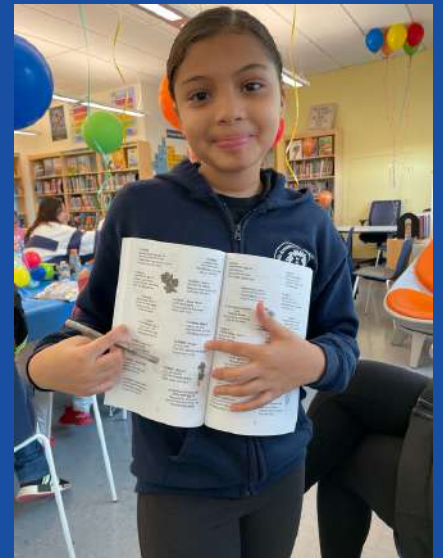
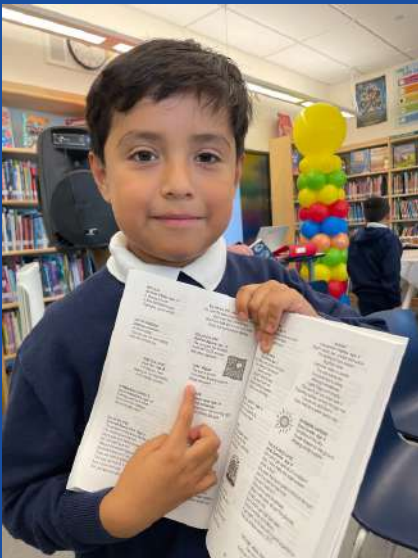
On October 18th, we held a "Coffee and Croissants" parent engagement event, bringing together our school's principal and District 24's STH Community Coordinators to share important resources with our families. During the event, local organizations and the support they provide were highlighted, ensuring families are aware of the services available to them. This gathering fostered strong communication between home and school, helping to build a supportive and informed community.

## WARM HEARTS, BRIGHT FUTURES: UNIFORM AND ESSENTIALS GIVEAWAY

Part of our ongoing monthly initiative to support families by providing essential supplies and uniforms for our students. These events are a reflection of our commitment to ensuring every child is equipped for success. We're grateful for the continued community support that makes this possible and look forward to seeing you at next month's event!"



# PASTRIES AND POETRY PARTY



# OPEN SCHOOL HOUSE 1



# OPEN SCHOOL HOUSE 2



During the month of November, families were invited to participate in our Open School week. Parents had an opportunity to visit their child's classroom, meet their teachers and explore engaging literacy-based activities designed to spark a love for reading and learning. We were honored to have Deputy Supervisor Kenya Smith join us, adding a special touch to our event.



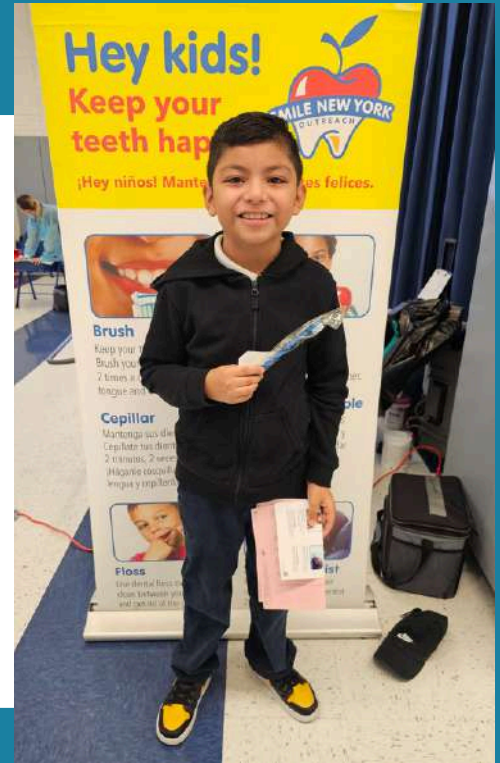
# OPEN SCHOOL HOUSE 3



# STUDENT WELLNESS

## RADIANT SMILES AT P.S. 143Q: BRINGING DENTAL CARE TO OUR CUBS

For the month of November, Smile NY visited P.S. 143Q to provide dental check-ups for our students. Over the course of their visit, they saw up to 500 students, helping to ensure their oral health and brighten their smiles. A heartfelt thank you to Smile NY for their incredible support and dedication to our students' well-being!



# COLLABORATION



## OCTOBER FOCUS:

### *Restating*

Ms. Osso hosted inter-visitations focused on using restating as a listening strategy. Restating is a way to ensure that you understood what was said. Students use prompts to restate and provide feedback to each other to verify if what they said was accurate.

## NOVEMBER FOCUS:

### *Vocabulary Notebooks*

Ms. Osso will be hosting inter-visitations focused on using vocabulary notebooks as a reading strategy. Building vocabulary helps students become effective readers and writers. Students write a word using HMH vocabulary cards and create meaning to use when they read and write.



## SIDE-BY-SIDE MODELING

Ms. Contreras and Ms. Osso worked with ELLs/MLLs in Class 110. Ms. Osso modeled a demo lesson using HMH English Language Development Tabletop Minilessons to support the students in understanding sequence words and using them when they speak.

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES

To prepare for a parent workshop focused around literacy, Ms. Cumbo, Ms. Delacruz, Ms. DeLeon, Ms. Rendon and Ms. Osso discussed the options, collaborated and decided to highlight reading strategies based on the specific groups of students they service. The selected reading strategies were Setting, Ask & Answer Questions, Make Connections, Story Structure, and Connect Text to Visuals. This workshop prepared and encouraged families with ways to replicate the reading behaviors at home through a live demonstration. In the coming weeks, this workshop will be presented to other second grade families.



## ABOUT US!

A special initiative was launched this school year, our very own Happy Corona After School! Our mission at Happy Corona is to balance academic and social-emotional learning to foster a positive after school environment. We are dedicated to empowering our students throughout each lesson, so that they grow into global citizens who live, learn, love, and lead. This program was designed to support and uplift our English Language Learners. It offers a welcoming space where students can build their confidence in English while receiving academic support and engaging in fun, hands-on activities. Our dedicated team of teachers are committed to helping each child thrive, providing tailored learning experiences that cater to their unique needs and strengths.



We have organized orientations for families as we embark on this collaborative partnership with our students, ensuring that we provide consistent support throughout their journey. Our third-grade students are actively participating in soccer practices in partnership with NYCFC, offering them valuable opportunities for skill development and teamwork. Additionally, we celebrated our first Fall Festival, a joyful occasion that brought together our community. Throughout the year, we continue to foster creativity and problem-solving skills through Fun Fridays, where students engage in arts and crafts as well as STEM activities.



The Happy Corona teams has so many exciting events planned for the upcoming months, from holiday celebrations and team-building activities to community service projects that will help our students put their leadership skills into action. We will continue to blend academic learning with social-emotional lessons, making sure every child is equipped with the knowledge and the heart to succeed. Together, we will continue to inspire our students to live fully, learn with passion, love deeply, and lead with purpose.

# AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

After-school clubs play a vital role in supporting students in our community by fostering a sense of belonging and enhancing academic, social, and personal development. Run by dedicated teachers from our school, these clubs create a familiar and supportive environment where students can explore their interests and build meaningful connections. For English Language Learners (ELLs), these clubs provide a unique opportunity in an inclusive, low-pressure environment while building connections with peers. Among our clubs our cubs can join the Chess club, Cheerleading, Yoga, Lego Club, Project WINGS Math Club, Book Club, Student Council, Spanish club, Media Club, Debate and Basketball.



**LEGO CLUB**



**YOGA**



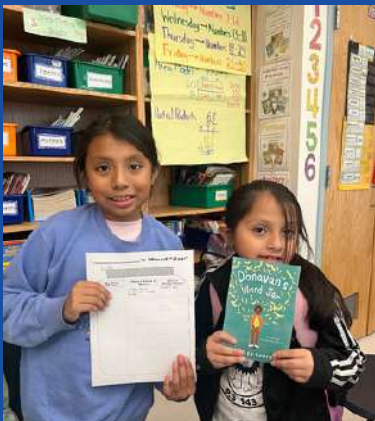
**DEBATE**



**CHESS**



**CHEERLEADING**



**BOOK BESTIES**



**PROJECT WINGS MATH CLUB**