

# December

## Grade 5 Cluster News

### Technology with Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Fornataro

Fifth grade students will finish their animations using the program *Animaker*. They have written scripts, and selected backgrounds and characters to explain their thoughts about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are now adding voice with a text to speech function. Please remember to check the Portaportal as we update it often with links to different websites.



### STEM with Ms. Rose

For the month of December fifth grade engineers will focus on structural design. They will work together to create a snowball fort used in the first ever school snowball extravaganza. They will work through the engineering design process to research and construct a fort that can hold the most snowballs. They will also have the opportunity to test how many snowball hits it can withstand.



### Art with Ms. Ally-Khan

In December, classes 507, 509, and 513 will continue their artist study on Paul Klee. Students will continue working on drawings inspired by Paul Klee's *Castle and Sun* painting.

#### Suggested Books:

- *The Cat and The Bird*, by Geraldine Elschner
- *Paul Klee*, by Mike Venezia



### Art with Ms. Parisi

In December, fifth grade students will begin gesture drawings. Gesture drawings are drawings that attempt to capture action or movement of a figure. Typically, the artist draws a series of poses of a model in a short amount of time, often as little as 30 seconds, or as long as 2 minutes. Students will model for each other using timed drawings to illustrate a figure in motion.



## Physical Education with Ms. Klein, Ms. Acquaviva, or Mr. Veltre

During the month of December, Grade 5 will continue the assessments for the NYC assessments for the NYC Fitnessgram. The assessments are a guide for you, the parent, to look at the different parts of your child's health-related fitness such as aerobic fitness, muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility. We use the PACER to measure aerobic capacity. Aerobic fitness measures how well the heart, lungs, and muscles can perform during physical activity. We use the Curl-Ups to measure abdominal strength and endurance. Push-Ups are used to measure the strength and endurance of the muscles in the upper body, and we use the Back-Saver Sit and Reach test to measure flexibility. Finally, the Trunk Lift is a test of trunk extensor strength and flexibility, which is an important aspect of maintaining a healthy back. Muscle fitness helps to prevent injury and keeps the body working properly; and strength, endurance, and flexibility are important for good posture, a healthy lower back, and overall body function.

## Dance with Ms. Schneller or Ms. Charles

Fifth grade students are preparing for our performance event on December 19th. Each class will represent a different famous choreographer such as Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Pascal Rioult, Bob Fosse, Alvin Ailey and more! A flyer will be sent home with more details.

**Remember on dance days, students must wear uniform clothes that they can move in and sneakers. Any student not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate in class.**

## Musical Theater with Ms. Lodescar

December is finally here! For this month students will continue focusing on using their actor's tools to embody different characters. They will focus on the *voice* and how actors embody different roles through the use of varying tones and inflections. Students will then combine their 'body language' with 'vocal expression' and create a specific atmosphere using different emotions. They will continue to acquire skills to help them build confidence independently, while learning to work together to build ensemble. It is indeed an exciting time for our students!

Please check out these amazing seasonal shows:  
[https://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index\\_children.php](https://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index_children.php)  
<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/qpac/>  
[http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index\\_musical.php](http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index_musical.php)

## Places to Visit in December

### Dance Events for Kids:

*Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana* @ Queens Theatre  
in the Park.  
December 6-9  
[www.queenstheatre.org](http://www.queenstheatre.org)

