

# Grade 5 Cluster News

# September

2019 - 2020

## STEM with Mrs. Rose



Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! Through STEM education, students will get the opportunity to experience robotics, design structures and develop solutions to real world problems. In STEM class we are helping our students to become lifelong critical thinkers who will always question and challenge how we can make the world a better place. STEM education is vital to our future. It is the future of our country, our region and most importantly our children.

For the month of September our 4<sup>th</sup> grade engineers will explore the five steps of the Engineers Design Process: Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve. Students will leverage the five steps of the Engineers Design Process to challenge their critical thinking skills and design solutions to complex problems.

## Technology with Mrs. Fornataro or Mr. Jacobson



During the month of September, the students will work on the basics of technology. These basics include opening and closing computer applications, creation of folders, and saving their work.

The students will learn different programs including multimedia presentations, digital art, coding, and more! The students are very excited to get started with their projects!

Please remember to check our Portaportals as we update them often with links to different websites.

## Art with Mrs. Parisi



This year the fifth grade is looking forward to an exciting year in art. During the course of the year we will be experimenting with various materials and techniques in drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, printmaking, and two-dimensional design. We will be developing art literacy by looking at and discussing art, developing a visual arts vocabulary, reading and writing about art, and interpreting and analyzing art. We will explore how art is connected to other disciplines and learn to recognize how art influences our observations and interpretations of the world around us. To begin our year in art students will be reviewing art rules and procedures. Students will also begin working on a realistic self-portrait focusing on proper placement and gesture.

Please make sure that your child comes to art class equipped with the necessary tools. All students should have pencils, erasures, rulers, crayons, scissor, and a glue stick. Students should also bring in an old, large shirt clearly labeled with their name to be used as a smock. Please have your child bring in a roll of paper towels and a box of baby wipes to be used during art.

*Queens Museum Free Drop In Art Workshops*  
Queens Museum of Art - **Sundays 1:30pm - 4:30pm**

## Art with Ms. Ally-Khan

Welcome back to school! Our year ahead will be filled with lots of fun art activities. Students will participate in activities in drawing, painting, collage, sculpture and printmaking. I will be visiting class 507, 509, and 513 once a week for art and we will be using many types of art materials over the course of the year.

During the month of September we will review art class rules and students will begin designing their name banners as part of their first art project.

In addition, during the year, I will be posting links to different art museums and art events that are taking place in New York City that you and your child can take part in. I look forward to a great year filled with lots of fun art projects!

### Suggested Websites:

[www.crayola.com](http://www.crayola.com)

(includes art activities that you can work on at home)

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



Welcome back to school and Physical Education! The Physical Education curriculum will be focusing on developing skills in various sports and staying fit and healthy through fitness. In addition to skill development, the curriculum strives to develop positive student habits, attitudes and knowledge so that each child can realize his/her own potential. Students will be assessed during each instructional unit. All grades will also be assessed in the NYC Fitnessgram. Grades K-5 will be weighed and measured to determine their Body Mass Index. (BMI). Grades 4 & 5 will also be tested on other items. These items being Curl-Ups, Push-Ups, Trunk Lift, Sit-N-Reach and PACER test. These various tests measure three components of physical fitness—aerobic capacity; body composition; and muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. Parents will be able to review their child's NYC Fitnessgram report online by setting up a NYC Schools Account and checking it later on in the Spring.

\* Most Physical Education classes meet once a week. Please check with your child to see which day(s) they may have gym. On that day(s), please have them wear sneakers to school.

**Sneakers are the only requirement and the sneakers should have laces or velcro.** Please no slip-ons.

- For safety reasons, students are asked to refrain from wearing jewelry on their gym day(s).
- **Students unable to participate in a Physical Education class due to illness or injury, must submit written notification to the Physical Education teacher from either a parent or physician. If a student is excused from Physical Education by a physician, the student is required to have a note from the physician when they are ready to return to regular physical activities.**
- If your child has **Asthma** or any medical condition that you feel we should be aware of, please let us know. Also, please get in contact with the school nurse to make sure your child's medical record is up to date.

## Musical Theater with Ms. Lodescar



Welcome to musical theater! For those who are new to the program, I am excited to go with our students on this exciting journey of imagination and adventure. I am confident that it will not only yield many benefits to your child's overall artistic development, but mixed with musical concepts and singing, your child will experience a deeper appreciation for the arts and most importantly, it promises to be fun, fun, fun! For this month students will build on the foundational skills in theater. They will focus on theatrical vocabulary and expand their knowledge on the elements of theater. They will explore how characters use their 'actor's tools' to embody different characters and scenes of a play while working with their peers to solve problems. They will continue 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 and events for the family:

<http://www.queens theatre.org/20172018-season#family>  
<http://www.queens theatre.org/20172018-season>  
[https://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index\\_children.php](https://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index_children.php)  
<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/qpac/>

## Dance with Ms. Schneller or Ms. Charles

September is National Yoga Month! After reviewing/practicing the procedures and routines of dance class, students will explore yoga as an activity to focus, build strength, flexibility and balance. This series of stretches began in India thousands of years ago and will be used in a secular way to promote healthy living. The word YOGA means: "unite," which refers to how the body, brain and breath must work together in harmony to maintain balance and strength. Students will use breathing and stretching to focus their attention on controlling their body. We will review our "sun salutation" as a warm-up sequence for class. Students will locate and name which muscles are used in each pose, such as hamstrings, biceps and abdominals.

*Remember on dance days, students must wear uniform clothes that they can move in. All students will be taking off their shoes during dance in order to dance in their socks. Any student without socks may borrow from our clean sock bin*

Websites for Dance:

- [www.ps108q.com](http://www.ps108q.com) and look for Ms. Schneller's page.
- [www.thekidsyogaresource.com](http://www.thekidsyogaresource.com) This resource has articles and numerous links to sites just for kids.

Dance Events for Kids:

- *Fall for Dance Festival* @ City Center. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> annual dance festival that features an exciting variety of styles. October 1 – 13<sup>th</sup>.  
[www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org) All Tickets \$15!
- *Parsons Dance* @ Queens Theatre in the Park. September 21-22.  
*Queensboro Dance Festival*. October 5-6.  
[www.queens theatre.org](http://www.queens theatre.org)