



REALIZING STUDENTS' FULL POTENTIAL

# Eight 9 Zero

MS 890's Monthly  
Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

## Welcome to MS 890!

I would like to thank everyone, including students, parents and staff, for making the start of our school year so successful. We have all embarked on a journey together as founding students, founding families, and founding staff members of MS 890. This is a privilege not many have the opportunity to hold, and I know you all share in my excitement and enthusiasm around our new home.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you as we work together to make MS 890 a premier place for learning. This newsletter will be distributed to all members of MS 890 on a monthly basis to highlight important contributions, share updates, and let everyone know about upcoming events.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter, or would like to contribute an article or section in an upcoming issue.

Thank you again for everything you do for our students. Without you, MS 890 would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Frangella  
Principal I.A.

**Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>** – No School  
(Columbus Day)

**Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>** – School  
Leadership Team Meeting @ MS 890  
(elected representatives only)

**Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>** – MS 890 Open  
House for Prospective Students and  
Their Families (only current 5<sup>th</sup>  
graders).

**Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Specialized  
High School Admission Test

**Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Chancellor's  
Conference Day (Students not in  
attendance)

students who were elected by their  
peers to serve as the leadership of the  
Student Council and student body as a  
whole:

**President:** Ttaha Elbroul  
**Vice President:** Gabriel Ornegri  
**Treasurer:** Erick Quezada

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# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

It has been great to see so many of our parents involved in the startup of our school. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a **Dad's Bring Your Child to School Day** event. This city-wide initiative promotes dads, stepdads, uncles, grandfathers and others that assume the role of dad to come and spend some time in their child's school. We had a great turnout – thank you to all the dads who showed up to help make the day special for us and our students!

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we held our first parent teacher conferences. Most parents made it to this event. We had representatives from Axis 360, an online digital library, and Mathletics, one of our blended learning programs, who gave demonstrations and overviews of these programs that our students will be using.

We also held elections for the governing body of the Parent Association as well as the parent members of the School Leadership Team. We would like to congratulate these parents who were elected to the PA and SLT and look forward to working together to make great things happen for our school and our students!



### Parent Association Leadership:

Devon Winborne & Natasha McClean Crawford – *Co-Presidents*

Alfredo Bethune & Kemia St. Armand Price - *Co-Treasurers*

Nikiyah Bennett-Burns & Tazin Azad - *Co-Secretaries*

### School Leadership Team Parent Members:

Devon Winborne                      Elizabeth Fleischman                      Tazin Azad

Patricia Starek                      Neredia Sanabria

## BUGS @ MS890

Don't worry – we are pest free! We had a visit recently from a BUG (Brooklyn Urban Garden) volunteer. The BUGS program is made possible through the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and sets up schools with local volunteers who help to get school gardens up and running. Our first meeting with our BUG volunteer was successful and our Urban Agriculture SPARK class looks forward to taking advantage of this collaboration to make our school greenhouse become a reality.



## symphonyspace GLOBAL ARTS CULTURAL LITERACY & HERITAGE



MS 890 is hosting a **Cultural Music Series** that will take students through the traditional music of the Americas, Africa and Japan. Students are learning about these cultures in Social Studies this year, and the visiting artists will help to make their learning come alive through music making. The artists – who are residents at Symphony Space - will push into students' normally scheduled Music class according to the schedule below. A big thanks to Ms. Russo for her dedication to making this project a reality.

Thunderbird American Indian Dancers – 10/25 and 10/27

Pablo Bilbraut : Afro Latin Drumming - 11/15 and 11/17

Sanga of the Valley: Djembe Drumming - 12/1 and 12/6

Taikoza Drums and Flutes - 12/13 and 12/15

Mhira / Shekere Percussion - 1/10 and 1/17

## OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will be assigned to write a travel article for *National Geographic* about a country in the Eastern Hemisphere using the Five Themes of Geography as a focus. In their article, students will pretend that they have traveled through the country they selected and will write about their journey through the country, focusing on a key event, experience, or moment in their journey. Students will be descriptive and include relative geographic details gained from their research.

#### Topics Covered:

- Understanding place through climate maps and population maps
- What is your country like? What are the human and physical characteristics of the Eastern Hemisphere?
- Regions in the Eastern Hemisphere
- Movement: How are people and places linked: How does geography determine where people stay and move and how they organize themselves?
- What to pack? (Students will create a packing list for a trip to the country of their research. We will be using Human Environmental Interaction Photographs)
- Students will plan and organize their research to draft their project-based assessment, the travel guide.

### Science

Students will learn the pros and cons of various renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, and how they ultimately impact our environment. In the first week of October, students will finalize their designs for their renewable energy powered amusement park, and share their work with their peers. Students will transition to learn about how energy is used in simple and complex machines, and apply concepts such as force, speed,

and work as they relate to real world contexts. Activities include using the LEGO Mindstorm EV3 Robots to visualize the interconnections between various forms of energy, machines, and technology. The energy and simple machines unit will end with a culminating project, where students will apply their knowledge to design their very own machines to solve a current problem/issue. There are a variety of resources available to help students excel in this unit, such as the Lego Education website, and the MS 890 Science webpage.

### English Language Arts

Students will continue reading texts about the adolescent experience. We are exploring theme and author's purpose in shorter texts by Sandra Cisneros, Walter Dean Meyers, Jacqueline Woodson, Gary Soto, Toni Cade Bambara, and Alma Luz Villanueva. After completing last month's personal narrative project, our writing focus will shift to literary analysis, identifying theme, and supporting our claims with evidence. Students will complete several writing activities related to our first class novel *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis, including a "press conference" in which students adopt specific characters' perspectives while debating social issues.

### Math

Students will further explore prime factorization and delve deeper into understanding that all composite numbers are made up of a unique product of prime factors. They will make connections between prime factorization and finding the Least Common Multiple and Greatest Common Factor. Additionally, students will use their knowledge of factors and multiples to represent

numeric expressions a different way using the distributive property, which will lead us to evaluating numeric expressions using the order of operations. The second half of October will begin a new unit, which will introduce ratios on a larger scale. This is one of the most vital units that sixth grade will encounter. The material from this unit is directly correlated with the material found in seventh and eighth grade. We will explore ratios, unit rates, rational numbers, and the topic of equivalence. Students will have the opportunity to log-on to Mathletics to check out the site and what it has to offer. I encourage you to explore the site yourself and take a look at some of the activities for the topics we have been discussing in class, such as factors, multiples, and prime numbers.

### Music

Students will be finishing up their exploration of basic rhythms through composing with found objects! Students will then move on to learning and exploring different tempos and dynamics that are used in music through acting and other activities.

Rhythm Quiz: Students will show their knowledge of basic rhythmic values, as well as how to compose with them.

Found Object Compositions: Students will compose a rhythmic composition that will require the use of found objects of their choice as an end to our unit on rhythm exploration.

Dynamic/Tempo Listening Activity & Performance: Students will be able to identify different dynamics and tempos by ear. They will also be able to perform rhythms at different dynamics and tempos while playing found objects.

## OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

### Musical History

Students will continue their investigation of *Newsies* the Broadway musical. Students will finish investigating the main facts of the Newsboys' Strike of 1899 and move into learning about unions and strikes. Students will investigate unions and organize a mock strike in order to understand the history behind what the *Newsies* went through. Students will also be focusing on preparing for a performance of "Brooklyn's Here" from *Newsies* to be performed at the Open House October 17th.

### Robotics

Students will become more familiar with the drag and drop coding language. Students will design and program their robots to complete the basic motions, such as moving, stopping, and turning. This will lead into their first major challenge, and obstacle course. The robot will have to move autonomously through the course, without any aid from an outside force. The end of the month, students will learn how to use the sensors so their robot can detect certain things in its surroundings and act given a certain condition.

### Blended Learning / AIS

Since the beginning of the school year, students of MS 890 have participated in active research to evaluate different educational websites and discuss their findings. Students have also been discussing safe and ethical use of web resources and technology in and out of the classroom. In the month of October, students will be utilizing a variety of online programs including Achieve 3000 and Mathletics in order to review materials learned in other content classes like ELA and math. As students complete activities of each unit, they will work in small groups to reflect on their learning and share new insights with each other.

### LOTE : Korean

안녕하세요 ("An nyung ha se yo" = hello in Korean) students and parents of MS 890! Over the past few weeks, students in LOTE: Korean class have discussed some great benefits of learning a foreign language and looked into similarities and differences between Korean and American culture, as well as their own. Students have just started learning Hangeul, the Korean alphabet and would need a few more weeks of practice to master reading and writing Korean. Students have also learned basic greetings and throughout October, students will be learning expressions related to introducing oneself in Korean. I will be posting review videos on my class page every week.

### Journalism

Students will complete their classmate interview project. While constructing these in-depth profile articles about one another, students are independently generating high-quality, authentic questions and practicing vital interview skills they will use throughout the year. This month, the class will also begin researching and writing their first articles for the school newspaper's inaugural issue, making important decisions about the focus of the paper and taking ownership of the publishing process.

### Food Science

In Food Science, the theme for October will be the evolution of food technology. Students will learn about eating habits in various societies and cultures before any food technology. Students will then transition to discover the inventions of various food preservation techniques which started changing eating habits such as fermentation, freeze drying, canning, and pasteurization. Students will learn how these technological changes in food influenced nutrition. Another

major aspect of this cohort will focus on how technological advances have influenced the modern eating habits and way of life. Activities include a lab on preservation techniques of food, analysis of artificial and natural flavorings by major food companies, and a TED Ed video reflection and discussion on the harmful effects of food preservatives.

### Origin Story

In "The Origin Story" spark we will continue to focus on folklore in general, and traditions specifically, to show how interconnected the past and the present is. Students have worked on finding material culture artifacts from their own families and are currently working on writing an original story using those artifacts. We will continue our studies in folklore and delve deep into the many aspects of traditional culture that influence modern society today such as oral traditions and creation stories. This will lead students to create their own creation stories that they will present to the class. I can't wait to show case our work!

### Future Engineers

Students will be examining different types of machines that are in used in engineering. Last month, students constructed a blueprint based on the contents of the classroom in the building. We will be setting up our first field trip to the One World Trade Center and examine the architecture of the location.



## MS 890 Soccer Program

### *Calling All Soccer Stars!*

Our soccer program will begin the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>! The soccer team will meet for practice twice per week for most weeks between October and December. Students will also have opportunities to represent MS 890 in tournaments and league games against other middle schools.

Boys and girls are welcome to join. A letter with specific information about the days, times, required attire, etc. will be distributed to students next week. All interested students **MUST** have a permission slip signed in order for them to participate.



## NIA AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our after school program is set to begin the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Yemisi Nassirou, the program director, will be reaching out to parents and students who expressed interest. We have 90 seats available for this program. Students will be granted a seat on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Application forms will be backpacked home with students this week. Please adhere to the due date indicated on the form.**

The program will be comprehensive and include activities related to academics, sports and social-emotional development.

Any questions, please call 929-397-9200 or email [nia.889\\_89ok@niabklyn.org](mailto:nia.889_89ok@niabklyn.org)

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