Dear MS 890 Family,

The start of a new school year can feel like a hectic time. Students, especially, are learning to live with many changes, such as starting in a new school, making new friends, or taking the bus for the first time on their own. As parents, too, we learn to change along with our children and begin to see them in a new light as they discover interests, skills and talents we never knew they had.

The 2018-2019 school year also marks a time of growth for MS 890. As we enter our second year of operation, we welcome several new staff members, who they themselves are experiencing a lot of change along with our students. I would like to thank all of the students, families and staff who make MS 890 a fun and inviting place to learn. We come from all backgrounds, races and creeds, yet we celebrate our differences and see them as a way to learn about our beautiful and complex world. The work we do to combat injustice and inequality is an important step to making our world a better place.

Here’s to a successful 2018-2019 school year!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Frangella
Principal

In addition to Hispanic Heritage Month, October is also the time for Respect For All. As a school community, I would like to thank all of the students, families and staff who make MS 890 a fun and inviting place to learn. We come from all backgrounds, races and creeds, yet we celebrate our differences and see them as a way to learn about our beautiful and complex world. The work we do to combat injustice and inequality is an important step to making our world a better place.

Realizing Students’ Full Potential

“We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.”

- Max de Pree, 1924-2017, American Businessman

Get text updates from MS 890 teachers and staff! We are using Talking Points this year. Download the app or call Ms. Lopez, parent coordinator for more information.

929-397-9200
Say Cheese!

On September 20th, students were seen by the dentist right here at MS 890! As part of the Smile New York dental screening program, qualifying students received full dental examinations and care.

October Students of the Month

*Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for their hard work, perseverance and dedication in their classes. The following students were nominated by their teachers as the Students of the Month of October:*

- Sesshomaru Montanez – Class 601
- Omar Vereen – Class 602
- Bora Turkmen – Class 603
- Maiya Bethel - Class 604
- Kayla Thelismond – Class 119
- Erick Quezada – Class 701
- Adrian Ramirez – Class 702
- Ronhair Arosemena – Class 703
- Leon Samdani – Class 704

6th Grade Block Party

On August 10th, incoming 6th grade students had fun in the MS 890 schoolyard. Students and staff gathered to enjoy food, games, music and good company! Returning 7th grade students were also on hand to welcome the incoming 6th graders into their new home and answer any questions they may have had. Students received T-shirts and signed up for the NIA after-school program. It was a huge success and over 60 families joined us for the event, along with families from PS 889!

September Parent Teacher Conferences

On September 20th, over 140 families joined us for the beginning of year parent-teacher conferences. Parents visited teachers and learned about the expectations for each content area. Parents also received information about Pupilpath online gradebook. Ms. Lopez, the parent coordinator facilitated a workshop for 6th grade families around transitioning successfully to middle school.
2018 NYS Test Scores
A job well done to our students and their teachers on the NYS exams this past May. Our students outperformed both the city and the district (D22) for the percentage of 6th grade students performing at a proficient level on both exams.

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<th>NYC</th>
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Bring Your Child to School Day
Over 70 dads, grandparents, stepdads, uncles, cousins, older brothers, mothers and other family members joined us for Bring Your Child to School Day on September 18th. Family members joined the students for their 1st period class and enjoyed breakfast in the library. Thank you to all of our families for their continued support!

Dia de la Herencia Hispana / Hispanic Heritage Day and Celebration
On October 5th, we celebrated our second annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Parents and families decorated the gymnatorium and brought in tasty, traditional dishes from their countries of origin. Students learned about dress, sports and other interesting facts about the Spanish speaking world. Joining in on the festivities were a representative from the consulate of Guatemala and Councilmember Matthew Eugene. ¡Muchisimas Gracias a todos los padres que ayudaron hacer de este evento un éxito!
Science
Students will delve into the world of electricity focusing on batteries and commonly used electronics. We will focus on evaluating the efficiency and overall pros and cons of lithium ion batteries, alkaline batteries, and a new proposal for a graphene battery. In the first week of October, students will finalize their designs for their newspaper articles on a battery related issue. Students will transition to learn about various forms of energy are used in electronics and how they are transferred or transformed while they are being used. Activities include using the LEGO Mindstorm EV3 Robots to visualize the interconnections between various forms of energy, machines, and technology. For lab students will be creating their own series and parallel circuits to visualize electricity flow through a system. There are a variety of resources available to help students excel in this unit which are all on the science study resources page.

English Language Arts
In 6th grade 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.

In 7th grade, students are reading A Long Walk to Water, a short novel of historical fiction by Linda Sue Park based on a true story of Salva Dut—one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will become aware of the history of conflict and the dire need for clean drinking water in Sudan. Students will be connecting science to global issues and human geography. Students will use art and digital resources to show what they have learned. This is an interdisciplinary unit where students will be connecting what they are learning in science with their ELA novel. Each activity will help us better understand our water supply, the problems that currently exist with this resource, and easy “hacks” to use less of it.

Math
This month in math we will finish up exploring the rational number operations, then apply our knowledge of integers to algebra. The first two weeks of the month students will analyze two pizzerias and see which one makes a better profit using their knowledge of rational number operations, the order of operations, and percents. The last half of the month, we will focus on simplifying and creating algebraic expressions that involve negative and positive coefficients, that represent a real-world scenario.

Music
Students in General Music are currently exploring two Beatles songs (“Blackbird” and “And I Love Her” that appear on the 10 Most Covered Songs in History list! Why are there so many Beatles songs on this list? What makes these songs special enough to be covered by so many artists? These are just some of the questions that 6th graders are exploring as they take a critical look at the history and lyrics of the song, while exploring the new information through performing rhythms on words.

Musical History
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! This 6th Grade SPARK Class is “Carrying the Banner” for M.S. 890! Ms. Russo and Mr. Cummings’s Musical History class is getting the scoop on New York City’s Newsboys’ Strike of 1899 by learning all about the hit Broadway musical Newsies! A musical history class like none other, these students are deconstructing class struggle and assessing effective writing techniques while analyzing song lyrics and interpreting stage composition to look at life in turn-of-the-century New York. These students are doing excellent work learning about a challenging time for some of New York’s hardest-working kids, while stimulating their creativity with one of Broadway’s most buoyant musicals! This class makes students feel like “The King of New York!”

Musical History 2.0
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! This 6th What a “Puzzlement!” Students in Musical History 2.0 are back and are embarking on the study of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s The King and I musical. The King and I tells the real life story of Anna Leonowens and King Mongkut of Siam, as Anna teaches the King and his children about “Western” culture in their “Eastern” home. Students are consumed with exploring and investigating the cultural differences between British and Siamese cultural in the 1800s through the context of the musical. As students discover these differences, they are asked to identify which traditions are problematic and explore possible solutions.

Robotics
During this month we will learn what a robot is and get familiarized with the LEGO Mindstorms kits and programming language. We will learn how to build a base bot, then use a drag and drop coding program to complete simple tasks. Students will challenge themselves to go exact distances only using rotations or seconds as a unit of measure. At the end of this month students will explore the different types of turns and why we might program our robot to do so.
LOTE: Spanish

In Spanish class we are learning and practicing basic strategies for negotiating meaning without the use of English. We are learning simple ways of greeting others, making introductions, and exchanging simple, personal information. Students are analyzing music and texts in order to make linguistic and cultural comparisons between Spanish and English.

Sports Medicine

Students will focus on the wrapping of injuries. Students will draw on the knowledge of sports injuries we have previously covered in order to properly wrap the specific injury. This will require the students to draw on knowledge of the muscle, bone, and ligament arrangements in that specific body part. This will conclude with the wrapping of body parts such as the head, ankle, arm, and knee.

LOTE: Korean

안녕하세요 ("An nyung ha se yo" = hello in Korean)! Over the past few weeks, students in Studio: Korean have discussed what culture means to them and why it’s important that we know where we come from. Students have just started learning Hangul, the Korean alphabet and basic greetings in Korean. Returning students are refreshing their memories from last year’s Korean class and are given a slightly more advanced tasks for classwork. Throughout October, students will continue learning Hungul and expressions related to introducing oneself in Korean. Please have students practice speaking and writing in Korean at home and I highly recommend that students watch resource videos posted on class page for review.

Journalism

In 6th grade, 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. Students will also begin their neighborhood study project, researching the history of where they live and interviewing members of the community. In 7th grade, students in Journalism 2.0 have focused on conducting online research and creating effective infographics for the past few weeks. Students are now completing their infographics on Canva (graphic design tool website) and will be evaluating and providing feedback to their peers as a final task for the unit. For the month of October, students will be writing vignettes and conducting interviews. Students will create a narrative booklet together as a class to share the stories of different individuals in our MS 890 community.

Food Science

Students will learn the basics of nutrition sciences and why our bodies need food. They will learn about the essential nutrients we need to survive and maintain bodily functions, and analyze their own diets to see if they are receiving enough nutrients for their age group. We will discuss various factors which go into making food choices, nutrition labels, and the influence of the commercial food industry. The culminating project will include students using their knowledge on essential nutrients, calories, and nutrition labels to create a healthy informative menu for a restaurant.

Film Production

In Film Production, students are wrapping up their Film poster projects and are ready to promote their expert tastes. They are grabbing the cameras and learning about shot composition to understand the ways that we can make our films visually stunning. Students will be able to understand the differences in shot selection and why filmmakers make choices within their films. We will work on not just pointing and shooting the cameras, but setting up our shots to tell stories in different ways.

Future Cities

7th Grade Future Cities cohort were introduced to the Future Cities Competition and what will be required for the competition. Future Cities is a regional competition where students participate as engineers to create a futuristic city from recyclable materials that will solve a modern 21st century problem. The students gathered and discussed different strategies using the Engineering Design Process to solve the earthquake natural disaster that happened in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Students are currently working on researching integral infrastructures that are needed for city planning.

Urban Agriculture 2.0

This month urban agriculturalists are studying different pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide) and their impact on the environment. Specifically, students are researching why farmers use pesticides, how they use them, and the positive and negative effects of their use. Using the research from their investigation students will then create a presentation to share with their peers. Furthermore, students are beginning the germination process and starting our first class grow of the 2018 season. In addition, students will learn about different soil types, planting techniques, and proper plant monitoring.

Blended Learning

In Blended Learning, students have begun using Achieve3000. It is an online reading program where students will read a diverse range of non-fiction texts to obtain new information about a
variety of topics. Students are learning to navigate the Achieve300 website and get into the routine of performing the 5 Steps of Literacy. As we use the program more, students will investigate their interests and perform tasks at their own pace.

**Visual Art**

The 7th grade students are learning foundational art skills in the first trimester. This month, the budding artists have been working hard to develop their drawing abilities. So far, they have learned how artists use the elements of line, shape and value to create expressive works by employing the art principles of rhythm, emphasis and contrast. Now, they will begin learning how those same art elements can help artists create representational works. By closely observing the world around them, students will learn how to realistically represent objects on paper. This study will lead us to exploring new drawing materials, such as colored pencils and oil pastels.

**Animation Production**

Students have been studying the history of the moving picture! They have already explored some basic animation techniques, like creating thaumatrope. They are currently learning how advancements in photography lead to the advent of the movies! Throughout this study, students will engage in a variety of meaningful projects that will help them understand the basics of motion pictures and animation. They are currently developing a zoopraxiscope, which is an early animation technique created by the "grandfather" of the moving picture, Eadweard Muybridge. Then, they will explore flip book animation, and learn about key historical figures like Edison and the Lumiere Brothers.

**Debate and Diplomacy**

In Debate and Diplomacy we have been reviewing and discussing current events in our world. Although recently we have needed to clarify the Supreme Court confirmation hearings, this month also had us reviewing maps of the current border challenge between the European Union (Ireland) and the United Kingdom, tracking weather and water maps for Hurricane Florence, and learning about a high school student recognized for his leadership and volunteering. Additionally, we have been comparing some of the basic human rights articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and defending through writing and speeches which rights are most important.

**Student Classes**

This year, students chose from one of five studio classes. These include Latin Dance, Chess, Art Studio, Korean Language and Culture, and Choir.

**Student Government**

On October 10th, students elected their student council representatives. Close to 20 students ran for three positions. Congratulations to the students who were elected. Student government meets regularly with the school administration to plan events and suggest changes to school policies. Thank you to Mr. Murray for coordinating the student government.

*President* – Pema Gurung (703)

*Vice President* – Tenzing Jyanchub (603)

*Secretary* – Christopher Borruso (602)
Breakfast With The Principal

**For 7th Grade Families**

Join us on:

**Thursday November 8th**

8:30 AM

Gymnatorium

We will review the High School Application process and steps to ensure your child is prepared.