



# Eight 9

# Zero

MS 890's Monthly  
Newsletter

REALIZING STUDENTS' FULL POTENTIAL

IMPORTANT DATES

## Reflecting on 2017 - A Year of New Beginnings

Dear MS 890 Family,

A lot of wonderful things happened in 2017. This past year marked the start of our school community, and now 115 students call MS 890 home. With the founding students, families, and staff all collaborating together to ensure our success, we have been able to establish a positive learning environment where children can thrive and explore their talents. 2017 will go down in the history books as a very special year for MS 890 - the start of many more great things to come!

The end of December also marks an unofficial half-way point of the academic year. We recently held parent teacher conferences and several parents have already filled out a parent survey. The purpose of the survey is to get your feedback so that we can make MS 890

even better. If you have not had a chance to fill out the survey, I would encourage you to do so. More information about the survey is on page 3.

While the holiday season can be a hectic time of year, I encourage you to take the time to reflect on the many blessings we have been given, especially our friends and family. And to the MS 890 family, I would like to thank you for making 2017 so special. Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Frangella  
Principal, I.A.

### December 12<sup>th</sup>

- Movie Night – 4:00 PM in the Gymnasium  
- SLT MEETING

### December 13<sup>th</sup>

Picture Retake Day

### December 16<sup>th</sup>

(SATURDAY) *Healing Through Art* event: Students and their families are invited from 10 AM to 2 PM to create artwork that will go on display in the school and be auctioned off to raise money for a charitable cause.

### December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Winter Unity Concert** – 6:30 PM  
Featuring performances from our students in the Choir and Musical History Cohorts (*in gymnasium*)

### December 21<sup>st</sup>

Pajama Day, Cookie Swap and Winter Jam!

### December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Holiday Fair and bake sale

\* See details for upcoming events on

Sign Up For Remind to Get Important Updates about School Events!

Text @662a97 to number 81010

Or send an email to 662a97@mail.remind.com



## Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Our Big Brother, Big Sister Program has officially begun! Every Friday, select students from MS 890 work with the Kindergarteners of PS 889 during their recess period. These big brothers and sisters serve as role models for their younger counterparts in our collocated elementary school. Aside from gaining useful experience working with younger children, the big brothers and sisters model good

reading habits and conversational skills. It has proven to be a rewarding experience for students from both schools. A very big thank you to Ms. Turner for organizing this program and for Ms. Anderson's collaboration in making the program a success!



## November Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the recent Parent Association Meeting 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 November:

Social Studies – **Myrtho Alphonse** (Class 619)

LOTE Korean – **Kayla Winborne Freeman** (Class 604)

Social Studies – **Leon Samdani** (Class 604)

PhysEd – **Fatima Bhatti** (Class 603)

Science – **Lorelei Placencia Alman** (Class 604)

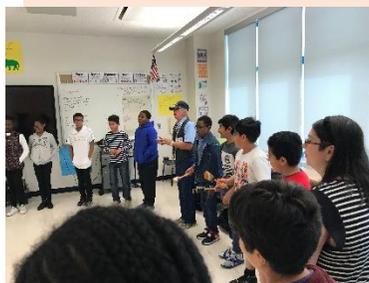
Math – **Alexander Xique** (Class 604)

ELA – **Kiasia Burrell** (Class 604)

Music – **Nelson Reynoso** (Class 604)

## Exploring World Music With Symphony Space

Thanks to our partnership with Symphony Space, our students have been learning about music from across the globe, including the Djembe percussion from East Africa, the Clave and Cascara (Afro-Latin) and traditional Native American drumming and dance. Students are using what they have learned to create their own compositions in music class. A special thank you goes to Ms. Russo for organizing the various guest musicians each week.



## NIA AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM NEWS

The NIA After-School Program at MS 890 is in full swing! With a robust variation of activities, students are excited to come to program daily to work with NIA Staff and several MS 890 Teachers outside of their school day hours. Each participant selected their NIA Enrichment Track which is similar to that of a College Major; students were able to choose **from Band, Chess, Girls Who Code or Soccer**. All Enrichment Tracks specialties meet for a minimum of 2 hours per week and allow for creative ways to develop and build skills in Leadership, Literacy and/or STEM. Outside of the available specialized activities, students also experience classes in **Web Design, Visual Arts, Basketball, Leaders Workshop, and Robotics & Engineering** where our participants are working to build 3D Printers. After indulging in the myriad of activities offered, students go to Study Hall at the end of their program day. If you would like more information on the offerings of our program, please contact the Program Director Yemisi Nassirou at (917)831-6233 or [nia.889\\_890k@niabklyn.org](mailto:nia.889_890k@niabklyn.org)."

## Parent Outreach

We are working hard to make sure parents and families receive all necessary updates, reminders and other news from MS 890.

Notices are often backpacked with students. **Please make sure to ask your child about any notices or letters sent home each day.**

Parents are encouraged to sign up for **REMIND**, which will send notifications to your phone. To subscribe, Text @662a97 to number 81010 or send an email to [662a97@mail.remind.com](mailto:662a97@mail.remind.com)

We will also begin a service called **School Messenger**, which will utilize the phone number you provided to the school and automatically call you with important updates and upcoming events, such as the parent teacher conferences or school cancellations. To learn more about this service, please call the main office at 929 397 9200.

## Mid-Year Parent Survey

Please visit the website below to complete a brief survey about your experience thus far with MS 890. The survey should take between 15 and 20 minutes. You can also scan the QR code to link to the survey, in either English or Spanish. We appreciate your feedback!

<https://goo.gl/forms/ESWtVSkijJ6n1yhd2>



**Version en español:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/todVhtjd2JWAAtlf1>

## STEM @ MS 890

During the regular school day and in after-school, students explore enriching topics in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to prepare for the college majors and jobs of the future:

During the after school Robotics thru 3D Printers program, students learned about the machines, components, and circuit basics of 3D design. This included the use of 3D software from TinkerCAD, which allows students to create their own 3D objects, environments and designs. Groups of students work together to build **Anet A8** 3D printers. There are a total of 10 student-built printers. Building 3D printers is no easy task. Students will learn about bolts, nuts, washers, bars, motors, motion sensors, electrical wiring, motherboards, thermistors, heater electronics, measuring by millimeters, power supply units, fans, SD cards and leveling.

They will be able to maintain and operate the printers to print out their own designs as well use these designs for future lessons and activities. Using the school's already existing 3D printer we will be printing improvements to the student-generated 3D printers, including shock absorbers to reduce noise outputs, cable organizers, and motherboard protective casings.

***A very big thank you to Mr. Pinnock who leads this work in the after-school program.***

MS 890 also participated in the **Hour Of Code / Computer Science 4 All** initiative, which promotes learning of coding language through age-appropriate lessons. In addition to moderating the Girls Who Code Club with Mr. Golembe, Mr. Fava teaches computer science concepts and coding language together with grade-level math content. *We look forward to seeing how students use this knowledge to devise solutions that make a positive impact on our world!*



## DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

### Social Studies

Students will investigate, compare, and contrast the Egyptian and Mesopotamian ancient river valley civilizations through researching key features of each civilization. Students will work with comparative categories using a comparative analysis graphic organizer, and different readings. Students will have access to different trade books to conduct additional research. Students will analyze primary sources related to their writing, and draft writing for their Egyptian and Mesopotamian books. Students will analyze document sets and answer short response questions using evidence from the documents to support claims. (DBQ) Students will learn strategies for answering constructive response questions, and how to properly label each document for a document based essay.

### Science

Students will deepen their understanding of phase changes, chemical and physical reactions, heat transfer and air pressure. Activities include a density lab with water displacement, a virtual lab on how various insulators are used to keep houses warm during winters, followed by a lab report to show their findings on the best insulators. Students will engage in several learning tasks to help them further understand how matter interacts in various ways. This will serve as a foundation for concepts related to the earth's atmosphere and weather patterns.

### English Language Arts

In ELA, students have started a new unit about exploration. We are investigating central questions such as "What motivates humans to explore?" and writing about our own experiences trying new things and visiting unfamiliar places. Students are reading texts about space travel and

creating storyboards for their own mini-documentary about exploration. Students are also reading our second class novel, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli.

### Math

This month in math we will be extending the number line! We will explore the world of integers and rational numbers. What this means is we will be talking about negative and positive numbers and what these can represent in real-world situations, such as elevation or temperature. We will be using robotics to simulate a number line, helping us conceptualize the idea of absolute value and the location of integers. Not only will we be extending the number line to the left, we will be taking a deeper dive into the numbers in-between integers; fractions! As a class we will explore the equivalences between fractions and decimals and see how they both are used to solve problems and represent quantities. These concepts will continue using the idea of equivalent ratios and will lead soon into percentages.

As for upcoming topics, sixth grade students are to be fluent in dividing, multiplying, subtracting, and adding decimals and fractions. These skills are vital to move on to algebra the rest of middle school math. A great resource to practice our skills in performing operations with decimals would be *Mathletics*. You can go to the section that says number system and find an activity relating to this and practice at home.

### Music

Students will finish their study of dynamics with a written/listening exam. Students will then move on to a discovery of tempo in music. Students will discover tempo through listening, playing recycled drums, and

theatre scenes. We will also have more visits from Symphony Space throughout the month with opportunities to learn more about World Music. Students will take a three part exam. This exam will include: complete a chart on different dynamics, listening to segments of music to determine the dynamic, and writing a short rhythmic composition with added dynamics.

### Musical History

Students will dive into their investigation of World War II through the lens of Rodger & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. Students will begin their discovery by do a close video analysis of Act I of the film in order to look for context clues that foreshadow the war, as well as to concentrate on using music to escape in times of sadness.

Unity Concert: Students will be evaluated based on their performance in the Unity Concert. Please join us on December 19th for our first show!

Maria Assessment: Students will do a written assessment where they explain whether Maria is happy or not during Act I of the movie. This connects to the theme of music as an escape.

### Robotics

In Robotics this month we will be continuing to explore different types of sensors, such as the light and gyro sensor. We will also begin more complicated coding with the robots. We will learn how to properly use conditional statements to make the bot make decisions based on its environment. The next big challenge is to program the bot to turn on automatic lights, when it goes through a dark tunnel following a black line around the room using the light sensors.

## Blended Learning / AIS

In the month of December, students in Blended Learning will continue working on Achieve 3000 and Mathletics. We have recently started adapting a new class routine, which students are to record their work process throughout the class period to be more accountable of their own learning. Students will aim to score 75% or higher on activities for both Achieve 3000 and Mathletics. Please encourage students to use the programs frequently at home to review and study ELA and math contents.

## LOTE : Korean

Students in LOTE: Korean will continue learning new vocabulary and expressions related to school life and classroom objects for Unit 2. Students have just started learning to read and write complicated vowels in Korean and how they can be combined with other simple vowels and consonants as syllable blocks. Students will work in groups to create conversation dialogues to practice using the expressions we have learned so far in real-life situations.

## Journalism

Journalism students are continuing to experiment with storytelling through video. Students are drafting and recording voiceovers as well as learning to edit video. Journalism students are collaboratively writing articles about recent community events and working on the first ever issue of the MS 890 newspaper.

## Food Science

Students will continue to deepen their understanding of technology and how food processing is influencing our diet. We will focus on methods of milk processing, grain processing, and sugar processing. Students will choose which processing method they would like to work on to for their culminating project, which will educate the school about the benefits and drawbacks of these commonly processed foods.

## Origin Story

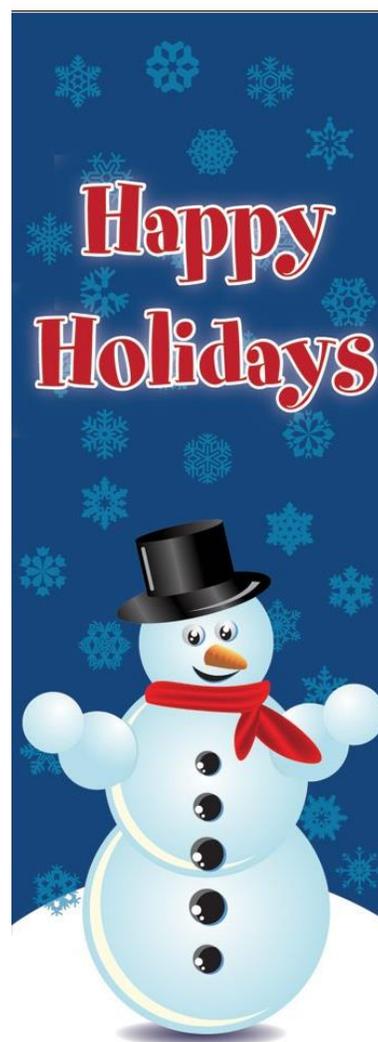
This month students will continue to learn about fables. This time their focus will be on African fables, specifically the Anansi tales. They will be examining the trickster archetype and how this type of character can be seen in stories all around the world. Students will analyze what is the purpose of trickster characters in literature and how they can enhance the moral of the story. As students progress in their knowledge they will begin to create their own trickster character that they will eventually use in the making of their 2nd comic book.

## Future Engineers

Students will be learning how to operate MS890's new 3-D printer to construct a bridge for a bridge competition amongst their classmates. Students are researching types of bridges, how they are constructed, and how important it is to have a strong build structure when building bridges. Following this unit, we will examine electrical engineering. Electrical engineering will study different types of circuits, how circuits are made, and students will use the 3-D printer to build their own circuits. In addition, we have visitors to discuss Chemical Engineering.

## Urban Agriculture

Students in urban agriculture are working on their invasive species project. Students are researching the threat and destruction invasive species have had on the environment and eco systems in the United States, and how the government is working to stop their spread. Students chose a specific invasive species and researched how that individual species hurt the environment it was introduced to. Students are also working with partners to create PowerPoint presentations to deliver oral presentations of their findings.



## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### **PBIS SYSTEM**

Students are earning school bucks for doing exceptional work, making improvements or modelling good behavior for other students. School bucks can be used by students to buy school supplies, snacks and other incentives in a school store that will take place once per month. If you see your child with a school buck, be sure to ask them how they earned it!

### **Student Survey Administration**

Sometime this month, students will be given a survey to fill out to give information about their teachers. The information from this survey will be used to help guide teachers' planning.

### **Benchmark Exams**

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, students will be given a benchmark exam in ELA and Math. The purpose of this exam is to determine the amount of progress students have made so far this year. The results will also help teachers plan for interventions and ensure students are prepared for the New York State exams later in the school year.

### **College Awareness Day**

January 11<sup>th</sup> will be College Awareness Day. Students will be exposed to the college application process, available degrees and majors, and the college experiences of the MS 890 staff and larger community.

### **Healing Through Art**

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the PTA is hosting a student/parent art exhibit and auction. This gives our children & caregivers the opportunity to collaborate on an individual art project. These projects will be exhibited in our halls and then auctioned off later in the month to benefit educational initiatives that support the power of unity and inclusion.

### **Winter Unity Concert**

MS 890 students and their younger peers in PS 889 will collaborate to put on a performance with the theme of UNITY. The performance will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. All families are welcome to attend.

## Fostering a Growth Mindset

Our school's instructional focus is to foster a growth mindset in all of our students.

### **What is a growth mindset?**

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Students who embrace growth mindsets—the belief that they can learn more or become smarter if they work hard and persevere—may learn more, learn it more quickly, and view challenges and failures as opportunities to improve their learning and skills.

### **Tips for Parents:**

- Pay attention and verbally praise kids for skills that don't sound predetermined: hard work, persistence, rising to a challenge, learning from a mistake, etc., rather than being "smart", "brilliant" or "gifted".
- Encourage your child to forget taking the easy route (where little learning is done) and instead embrace challenges.
- Remember growth mindset isn't just academic; it applies to many areas of life (athletic, musical, social). Having trouble getting the basketball into the net? Keep making mistakes on a guitar chord? Tried to initiate play with someone but it didn't go well? Discuss the next step for improvement.
- Discourage envy of peers, and talk to your child about what he or she can learn from others who appear more successful.

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