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ARTS and LITERACY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2016

"By writing plays in Arts and Literacy, I have become a better and more creative writer."

- Danielle, age 11, Juan Morel Campos Secondary School

"Arts and Literacy changed my life completely. I wasn't a very social girl when I entered middle school; I was insecure of who I was. But when I joined after school it changed all of that. I could be myself and feel sure about who I was... They welcomed me with open arms not knowing me. Now this is my 3rd year in this program. I'm in high school but after school is the only one program I can't say goodbye to."

- Sara, age 14, Leader in Training and Arts and Literacy graduate at I.S. 230

STUDENT ADVOCATES

Dear Partners,

As Spring is upon us, The Arts and Literacy Middle School Program is so proud of all we have already accomplished this school year and excited for all we have planned in the upcoming months.

In the 2015-2016 school year, we have successfully begun programming at The Emerson School in Jamaica, Queens and we have met our mid year



Students from The Arts and Literacy middle school and elementary school programs performed and protested at a City Hall rally on Tuesday, urging Mayor DeBlasio to fund summer camps for middle schoolers across the city. [We made the news! Click to see press coverage.](#)

SERVING MORE STUDENTS

The Arts and Literacy program at I.S. 227 has received additional funding from DYCD to serve 40 more students!



As part of this expansion, the program at 227 now includes classes in cheerleading, yoga, poetry, and has a newly formed hip hop dance team!

EMERSON STUDENTS FOR EQUALITY

outcomes at all five of our middle school programs. Additionally, the Arts and Literacy Middle School Program has implemented a Leaders in Training Program at three of our sites, had great parent turnout at all of our performances and events, and have hosted several special community events.



Recently, we hosted our annual Student/Faculty Exhibition "INterSPIRATION" at Grace Space Gallery in Bushwick, Brooklyn. It was an inspiring month long series of events, culminating in a very special student/faculty performance attended by families and community members. Watch the video above to get a peek of the great youth and community development work our program staff and students are a part of!

With gratitude,
Arts and Literacy Middle School Team



Congratulations to the team and students at The Emerson School for their Family Art night under the theme of Equality.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Family Art Night at Juan Morel Campos - **Wednesday April 20th**
- Poetry In Motion Night *in collaboration with P.S. 127* - **Thursday April 21st**
- Student to trip to "Romeo and Juliet" at the Public Theater - **Wednesday April 27th**
- "In The Heights" Musical Production at P.S. 127 - **Saturday May 7th**
- "Let's Move! Healthy Living" Video Competition Winners Announced! - **Friday May 13th**
- Mother's Day BBQ at Flushing Meadows Park - **Saturday May 14th**



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