



# THE DIXSON/GRADY HAPPENINGS

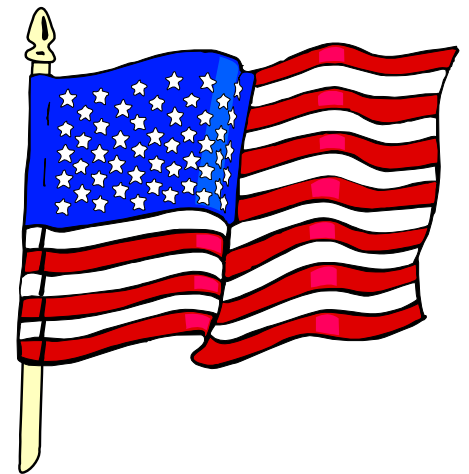
MAY/JUNE 2010

The Dixson/Grady Happenings provides you with a quick glance of what is going on in both schools. You will notice a description of plans/themes by grade level as well as information from each 'special' area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 592-8962.

Have a Great Summer!

Mr. Harders,  
Principal



# DIXSON/GRADY HAPPENINGS

## Great Expectations

It's time to say, "Good-bye."  
Our year has come to an end.  
I've made more cherished memories  
And many more new friends.  
I've watched your children learn and grow  
And change from day to day.  
I hope that all the things we've done  
Have helped in some small way.  
So it's with happy memories  
I send them out the door,  
With great hope and expectations  
For what next year holds in store.  
-----by Maria Cuellar-Munson

Wayne S. Harders  
Principal  
Dixson Primary/Grady Elem. Schools

# DIXSON HAPPENINGS



## Upcoming Events:

\*May 4<sup>th</sup> Parents are invited to a literacy workshop titled "Read All About" at 6:30 PM at Dixson's Gym. Please come and learn about ways to support reading at home. This is an open discussion and teachers will be available to answer your questions, concerns and/or to lend some creative ideas.

\*On May 11<sup>th</sup> the Born to Read Committee presents "A Pajama Party" at Dixson's Gym from 6:30-9:30 PM. All are invited. Please call the main office for more information.

\*Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> we will host "Muffins for Moms" and  
\*Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> will be "Donuts for Dads."  
Both events will take place from 8:00-8:45 AM.  
More information will be forthcoming.

\*Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM will be  
Dixson's First Grade Moving Up Ceremony!

Happy Spring!

*Ms. Barbosa*  
[dbarbosa@elmsd.org](mailto:dbarbosa@elmsd.org)

## Pre-Kindergarten

In the Second Step program, the students are learning how to "slow down, stop, and think" to work out their problems. We will end the school year reinforcing our "Building a World of Kindness" theme with celebrations honoring our mothers and fathers for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

We will also continue to use brain power for "Literacy Workshop", "Science Lab" and "Math Challenge".

Mrs. Funny----Teacher  
Mrs. Williams-Teaching Assistant  
Ms. Oliva-----Teaching Assistant

## KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten classes had a wonderful trip to the Greenburgh Nature Center. The students were involved in a series of hands on experiences and a good time was had by all. We would like to give a special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to chaperone the trip. We couldn't have done it without you! In May, we will be learning about different types of plants and we will provide the students with a hands on activity of planting seeds. The planting will provide the opportunity for the students to learn the parts of a plant and what it will need in order to grow. We will also begin a unit on butterflies. For Mother's Day, the children will be busy creating special surprises for that wonderful lady in their lives. We hope that you will join us for "Muffins for Moms" on Friday, May 7th.

June is almost here! In Math, we will continue with addition and subtraction. On Friday June 18th we will be celebrating Father's Day with "Donuts for Dads".

We hope you can join us. In Science, we will continue our unit on butterflies. The children will have the opportunity to observe the life cycle of a butterfly in each classroom. We will also be discussing summer safety. It has been a wonderful year and we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and healthy summer.

Kindergarten Teachers  
Mrs. Capocci, Ms. DeBlasio, Mrs. Potenza, Mrs. Young

## FIRST GRADE

The final months of the school year promise to be busy and exciting ones! We will celebrate Mother's Day with our annual "Muffins for Moms" celebration on May 7th. In Math, we will be exploring positional words and making change with money. The children will learn all about plants, animals and oceans in our science units. In Reading, we will be working on what good readers do while reading (stopping and thinking, comprehension strategies and retelling). We will begin to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. In Writing, the students will be creating fictional stories to publish. Our annual Carnival will take place on June 17th and our Moving Up Ceremony will be on June 24th. We hope to see you there! Happy Graduation and have a fun and reading-filled summer!

The First Grade Teachers  
Ms. Plati, Mrs. Podhaiski, Ms. Sanese, Mrs. Velardo

## ELL

In May, the kindergarten and first grade English Language Learners will be participating in the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Students will apply their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that they have learned and practiced throughout the year.

In June, the kindergarten English Language Learners will be participating in a unit on plants. The first grade English Language Learners will be learning about different kinds of animals and insects. During these units, both the kindergarten and first grade English Language Learners will continue to practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities.

Miss Buonassisi  
Mrs. Roman  
ELL Teachers

# GRADY HAPPENINGS

## SECOND GRADE

We are enjoying the lovely spring weather and all the beauty this season brings. It was a pleasure meeting with so many parents and sharing the progress made during this year at our Parent/Teacher conferences. We are excited about our trip to the Bronx Zoo on Friday, June 11, 2010. The trip will include a visit to the Children's Zoo and Butterfly Garden as well as to other sections of the zoo. The trip should be a wonderful experience which will allow the children to see animals in their natural settings. We will need parent chaperones to make this a safe and enjoyable experience. Over the summer, please continue daily reading and responding to your reading. Don't forget to keep practicing addition and subtraction facts as well. Have a safe and happy summer!

The Second Grade Team  
Mrs. Leibel, Mrs. Nelsen, Dr. Short, Mr. Volpe

## THIRD GRADE

The third grade classes have been working diligently, to prepare for the English Language Arts test and Math test. During the months of May and June we will continue to work on various forms of literature and focus on writing response. In math, we will work on multiplication facts and division. Our social studies unit will focus on the country of Italy. The students are excited to be performing at the Recorder Concert. We look forward to seeing you there. As we continue to prepare our students for fourth grade, we encourage daily reading and reviewing math facts. We would like to wish Mrs. Morrow the best of luck in her retirement. She has been in our district for thirty years. We thank her for her dedication and support of our children throughout her career. We will miss you!

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer.

Third Grade Teachers  
Mrs. Fulgione, Mrs. Hopper, Mrs. Morrow

## FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade has been busy preparing for three state tests, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science! We are also starting our units on Magnets and Electricity in Science. In Social Studies, we continue to learn about the American Revolution, including the famous people, places, and events of this time in our nation's history. Reading groups are continuing to read novels using strategies and discussions for better understanding. We are also welcoming Ms. Nadler to fourth grade. She is our new reading teacher and we are happy to have her.

The Fourth Grade Teachers  
Mrs. Breen, Mrs. Budzynski, Mrs. Byrne, Mr. Hopper

## FIFTH GRADE

Greetings! In reading, we continue to work on grammar skills and improve our writing. Our reading themes to finish the school year are Nature's Fury and Give It All You've Got. We have been reading short stories, nonfiction articles, and fictional stories related to those themes. We've also been working on editing paragraphs. All classes will have read and completed a different novel to finish the year.

Fractions and geometry have kept us very busy in math. We look forward to working on probability and working with coordinate grids.

Mrs. Katsetos social studies' classes are studying the history of the United States and Canada. All students have completed a research project on a Latin American country. Please visit the 5<sup>th</sup> grade hallway to see the students' work.

Mr. Carolini's science classes are currently studying the motion of the Earth and the moon around the sun including moon phases and the planets of our solar system.

Final exams will be administered in June. The final exams are comprehensive. Students will be given an outline to assist in preparing for the final. Please check student planners for the scheduling of each final exam. Finally, please check for your child's textbooks in each class (Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies). They will be collected at the end of the school year and students will be held responsible for missing or damaged books.

**Math textbooks at home** will need to be returned in June. **PENCILS, PENCILS, PENCILS!!** Please help re-stock your child's school supplies (pencils, paper, erasers, sharpeners) as we work towards a strong finish to end the school year.

The Fifth Grade Teachers  
Mr. Carolini, Mrs. Cleveland, and Mrs. Katsetos

## SIXTH GRADE

In Science, the students are beginning their study of plants. They will study seed germination and plant sunflower seeds in the Grady Garden. They will then learn to use microscopes and prepare microscope slides.

Students will begin May with a wonderful trip to Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament in Lyndhurst, NJ. This trip gives the students a first hand look at what life was like in the Middle Ages. Social Studies classes will then continue with their in class projects called "I-Biographies". Students will research and present information on important people of their choice from the time when Rome fell through the Renaissance.

Students in Reading will begin work for their research projects. Students will learn how to cite works accurately as well as how to take notes and paraphrase. Students will use a variety of sources to support their research. A final research project, complete with pictures, diagrams and maps will be presented and shared in class.

In Math, students will be taking the New York State Math Assessment starting May 5th. Students will then begin work on projects in which they display the various ways mathematics is used in their lives. Students will then begin preparation for their final exams in June.

The Sixth Grade Teachers  
Mr. Donepp, Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Proctor

## ART

Spring is in the air!!!!

Inspired by the season, students have been creating brightly colored landscapes, tissue paper flowers and butterflies!! Kindergarten students will be creating "hungry caterpillars" to go along with their author study of Eric Carle.

We are working on one point perspective drawings and 3-dimensional sculptures in the style of Louise Nevelson.

Please be sure to come to the Grady School for the DISTRICT ART SHOW OPENING on May 5th, 6:30-7:30!!!!

HUNDREDS of works of Art will be on display from Dixson, Grady and Hamilton!! Join us for a snack while you look at the amazing creations the students have worked on all year...

See you there!!!

Mrs. Sanft  
Art Teacher

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The excitement is still in the air in the Grady gymnasium! Students are active and they have smiles on their faces. We would like to thank everyone for helping out in our "Hoops for Tradition" event. A great time was had by all. All students are now involved in our baseball/softball unit. May 21 is our next Fitness Friday event and Field Day is June 18. Please make sure your child brings sneakers with them if they wear sandals or flip-flops to school. If you have any questions or concerns the gym doors are always open.

Sincerely,

Mr. Watson & Mr. Tiernan  
Physical Education Teachers

# COMPUTERS

It is hard to believe the school year is ending. The 2009-2010 school year has been a lot of fun. Before summer begins sixth grade students will take a look at how propaganda is used to influence what people to buy, think, and believe. Fifth and fourth grade students will practice keyboarding using Dance Mat Typing. Third grade students will visit websites that reinforce math and science skills. Second grade students will use their knowledge of nouns to create a PowerPoint presentation. First grade students will practice sight words and long vowels as they play interactive phonics games. Kindergartners will have fun on the internet and reinforce what they learned about short vowel sounds.

Dr. Davis  
Computer Specialist

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The band program is gearing up for our end of the year activities. The Advanced Band has many exciting performances in the next few weeks: Awards Assembly on May 20, the Spring District Concert at 1:30pm and the Milton A. Williams District Concert at 7pm on May 18.

These performances will feature a variety of songs including solos, jazz, western, and classic to name a few.

In addition, many Advanced Band members performed at the annual NYSSMA solo festival at Byram Hills High School on Saturday April 17. Each student will receive an award for their performance at the end of the year assembly on June 21.

The Beginner Band is a fantastic group of students. Growing everyday. We've learned to play quarter, eighth and dotted half notes as well as the symbols for repeats and first/ second endings. The Beginner Band will perform on Friday, June 4 at 10:00am in the Grady Gym. I look forward to meeting all of you at the performance.

Recorder classes are also going very well. All students have begun to memorize the songs for the annual Recorder Concert. This will take place on Friday, June 4 at 10:00am in the Grady Gym. Please remind your son/ daughter to leave their recorder in their desk at school so that they have it on the days we have classes. I look forward to a fun and musically exciting finish to our school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shapiro  
Instrumental Music Teacher

# VOCAL MUSIC

Spring is here, my favorite time of year;  
The birds all sing, bees all buzz,  
Ev'rybodies happy 'cause -  
Winter's over!

We have recently started a unit on Instruments of the Orchestra. Students will learn how to classify instruments by family groups (strings, woodwinds brass and percussion). Students will be able to identify the major orchestral instruments by sight and sound. The unit will culminate in an exciting Instrument of the Orchestra Challenge.

Happy Spring!

Mr. Brown  
Vocal Music Specialist

# LIBRARY

Unbelievably, another school year will soon be over as spring and summer infect us all with energy and optimism. We love to look out into the courtyard to see the sun shining, the green grass, and the flowers blooming. There are so many things going on in the library that it is hard to describe them all! Each grade is listening to and exploring new and exciting literature while continuing to develop and strengthen their library and research skills.

Kindergarten and first grade will both undertake author studies in May, and will read about topics such as the lifecycles of frogs, butterflies and other animals, using the stories to distinguish between fiction and non-fiction information. We will share fun activities, such as guessing what baby animals will come out of eggs, changing the end of well-known stories to make our own original tales, and reading with friends.

Second grade will begin to learn and practice basic dictionary skills, while continuing to read and discuss fiction and non-fiction picture books. Third grade students will strengthen their dictionary skills, continue with their study of folktales, become detectives to solve a mystery, and perform a readers' theater. Both second and third grade will also learn where materials are located in the library and practice finding them.

After fourth grade finishes up its special Munchies that Matter project with a "taste test party" in early May, we will briefly go back to the poetry project that we missed in April, National Poetry Month. Then we will move on to our reference sources unit, and we will practice finding books in the library using the online catalog. Fifth grade will take a journey through the country using an atlas, and sixth grade will learn how to cite their sources to avoid plagiarism while conducting their in-depth research projects and writing their non-fiction books.

In addition, our exciting library programs will continue through May and June. Please encourage your child to become an "Author of the Day" by writing and illustrating an original story, and sharing it with his or her class. FAB continues to be a popular program, and new participants are always welcome! Additionally, we will honor participants of the 2009 Summer Reading Program at our May awards assembly with the hope that it will motivate them to "Do It Again in 2010!" Finally, we will wind up the year with a super raffle to encourage all students to return their books and clear their library records well before the school year ends.

This is a busy time of year for everyone, but please take a few moments a day to read with your children – the rewards are endless!

Ms. Sparber & Mrs. Graham  
Library Media Specialist

# ELL

Welcome spring and summer! Our third through sixth grade ESL students have been busy getting ready for the New York State English and math tests. In addition, our second graders have been learning all about our government and how it works.

We wish you all a happy and healthy summer and will see you in the fall!

Mrs. M. Kelly, Mrs. Cronin, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Alicea  
ELL Teachers

## A.I.S.

### READING and WRITING

**English Language Arts state testing will be administered to grades 3 - 6 during the week of April 26.**  
Here are some tips to helping your child do their best on the assessment.

Please be sure your child is...

\* getting a sufficient amount of sleep each night. Children ages 8 - 12 need 8 to 11 hours of sleep daily.

\* up early enough so that he/she will be on time for school.

\* eating a healthy breakfast and drinking lots of water each morning. Fruits, protein, and complex carbohydrates are a great way to start the day.

Please be sure you are ..

\* calm around your child when discussing the test. You don't want them to get anxious.

\* encouraging your child to do well but not pressuring him/her. It is important for your child to stay relaxed when taking a test.

\* keeping a positive attitude about tests.

\* marking down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.

\* talking about the test with your child. This can relieve stress about test taking.

\* praising/rewarding your child for their hard work preparing for a test.

Ms. Wygant  
Reading Specialist

The first grade is beginning to examine many different fiction picture books to gather information about what they look like. Students will be looking at characters, problem/solution, setting, sequence and illustrations. Afterwards, students will create their own fiction stories to

be published. They had some practice with publishing when they completed their non-fiction stories last month.

The fifth grade will continue working on the topic of nature's fury. Besides completing written comprehension assignments, students will be asked to get more creative and write using descriptive language. After examining photographs of natural occurrences in nature and the effects they have on people's lives, students will use similes, metaphors and personification to relate feelings about their visualizations in writing.

Mr. Carpanzano  
Reading Specialist

## MATH

Happy Spring!

It is time for the New York State Math Assessment. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the test May 5, 6, and 7. Makeups, if needed, will be given to students the week following the initial administration of the assessment. All classes have been working diligently to get ready for this assessment. Students should be sure to eat breakfast each morning and get plenty of rest the night before.

The next big math event will be the 24 Challenge for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. A date for the tournament is yet to be determined. 24 is a unique and exciting math game that really helps to reinforce basic fact mastery. Parents, your help will be needed. If you are interested in helping to proctor during the tournament, please contact me at school. A more formal invitation will be going home soon that contains more details. You do not have to be able to play 24 to be a proctor. A tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will take place later in June.

Many parents have asked what their child can work on at home. Perhaps one of the most important areas is mastery of the basic math facts. These basics help to build a solid foundation for the rest of your child's mathematical learning. Daily review of just 10 minutes will help your child solidify the facts to mastery.

Miss Hittner  
Math Specialist

## HEALTH OFFICE NOTES

As summer approaches, here are a few tips to remember.

### Summer Sun

\*UV rays are strongest in the middle of the day. Plan indoor activities at that time of the day or look for shade to prevent sunburn.

\*Cover the skin with a shirt AND sunscreen to avoid sunburn!

\*Wear a hat-preferably one that covers the neck and ears. When wearing a baseball style hat, remember to apply sunscreen to the neck and ears.

\*Sunglasses protect eyes from UV. Look for ones that wrap around & block nearly 100% of UV rays.

\*Use sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 and UVA/UVB protection.

\*This information and more is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/chooseyourcover/guide.html>

### Head Lice Alert

Head lice reach a peak time for infestation during the summer because of overnight camps, slumber parties and vacations.

Consider checking your child's head for the presence of lice regularly during the summer and several times the week before school reopens. Information about identifying lice can be found at:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice/photos.html>

### Vaccine Information

Summer is a great time to be sure that your child's immunizations are up to date! Below is an overview of vaccinations for students entering Kindergarten-Grade 12 in New York State:

DTap.....3 doses (4 doses for NYC students)

Polio (IPV or OPV).....3 doses

MMR.....2 doses of measles, 1 dose of mumps, rubella

Hepatitis B.....3 doses

Varicella.....1 dose if born on or after 1/1/98 or born on or after 1/1/94 & entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Tdap.....1 dose if born on or after 1/1/94 & entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade

### Have a Healthy and Safe Summer!

Veronica Lederman, RN

Carol Florio, LPN