

Message from Principal Kelly  
June 2015

Good morning PS 174 families!  
Welcome to our final assembly of 2015  
here at our wonderful school.

Fifth graders.....do you remember first coming to school?  
I know you do because I read some of your reflection  
essays.

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Parents? Remember those first days.....

PreK, Kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade. The teachers, the friends.

For some of you, this is your only school. For some there have been other schools....and several more to come –  
middle school, high school, college, and graduate school.

Many teachers....pre k and kindergarten,  
classroom and cluster teachers....music, gym, math,  
science, technology and other enrichment with arts and  
social studies.

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Our auditorium is very full today....full of moms and dads,  
Brothers and sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts,  
uncles and friends.

Your fifth grade teachers are here,

Mrs. O'Connor is here in spirit.

Mrs. Hui, our local elected officials,

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz,

New York City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz,

New York State Assemblyman Andrew Hevisi;

and other invited dignitaries from our community.

Remember that we represent every single teacher you

have ever had – PreK, Kindergarten, first grade,

second grade, third, and fourth grade.....

also, music, gym, math,

science, technology,

art and social studies.

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I look at all of you today and you are changed.

You have changed over these years.....not just growing taller, but growing stronger – on the inside as well as the outside, making better choices, using your words to communicate, solving spats and conflicts by speaking and then agreeing.

I know how much you love being outside

and playing in both gym and at recess,

how important soccer is to many, many of you.

Asking, "*Are you dressed for sports or dressed for school?*"

How many of you have soccer jerseys with the name,

*Ronaldo* on the back? Yes, many.

This is why we asked for more recess balls and games and instructed you how to take turns and be a team.

And we know just how important physical activity is to you....

You had some whole group instruction,  
in the gym and classes on how to choose teams.....  
what is good sportsmanship? .....and later, qualities and  
behaviors for teammates and friends.

Taking these traits – sometimes called “*rough and aggressive*” by some.....and thinking about the positive attributes of drive, loyalty and fairness.....taking them from the schoolyard into the school through programs.

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*What programs?*

You remember going to the *Arthur Ashe Tennis* stadium and playing tennis last year?

This is why your trip was to *Chelsea Piers*, so you could climb, and swing, & jump and why we again participated in the District 28 basketball tournament league.

I was told by the bus driver that he was surprised when he heard the scores. He thought you won every game. But we all know the real importance – not winning, but getting to play!

*Disney Musicals in schools?*

We all know the magic of *Disney*...  
But in the talented hands of Ms. Desvigne...  
could we ever imagine that our Mogli and Coconut tree,  
can become Belle and Gaston!

And that our King Louie would appear on stage again  
....but this year as a candelabra!

That our monkeys and bees would become tea cups and tea  
pots and Bagherra a ticking clock!

That our stage manager would come to the front of the  
stage as our book seller! Changes.

Thank you to our staff – Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Desvigne,  
Mrs. Friedman, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Amato for bringing  
*Disney* to our school and for Ms. Desvigne for assuring that  
musical theater remains vital and alive for our students each  
year!

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This has been a wonderful year, did you ever think that you  
could be earning (virtual) hundreds of thousands of \$\$  
investing in the Stock Market, that three of you would  
be ringing the closing bell of the NASDAQ and  
then be speaking to a crowd of over 600 Wall Street  
CEOs and executives!

Parents, could you imagine, your young children, learning to  
dance with such ease and grace, the foxtrot, meringue,  
the tango, the waltz and the swing?

I know when they hear the music today, there will be dancing in the gym.

That children who speak with passion,  
(in prior years, sometimes known as bickering or arguing)  
can have a constructive outlet by learning the art and  
craft of debate.

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*Who wants to play?* And because you can never move enough, we brought to you *Capoeira*, the Brazilian art combining dance, movement and culture all while developing focus, concentration, and leadership.

Every child was changed by this experience, through rhythm and sounds, as well as the gestures and controlled movements.

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Who knew that students would also choose to feed their minds by playing chess during lunch. That thinking, visualizing and strategizing could become as automatic as their *Simple Solutions* grammar work.

....That 3-D printing, an everyday event here in our classrooms, and in most schools, children and adults, have never even seen a printed object before.

Thank you parents, for supporting and teachers for writing the grants for these exemplary programs and materials.

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**You have changed. You have changed because you have listened.**

Now we have a new team in the fifth grade, The Capoiera Brothers.

**Thank you, Mr. Michael Goldstein and Gabriel Hurtado Haposow**

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**You have changed because you appreciate.**

I know because I read the essay, entitled, “*The New Kid in Town,*” about your visit to the New Victory Theater, “I am so thankful to PS 174 for giving such a beautiful gift.”

**Thank you, Yashvi.**

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And because I received a letter this year that said, “*Every time a new program comes to school, I know I should be thanking you. You are the one who gives us our education.*

**Thank you, Jasmine**

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**You have changed because you care.**

I know because I read the kindergarten writing display that said, “*I am happy at PS 174 when I play outside.*”

**Thank you, Sara and every other student monitors.**

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**You have changed because of how you feel....**

I know because Allysson's poem reads,

*"I feel happy to have a cool, amazing, greatest classroom in my life. I touch my brave heart inside of me."*

**Thank you, Mrs. Luis**

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**You have changed because you have learned.**

**I know that because** ....according to Mackenzie, "*Always bring your assignments on time.*"

**Thank you, Mrs. Engel.**

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**I know that you have learned because**.....when Adriana is describing her final year as being, "*shepherded by the most amazing team of teachers I enjoy the most – and discussions over books we read - influencing me a lot.*"

**Thank you, Mrs. Lapidus and Mrs. Morgenstern.**

That Melany writes, "*When I was here in 4<sup>th</sup> grade I didn't speak any English. ...but now I am in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and I understand A lot of English.*"

**Thank you, Mrs. Rouse**

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**I know that because of you our school you our school will never be the same .....our teachers have a mentor in financial literacy, the arts and technology.**

**Thank you Mrs. Alperstein.**

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And a precept from *Wonder*,  
the book that has changed many of you.....  
“*You are your own little light,  
shine bright so everyone can see.*”

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You are my avid readers and descriptive writers, you are my mathematicians, engineers, my artists.

You are builders, designers, creators.

You are script writers, essayists, persuaders.

You are my actors and singers.... sound and stage crew.  
You are debaters, chess players, instrumentalists.

You act, you run, you play, you think.  
You have imagination, drive and talent.  
You choose, you try, you learn, appreciate and care.

You are my students.  
I am your principal....and I will never forget you.

**Thank you.**