



# WILLIAM SIDNEY MOUNT, P.S. 174Q

## G.A.T.E. ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015



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### OUR GATE ENRICHMENT MANTRA

*"The future will require individuals who are able to formulate new problems, come up with new solutions, and adapt readily to the new ideas of others."*

—Csikszentmihalyi & Wolfe

To this goal, we aim to foster and encourage

- \*Originality
- \*Elaboration
- \*Curiosity
- \*Willingness to take Calculated Risks
- \*Preference for Challenging Complexity
- \*Flexible Thinking
- \*Keen Intuitions

### G.A.T.E. ENRICHMENT INTERACTIVE FRAMEWORK for an engaging and differentiated Common Core:

Enrichment for G.A.T.E. classes involves hands-on projects in the S.T.E.A.M. spectrum, fostering critical thinking and allowing students to apply what they've learned. Expectations are high level, requiring explanation, elaboration and diverse thinking to support ideas.



#### Kindergarten

- Kindergarten students are busy learning to use their SmartBoard and internet for researching spring plants and animal life. Scientific diagrams of forsythia growth are then linked to spring poetry.
- We are creating our own addition and subtraction problems to challenge classmates' mathematical thinking.



#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- First Graders are involved in an in-depth study of Matisse, culminating in original artistic representations emulating his style.

- We are researching and analyzing biographies in preparation for our own 1-100 Wax Museum presentations.
- A read-aloud of Carol McCloud's *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*; inspired our class brainstorming good behavior and respect. Continuing book reviews are of *The Dooples*, written by our own visiting author, Lynn Hunter.



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Second Grader G.A.T.E. is doing an in-depth study of Lenape Native Americans.
- Students are sharing and enjoying our daVinci projects.



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- We're busy and excited preparing with recorders for our Carnegie Hall recital.
- Collaborating with our 4th Grade G.A.T.E. is proving to be great fun as we use the websites Wonderopolis and Literacy Shed, and hone our opinion-writing skills.



#### 4th Grade

- Students look forward to all our partnership activities with our 3rd Grade friends, getting our recorders in tune for Carnegie Hall and integrating the accelerated literacy curriculum with real world websites.
- We've shared our fantastic Latin dioramas depicting Roman family life.
- Fourth Grade G.A.T.E. is so very busy entering a variety of contests...
  - ◆ "Open a World of Possible" Scholastic Poetry Contest
    - ◆ "Earth Day" poetry sponsored by Senator Addabbo
    - ◆ "InvestWrite" essays for the Stock Market Game, inventing fantasy superheroes to help plan a successful financial future.



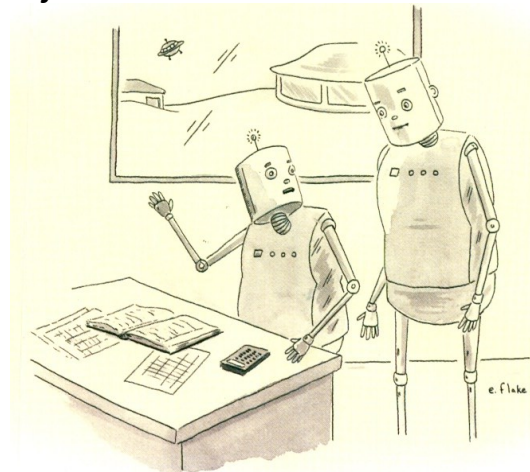
#### 5th Grade

- G.A.T.E. 5 has been very busy with project based learning. We are proud to announce one of our teams received a national honorable mention for the Toshiba Exploravision Innovation Awards. We have just submitted our new InvestWrite essays for the Stock Market Game and are watching our portfolios as we enter the final stages of this investment game. Students are tuning up and rehearsing with our recorders for our Carnegie Hall Link Up concert. We'll accompany the orchestra from our seats with an entire repertoire, thanks to Target Field Trip Grants. Donors Choose has funded our financial literacy project and we now are recording with our very cool GoPro video action camera.
- Ballroom dance concluded on a high note with a second round Gold Award and a culminating celebration of dance, dance, dance for our families. We have also just concluded a wonderful celebration of our Joyce Theater Dance in Education program. Parents joined us for our concluding dance and choreography session.

- The visual arts are alive and well as we prepare for our visit to the new Whitney Museum in May. The museum will open May 1, 2015 and Mrs. Alperstein's students look forward to continuing our collaboration with this prestigious museum at its new location on the High Line in Manhattan. In the meantime, we have been creating sculptures inspired by outdoor sculptures of Anish Kapoor, published in Scholastic Art's latest issue.
- The Arts Continuum Grant has begun and we are becoming capoeiristas as we master the Brazilian martial arts dance form. Students are working with Afro-Brazil Dance learning the capoeira moves we look forward to sharing with the school and our families.
- The Archive-it project continues as we "crawl" (save) digital web sites in conjunction with the Library of Congress. We look forward to completing our online collection for posterity in May.
- We have ignition! NASA has tested its SLS Rockets for the Orion Mars Program and our students weighed in with their reactions to the latest tests. A delighted NASA has posted our students' video responses online.



#### **One of our G.A.T.E. students???**



"I've worked it out where someday we can summer on Pluto and winter on Mercury."

## GATE SPRINGTIME NEWS

Our GATE classes continue to amaze us all as our students win an unprecedented number of accolades and kudos in national and regional arenas.

- ◆ Our Ezra Jack Keats bookmaking competition winner will be attending the May awards ceremony.
- ◆ Congratulations to our many Women's History Month Poster Contest winners.
- ◆ Great News...we now have a number of published poets in the 2015 Young American Poetry Digest, their Haikus selected by a panel of educators for their creativity, language, sensory/figurative images, structure and poetic techniques!

### UPCOMING G.A.T.E.

#### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We continue to link our Core Curriculum to brainstorming and philosophical discussions of Junior Great Books, and learning advanced strategies for character analysis and higher-order thinking.

G.A.T.E. 2nd—5th Graders are immersed in science research and individual and team projects, learning about inventions and discoveries of the future, including robotics, genetics, medical advances, 3-D printers, hovercrafts and drones for the NYC STEM MATTERS SCIENCE EXPO and are looking forward to our upcoming June trip to receive our medals.

We eagerly anticipate responses from the Young Authors Fiction Writing Contest and Earth Day 2015 Competition, as well as President Obama's answer to our invitation and gift books.

GATE classes are organizing our multicultural cookbook, sharing favorite family recipes and ideas "*From Our Kitchen to Yours.*"

## Did You Know?...

- \* Forty percent of us trace our heritage to the immigrants who arrived through **Ellis Island in New York Harbor**. You'll pay a ferry charge to get there (\$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors; \$5 for children) but no fee to visit the **Statue of Liberty** or **Ellis Island**. At the **American Family Immigration History Center**, \$5 lets you search the ships' records to discover when your ancestors arrived on these shores. (if they came through this entry port.)  
*What would you think is the Greatest gift of all time? Consider these...*
- \* James Smithson, the Duke of Northumberland's son, had a taste for card games and liked to take chances. He took one on America, a country he never visited. Upon his death in 1829, Smithson gifted his entire estate, which included a library with just three books about America, to "found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge."
- \* The greatest gift was actually quite small: tiny wheat seeds, resistant to drought and disease and adapted to grow in tropical climates. Developed by Norman Borlaug, who would become the father of the green revolution (and whose work was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation), the seeds were planted across fields in Latin America and South Asia. They ultimately fed more than 1 billion people and put poor countries on a path to self-reliance.
- \* Odysseus, on his way to Circe's house in Homer's *The Odyssey*, bumps into Hermes, who gives him a mysterious herb called moly to protect him from the witch's magic. James Joyce called This "gift of Hermes" the "invisible influence (prayer, chance, agility, presence of mind...) which saves in case of accident." Hermetic gifts are those

fertile coincidences that lead to creation, not chaos.

- \* The Trojan Horse, by smuggling in the Greeks, led to the destruction of Troy, so from the perspective of the city's residents it was not such a great gift—at least not at that moment. But according to legend, Troy's destruction made way for the foundation of Rome and its empire. The rest, as they say, is history.
- \* Tim Berners-Lee's gift to the world was the World Wide Web. He chose to make it a public good, rather than milk it for his own advantage, and the benefits have been enormous.
- \* *Stone Soup* is a magazine by kids, for kids, in print and digital forms, helping foster a love of reading, writing and art in the 8-13 set. (StoneSoup.com)
- \* The MindWare catalogue contains "brainy toys" for kids of all ages (mindware.com)
- \* T.V. shows we love to watch (check local listings for times and stations)...
  - How It's Made
  - The Wildlife Docs
  - Ocean Mysteries
  - Sid the Science Kid (for younger viewers)
  - Innovation Nation
  - Brain Games
- \* The series of books by game-show winner Ken Jennings...*Junior Genius Guides*, includes topics from mythology to geography to history.
- \* Museum of the Moving Image (FREE Friday 4-8 p.m.), 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Astoria.
- \* Hall of Science (FREE Fridays, 2-5 p.m., Sundays 10-11 a.m.), 47-01 111<sup>th</sup> Street, Corona.
- \* MOMA (FREE Friday afternoons 4-8 p.m.), Sculpture Garden (FREE every morning, 9:30-10:15 a.m.), 11 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
- \* Discovery Times Square - KID M.D., 44<sup>th</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue (discovery.tsx.com)



The high level of Gifted Enrichment at P.S. 174Q is, therefore, geared to enhance and extend the curriculum. Instruction supports and encourages shared, project-based inquiry, critical brainstorming sessions, and research applying depth of written reflection. We know our gifted learners of today will, no doubt, be tomorrow's leaders! Many thanks to you, our PARENTS and truly invaluable partners!

G.A.T.E. classes are in full agreement with President Obama's 2015 State of the Union Address..."A sense of common purpose (in rising to excellence) propels us forward."



**GO P.S. 174Q**  
**G.A.T.E.!!!**