

# CAACS GLOBE

## Cultural Arts Academy Charter School **HOMECOMING**



On Saturday, November 9, 2019, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School welcomed its staff, graduates, current scholars and families to its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming celebration. The frigid weather did not prevent a large turnout. The activities offered included a cheerleading workshop, video game truck, silent party, music, dancing, food and more! The Homecoming event each November at CAACS is a tradition that many of our alumni, families and staff look forward to!

### VOL. 11, NOVEMBER 2019

#### Kindergarten Community Helpers



Our Kindergarteners complete their first inquiry unit about community helpers. They effectively presented to an audience that included their peers and several family members!

2

#### Fourth Grade Open Mindedness



Our fourth graders began the year with an inquiry unit about Native American expressions that aligned with the IB theme: How we express ourselves. This reinforced the traits of Reflective and Open-Minded!

3

#### Parent University



CAACS welcomed families to its first ever Parent University where free childcare and refreshments are provided so that our families can enjoy some adult learning!

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"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." -Coretta Scott King

## A Visit from a Disney Storyteller

Our first grade classes engaged in a reading celebration with our partners at First Book and Disney. Disney volunteer, Ms. (Princess) Jasmine, read the scholars *Blizzard* by John Rocco, which is an amazing story of kindness and bravery based on actual events - the blizzard of 1978. Our partners generously donated 3 books for each of our scholars as part of their mission to inspire imagination and a lifelong love of reading!



# Kindergarten: Community Helpers Project

Central Idea: Communities work together when members agree on the guidelines.



Notre Dame University's Community Helpers pose for a photo after their summative project presentations on November 8, 2019.

Our Kindergarten classes, named after Grambling and Notre Dame Universities, learned about community helpers through the lens of the theme: How we organize ourselves. The inquiry unit began with our scholars being read books and watching videos of various community helpers. In October our Kindergarten classes were visited by Ms. Teresa Cunningham, of the Bureau of Community Affairs for the New York City Department of Sanitation. The scholars enjoyed videos, Q & A, stickers, and coloring pages with Ms. Cunningham. Next, our Kindergartners generated questions about different community helpers, of their interest. With the support of their professors, our scholars were able to research, cut, paste, color and write on posters for their final project. In November, scholars were encouraged to dress up like their community member of study and present their projects to the class. Families came to support their scholars for what was excellent afternoon of presentations!



## Fourth Grade: Native American Project

**Central Idea: Understanding diverse cultures may create open-mindedness.**

Our fourth grade scholars, named after Northeastern and New York Universities began the 2019-2020 school year studying through the theme of How we express ourselves with the central idea: Understanding diverse cultures may create open mindedness. The New York state Social Studies curriculum called for them to learn about Haudenosaunee Native Americans and they did so through reading textbooks, a show and tell of real wampum jewelry, playing lacrosse in Physical Education class, watching videos, and select read alouds of tradebooks. The scholars also learned more about the Iroquois people in their Engage NY English Language Arts curriculum.

Next, our fourth graders generated guided inquiry questions that included forms of expression and various indigenous people. An example research question: How did the Cherokee use clothing as a form of expression?



**Redhawk**  
Native American Arts Council



Our fourth graders researched using books and internet resources for a few weeks. Throughout the unit, after most lessons, the scholars wrote reflections about how they were becoming more open-minded as they began to appreciate a culture different from their own. On Wednesday, October 23, 2019 CAACS was visited by the Redhawk Native American Arts Council who answered questions to break down stereotypes and engaged the scholars in participatory song and dance. After reflecting about this presentation, the entire fourth grade was required to complete essays and creative projects for a presentation themselves. One group of boys, in New York University, were particularly impressive in creating a detailed script and masks for a performance about the ancient tale of the origins of lacrosse.



# Parent University



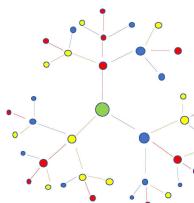
On Friday, November 8, 2019, Cultural Arts Academy welcomed its families for our first installment of Parent University. Childcare was provided for families so parents could be free to partake in the adult learning activities. For our first meeting, the scholars watched the new live-action film, Aladdin, and had free-time, games, crafts, and snacks. Meanwhile, the adult learning began with a basic introduction to the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families led by Dean Morales followed by an introduction to the Learner Profile Traits with a focus on Caring led by Dean Mercaldo. After the initial adult learning, parents had options to continue their learning which included Zumba dance with Ms. Davis, Spanish with Professor Valdez, Man-Proof with Dean Francis, and Health & Nutrition with Nurses Irving and Wilson.



## ManageBac Report Cards



On Thursday, November 7, 2019 Cultural Arts Academy Charter School held Student-Led Conferences for the first quarter. There was no school for the scholars, but the scholars were invited to lead the 10-minute meeting with both their family member and teacher present. The student led conference exhibits the merging of our 2 programs: the Leader in Me (with their leadership binders) and the International Baccalaureate (with their graded projects and portfolios). Our professors worked extremely hard to prepare much more detailed report cards for these conferences using our new ManageBac online learning platform.



## Flagway: Making math fun

On Thursday and Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School welcomed back Terri Bucci and Debe Adams from Ohio State University to further provide our instructional team with strategies to make math fun while also providing scholars with tangible points of reference for the math concepts. Our staff was introduced to the math game called Flagway. Flagway is a knowledge-based sport in which teams race to sort various numbers into different categories based on their prime factorization. While the game can be scaled for all ages, it is mainly played with students in grades 3-6. Flagway will offer our school an exciting way to make connections between Physical Education and the other subjects. There is even a Flagway league we can join!



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