



December 2, 2011

**CORE VALUE OF THE MONTH:
RESPONSIBILITY**

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EXCITING NEWS!

The 7th grade Middle School girls have been learning the Olympic sport of fencing in PE over the past few months. They have been working on basic footwork and have learned how to fence against an opponent. This weekend our girls will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills when they represent Girls Prep in a city-wide fencing tournament. Join us in cheering on 20 of our 7th grade girls this Sunday, December 4, at Fencer's Club on 229 W. 28th Street starting at 12:30pm.

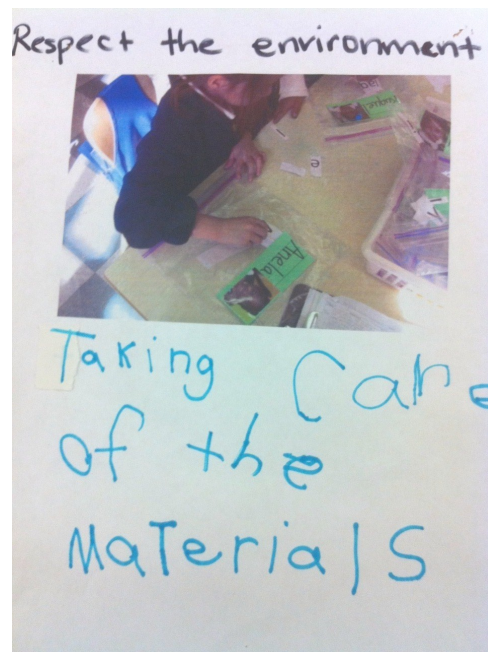
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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Public Prep UNITY newsletter, focused on the core value of Responsibility. "I choose to do the right thing (even when no one is watching.)" While strong academic achievement is a prerequisite to put our girl's on a path to ultimately earn a degree from a four-year university, it is not enough. Too often we are disappointed when we see public figures that seem to be "smart," but fail to achieve success in life because they lack self-control or give up when the going gets tough. Indeed, much has been written recently about the importance of responsibility — and other non-cognitive skills and traits like persistence, self-discipline, optimism, gratitude, empathy and dependability — as necessary complements to academic success. Ironically, new studies now show perseverance, dependability and consistency are the most important predictors of students' academic grades. This is why we're proud to share examples of service learning projects in which students across all of our schools are putting our core values into practice, building the kinds of non-cognitive skills, that will help them ultimately succeed.

All Best,
Ian V. Rowe
CEO

STUDENT WORK



A page from the Joan Ganz Cooney class's book on Responsibility.



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

These service learning projects help us to show responsibility for the environment, community and those in need. Take a look at some of the ways that are Public Prep scholars are showing responsibility:

Girls Prep Lower East Side Middle School

Girls Prep has partnered with Generation On to incorporate service learning projects into the core subject areas. Middle school students will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice by developing in-depth projects that will not only allow them to demonstrate mastery of the content, but will also reinforce Public Prep's core values.

Girls Prep Bronx Elementary School

The school community is participating in a holiday gift exchange where families and staff are purchasing gifts and making donations to purchase gifts for families in need. We are purchasing gifts for fifty community members.

The second grade is participating in Leave it Better, an organization that is dedicated to teaching students about the many things they can do, big and small, to leave their community better. Students build planters, grow their own gardens and share ideas about how to improve their communities.

Girls Prep Lower East Side Elementary School

Kindergarten classes partnered with local daycare centers, and the scholars from each kindergarten class were able to take on the role of "Big Sister", by sharing their love of learning with younger students.

First grade classes visited Ollie's Place in November. The students learned about animal welfare and how to take care of cats specifically. They spoke to volunteers about the adoption and foster process for pets.

Second grade classes have created a partnership with Grand Street Settlement's "Seniors" program. Scholars spent time playing games, singing songs, and dancing with our senior buddies.

Third grade classes are working to spread their love of literacy with the school and neighborhood community. The students have partnered with kindergarten classes to create a book about the core values for their classroom libraries.

Fourth grade's service project is caring for the environment and access to fresh, local foods. In October, Students visited the Union Square Farmer's Market and learned about how our food comes from farmers around New York. In the spring, students will learn about growing food and share herbs and lettuces that they grow with their sister classes at GP LES Elementary.

DID YOU KNOW ONE OUR TEACHERS IS A CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR?

Please join Monique Duncan, third grade lead teacher at Girls Prep Bronx, at Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center of Queens Library this Saturday. She will be selling copies of her featured title, D is for Dragon Fruit, a vibrantly illustrated, exotic fruit alphabet book that exposes children to a variety of nutritious fruits, reinforces the alphabet and expands a child's knowledge of the world.

Details:

3rd Annual Authors and Publishers Fair
Saturday, December 3, 2011
Langston Hughes Community Library
and Cultural Center of Queens Library
100-01 Northern Blvd. Corona, N.Y. 11368
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

