

GAYNOR Gazette

**SECRET MISSION -
GAYNOR SURPRISES
CO-FOUNDERS
FOR 50TH
CELEBRATION**

**GATORS MAKE
BASKETBALL
PLAY-OFFS!**

**GRADS LIST
50 WAYS
THEY'LL
MISS
GAYNOR**



Building on 50 Years

GAYNOR Gazette

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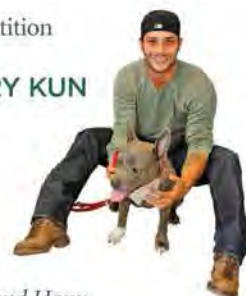
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performed
for the school
I felt
like I was
beginning
my own
Gala*



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL

BUILDING ON 50 YEARS

Dear Friends,

As our 50th year comes to a close, there's much to celebrate. The success of our school over five decades can be measured in many ways. I measure success of Stephen Gaynor School in smiles – the smiles that I see on children's faces every day. I'm pleased to say that over the last 50 years more than 2,500 students have left our school not only full of smiles, but also bursting with self-confidence and a passion for learning that is unparalleled. I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Gaynor Gazette* – a tribute to 50 years of making a difference!

As you will read, year after year, we continue to focus on challenging academic programs. This *Gazette* features an article on our inventive Science program, with informative updates on innovative curriculum in Technology, Music, Art, and Drama. Our goal has always been to provide our students with a challenging curriculum to best prepare them for the next step in their educational journey. We often hear from other schools that our alumni are extremely well-prepared to handle anything that comes their way.

This year's Gaynor Gala was our biggest event ever. With nearly 900 guests, the energetic vibe in the room was only surpassed by the strength of our community's support for our students. We were thrilled to honor our co-founders, Dr. Miriam Michael and Yvette Siegel-Herzog, for their pioneering spirit, along with four individuals who have been instrumental in helping make our school what it is today: Dr. Gordon Gaynor, Carol Feinberg, Erminia Rivera, and Daryl

Simon. In addition, we are truly grateful for the generosity of our community. Because of each of you, we will be unveiling a skybridge this fall, connecting our two buildings and creating a unified campus.



I measure success of Stephen Gaynor School in smiles – the smiles that I see on children's faces every day. I'm pleased to say that over the last 50 years more than 2,500 students have left our school not only full of smiles, but also bursting with self-confidence and a passion for learning that is unparalleled.

Earlier in June, we celebrated the accomplishments of our 2013 graduates. Twenty-six students are eager to face the challenges that await them. I couldn't be more proud. As our alumnus speaker, Hillary Kun, mentioned in her address to them, "You have all the academic skills and the confidence you need to be successful!" I couldn't agree more.

Finally, we are truly grateful for everyone's support throughout the school year. Because of your generosity, and that of our friends and families over the past 50 years, our school has grown, providing us the opportunity to offer a Gaynor education to more students than ever. I'm honored to say that we are widely recognized as providing the best educational program for children with learning differences in New York City.

I am excited to welcome many new families into our community this school year. I hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer and our students are able to take the time to recharge. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the start of the 2013-2014 academic year. Until then, enjoy your time away!

Sincerely,

Scott Gaynor

DR. SCOTT GAYNOR
Head of School

A TOP SECRET MISSION: HOW 300 GAYNOR STUDENTS HELPED CELEBRATE OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Can nearly 300 students keep a secret? This March, Gaynor uncovered the answer as we accomplished a near-impossible feat. With almost 300 students, more than 100 faculty and staff members, and about 25 parents, we quietly lined the sidewalk surrounding the school and filled the lobby of the North building to kick-off a day celebrating our co-founders, Dr. Miriam Michael and Yvette Siegel-Herzog. Gaynor students held green and white balloons and clapped excitedly as a car approached the school, revealing the two women who started Stephen Gaynor School 50 years ago. And the most amazing part is that the event was a surprise!

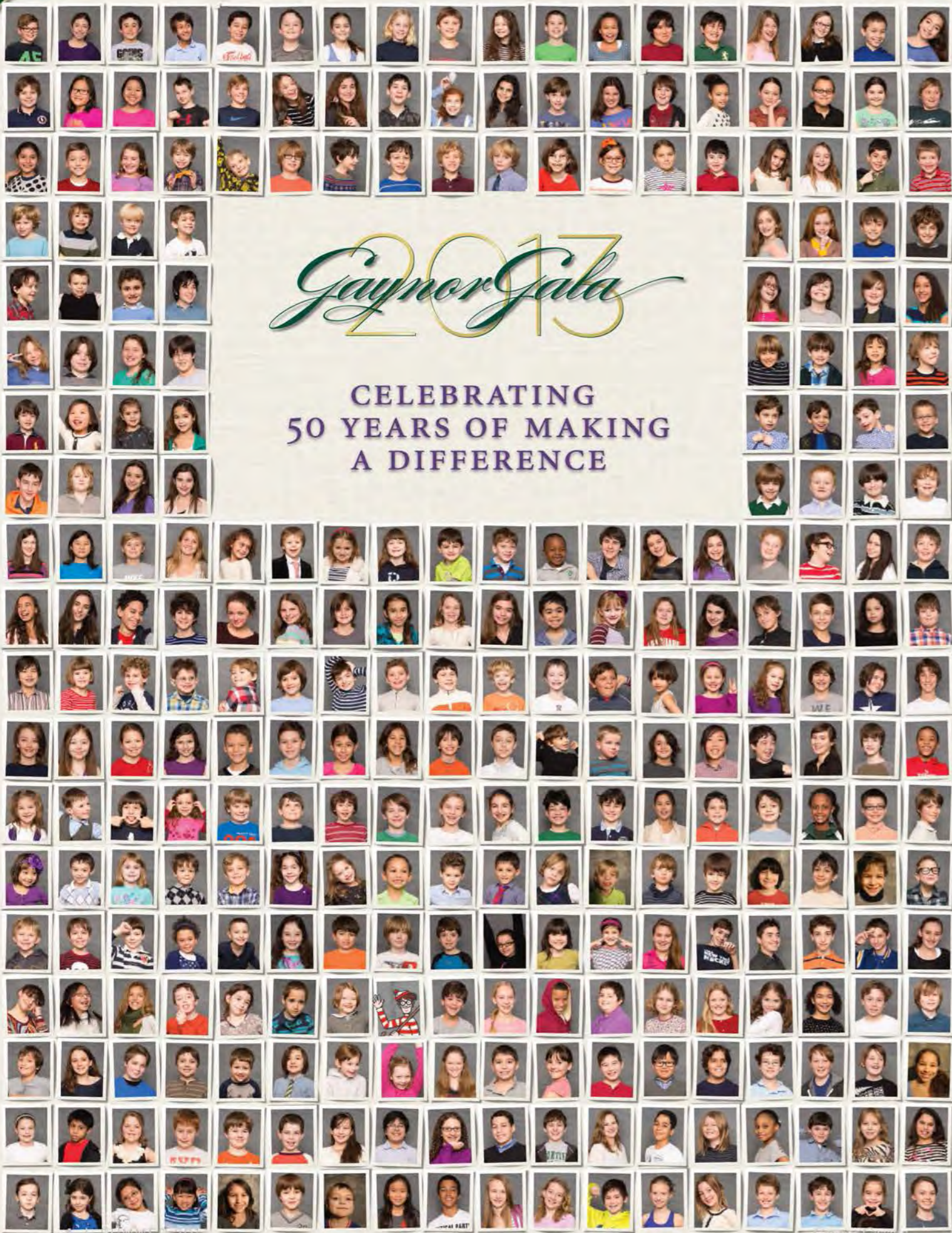
"Never in a million years did I anticipate the incredible celebration that greeted us when we arrived at school that morning," exclaimed Yvette Siegel-Herzog. "The streets, the school, were filled with jubilant faces of children, parents, faculty and staff. The warmth of that entrance can never be duplicated! That moment of joy will never be forgotten."

After the co-founders were greeted by their fans, they were escorted into the lobby, where they took a seat to determine what awaited them. Every single student filed into the lobby holding a slip of paper detailing their favorite Gaynor memory. One by one, they approached the co-founders and presented them with their memory. Some included drawings to help illustrate the moment and others were written in beautiful prose.

To round out the festivities, Ms. Borders and several students from the Community Service Group, created a short video on the history of Stephen Gaynor School, complete with re-enactments of the school's inception. In addition, each class honored the year the school was created by learning about the history, food, music, fashion, and trends from 1962!

When asked about the exciting day full of surprises, Siegel-Herzog conceded, "You may have seen tears, but they were tears of joy and appreciation."





Gaynor Gala

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF MAKING
A DIFFERENCE

This year's annual Gaynor Gala, celebrating the school's 50th Anniversary, marked a significant juncture in the history of Stephen Gaynor School. While saluting the school's vibrant past, the unforgettable celebration also looked forward to the school's bright future.

"Mimi and I opened the Stephen Gaynor School 50 years ago and are celebrating the ripeness of our years and the growth of our school. In fact, while I stand here, I think back to the very beginning when Mimi and I embarked on a voyage that would turn out to define the destiny for so many." Those were the words of Yvette Siegel-Herzog, whose speech garnered a standing ovation. Nearly 900 people toasted co-founders, **Dr. Miriam Michael** and **Yvette Siegel-Herzog**, both of whom received the Founders' Award for their pioneering effort.

In honor of the school's 50th Anniversary, we presented the 1962 Key Award to those who have been instrumental in helping make our school what it is today: **Dr. Gordon Gaynor**, **Ms. Carol Feinberg**, **Ms. Erminia Rivera**, and **Ms. Daryl Simon**. **Dr. Scott Gaynor** and **Henrietta Jones Pellegrini**, President of the Board of Trustees, awarded the key to the honorees as a symbol of gratitude from the school.

Seth Meyers, *Saturday Night Live's* head writer and "Weekend Update" anchor, hosted the festivities with hilarious anecdotes, leaving the crowd roaring in laughter. The event then transformed into a dance party as **Mary J. Blige** took the stage performing some of her hit songs. After enjoying the evening's entertainment, the guests feasted on a delicious meal and took part in the live and silent auctions, helping raise funds for the expansion of our facilities, including the construction of a bridge to connect the two buildings. While laughing and dancing the night away, attendees helped raise \$1,400,000, making this a banner night for the school.

This evening would not have been possible without the help of dedicated Gala Co-Chairs, **Karen** and **Tim Gordon**, as well as the support from the generous volunteers on our Gala Committee. Thank you to all of those who helped make this Gala a remarkable evening that will forever be remembered in the history of Stephen Gaynor School.



- HONORARY CHAIRS (PAST HONOREES)**
 KATHARINA OTTO-BERNSTEIN
 ROBIN DOMENICONI
 RICHIE JACKSON
 AL KAHN
 JUDY McGRATH
 SCOTT MAGER
 JORDAN ROTH
 IRWIN SIMON
 BD WONG
- EVENT CHAIRS**
 KAREN & TIM GORDON
- EVENT COMMITTEE**
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 SOLANA NOLFO
 CINDY PLEHN
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 LAURIE BLOCK WARGOTZ
 DEBRA WEISS
 MEGAN YOUNG WIESE
 FARRAH ZABAR



The King of Chess: Tyler Roth Plays His Way to the SuperNational V Chess Competition



Chess is a board game of strategy. The object is to checkmate the opponent's king. For Gaynor's **Tyler Roth**, it's an extracurricular activity he revels in. "You have to use your mathematical skills to maneuver the board," Roth remarks. "It sort of keeps my mind awake and it teaches a lesson on how to focus on more than one thing at once. It takes a lot of concentration."

Roth, 10, has only been playing chess for two years. But that didn't stop him from being asked to compete in the **Super National V Chess Competition** this spring in Nashville, TN, where he represented Stephen Gaynor School. The three day tournament was intense, beginning with practice games in the morning, then on to competitions that sometimes lasted through the evening. About 5,000 players competed in the tournament, with each game lasting up to four hours. Stamina and focus were imperative to be successful in the competition.

Roth won half of his games and gained invaluable experience. In addition to being able to participate in this national competition where he competed against various skill levels, he was provided feedback on his efforts after each game to help him continue to grow.

"Our whole family is proud of Tyler," exclaims Meg Roth, his mom. "I think that the experience for him was remarkable. We really hope that more kids from Stephen Gaynor will want to grow a strong chess team," she adds.

Roth began playing chess at a day camp two summers ago. When asked how he prepared for the tournament, Roth explained that he enrolled in Mr. Santana's Chess Club in Gaynor's Afterschool Program and takes a private

lesson once a week. Roth also thoroughly enjoys playing chess at home with his dad, whom he's slowly been able to beat!

"The Chess King" is in his fifth year at Gaynor. He says his favorite subjects in school are math and science. "Science is pretty interesting," Roth says. "I like how we do lots of different experiments."

When he's not at school, Roth also enjoys playing the guitar, piano, singing, and spending time with his family. He has a brother, Roan, and sister, Sofia.

What's next for Roth? He says he'd like to continue playing chess with the aspiration of participating in the World Championship. "I'm probably going to make it there someday," he adds. And we have no doubt that he will.

Congratulations Tyler Roth!



Transforming from a Shy Student to a TV Producer



Hillary Kun entered Stephen Gaynor School in the 70's as a shy student, who was struggling to read. But once she began attending the school, she says she caught on very quickly. "Almost from the moment I arrived, I felt the clouds cleared and suddenly I was able to learn," she explains. She says that Gaynor's nurturing environment provided a positive learning experience for her – one that has made all the difference.

Kun has very fond memories of her time at Gaynor. From tie-dying shirts every spring with the art teacher, Ms. Abrahamson, and participating in the Ice Skating Club, to sledding on pieces of cardboard with her classmates and making fossils to bury in Central Park – every day was exciting. Kun is amazed at the remarkable teachers who were part of her life. "From all the schools I attended, Ms. Abrahamson is the only art teacher I can ever recall. She made learning fun," Kun says with a smile.

Kun attended the High School for the Humanities and went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University in 1990. She has been a Supervising Producer for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* for 12 years. She is responsible for booking all of the show's sit-down guests and producing their segments. She credits Gaynor with helping her achieve her dream of working in television. "If I didn't have a Gaynor education, I don't know what would've happened to me," says Kun.

It is that sentiment that propelled her to speak at this year's graduation ceremony. Kun was eager to encourage the Gaynor graduating class to pursue their dreams.

Hillary Kun lives in New York City with her husband and twin 13-year-old sons.

We Yap for Animals!:

Gaynor's New Youth Animal Protectors' Club (Y.A.P.) Takes Community Service to Another Level

When **Bea Cohen, Charlotte Brown, Eliza Gilpin, Henry Hamilton, Kira Friedland,** and **Ryan Ehrlich** learned about a homeless dog named *Misty* who needed medical care to heal from recent abuse, they decided to take action. They held a bake sale and sent their profits to **Second Chance Rescue** in Queens, where *Misty* is receiving treatment.

For years, these six Gaynor students, along with **Timur Sumer** and **Jonathan Sokol**, have been advocates for animals. With guidance from behavioral consultant and social skills specialist Dr. Kim Spanjol, (known around Gaynor as "Ms. Kim") they've taken the initiative on their own to raise money to help abused and homeless animals in need of medical treatment. "I'm amazed by these students," exclaims Spanjol.

"They are learning valuable life-long skills

and are extremely empowered by seeing the difference they can make in an animal's life - a cause they are truly passionate about. I have done a great deal of humane education over the years, and their generosity and dedication are incredibly exceptional and inspiring. A huge thank you to their parents too for helping them organize these bake sales and being so supportive of their efforts!"

Recently, the six students raised \$300 through a weekend bake sale and chose to donate to Second Chance Rescue to help cover *Misty's* medical bills, Noah's Arks Rescue - a non-profit in South Carolina that also helps abused and neglected homeless animals, and the Humane Society to help prevent the annual Canadian seal slaughter. In a second sale, joined by **Maddie Rubler**, they raised a whopping \$900 for both Second Chance and Noah's Arks Rescues. Both organizations were so

touched by the students' donations that they posted information about their generosity on their Facebook pages. Second Chance Rescue wrote, "We know our supporters are awesome! But this took it to a whole new level! A million thank you's from SCR and *Misty* to Bea, Charlotte, Eliza, Henry, Kira, and Ryan! You are impressive!!" And they weren't alone. With nearly 2,000 responses and 12,000 fans on *Misty's* page, our students have received some well-deserved accolades. Noah's Arks rescue posted, "We are so PROUD when a group of kids decide to make a difference and stand up for Abused Animals...they are an inspiration to everyone..." More than 1,500 people agreed with responses on the page. As a special acknowledgement, Second Chance Rescue brought *Misty* to our

school on May 9th to meet the students and thank them herself. Justin Silver, dog trainer and star of the ABC show "Dogs in the City," along with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer joined *Misty* to meet the amazing kids that contributed to her care so generously. This reunion was so inspiring that it drew the attention of local media, including WABC-TV News, with Art McFarland; WNBC-TV News; Fox News, "The Five" with Kimberly Guilfoyle; Taxi TV with Creative Media Technologies; NY Daily News; West Side Spirit; 1010 WINS Radio; WCBS NewsRadio (880); ABC Local online; CBS Local online; and Examiner.com.

These students have decided to formalize their philanthropy by initiating Gaynor's first ever Youth Animal Protectors' Club to organize fundraising efforts and educate others about animal cruelty issues. They plan to write a letter to the City Council and Mayor to help increase awareness and campaign for better animal advocacy at

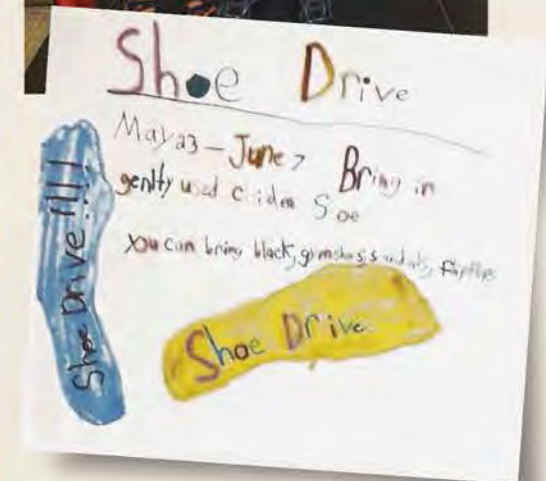
Animal Care and Control (AC&C), New York City's high kill dog and cat shelter on 110th Street. The students learned about and what needs to be done to make conditions better for animals at the AC&C shelter from a report called *Led Astray* written by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

When asked why they wanted to help animals, they responded, "Animals feel pain and fear, but they can't talk so we want to speak for them. They help us find happiness so let's help them find happiness too!" *Well done kids!*



Gaynor's Global Community Service Continues

From May 23rd to June 7th, members of the Gaynor community took part in a global Shoe Drive by donating gently used sneakers, black shoes, sandals, and flip-flops to children in need in the Bahamas. All of the donated shoes were shipped to Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas. **Ms. Spinelli, Ms. Hurlbert, Ms. Bermel,** and **Ms. Borders** will be traveling to the island this summer to distribute the shoes to families in several settlements. Thanks to **Ms. Ann Cutbill-Lenane** for setting this program up with the Exceptional Education Outreach program. The Shoe Drive was a fantastic way for our students to experience community service on a global level!



Project Cicero: Gaynor Students Give the Gift of Reading



This March, the students of Stephen Gaynor School focused their attention on BOOKS! Our school participated in **Project Cicero**, a city-wide book collection effort designed to create or supplement school and classroom libraries for children in under-resourced New York City public schools. For a week, students, parents, and faculty members brought in donated books for this noteworthy cause. This year, our community donated new or gently used books for 400,000 students city-wide.



CLC: Spinning for Success

The annual **Community Learning Center Spinning for Success** spin-a-thon was held on Saturday, May 11 at New York Sports Club. Supporters signed up to sweat it out on bikes galore at this fundraising event, benefitting Gaynor's Community Learning Center, a free, after-school reading program for children in our community.

In addition to the value of intense exercise, participants had the opportunity to win a variety of raffle prizes, including tickets to the *Live with Kelly*

and *Michael* show, memberships to NY Sports Club with personal training, a Keurig Coffee Maker and more. "It has been inspiring to see the continual involvement from the Gaynor community," expresses **Kate Adlin**, CLC Co-Director. "Without the support of our families, we would not be able to pass on our expertise to children who are truly in need."

This year's event raised nearly \$6,500. Thanks to everyone who helped make our spin-a-thon a success!



Green Eggs and Ham!

Earlier this year, **Ms. Plotkin's** reading group read *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss to reinforce the glued sounds -am and -an, as well as strengthen phonemic awareness skills such as recognizing and generating rhyming words. To help bring the story to life, students made green eggs and enjoyed a fun-filled breakfast together!



Explorer Extravaganza

This spring, **Ms. Arbesfeld, Passaretti and Geller's** classes hosted an "Explorer Extravaganza!" Each student was assigned an explorer to research: Ferdinand Magellan, Giovanni Da. Verrazanno, Adrien Block, or Christopher Columbus. To bring the project to life, the students hosted an "Explorer Extravaganza" where they dressed up as their explorer and presented what they learned to fellow students, parents and Gaynor staff.



Buddy Time Generates Smiles All Around

Every other Friday, Ms. Graber and Ms. Yezzi's class joined together for "Buddy Time." Students from Ms. Graber's class paired up with students from Ms. Yezzi's class for fun activities, such as reading books, playing outside, making arts and crafts, creating holiday cards, playing educational games, and much more. The system is mutually beneficial. Ms. Graber's students enjoyed being role models for the younger kids, and Ms. Yezzi's students loved having a "big buddy" to look up to. Middle School student, Dani Resnick described why she loved "Buddy Time." "I enjoyed spending time with my buddy because she is loads of fun, and she makes me smile!"



The Science of Fairy Tales

Can you learn about science through fairy tales? The Early Childhood Willow Room proved that you can! Ms. Jurow and Ms. Homlish connected fairy tales to their exploration (science) and friendship (social studies) curriculum to create an interesting and all-encompassing lesson for their young students. The class read *The Three Little Pigs*, among other fairy tale stories, then explored different materials to experiment with weight and strength. Hopefully their creations could withstand the huffing and puffing of an angry wolf. While studying Henny Penny, the class learned about gravity by conducting experiments to learn how things fall. What a fun way to learn about science!



Chickens, Science, and Eggs: Oh MY!

This spring, Ms. Yezzi's Early Childhood class took a scientific look at the life cycle of a chicken. To expand their study of life, the class incubated eight chicken eggs, and students kept a journal, in which they diagrammed what the embryo looked like each day of the 21-day cycle. The students learned about the parts of an egg by examining both raw and hard boiled eggs to locate the parts and learn about their functions. After scientific research, reading, drawing, and real-life observations, Ms. Yezzi's class had a complete understanding of the life of a chicken. The project was so exciting for the students and their families, that our Director of Technology set up live, streaming video so the students could eagerly watch the hatching process unfold. To top it all off, the class ended the lesson with new baby chicks born on Mother's Day that the class named Speedy, Roxy, Peep, Sophia, and Cocoa!



Gaynor Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence –

Kid Style!

On Sunday, May 19th, Stephen Gaynor School community celebrated the school's 50th birthday with a fantastic party. While the Gala was for the grown-ups, this party was for the kids! To celebrate 50 years of making a difference, students enjoyed an array of activities, including a birthday cake contest, carnival games, bounce houses, face painting, puppet shows, magicians and more! Older students had a blast playing foosball, "Minute to Win It," and a video simulated bike race through Manhattan. Students even had the chance to dunk

Stephen Gaynor School's teachers in the dunk tank, raising money for our Community Learning Center. The 50th Birthday Party was a wonderful event enjoyed by the entire Gaynor community!



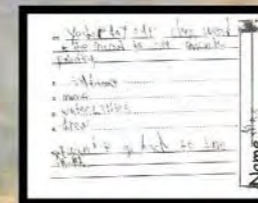
FIELD TRIPS

Center for Architecture

Ms. Kaufman and Graber's homeroom classes went on a field trip to the Center for Architecture in downtown Manhattan where students had the opportunity to participate in a workshop on the structure and strength of skyscrapers. They learned about different types of structures and designs that make these tall buildings sturdy, as well as the features of many of the world's tallest buildings. Students then had the opportunity to build their own model structures out of toothpicks, mini marshmallows, and uncooked spaghetti, then test the sturdiness of the different designs. A great time was had by all!



Monet Art Project



After studying the life and work of Claude Monet, Ms. Spinelli and Cohen's classes visited the Museum of Modern Art. Monet's beautiful painting "Water Lilies" was of particular interest to the group. The students spent time looking at the work and answering questions so thoughtfully and intelligently, that other visitors commented on their knowledge. The classes also got to view the art of Mondrian, Pollack and Picasso.



Historical Excursions through our Nation's Capital: Middle Schoolers Take on D.C.!

Our oldest students stepped into the past during their educational overnight trip to Washington, D.C., where they had an opportunity to visit some of the nation's most significant museums and monuments. Middle School Co-Director, **John Beich**, explained, "By taking this trip, students got to see the manifestation of the concepts and ideas they have studied for the last year or two."

In addition to the academic components, the students and teachers had a chance to bond, talk, and explore together." This overnight trip was a great way for students in the classes of **Ms. Dorbad, Ms. Graber, Ms. Kaufman, Mr. Meyer, and Ms. Rebocho** to enhance their American history curriculum and celebrate the end of a very successful school year.

After a bus ride from Gaynor to Washington, D.C., the students headed straight to The Newseum, an interactive news and journalism museum, where they learned more about history, civics, and media literacy by exploring exhibits like the "Great Hall of News" and the "NBC Interactive Newsroom."

Next on the agenda was a visit to the famous Ford's Theatre, which is on the list of National Historic Sites as the

location of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Students took a brief tour of the Theatre, then explored historic Civil War and 1860's artifacts. Visiting this museum brought to life some of the historical lessons our students have been learning about all year long!

Following these museum explorations, the journey continued with a walking tour of Washington, D.C. Our students took in the sights of our nation's capital, while

learning about the remarkable history behind memorials like the Washington Monument. After touring the city by land, they took to the water for a boat tour of Washington, D.C. the following day.

"My favorite part of the trip was dancing with my friends during the boat tour of Washington, D.C."

- ENYA O'NEIL

To round out the trip, students had the opportunity to select two museums to visit in smaller groups. Along with their chaperones, students visited sites such as the National Mall, the Air and Space Museum, the American History Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Native American Art Museum, and the National Art Gallery.

As the trip came to a close, there was one last significant item on the agenda.

"I really enjoyed exploring the American Museum. We were able to see Native American artifacts that we had learned about in history class years before at Stephen Gaynor."

- MAYA HIVES

What better way to end a Washington, D.C. field trip than to visit the White House? On the final day of their fun-filled trip, our students did just that.

This Middle School excursion proved to be much more than an educational trip to learn about the history of our nation's capital. It provided an opportunity for students to enjoy each other's company, bond, and create Stephen Gaynor School memories that will last a lifetime.



GAYNOR PRIDE ON DISPLAY DURING SPIRIT WEEK

Students cheering, "Happy Birthday, Gaynor!" could be heard all around the school, as we kicked off the second annual **Spirit Week** with a pep rally. Students, faculty, and staff dressed in green and white, congregated in the gym, where the Gaynor Gator surprised everyone by jumping out of a cardboard birthday cake. Following the pep rally, students and faculty participated in an entire week dedicated to showing their school spirit, each day celebrated with its own theme.

- Green & White Day
- Heart Colors on Valentine's Day
- Wacky Sock Wednesday
- Pajama Day
- Crazy Hair/Hat Day

To conclude Spirit Week, students rallied in the gym to cheer on the school's basketball teams. The boys' team split up for a scrimmage, which was then followed by a girls' basketball game. It was the perfect ending to a week that was all about Gaynor Pride!



Books, Books, Books: Gaynor Reading Challenge

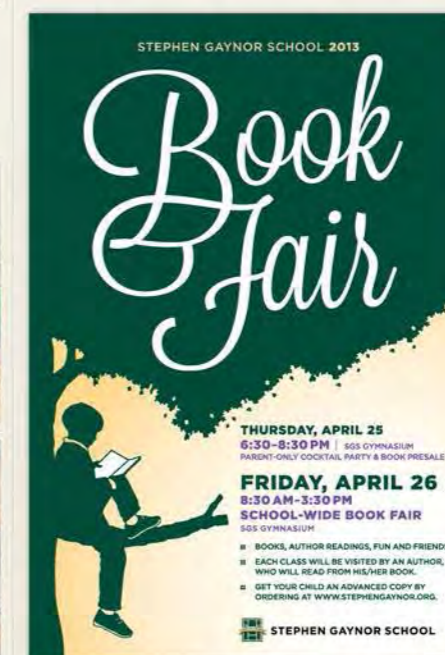
To enhance our students' reading abilities, Gaynor participated in our **Annual Reading Challenge**. Over the week-long event, students hosted guest read-alouds, and used picture walks, choral reading, independent reading, and reading logs to foster a love of reading and reach their goal. Classes that met their goal earned money from the Parents Association benefiting the students' 50th Anniversary Community Service Project at the Community Garden. The Reading Challenge came to a close with a school assembly to celebrate reading accomplishments.



Guest Authors Bring Spark to Book Fair

This April, the Parents Association hosted our **Annual Book Fair**, starting with a parents-only Wine & Cheese Cocktail Party in the gymnasium. Parents had the opportunity to preview the book sales, pre-purchase books for their children, and spend time with other Gaynor families. The Book Fair continued the next day, as students shopped for their favorite books. Each class received a special visit from one of their favorite authors and enjoyed listening to readings from their books.

Tommy Greenwald read from Joe Jackson's *Guide to Not Reading*, while **Julie Sternberg** read from her *Picklejuice on a Cookie*. **Alex Simmons** from Archie Comic Books conducted a super-hero workshop for Middle School students, while **Steve Light** read from his book, *Zephyr Takes Flight*. The Book Fair was a fun-filled experience for the entire Gaynor community! Thanks to **Susan Bender** and the Parents Association for organizing marvelous event!

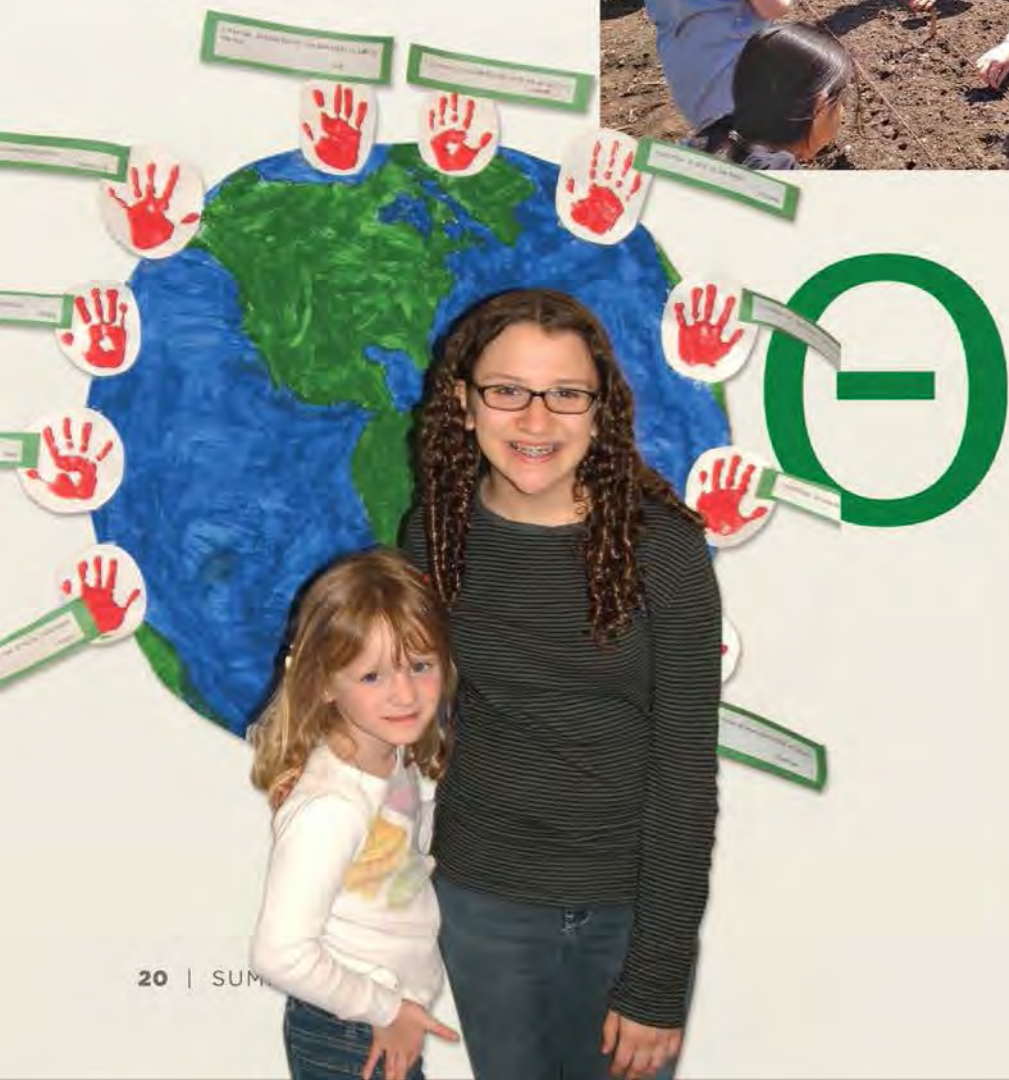


EXPLORATIONS AND DISCOVERIES ON EARTH DAY

To commemorate **Earth Day**, each class at Stephen Gaynor School learned about sustainability or nature. Some classes brought the topic to life by participating in field trips related to Earth Day.

Mr. Bookin, Ms. Hurlbert, Ms. Schostak, and Ms. Borders' classes ventured to the **Urban Farm at Battery Park**, where they planted a crop of radishes, lettuce, and beans.

Ms. Glazer, Ms. Bermel, and Ms. Michalos' classes explored **The Science Barge**, a sustainable urban farm powered by solar, wind, and biofuel and irrigated by rainwater and purified river water. After taking part in these trips and lessons, each class created presentations about their experiences. Everyone shared their explorations and discoveries at the Science Fair followed by an Earth Day assembly, where students read their scientific essays on power sustainability.



Extended Families Experience a Day in the Life at Gaynor during Relatives Day

Extended Gaynor families filed into the gym for a sneak peek into their students' school experiences during this year's **Relatives Day**. At the start of two separate sessions, **Dr. Gaynor** provided introductory remarks before sending families with their students to explore their classrooms. Each class prepared a unique presentation for their guests. After brainstorming settings, characters, and conflicts, **Ms. Plotkin's class** wrote and performed student-created skits about the Iroquois tribe. **Ms. Hurlbert's students** were eager to show their families their presented research papers and visual projects on Roman Culture. **Ms. Passaretti, Arbesfeld, and Geller's classes** had a joint presentation, a model of New Amsterdam with houses, windmills, and Fort Amsterdam. The students used this model to explain what a day in the life of a colonist would be like to their guests.

One of the highlights from Relatives Day was the **Biography Fair** presented by the Middle School students. Each student worked for months researching a person of interest and developing biographies based on their inspirations. Students dressed in full character gear and presented highlights of their life. The gymnasium was filled with historical figures from Shirley Temple, Dr. Seuss, and Malcolm X, to Princess Diana, Walt Disney, Bob Marley, and John F. Kennedy!



GAYNOR SPIRIT ON FIELD DAY

Healthy competition and a lively spirit were evident on Field Day this year. Students chanted “Green” or “White” as they paraded through the hallways, ready to head to the field on Randall’s Island to compete in the day’s activities. Students spray-painted their hair and donned face paint to indicate which team they were competing for, showing their true Gaynor pride. At the field, they competed in relay races, ultimate soccer, keepers of the castle, and the highly anticipated tug-o-war. As students earned points for each game, they could only hope they would earn enough for their team to win. Results? The white team won, though both teams showed incredible effort! **Coach James** and **Coach Pat** certainly outdid themselves this year and raised the bar for future events! What an exciting way to end the school year.



DINNER *A LOVE STORY*

Whether you love to cook or prefer to eat out every night, every family comes together at some point for a meal - which is where many family memories are made.

This spring, Stephen Gaynor School was fortunate to bring together a panel of experts who are passionate about children and food to discuss all that goes on around the family dinner table.

Our celebrity panelists included: **Jenny Rosenstrach** (Author of *Dinner: A Love Story*), **Adam Rapoport** (Editor-in-Chief of *Bon Appétit Magazine*), **Sam Sifton** (National Editor and former restaurant critic at *The New York Times*), and moderator **Alex Wagner** (Host of MSNBC's "NOW with Alex Wagner").

The various perspectives of these four professionals contributed to an enriching talk about the memorable moments of family dinners. Panelists addressed issues that face every family such as getting kids to eat well, encouraging participation in the family conversation, and finding a way to sit (relatively) still. While appreciating the educational and interesting information of the panel discussion, attendees were also able to enjoy delicious recipes from Rosenstrach's *Dinner: A Love Story*. Special thanks to Gaynor's Adam Rapoport and Simone Shubuck for helping put this event together.



Alex Wagner
Host of MSNBC's
"NOW with Alex Wagner"

Sam Sifton
National Editor and
Former Restaurant Critic
at *The New York Times*

Jenny Rosenstrach
Author of
Dinner: A Love Story

Adam Rapoport
Editor-in-Chief of
Bon Appétit Magazine

CABBIES ON STRIKE

This winter, Middle School students performed scenes from *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets. Written during the Great Depression, the play focuses on taxi cab drivers who decide to go on strike for a living wage. The scenes they studied in particular focus on a couple who have opposing views about whether the husband should go on strike. One way the students gained a greater understanding of their characters' experiences was working together in "families" to create a budget using the income of a typical low wage worker of the 1930's.



ATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

LOWER SCHOOL RE-ENACTS IMMIGRATION

The classes of Ms. Brandeis and Ms. Klausner worked together to create original scenes about the experiences of immigrants coming to America. They topped off their work with a performance on Relatives' Day for their family members.



EARLY CHILDHOOD
MUSIC UPDATE:

HANDS-ON MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Gaynor's youngest students have been exploring families of instruments such as brass, percussion, strings, and woodwinds, to learn which specific types of instruments are included in each group. To help bring the lessons to life, the students learned "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens and participated in a hands-on, multi-sensory experience by playing, hearing, feeling, and touching instruments including a trombone, trumpet, washboard, clarinet, and flute.



With the new ukuleles, students were able to apply their knowledge by writing and playing rhythms that they could strum on the instruments.

LOWER SCHOOL
MUSIC UPDATE:

ORCHESTRATED FUN!

Lower School students have enjoyed exploring the instruments of the orchestra this spring. By learning classic works of music such as "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint Saens and "Peter and the Wolf" by Prokofiev, the instruments came alive for the students. Hands on experience makes learning about music so much fun, as Gaynor students discovered while playing the newest instrument additions to Gaynor - the xylophones! They played both as an ensemble and as soloists, learning music notation and creating their own compositions.



CONGRATS TO GAYNOR'S OWN MS. AMELIA

Gaynor's teachers are talented - we all know that - but this spring, one of our teachers received national recognition for her hard work. **Amelia Robinson**, musician, composer and our youngest students' music teacher, has been selected to be part of a White House initiative. One of the songs she wrote, "Mother May I," will be featured on a CD devised by Partnership for a Healthier America and Hip Hop Public Health in association with the White House and Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" Campaign. It will be distributed to children nationwide to help promote exercise and nutrition. Congratulations Ms. Amelia!



Gaynor Gazette

Middle School Musical Performance of "Once on this Island" Captivates Audience

This May, Middle School students performed a musical called **Once On This Island** in the school gym, directed by **Kristen Plylar-Moore**, Drama Teacher, and **Chantel Mead**, Music Teacher (book and lyrics by Lynn Aherns, music by Stephen Flaherty). Students brought to life the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

To participate in the musical, Middle School students auditioned for parts in the fall, then rehearsed every Wednesday throughout the year with additional small group rehearsals on Fridays. They worked diligently to perfect their roles - some gleefully practicing their songs in the school halls during their lunch hour!

Cast & Crew:

- Storyteller:* CHARLOTTE BROWN
- Storyteller, Father:* HENRY HAMILTON
- Islander, Gatekeeper:* STEPHANIE BROWN
- Island, Little Ti Moune:* HALEY SMILOW
- Islander:* BRADEN VACCARI
- Islander:* MADDY RUBLER
- Islander:* MASON LANDIS
- Islander:* RINA GOLDBERG
- Mama Euralie:* SARAH WARSHAVSKY
- Tonton Julien:* ISABELLA BLACK-JOHNSTON
- Daniel:* OSCAR SARAF
- Andrea:* RENE BURKERT
- Asaka:* CAROLINE WATTERS
- Agwe:* JOLIE VANKEUREN
- Erzulie:* ENYA O'NEIL
- Papa Ge:* REBECCA RAIMO-RUIZ
- Ti Moune:* KATIE PEPI
- Stage Manager:* RYAN EHRLICH
- Set Painters:* ZOE RUTKOVSKY
HANNAH YEKUTIEL
- Video Crew:* ZACH HIRSCH
HANNAH YEKUTIEL



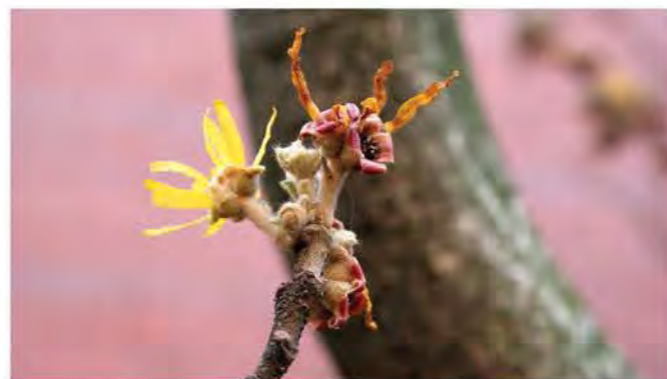
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

"We are very proud of this talented, dedicated, and inspiring group of young people!"

PLYLAR-MOORE, Drama Teacher

CAPTURING SMALL OBJECTS THROUGH A LENS

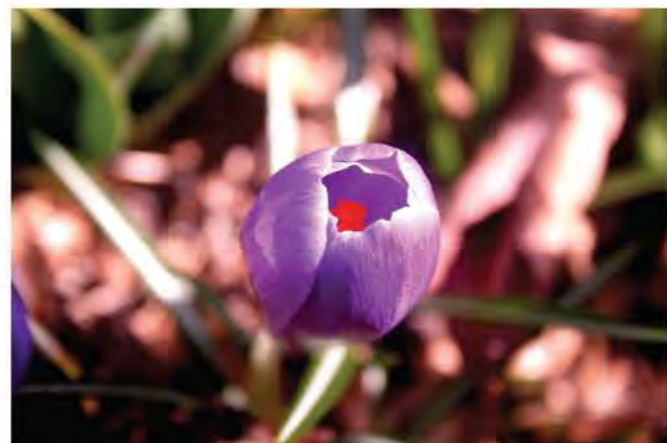
After studying macro photography and learning how to capture small objects up close, **Mr. Russ's** Middle Schoolers set out to put their skills to the test by capturing flowers through their cameras. They were required to shoot from the same level as their subject, keep the subject sharp and in-focus, while getting as close to it as possible, and manually focus the camera for the clearest image possible. The results are amazing.



KATE LODGE



TIMUR SUMER



CHARLIE CARROLL



KATHERINE GLENN

USING PHOTOGRAPHY ELEMENTS TO COMPOSE AN IMAGE

There's more to photography than taking a picture, as **Ms. Woursell's** Middle School students discovered. Recently, they learned how to use elements of photography including light, angle, and framing to capture reflection, shadow, and texture. In order to enhance their photographs, they experimented with editing, from simple cropping to adjusting the color and contrast. The outcome is a picture unique to each student's artistic vision.



MAYA SINGER



ISABELLA BLACK-JOHNSON



HARRISON REINER



CAMILLA PINCIONE



SOPHIA MICHAELSON

Inside Outside Painting

Ms. Woursell's nine to 11 year old students analyzed inside and outside spaces, then used their artistic abilities to bring their interpretation to life. This spring, they enhanced their drawing, color mixing, and brush skills by painting real and imagined places and scenes. While using artists like Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall as examples, students created their own masterpieces of inside and outside spaces, with gouache paints, pencils, sharpies, and brushes of various sizes.



Tobias Marwell



Rehannah Baksh



Russell George



Alexa Blackman

The Art of Henri Matisse

Ms. Rachlin and her Fine Arts students collaborated to make beautiful collages this spring. As they learned about the exquisite cut-outs by Henri Matisse, students discussed how he distorted perspective and rearranged reality with his artwork. They were then given brightly colored foam and asked to create a unique collage using Matisse's artwork as inspiration.



Frankie Fowlkes



Zachary Wolkoff



Jacob Swain



Quinn Lansill



Hannah Yekutiel

Environmentally Friendly Designs Through Technology

Can technology help make New York City more environmentally friendly? That's the question **Ms. Klausner's** class worked with **Mr. Azeka** to answer. The students conducted research to identify potential ideas then created a PowerPoint presentation outlining the problem and inventive solution. Next, they produced a 2D blueprint by hand that was translated into a 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD) model. Based on the 3D CAD model, students developed a physical model to help bring their environmentally friendly design to life.



Ming Robinson: trash can that automatically empties itself

Drew Lerner: solar paneled house

Mitch Clark: robot that picks up trash



Method to the Madness: Creating a Love of Science

You don't have to be Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Isaac Newton, or Louis Pasteur to be a scientist. At Gaynor, **Ms. Fabricant** and **Ms. Dobler** create interesting curriculum that correlates to other academic studies students are working on to help instill a love of science. Throughout their content units, students practice the steps of the scientific process: questioning, forming hypotheses, designing experiments, collecting data, and identifying further questions. Great care is put into demonstrating that each step of the scientific process - beyond the experimentation step - can be exciting. As students get older, this foundation is beneficial when they are called upon to create lab reports or prepare presentations for the Science Fair. "As visitors touring the Middle School Science Fair, my younger students recognized the scientific steps the older students took in creating their presentations," recalls Ms. Dobler. "I was truly impressed."

With science comes multiple opportunities for predictions or hypotheses. Students are encouraged to view incorrect predictions as a means to discovery,

rather than as being "wrong." "We encourage them to think more about the objects in the equation and what discoveries were made along the way, rather than solely focusing on the hypothesis," explains Ms. Fabricant, Science Department Chair. Breaking scientific inquiry into separate steps and reviewing work along the way is similar to outlining a paragraph before writing. It is an essential part of the scientific process as it helps students get the most out of their experiments and allows them to find multiple opportunities for success, beyond an experiment outcome.

At Gaynor, Ms. Fabricant and Ms. Dobler take great care to ensure skills students are working on in writing, reading, math, art, and technology are being reinforced through science.

Students are encouraged to use descriptive language that emphasizes current vocabulary words and drives their ability to clearly convey their thoughts orally and in writing. Some students enjoy pretending they are explaining their scientific steps to an English-speaking alien to make the process more fun!

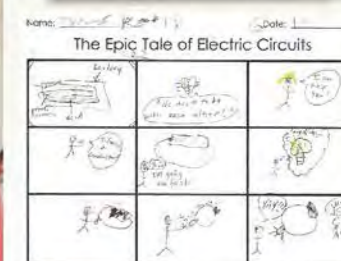
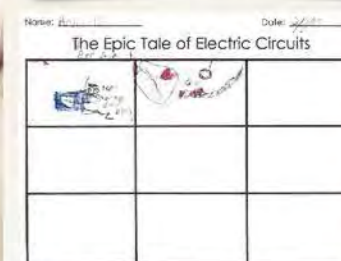
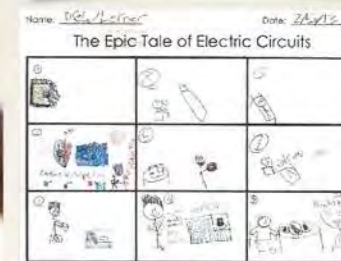
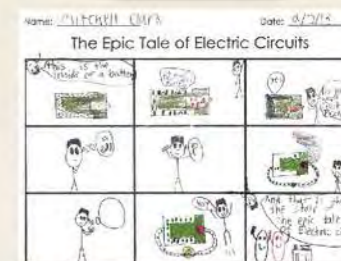
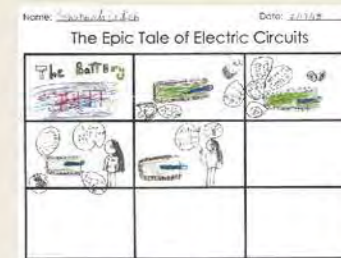
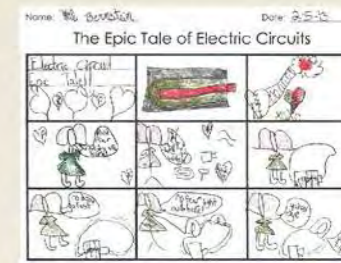
The use of measurement through math is often integrated into areas of study. During a unit on sea life, measurement was leveraged to help students visualize the size of a sea creature or relative depth. It was not unusual for students to request the use of rulers, a yard stick, or even their peers' outstretched arms to create a visual representation of class discussion.

Students are offered multiple means of expression. For example, many are encouraged to draw what they see before recording the results to their experiments in written form or via oral presentation.

This not only helps generate student interest, but it also helps students focus their thoughts, ideas, and experiences. When studying circuits, students created cartoons explaining the role of batteries and how conductive materials are necessary for the flow of electricity to light a bulb. Many students were so excited to incorporate cartoons into their scientific study that they created very elaborate stories that successfully reinforced the key concepts of the unit.

The use of short video clips often helps bring a topic to life. Recently, at the beginning of a lesson on deep sea trenches, students came to class having already watched a BBC documentary during a rainy day recess on the topic - eager to discuss the details and questions they had prepared. Their enthusiasm and proactive actions surrounding the use of technology and information gained is inspiring.

This well-rounded approach to science curriculum is sure to inspire future doctors, chemists, biologists, zoologists, and more!



SPORTS UPDATE:

GAYNOR GATORS MAKE THE BASKETBALL PLAY-OFF TOURNAMENT!

Night after night, the Gator gym has been booming with excitement. Cheers can be heard throughout the school, the Gaynor Gator has been spotted, and our basketball teams have shown just what it takes to make it to a tournament. This is the first year Stephen Gaynor School has participated in

the American International Private School League, which has allowed us to play against a multitude of talented teams. Both the boys' and the girls' teams had memorable seasons, with their first appearances in the play-offs for any sport. Go Gators!

BOYS

This season, we divided our boys' basketball team into two squads, the **Green Squad** (ages 12-14) and the **White Squad** (ages 10-11). Both Squads had incredibly tenacious defense and showed extraordinary intensity on the court.

The Green Squad battled every game for a winning record! Their efforts paid off as they proudly took Gaynor to the play-offs as the fifth seed.

Coach James remarked, "While our play-off run ended early, I was proud of all the hard work and dedication the team displayed throughout our first year of League play."

The White Squad showed just as much determination, winning every single game of the season except one.

The team fought hard for every ball, scrimmaging to the very last second of each game.

Coach James remarked, "We are excited about the development of our younger student athletes and are poised for championships in the future," expressed Coach James.



GIRLS

This is only the second year Gaynor has had a girls' basketball team. From the very first day of practice, the girls worked extremely hard to improve their basketball skills.

They showed up to each game ready to give 100 percent. Led by captains **Stephanie Brown** and **Maddie Kostman** and

coached by **Ms. Graber** and **Ms. Dobler**, the girls won more than half of their games, making it to the second round of the tournament.

"I am so proud of the Gaynor Girls' accomplishments this season," expressed Ms. Graber. "Seeing their excitement after winning our first tournament game was so moving. I'll always remember that day."



TIPS FROM OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Strategies to Support Executive Functions in Children with Attention and Learning Challenges

By Clare Cosentino, Ph.D. & Tracy Ross, LCSW



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS are the management skills of the mind. They allow us to organize our behavior over time, decide which activities to pay attention to now, and which to put off until later. They help us plan and organize tasks and see them through completion. Executive skills also enable us to manage our emotions and monitor our thoughts. Strong executive functioning helps students focus on goals despite distractions, boredom, and fatigue.

They promote flexibility and adaptability despite obstacles and setbacks. Simply stated, they help us to regulate our behavior. What role do executive functioning skills play in ADHD? ADHD is not just related to challenges with focus; it is fundamentally a deficit in executive skills. There are several strategies that families can incorporate into their home routines to help build and strengthen executive functioning.

Plan Ahead

Establishing daily routines is invaluable. Involve your child in the planning, and review the schedule on a daily basis. Make checklists for routine tasks like getting ready for school, getting homework done, getting ready for bed. Be as specific or general as your child needs. Hang checklists where your child chooses. Some children, even good readers, prefer to use pictures or icons for this purpose. Use what makes sense to your child. Also create weekend routines and include transition time and planned surprises. Review changes to these schedules and routines before they happen to encourage flexibility. Hang a calendar in a visible area to use when you are going over the schedule of events and activities with your child.

Use Positive Reinforcement

Leverage reward charts, incentives, and token economies as positive reinforcement for desired behaviors.

Get Organized:

Organize your child's room together; establish a place for toys, school papers, games. Organize backpacks together and have this be a regular part of the routine. Plan for the next day; clothes, school work, lunch.

Use Collaborative Problem Solving:

Brainstorm with your child possible outcomes to problematic situations and chose the best approach to solve the problem.

Employ Time Management Skills:

Develop an active relationship with time, discuss how much time should be allotted to a specific task or activity and use an egg timer or clock. Schedules and routines help reduce procrastination.

Strengthen Memory:

Make lists, break down directions into discrete steps, memorize poems and songs, and play games designed to strengthen memory.

Work to Regulate Emotions:

Start by talking about triggers, what makes your child sad or mad? Discuss options for coping with these feelings. For example, say to your child, "When I'm having a hard time tying my shoes and I get mad, I can take a break and remind myself of the steps involved." Identify situations where acting without thinking may be a problem and talk about alternatives that will promote self-control.

Model Your Own Executive Functioning:

Think aloud and model flexibility when you are figuring things out, going somewhere, planning something. Remember that what is obvious to you, may not be obvious to a child with learning challenges.

Identify and Articulate Triggers:

Help your child regulate emotions by helping identify his/her triggers. Discuss how he/she feels about each trigger and suggest another way to respond. Sibling relationships, changes in routines, or sudden transitions often trigger emotional outbursts. Articulate these triggers ahead of time and teach your child strategies to manage their emotions through taking a break, deep breathing, asking for help, and identifying alternative actions.

We hope you'll try some of these strategies and let us know what's working for you.



*For a helpful reference, please see *Executive Skills in Children and Adolescents: A Practical Guide to Assessment and Intervention* by Peg Dawson and Richard Guare (Guilford Press 2010).

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!



STEPHEN GAYNOR SCHOOL



50TH GRADUATING CLASS REFLECTS ON THEIR FUTURE

"Next year I will be attending The Birch Wathen Lenox. I hope to see myself in twenty years as a successful doctor helping people."

– Stephanie Brown

"Next year I am going to Calhoun and I am excited to go to a new place and meet new people. In 20 years I will be pursuing the occupation that I choose for myself in college."

– Charley Carroll

"I'm going to NJ Community High School next year. In 20 years, I'd like to be a running back in the NFL or a power forward in the MBA."

– John Diaz

"I'm going to York Prep next year. In twenty years, I hope to have my own homeroom of students in a high school class."

– Caroline Siegel

"Next year, I am going to a school in Massachusetts called Winchendon. Stephen Gaynor has helped me prepare for schools like this.

Winchendon will also help my career in hockey. In 20 years, I see myself playing hockey, whether it's coaching a youth hockey team or being a professional hockey player."

– Luca Domeniconi

"Next year I am going to York Prep. I am excited that there will be students from Gaynor there with me."

– Henry Douglas

"I cannot wait to go to Dwight next year. It's a great school that my brother is a graduate of. I hope Dwight prepares me for life and in twenty years I am successful in whichever career I choose."

– Callum Gordon

"In 20 years I will stay in NYC and have a secure job at an animal shelter."

– Maya Hives

"Next year I am going to Churchill and I hope I will meet new friends and learn more. In 20 years I hope to be a movie director in New York or L.A."

– Theodor Holm

"I want to be a smart, creative, athletic woman and a trustworthy friend. In twenty years I would love to use my good fashion sense and creativity to be a fashion designer."

– Maddie Kostman

"Next year I am going to Grier and I am excited about making new friends."

– Enya O'Neil

"In 20 years I would like to work in the United Nations Human Rights association. Things that I will miss about Gaynor will be the teachers, my friends and the supportive environment that Gaynor provides."

– Camilla Pincione

"I am going to Mary McDowell next year. I see myself getting pretty far in life and using my skills learned here at SGS to help me achieve as much as I possibly can. As for where I think I will be in twenty years, I have always dreamed of being a firefighter or any profession that helps people. I want to do this because so many people have helped me in my life so far, that I feel I owe it to society to give back some of the help I have gotten."

– Aaron Rabin

"Next year, I will be going to Kew Forest, which is much more conveniently close to where I live. But, more importantly than that, it is going to be a completely new experience and challenge that I am ready to meet head on. And as for what I want to be in twenty years, I would have to say that I would want to be an accomplished author on my free time and an English professor as more of a financial choice."

– Rebecca Raimo-Ruiz

"Next year I am going to Churchill and I am excited about the basketball program."

– Zac Targum

"Next year I will be going to York Prep. In 20 years, I see myself in a good college and, after college I will go to medical school to become a veterinarian."

– Caroline Watters

"I am going to Columbia Grammar and Prep school. I see myself owning a construction company in twenty years."

– Aden Wiener



GAYNOR CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF ITS 50TH GRADUATING CLASS

Graduation is a time of reflection and anticipation. But most of all, it's a time of celebration. In June, Gaynor families, friends, and faculty came together to celebrate the accomplishments of 26 students and to wish them well on the next step in their educational journey. Their dedication and hard work was evident as **Dr. Gaynor** spoke about how proud he was of all that they've achieved and how honored he was to have them represent Gaynor's 50th graduating class.

Stephanie Brown and **Aden Wiener** spoke on behalf of the students, marking this milestone. As Brown said, "Stephen Gaynor is a place where differences are cherished... Gaynor not only taught us how to read and write, it also gave us the confidence and strategies to pursue our goals... It was at Stephen Gaynor that we discovered our strengths and turned them into our passions."

Wiener agreed, as he explained that his confidence grew at Gaynor and he

appreciated the supportive community he found at the school. "I am very grateful for what I have learned here and Stephen Gaynor has given me the confidence to excel in life," he said proudly. The students cheered as they eagerly listened to their fellow graduates.

The graduates were also offered well-deserved accolades and words of encouragement from **Henrietta Jones Pellegrini**, President of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Gaynor, as well as two parents of graduates - **Carol Feinberg** and **Josh Wiener**. Alumnus **Hillary Kun** (Class of '79), who is a supervising producer at *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, brought the inspirational speeches to a close as she reflected on her time at Gaynor and how it helped prepare her for life thereafter.

After each student walked the stage to receive their diploma, the ceremony ended with fanfare. As these 26 graduates leave Gaynor with fond memories of their time together, they will embark on a new, exciting journey - one that we know will continue to impress and amaze those around them.

Congratulations to the 50th class of Stephen Gaynor School! We are so proud of you!

We wish our 2013 Graduates well in their new schools:

- BIRCH WATHEN LENOX
- CALHOUN
- CHURCHILL
- COLUMBIA GRAMMAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- DWIGHT
- GRIER
- HEWITT
- KEW-FOREST
- KILDONAN
- LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE AND ELISABETH IRWIN HIGH SCHOOL
- MARY MCDOWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL
- WINCHENDON
- WINSTON PREP
- YORK PREP

THIS YEAR'S GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- JACOB SOKOL**
CALLUM GORDON
Gordon Gaynor Award for the most consistent record of academic improvement
- ADEN WIENER**
President's Award for academic excellence
- HENRY DOUGLAS**
Comptroller's of the City of New York Award for outstanding scholastic achievement in Math and Science
- CAROLINE WATTERS**
Gale Brewer/City Council Award for exemplary community service

