

RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

January Edition

Bridging Home to School

*Restoration Academy
Monthly Magnet Newsletter*

2026



Dear Restoration Academy Community,

Welcome again to the new year! We kicked off 2026 with energy and purpose. As a school community, we paused to reflect on our core values and reaffirm our expectations. In classrooms, students reviewed their progress and set new academic goals for the months ahead. Alongside our families, we explored our schoolwide vision and personal hopes for the year ahead. True to who we are, we created space for joyful exploration, connection, and fun! See a few of our January highlights below:

SEEN in D13 Event

On January 13th students throughout our district were honored for their leadership and civic engagement in their school buildings. Our 8th graders, Treasure Crespo and Nickalann Matthews were among the students who were honored on this special evening.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition

Each year, The New York State Education Department invites students to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition, honoring the life and teachings of Dr. King. We offered our students the opportunity to participate and six students were able to complete and submit their work: Felipe Basurto, Ibrahim Khidir, Talia Robinson, Nyemah Sanchez, Taylor Smith, and Mysha Uddin. Please visit the New York State Office of General Services website to view a gallery of all student submissions.



Auditions and Announcements

This year will be our third annual Broadway, Jr. performance. Under the direction of Ms. Dunn, students will recreate Mean Girls Jr. Auditions were held early in January and the cast list was announced at the end of the month. Congratulations to all who were cast for the performance. Look out for performance dates later in the year.



Snow Tubing

Our second annual Snow Tubing field trip at Campgaw in Mahwah, New Jersey brought the community together to celebrate the new year. Students and staff were full of joy, excitement and a little bit of fear as they soared down the slopes. We had a blast!



Magnet School Minute

In January, we continued to strengthen our partnerships with families and the local community through the lens of our magnet program. Meaningful collaboration with families and community partners is essential to enriching our specialized programming and building a strong, sustainable foundation for student growth and long-term school success.

Bringing in the New Year: Vision Board Party

Our Parent Vision Board Party was about setting intentions, building clarity, and dreaming forward, for ourselves and for our children.



District 13 "Learning Lives Here" Event

Student Ambassadors and staff members joined Superintendent Meghan Dunn at the local Marcy Library for the Learning Lives Here event. This gathering of neighborhood schools provided an opportunity to showcase the unique strengths of our Magnet and IB programming; as well as highlight the learning experiences we offer.



International Baccalaureate (IB) News:

A core component of the IB mission is empowering students to use their voices to impact change in their local community and beyond. This month, several of our scholars stepped into that role in meaningful ways. Select students assisted with preparations for an upcoming district event, the Town Hall. Two of our scholars were featured in the district's video announcement of the event. Others volunteered their time to read aloud and engage K-5 students in thoughtful discussions of The Artist by Nikkolas Smith.



"The Artist" tells the story of a young boy who discovers the inequities in the world around him and decides to take action. He uses his art as activism, thereby becoming an "Artist." PS 93 students and Restoration Academy students reading "The Artist" together was a wonderful community building opportunity. It was a great leadership/learning experience for our middle school kids, and the elementary students were so sweet, engaged, and had lots of thoughtful questions and ideas to share.



CURRICULUM CORNER

Assessing Student Performance: Growth Reporting

This month, students were administered the i-Ready Diagnostic as a mid-year (MOY) assessment in both Mathematics and English Language Arts. Diagnostic assessments provide data to measure student growth, identify strengths, and target areas where additional support is needed.

In reviewing the results, we were proud to celebrate the progress some students have made since the beginning of the year. At the same time, the data reminds us of the importance of a collective effort (among students, educators, and families) to continue strengthening academic performance.



Please support our requirement that students practice skills and standards on i-Ready every evening at home for enrichment.

i-Ready also offers students personalized instruction that adapts to their individual needs. This allows them to build skills and grow at their own pace throughout the remainder of the school year. Please reach out if you need assistance in how best to support your child on i-Ready.



Report Cards were distributed on January 19th. Please ensure that you have retrieved and reviewed your child's progress with them.

This middle of the year report card is an important indicator of student learning and growth. It is, however, not a final measure of ability. We encourage you to use report cards as a tool for conversation with your child about their academics. By celebrating progress and identifying challenges, you can help them set new academic goals.

If you have not received a report card or would like more guidance on how best to support your learner achieve their academic goals, please contact the school to schedule a meeting.

- ***Please note that Afterschool Test Preparation sessions are available to all students. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for additional preparation for the upcoming state exams.***



Our SEL Snapshot

Promoting a Growth Mindset

As part of our ongoing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) focus, we support the development of a growth mindset. A growth mindset helps students build self-awareness, resilience, and confidence. It helps them to begin understanding that learning takes time and that challenges are a part of growth.

Students are encouraged to take academic risks, learn from mistakes, and persist through challenges. A growth mindset supports both academic progress and students' social and emotional development.



Notes from the Main Office

- School starts at 8 am. Please make sure your child arrives on time.
- Please support us by making sure your child is in full uniform. Dress down day is on Friday!!
- Join the PTA! Contact Ms. Perrin, PTA President or Ms. Tucker, Parent Coordinator for more information.
- Please join us for the District 13 Anti-Racist Town Hall hosted by Restoration Academy and PS93 on February 10th at 6pm.
- Please remember to check Jupiter for up-to-date information on student progress and grades.

RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER is our way of creating a bridge between the school and your home. Look out for monthly issues for updated school information, events, and celebrations!

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