



**Stewart School**  
Garden City, NY

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## What's happening at Stewart School?

### Second Grade

During April and May the second grade students began exploring their STEAM unit of study. After visiting the Planting Fields Arboretum and Greenhouse, students designed and engineered their own greenhouses, which have successfully produced plant growth. Students worked in STEAM teams to create a design and plan of action using common household materials to construct their greenhouses. Every step of the way students reminded each other to "be brave" and to "not be afraid to fail." Some designs required perseverance and revision before their building was successful. Students have also planted vegetable seeds within flats. Journal notes have been written and illustrated based on the changes the students are observing in the flats each day. Once the seeds have produced seedlings, the second grade students will have the opportunity to plant the seedlings in Stewart School's vegetable garden outside. With a little luck and help from some very enthusiastic gardeners, we will produce a garden full of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, radishes, zucchini, squash, peppers and carrots. We encourage Garden City families to come to Stewart School throughout the summer and pick from our community vegetable garden!



### Third Grade

The third grade has been busy traveling to Brazil! The students began this unit of study by immersing themselves in Brazil's most important natural resource, the Amazon Rainforest. Children researched facts about the different layers of the rainforest so they could accurately create a life size version of it. Each student was assigned an animal to investigate, and turned their animal into poetry and illustrations to be placed into the rainforest. Cooperative groups worked together to discover why deforestation was occurring, and how we could conserve the resources available. We wrote letters to lumberjacks explaining the situation and asking for them to save the Amazon! Meanwhile, in math the children have been learning geometry; they investigate new vocabulary to describe shapes, their sides, and angles, and classify, describe and explain different shapes based on their attributes. Finally, the students have been loving their reading book clubs! Each group of students is reading the same book, and rotate jobs each day to help facilitate deep discussion about the book's characters, problems, solutions, author's craft and theme. There are summarizers, discussion directors, text connectors, vocabulary enrichers, and illustrators. It has been a world of fun!

### Fourth Grade

This spring, the fourth graders created a Fine Arts Museum in the fourth grade hallway. The students were able to research five influential artists: Claude Monet, Georgia O'Keefe, Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Georges Seurat. Based on students' interests, research groups were created. This gave each student an opportunity to work with different fourth grade teachers and students. After extensive research learning about the artist's style and inspiration, we had a Painting Day. Each student created a painting inspired by his/her artist. Then the students wrote and narrated the thought process. Each student explained how they connected the artwork to the artist they studied. At the Open House, the students and the parents were able to scan the QR code to hear the student describe the artwork. In addition to that, the entire grade also created a large scale painting of New York State using Seurat's style of Pointillism. The Fourth Grade Fine Arts Museum was a huge success!



### Fifth Grade



Our fifth graders sure have been busy! April brought us the Annual Circus Project which allowed for each child to learn and practice skills while collaborating with peers. The children delivered an outstanding performance for both the school community and family members where they showed off their talents and skills that they learned. Any spectator would have agreed that their hard work paid off!

In Social Studies, our fifth graders are preparing for a trip to Garden City Village Hall where they will have a chance to act as justices or lawyers for "We the People." In preparation, they have been learning about the Constitution, studying the Bill of Rights, and reading and analyzing real Supreme Court cases. In library, the students have had the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding by taking part in distance learning programs and video conferences.

Our Global Day of Design turned out to be a big success! The students worked collaboratively in small groups to plan, design a blueprint, and create a structure using recycled materials found at home. This took a lot of creativity and teamwork! Students spent time researching and learning about effective ways that structures are built. Each group discussed the importance and effectiveness of balance, a strong foundation, symmetry and aesthetics when designing. Structures were created that mimicked those that are found all over the world. The designs were displayed for Open House and the experience was priceless. Fun was had all around.

We were all geared up for Science Day and it was a huge success! This is an outdoor event filled with STEAM activities and fun! We hosted Stratford School's fifth graders here, which gave us a chance to get to know our future peers at the Middle School next year. It was a blast!

### Library

Second graders are learning all about different genres and are working on completing a genre challenge. This activity expanded their knowledge of the books we have in the library and where to find them. Third grade has started to learn about the history of some famous characters and their creators with Charlie Brown and Winnie the Pooh as the main focus. Fourth grade has been working on animal research. Students have presented their research using the Blabberize program. Fifth graders have been participating in a distance learning program in the library. Students are connecting with an archive specialist from the National Archives in Texas to learn about our Constitution and how it works.

## Quest

Fourth and fifth grade students are using calculation skills, geometry, measurement, and graphic design to construct an accurate scale model of a baseball field. Once constructed, students apply math, trigonometry, and geometry as they launch tiny "baseballs" from home plate and triangulate distances (to scale). Whether it be basic measurement to scaling to the Pythagorean Theorem, students find this applied math task interesting and challenging.

Third graders are putting the finishing touches on their GEOMETROCITY. They are using geometric skills, both two and three-dimensional, to design a city scape. Working in cooperative groups, they are starting to fill out and design 3D nets to use in the final engineering stage.

## Music

The Elementary String Ensemble was excited to perform on May 15th during the Budget Vote. This is a truly special concert where both Stratford and Stewart String Ensemble Students performed together as one group. The week of May 21st, we will be going to perform at NYSSMA Majors at Hofstra University. We are hoping to bring back another great score! We are looking forward to our Beginners' Concert on Tuesday, May 22nd! The 2nd graders have been working on songs and poems to fit their "Around the World" theme. Our 3rd graders are excited to play their recorders for an audience! They have worked very hard to earn badges for each piece that they mastered! The fourth graders will present "A Peek into Music Class" and will highlight some of the units we have been working on. The 4th grade band will perform music that showcases all that they have learned on their new instruments. Another highlight of our program will be our 5th grade Select Chorus. You are sure to enjoy the performances!



## Summer Safety Tips!

- \***Use Sunscreen** – You should apply it 30 minutes before going outside, use at least 30SPF and repeat every 2 hours while in the sun.
- \***Wear Sunglasses** - Find sunglasses that block out 100% of UVA and UVB rays.
- \***Dress Appropriately** - Make clothing light and loose-fitting, find clothing with sun protection and wear a hat to keep you cool.
- \***Drink Water** - Stay hydrated and make sure to drink before you go out and while you are outside (mild heat exhaustion symptoms include: fatigue, cramps and thirst).
- \***Wear a Helmet** – Wear a helmet when on bikes, scooters and skates and make sure it fits correctly as this can help to prevent concussions.
- \***Find Shade** – Try to find shade under a tree or an umbrella as peak sun hours are from 10 AM – 4 PM.



## Physical Education

All are welcome to join us for our end of the year field days. Each grade level competes against their classmates in fun and creative activities. Second, third and fourth grade field day will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup> (please check the calendar for exact times) with the rain date on June 12<sup>th</sup> and the fifth grade field day is June 13<sup>th</sup> with the rain date on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Art

In collaboration with the second grade STEAM unit, second graders are creating contour drawings of various root vegetables. We are then using mixed media techniques to complete our compositions. In third grade, we are learning about the culture of Japan and creating our own Kimono Dolls. Fourth graders are learning about American artist Keith Haring and the role that cartoons played throughout his artwork. We are creating figure drawing paintings where we are posing for one another in class. Fifth graders are being introduced to artist Andy Warhol's artwork which allows us to understand printmaking, an age-old art form. Students are creating their own prints while experimenting with bold color and imagery.

## Did you know?

### DASA Buzz Words!

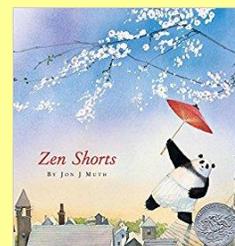
"Choose Kind" & "Be an Upstander!"

### ENL

In ENL, students worked hard on their NYSESLAT speaking exams in April. Students also finished the Listening, Reading and Writing components of the exam at the beginning of May. We are so proud of our students!

### Book of the Month

Zen Shorts, by John J. Muth, is the book of the month for May. This book is a story about how three children meet Stillwater, a giant panda who moves into the neighborhood and tells amazing tales. He tells a story about the value of material goods, a story about the boundaries between good and bad and a story about what it means to hold on to frustrations. We know the students will truly enjoy this book of Zen tales full of love and enlightenment.



### Ballroom Dancing

Stewart School sent 12 fifth grade ladies and gentleman to our first Ballroom Dancing Competition, Colors of the Rainbow! The students, along with their coaches Mrs. Degnan and Mrs. Trousdell, earned a bronze medal and were truly amazing! Congratulations!



## Mindfulness

Our second grade students are currently participating in a culminating activity for this year's mindfulness program with Mrs. Vincent. Each student will be creating a calm down bottle. The bottles containing water and glitter can be utilized as a tool to help students reduce frustration, anxiety, etc. Students practiced taking birthday breaths and using their shark fin breathing while they waited for the glitter to pass from one end of the bottle to the other. It has been a wonderful year introducing our students to mindfulness. We are encouraging students to practice their skills over the summer. A great app parents can utilize to facilitate this is Breathe Kids!

