

## 2019-20 Parent Newsletter #4

***Happy New Year to the JKO school community!!!***



**Have you ever wondered about the New Year's Eve ball drop that happens every year in our very own backyard in Times Square??? If so, see below...**

### **ABOUT THE NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL**

Each year, millions of eyes from all over the world are focused on the sparkling Waterford Crystal Times Square New Year's Eve Ball. At 11:59 p.m., the Ball begins its descent as millions of voices unite to count down the final seconds of the year, and celebrate the beginning of a new year full of hopes, challenges, changes and dreams.

### **BALL FUN FACTS**

- The Ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter, and weighs 11,875 pounds.
- The Ball is covered with a total of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles that vary in size, and range in length from 4 ¾ inches to 5 ¾ inches per side.
- For Times Square 2020, 192 Waterford Crystal triangles introduce the new Gift of Goodwill design of three pineapples signifying the traditional image of hospitality and goodwill. 192 are the Gift of Harmony design of small rosette cuts flowing into each other in beautiful harmony. 192 are the Gift of Serenity design of butterflies flying peacefully above a crystal meadow

capturing the spirit of serenity. 192 are the Gift of Kindness design consisting of a circle of rosettes symbolizing unity with the fronds reaching out in an expression of kindness. 192 are the Gift Of Wonder design composed by a faceted starburst inspiring our sense of wonder. 192 are the Gift of Fortitude design of diamond cuts on either side of a crystal pillar to represent the inner attributes of resolve, courage and spirit necessary to triumph over adversity. The remaining 1,728 triangles are the Gift of imagination design with a series of intricate wedge cuts that are mirrored reflections of each other inspiring our imagination.

- The 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles are bolted to 672 LED modules which are attached to the aluminum frame of the Ball.
- The Ball is illuminated by 32,256 LEDs (light emitting diodes). Each LED module contains 48 LEDs — 12 red, 12 blue, 12 green, and 12 white for a total of 8,064 of each color.
- The Ball is capable of displaying a palette of more than 16 million vibrant colors and billions of patterns that creates a spectacular kaleidoscope effect atop One Times Square.

## HISTORY OF THE NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Revelers began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square as early as 1904, but it was in 1907 that the New Year's Eve Ball made its maiden descent from the flagpole atop One Times Square. Seven versions of the Ball have been designed to signal the New Year.

The first New Year's Eve Ball, made of iron and wood and adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. It was built by a young immigrant metalworker named Jacob Starr, and for most of the twentieth century the company he founded, sign maker Artkraft Strauss, was responsible for lowering the Ball.



As part of the 1907-1908 festivities, waiters in the fabled "lobster palaces" and other deluxe eateries in hotels surrounding Times Square were supplied with battery-powered top hats emblazoned with the numbers "1908" fashioned of tiny light bulbs. At the stroke of midnight, they all "flipped their lids" and the year on their foreheads lit up in conjunction with the numbers "1908" on the parapet of the Times Tower lighting up to signal the arrival of the new year.

The Ball has been lowered every year since 1907, with the exceptions of 1942 and 1943, when the ceremony was suspended due to the wartime "dimout" of lights in

New York City. Nevertheless, the crowds still gathered in Times Square in those years and greeted the New Year with a minute of silence followed by the ringing of chimes from sound trucks parked at the base of the tower—a harkening-back to the earlier celebrations at Trinity Church, where crowds would gather to “ring out the old, ring in the new.”

In 1920, a 400 pound Ball made entirely of wrought iron replaced the original. In 1955, the iron Ball was replaced with an aluminum Ball weighing a mere 150 pounds. This aluminum Ball remained unchanged until the 1980s, when red light bulbs and the addition of a green stem converted the Ball into an apple for the “I Love New York” marketing campaign from 1981 until 1988. After seven years, the traditional glowing white Ball with white light bulbs and without the green stem returned to brightly light the sky above Times Square. In 1995, the Ball was upgraded with aluminum skin, rhinestones, strobes, and computer controls, but the aluminum Ball was lowered for the last time in 1998.

For Times Square 2000, the millennium celebration at the Crossroads of the World, the New Year's Eve Ball was completely redesigned by Waterford Crystal and Philips Lighting. The crystal Ball combined the latest in lighting technology with the most traditional of materials, reminding us of our past as we gazed into the future and the beginning of a new millennium.

In 2007, for the 100th anniversary of the Times Square Ball Drop tradition, Waterford Crystal and Philips Lighting crafted a spectacular new LED crystal Ball. The incandescent and halogen bulbs of the past century were replaced by state-of-the-art Philips Luxeon LED lighting technology that dramatically increased the brightness and color capabilities of the Ball.

The beauty and energy efficiency of the Centennial Ball inspired the building owners of One Times Square to build the permanent Big Ball weighing nearly six tons and twelve feet in diameter. The 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles are illuminated by 32,256 Philips Luxeon LEDs. This Big Times Square New Year's Eve Ball is now a year-round attraction sparkling above Times Square in full public view January through December.

Source: <https://www.timessquarenyc.org/times-square-new-years-eve/nye-history-times-square-ball>



# PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the  
Parent Coordinator  
Ms. Bernabel  
[ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov)  
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## Announcements

- Final exams start on Friday, January 10th and end on the 17th. Schedule of finals will be emailed out to parents and students via Pupil Path. Teachers will also inform students regarding the date of their final. **Final Exam Schedule** →
- New Lateness and Cell Phone Policy:** after parent outreach has been exhausted: a) students 3x late more than 5 minutes in any period from 2 to 8 b) students using cell phone in class after three warnings will result in mandated 5 day tutoring that will be assigned by the teacher of the class where the infraction is taking place. If the problem persists or the student refuses to attend tutoring then a required parent meeting will follow. This was reviewed and approved by **student government, the SLT, the teachers, and the safety committee.**
- We will have our next monthly School Leadership Team (SLT) (4:30 pm) and Parent Association (PA) (5:30 pm) meeting on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there. The following are the future dates for SLT and PTA meetings: 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, and 6/1.
- Reminder: We have parental engagement time on Tuesday after school. This means that the school has set aside time after school for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the academic progress of the child. Simply email or call the Parent Coordinator or the guidance counselor in order to schedule a meeting.
- Regents exams commence on the 21st of January and end on the 24th. The third round of regents exam invitations will be distributed on Tuesday (1/7/20). **There is no school during regents week.** However, we will make scheduled time for tutoring and for students who still need to complete assignments in order to pass their class. Students scheduled for the regents in January are: **Students who still need to pass a regents for graduation or for an advanced regents diploma and for students who need a higher score in the math or English for reason of college and career readiness scores...specifically a 75 in the English regents or a 70 in the math. Students should make every attempt to tutor prior to the exams.**
- Below is the January Regents Schedule. Please ensure that students arrive to school at least half an hour earlier than the start time for the exam.

1/10 – Hist & ELA Essay  
1/13 – Hist MC/PE/Art  
1/14 – ELA MC/Health  
1/15 – Sci/Span  
1/16 – Math/Business  
1/17 – Make-ups

JANUARY 21 TUESDAY	JANUARY 22 WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 23 THURSDAY	JANUARY 24 FRIDAY
9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
English Language Arts	U.S. History & Government  Geometry	Transition Exam in Global History & Geography  Global History & Geography II (Framework)	Physical Setting/Earth Science  Physical Setting/Chemistry
1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	<b>Uniform Admission Deadlines</b>
Living Environment	Algebra I  Physical Setting/Physics*	Algebra II	Morning Examinations – 10:00 a.m.  Afternoon Examinations – 2:00 p.m.

# In the Spotlight



VIRTUAL  
ENTERPRISES  
INTERNATIONAL

**We won BIG!!! On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, one of our Virtual Enterprise teams won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Virtual Enterprise International Metro Region Business Plan competition!!! Congratulations to our students and Ms. McMahon, their business teacher.**



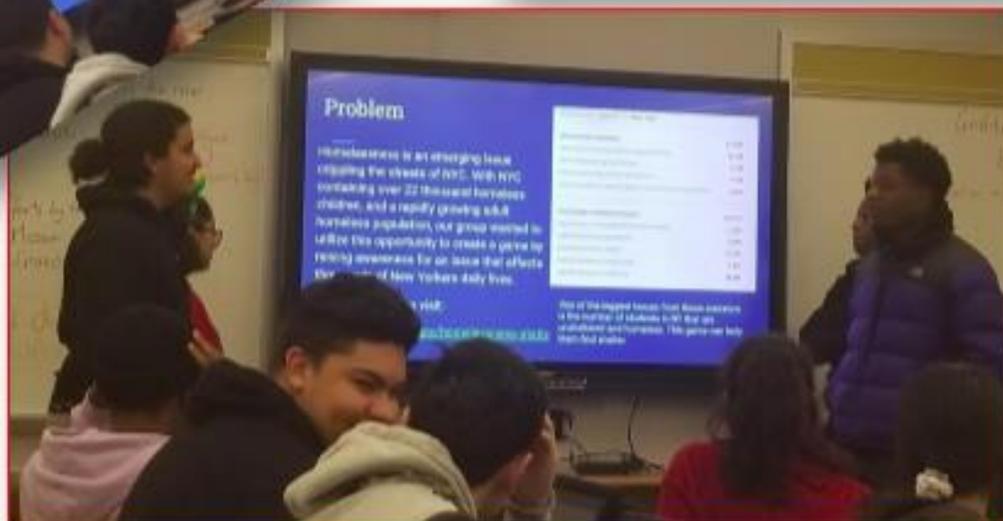
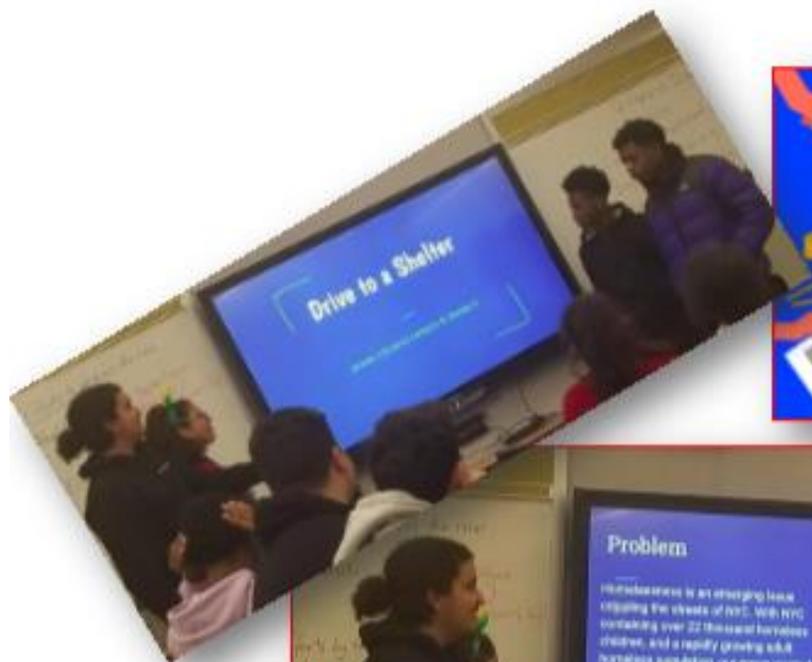


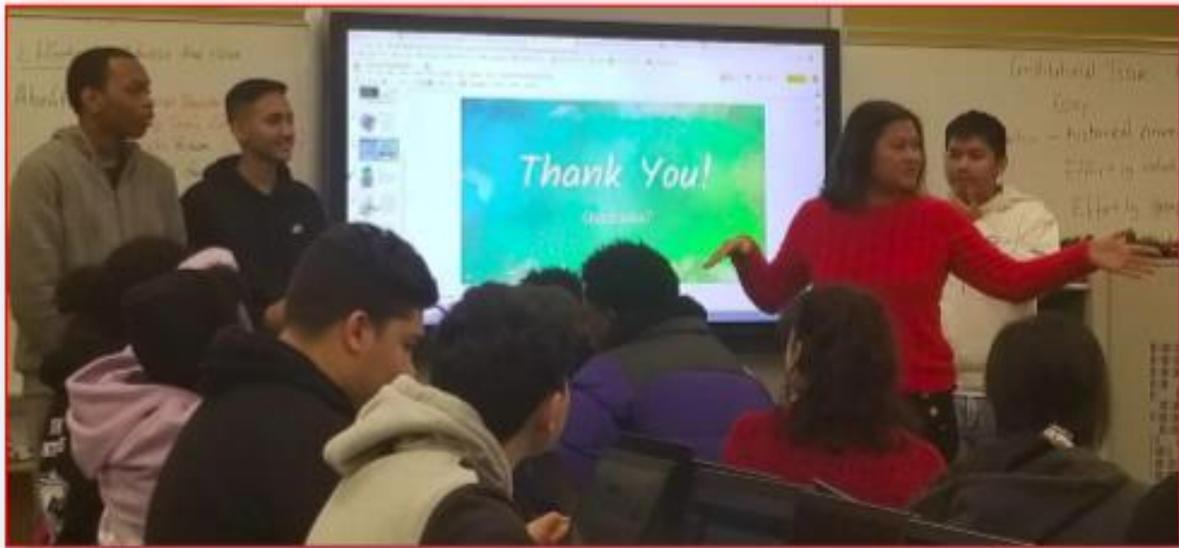
***Holiday spirit at JKO:*** On December 20th, many staff and students dressed in the holiday spirit and many were caroling during the lunch periods. See picture below:



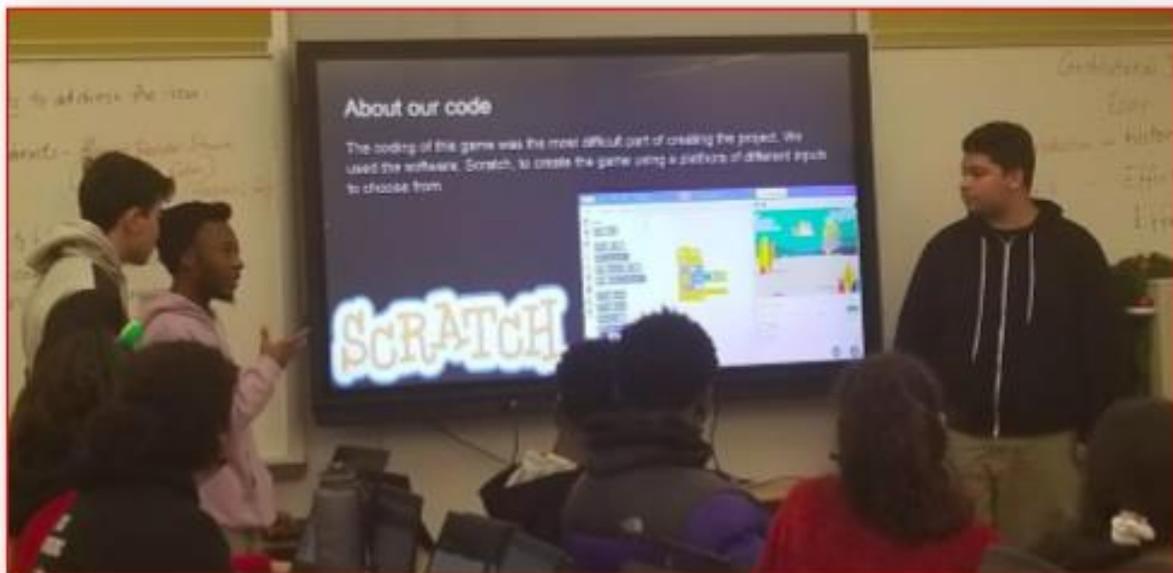


On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the computer science students and their teacher, Ms. Voelker, conducted JKO's first ever Hackathon event. Student teams created computer software that focused on a current issue in society; they supported their contentions with data evidence and presented user friendly software game to raise awareness on how to solve the problem. The presentations were **AMAZING!!!** We had several judges use a rubric to rate the presentations; a winner will soon be announced. See pictures below:





# HACKATHON





In the  
**Spotlight**



A message from Ms. Kadison:

On Friday 12/13 The Helping Hands Society had their second annual winter pot luck. Those who brought home cooked meals really showed off their culinary skills as their food was amazing! We ate to our heart's content, watched Disney movies, listened and danced to music, and played an intense game of Uno.



  
In the  
**Spotlight**



*On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the staff had their Potluck dinner.  
See pictures below:*



  
In the  
**Spotlight**



MARSH & MCLENNAN  
COMPANIES

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, our Student mentees at Marsh & McLennan worked on their Vision Boards with mentors. Thank you to Marsh & McLennan for their support. A **BIG thank you** to **Ms. Milan** for spearheading this!!!





Check out our  
**NEW WEBSITE!**

JKO FINALLY has a website. Part of our rebranding of our international business school is the creation and launching of a school website in order to effectively rebrand our school. This is part of our plan to promote our school, its mission/vision, and to attract the new international business leaders of the future. Thanks to Sajib, our computer tech, we now have a beautiful website. Some parts are still in the construction stages...but the site is replete with pictures and important information about our treasure of a school. Thanks Sajib!!!

*Now we can say:* Visit us at [JKOhighschool.org](http://JKOhighschool.org)



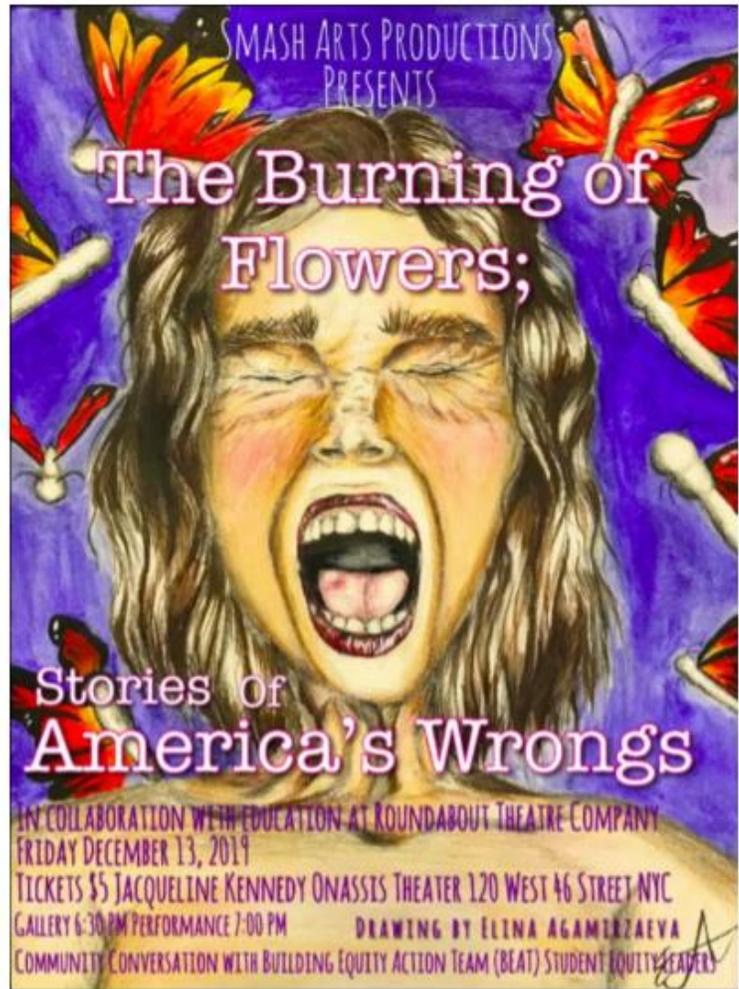


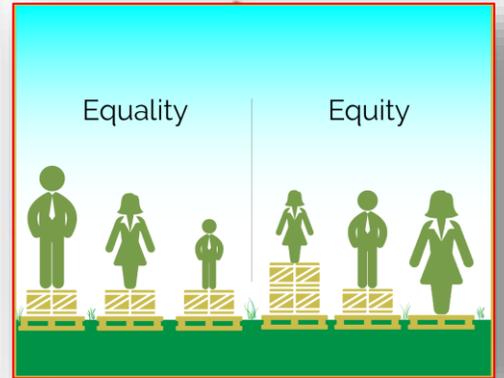
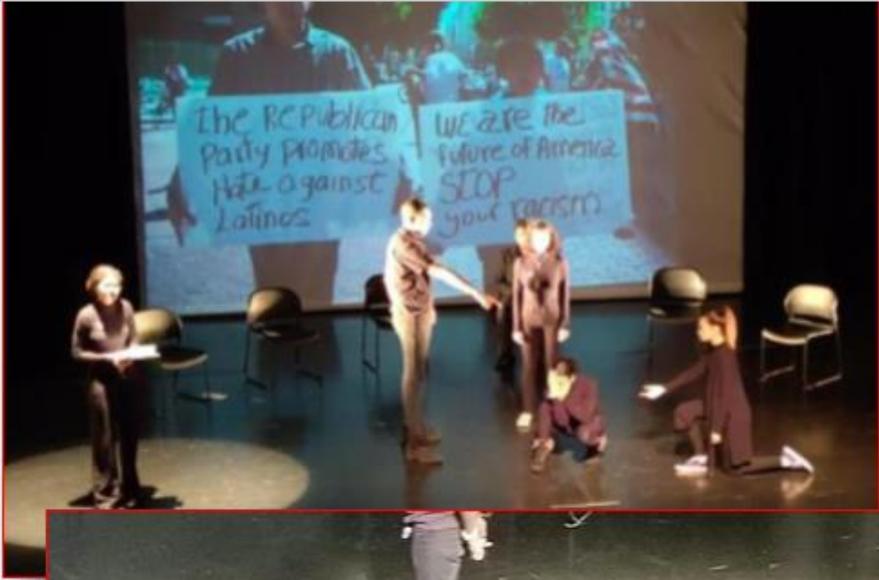
# In the Spotlight

On Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Smash Arts club performed their original production of, "The Burning of Flowers; Stories of America's Wrongs." The student written play were modeled after Ta-Nehisi Coates' book "Between the World and Me" and the production of it students saw at

The Apollo Theater where he writes a letter to his son explaining what it means to be a black man living in America. The play was a collection of meditations from the students written as letters addressing issues that they see in America today centered around discrimination in various forms and groups: women, Latinos, LGBTQ , racial profiling and police brutality. Our mission in Smash Arts is to use the arts as a catalyst to raise awareness, educate, engage in dialogue and cultivate solutions. The performance

included a post-show discussion, a Community Conversation, with the student performers, writers, our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Bernabel, the president of LUCHA, Latinos Unidos con Honor y Amistad, and led by Building Equity Action Team (BEAT) Student Equity Leaders. It was an AMAZING production. Congratulations to all of the students and a BIG thank you to Ms. DeGreorio for spearheading this production!!! Below are some pictures of this event:





## The Four Agreements of Courageous Conversations

1. **STAY ENGAGED.** Staying engaged means "remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue"
2. **EXPERIENCE DISCOMFORT.** This norm acknowledges that discomfort is inevitable, especially, in dialogue about race, and that participants make a commitment to bring issues into the open. It is not talking about these issues that create divisiveness. The divisiveness already exists in the society and in our schools. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, the healing and change begin.
3. **SPEAK YOUR TRUTH.** This means being open about thoughts and feelings and not just saying what you think others want to hear.
4. **EXPECT AND ACCEPT NON-CLOSURE.** This agreement asks participants to "hang out in uncertainty" and not rush to quick solutions, especially in relation to racial understanding, which requires ongoing dialogue.



 In the **JKO** Spotlight



A BIG thank you to Ms. DeGregorio and the art students for the holiday decorations they put up in the lobby. It is beautiful!!!

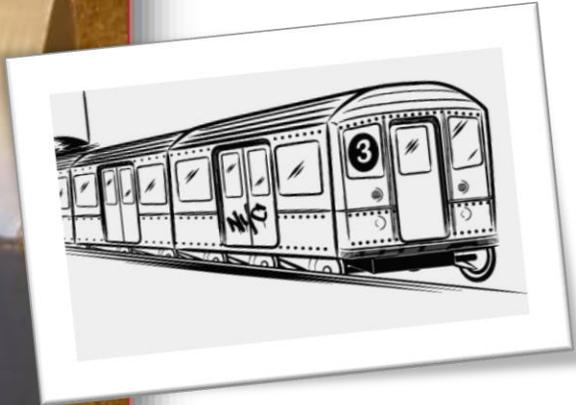


JKO  
In the Spotlight

**Subway**  
Times Square  
42 Street Station  
A C E N Q R W  
S 1 2 3 7

On the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> the arts students displayed their City as Canvas artwork; subway cars with renditions of their perspectives on the issues that impact our society. Below are some pictures. Thank you to Ms. DeGregorio for spearheading this!!!







# In the Spotlight

Stages.

## **A message from Ms. McMahon:**

Students attended a part-memoir and part-stand up routine of Judy Gold's "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" at the Cherry Lane Theater on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, as part of program with Primary

"25 Questions for a Jewish Mother written by Judy Gold and Kate Moira Ryan, and starring Judy Gold. Compiled by asking a number of Jewish mothers the same 25 questions, Judy weaves a personal memoir about



their responses. Comedy is Judy Gold's life and that is what gives this play its considerable heart. The result is touching and consistently funny and certainly relatable for all mothers.

Judy is well-known for her work on television which includes HBO, The View, Comedy Central, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, reboot of Murphy Brown, Broad City, Louie, The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, The Jim Gaffigan Show, Inside Amy Schumer, 2 Broke Girls, The Wendy Williams Show, to mention a few."

In addition, students were able to stay after the show for a talk-back session with Ms. Gold.

**Thank you Ms. McMahon!!!**