

2021-22 Parent Newsletter #5

Are you sick of winter!!! If so, then maybe the Ground Hog will predict an early ending to it on Groundhog Day; next week, February 2nd. Have you ever wondered how this event originated? If so, read the article below to find out.

First Groundhog Day: 1887 on February 2nd

On February 2, 1887, [Groundhog Day](#), featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, [Pennsylvania](#).

According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.



Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.

Groundhogs, also called woodchucks and whose scientific name is *Marmota monax*, typically weigh 12 to 15 pounds and live six to eight years. They eat vegetables and fruits, whistle when they're frightened or looking for a mate (they're sometimes called whistle pigs) and can climb trees and swim.

They go into hibernation in the late fall; during this time, their body temperatures drop significantly, their heartbeats slow from 80 to five beats per minute and they can lose 30 percent of their body fat. In February, male groundhogs emerge from their burrows to look for a mate (not to predict the weather) before going underground again. They come out of hibernation for good in March.

In 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America's most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.

In 1993, the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray popularized the usage of "groundhog day" to mean something that is repeated over and over. Today, tens of thousands of people converge on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney each February 2 to witness Phil's prediction. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club hosts a three-day celebration featuring entertainment and activities.



PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the
Parent Coordinator
Ms. Bernabel
ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov
Tel #646-265-5169

Announcements

- There has been an outage with Pupilpath. They have restored some limited functionality. Full restoration of service should commence within the next couple of days.
- The DOE has recently informed schools that there will be regular school sessions during Regents week (1/25-1/28) as a result of Regents being cancelled by the state. Therefore, those will be regular instructional days. We will use those days to target and strategically support students with the goal of all students improving their academic standing, especially those who are at risk of not passing a class. Students report to school as normal from 8:20 am to 2:40 pm.
- There is also no school on Tuesday, February 1st, in observance of the Lunar Year.
- Please reach out to Ms. Bernabel in the case you feel that your child needs social emotional support. We have an abundance of services for students at the school.
- The 3rd and final marking period of the semester ends on January 26th. The spring semester begins on Wednesday, February 2nd. Student schedules will be distributed on that day.



**End of
Marking
Period**



**WARNING:
DUE DATES
ARE CLOSER
THAN THEY
APPEAR**

- Reach out to Ms. Bernabel if you have not registered for your NYC Myschools account. This is very important for parents to receive information regularly from the DOE and to be able to access certain services available online.
- Spring semester Parent Teacher Conferences will be held **remotely** on Wednesday, March 16th (5 pm – 7:30 pm) and Friday, March 18th (12 pm – 2:30 pm).



**Parent
Teacher
Conferences**

Behavior
Teamwork
Grades

Progress
Goals
Achieve

Communication
Homework

JKO SCHOOL COUNSELOR

CONNECT



From the Desk of Mrs. Vega-Beltran



- ❖ If your child is or will be absent, please contact me at ext. 5091 or email me at NVega11@schools.nyc.gov. You may also contact Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator, at ext. 1012 or email at ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov.
- ❖ **Marking Period 3 ends Monday, January 26. The First Semester of the School Year Ends Friday, January 28th.** Please make sure your child is current on their assignments and are studying for quizzes/tests.
- ❖ **There is NO SCHOOL Monday, January 31st (Staff Development) and Tuesday, February 1st (Lunar New Year)**
- ❖ **The First Day of the Second Semester of the School Year Begins Wednesday, February 2nd.**
- ❖ Please have your child schedule a one on one academic meeting with me immediately. This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation and to check on their personal progress.
- ❖ **SAT DAY MARCH 23rd for Juniors!** Please have your child study! They can visit College Board for SAT practice and tutoring assistance:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/khan-academy>
- ❖ Make sure to keep track of your child's academic progress, grades, and attendance in their classes by logging on to <https://pupilpath.skedula.com/>. If you do not have an account you may contact me or Ms. Bernabel, the Parent Coordinator, to receive your registration code.
- ❖ Freshmen and Sophomores should begin to research colleges/universities they would like to attend after high school.
- ❖ Juniors should continue their college search and create their lists for next school year to apply.
- ❖ Seniors should be finishing their FAFSA, NYS TAP, and College applications.
 - Private School College Applications Due – January 15th
 - CUNY College Applications Due – February 1st
- ❖ Please reach out to Mrs. Vega-Beltran in the case you feel that your child needs social/emotional support. We have an abundance of services for students at the school and can refer your family to outside resources/assistance.
- ❖ **School starts at 8:20 am.** Please ensure that your child gets to school on time regularly so that he/she is able to effectively engage in the first period lesson. Lateness adversely impacts a child's academic performance.
- ❖ **Below is the Tutoring Schedule** for the remainder of the fall semester. We encourage all students to take advantage of this extra support!

<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>COURSES</u>
ALCORN	WEDNESDAY	302	SPANISH 1
ALCORN	THURSDAY	302	SPANISH 3
CUMBERBATCH	WEDNESDAY	306	LAW & MATH
KADISON	WEDNESDAY	303	ENGLISH
NICOLETTA	WEDNESDAY	301	ENGLISH
OKWABI	THURSDAY	308	CHEM & ENV SCI
RAFANIELLO	THURSDAY	402	GEOMETRY & TRIG
TULI	WEDNESDAY	307	LIVING ENV & AP ENV
URENA	THURSDAY	204	ALL HISTORIES

- ❖ Below please find the available after school clubs for the remainder of the fall semester. It is important that the students get involved in school activities!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
DEBATE	THURSDAYS	304	CUMBERBATCH/GORDON
TABLE TENNIS	THURSDAYS	CAFETERIA	RAFANIELLO
HELPING HANDS	WEDNESDAYS	309	KADISON
YEARBOOK	THURSDAYS	309	KADISON
B.S.U	WEDNESDAYS	308	OKWABI
GARDENING	THURSDAYS	306	WICKS
SMASH ARTS	FRIDAYS	201	DE GREGORIO
SLAM	FRIDAYS	201	NICOLETTA



- ❖ Please check PupilPath daily for important announcements and emails pertaining to your child!

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance:

Nicole Vega-Beltran 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 ; Email: NVega11@schools.nyc.gov





The School Leadership Team (SLT) will meet on Monday, February 7th, at 4:30 pm.

The following is the agenda:

SLT Agenda

SLT Meeting Agenda :

- Call to Order / Welcome / Attendance (3 mins)
- Review Minutes September- January (10 mins)
- Safety updates (10 mins)
- Old Business/Attendance/Covid Safety Report(10 minutes)
- New Business (10 minutes)
- Principal report Report(10 mins)
- Parent association (5 minutes)
- UFT Report (5 mins)
- Comments SLT members (2 minutes per person)
- Creation of Next Month's Agenda (5 mins)
- Adjournment

D02 02M529PA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: JKO High School SLT

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/87556503165?pwd=Ty9BVEt6S0ZRV2RFWkZIN25RS29hZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 5650 3165

Passcode: 355272

Parents Association



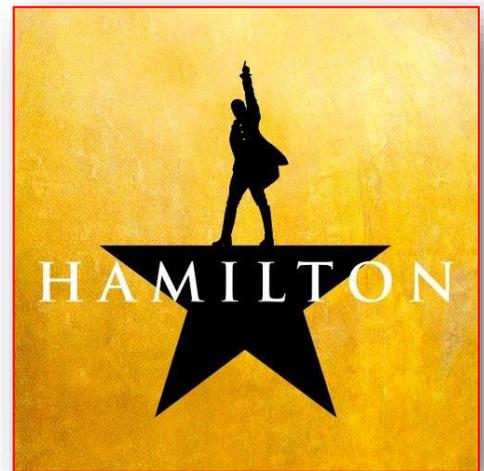
A message from our PA:

- Our January PA meeting will take place on Monday, February 7th at 6 pm.
- The PA email address is 02M529PA@schools.nyc.gov
- Please let us know of any workshop or event that you would like to have, and any other topics of interest. Please also let us know of any concerns you want addressed.
- Please support our students and school through the school store. They have swag gear and much more. All funds go to support all students. See order form and contact Ms. Okwabi at MOkwabi@schools.nyc.gov for orders.

JK SCHOOL STORE ORDER FORM

Winter Hat ITEM #: 001 PRICE: \$15.00	Pocket Size Hand Sanitizer ITEM #: 002 PRICE: \$2.00	Fleece Zip Up ITEM #: 003 PRICE: \$30.00	Umbrella ITEM #: 004 PRICE: \$20.00
Drawstring Bookbag ITEM #: 005 PRICE: \$5.00	Coffee Travel Tumbler ITEM #: 006 PRICE: \$20.00	Phone Wallet ITEM #: 007 PRICE: \$1.00	Highlighter ITEM #: 008 PRICE: \$2.00
Grocery Tote ITEM #: 009 PRICE: \$5.00	Pull Over Hoodie ITEM #: 010 PRICE: \$30.00		

Order Form Received By: _____ (Staff/SG) on _____
(date)



JKO was just selected to attend Hamilton on Broadway!!! Our students will attend this outstanding Broadway show in the Spring. This is a great opportunity for our students to connect the show with their American history curriculum.





The Dance Club, led by our very own Angie, has commenced on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Stop by and learn how to dance with panache!!!

DANCE CLUB

With Ace Reyes & Ms. Okwabi

3:30pm-5:00pm

STARING NOW!

Every Wednesday through Friday

..It's Showtime!

Come and join us in the gym and get ready to rock that stage and perform alongside amazing Jko students<3



VIRTUAL
ENTERPRISES
INTERNATIONAL

On January 13, JKO's **VE Firm Guardian Insurance** won First Place in the New York Metro Region Business Competition, advancing to Citywide. Congratulations on their well-deserved success! A BIG thanks to Ms. McMahon for leading this talented group of students to success!!!




GUARDIAN INSURANCE UPDATE

Every Journey Needs a Guardian.





January 13, 2022

JKO's VE Firm Guardian Insurance won First Place in the New York Metro Region Business Competition, Advancing to Citywide

Representing JKO VE GI Seniors:

- Chief Executive Officer, Catherine Jesus
- Chief Operating Officer, Adam Rashad Ramirez
- Vice President of Finance, Milton Perez
- Chief Marketing Officer, Jordon McKinnon
- Chief Financial Officer, Rebeca Tellez
- Chief Sales Officer, Hai Lin Duckett
- VE Coordinator, Karen McMahon

Congratulations on their well deserved success!

2021-22 Local Business Plan Competition NYC

Entries
1095



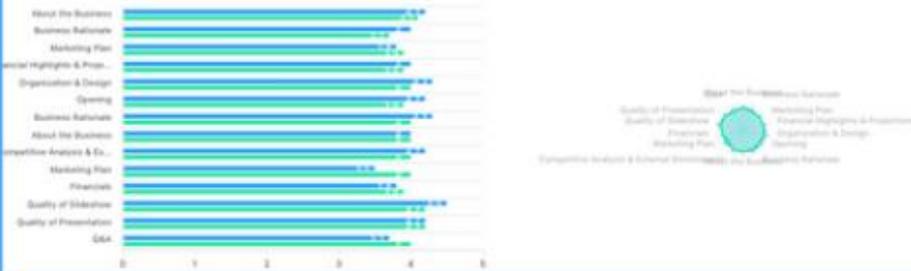
Average Score
4.0/5



Your Score
4.0/5



Score Summary



Presentation was very good, very clear. Presentation of slides were well done.
-Scorpio Rogers

Clear, Professional, it's all there
-Adriana Belalcazar

Great Presentation, Great Content, Very Professional. It's all there
-Dr. Abdel-Kader Ben-Mohamed

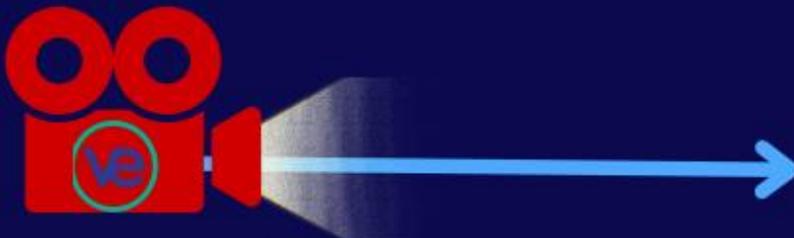
Love the new addition this class has incorporated into Guardian Insurance while keeping with key core values of the past -Lisa Tepper

Score Breakdown

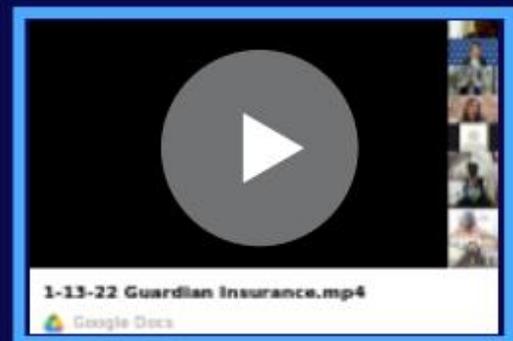
	Business Summary	Quality of Information	Business Rationale	Organization & Design	Executive Summary & Financial Projections	Marketing Plan & Operating	Quality of Presentation	Overall	Quality of Information	Business Rationale	Organization & Design	Executive Summary & Financial Projections	Marketing Plan & Operating	Quality of Presentation	Overall
Judge A	4.75	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Judge B	4.25	4.00	3.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00
Judge C	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Overall Comments Judge B:
This executive summary was done with care to include all the essential information required. The content was well researched

Content & Design Judge B: The executive summary is well organized and designed. Research was done as per the vocabulary used



Click to to View Guardian Insurance Business Plan Presentation Telling of Our Journey



GUARDIAN INSURANCE

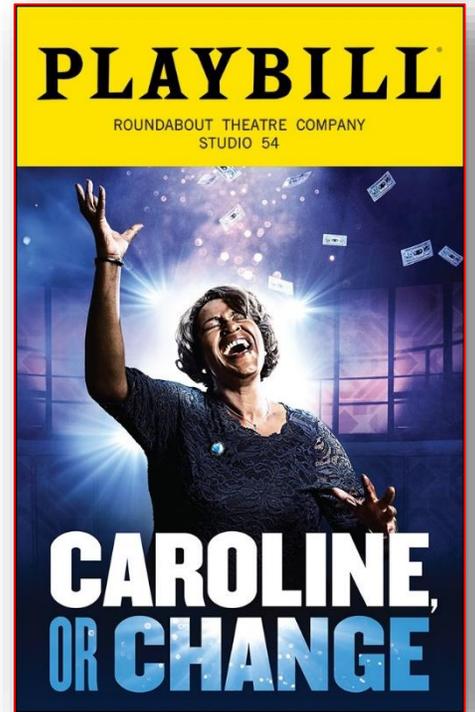


Every Journey Needs a Guardian



On February 17th, Ms. Nicoletta will take 30 students to see The Phantom of the Opera at 1:00pm at the Majestic Theatre, 245 West 44th Street. This is part of our partnership with Broadway Bridges. Thank you Ms. Nicoletta!!!

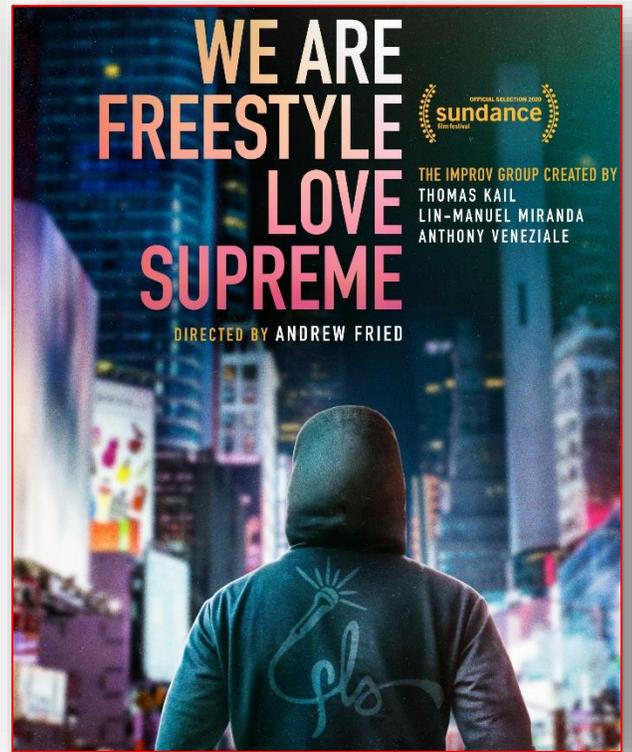




Recently Ms. Nicoletta spearheaded a 9th grade trip to see Roundabout's Caroline or Change show on Broadway. Thanks Ms. Nicoletta!!!

The Story: Set against the Civil Rights Movement, Caroline, or Change is a **poignant and provocative story of ordinary lives in an extraordinary time**. In the sleepy town of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Caroline Thiebodeaux, a divorced African-American woman, works as a maid for a Southern Jewish family.





Prior to the holiday break the **Slam!** (Creative Writing Club) students attended a Freestyle Love Supreme trip. They got to see Lin-Manuel Miranda and Tina Fey doing improvisational rap. It was meant for the students to learn that sometimes, even the best writing can potentially happen in one moment. A big thank you to Ms. Nicoletta for spearheading this trip!!! See pics below...







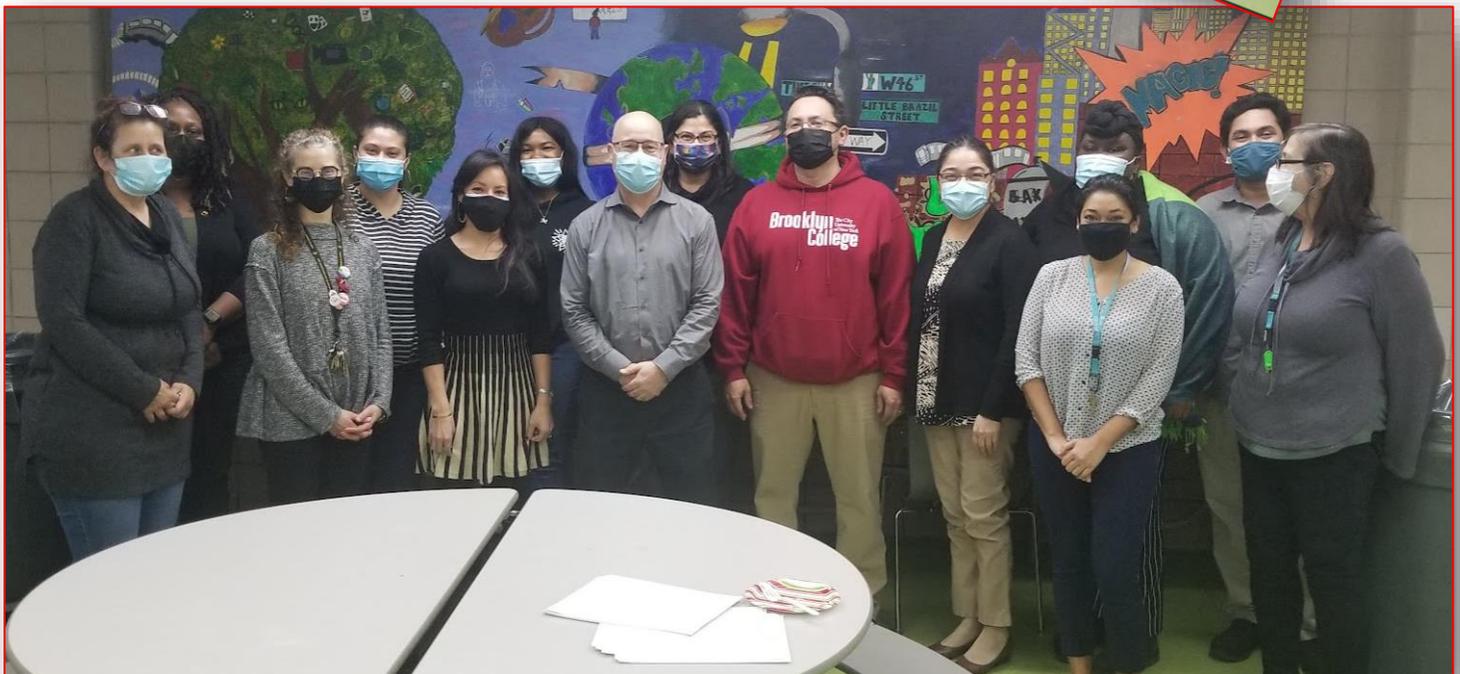
CANDY CANE GRAMS

From Ms. DeGregorio: NHS & Smash Arts Productions raised over \$400 for Covenant House in support of homeless youth with our Candy Cane Grams. A BIG thank you to Cristal Garcia, NHS, who took on a leadership role and dedicated a lot of her time to make the fundraiser successful!





On the week of December 20th the staff honored Mr. Rafaniello who will be retiring by the end of January. We are all humbled and honored to have served by his side. He is the epitome of the consummate teacher who always puts students first. Congratulations Mr. Rafaniello!!! We will miss you!!!





A BIG thank you to the Parent Association for donating the holiday goodie bags for each student prior to the holiday break. Our students were beaming with smiles as they left the building at dismissal with their treasures in their hands. A special thanks to Ms. Conte (PA President) and Ms. Rashad (PA Treasurer) for assembling and handing out the goodie bags!!!





A message from Ms. De Gregorio

Studio Art students created snow sculptures with paper mache. On December 23 we invited the JKO community to vote for "JKO's Best in Snow" contest. Congratulations to our 1st place winners "Leo" by Anuva Singha and Nawreen Ahmed. There was a tie for 2nd place with "Chef Steph Curry" by Keavon James and "Kuma Kuma" by Anghelyz Vazquez and Hai Lin Duckett. Winners were given gift certificates to our school store Panther's Place. Congratulations to all our winners and to all the art students who created some holiday cheer with their imaginative creations!



