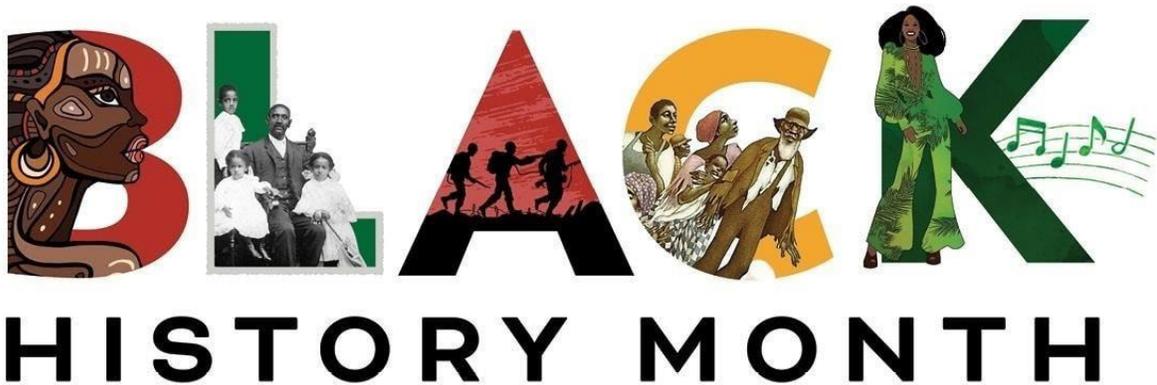


2025-26 Parent Newsletter #6



February is Black History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Below is a summary of its origins, the significance of its timing, and unique trivia.

The History of the Celebration

The roots of Black History Month date back to 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That year, Harvard-trained historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

In 1926, Woodson launched the first "Negro History Week" during the second week of February. He chose this specific week because it encompassed the birthdays of two men whose legacies were vital to the Black community:

- **Abraham Lincoln** (February 12), who signed the Emancipation Proclamation.
- **Frederick Douglass** (February 14), the famed abolitionist and orator.

Announcements

From the counseling department:



- ❖ **1st period Class begins at 8:20 A.M.** Students need to **arrive to school prior to 8:20 AM** and on time regularly so they are able to effectively engage in their first period lesson. Lateness adversely impacts a student's academic performance. **The school day ends at 2:40 P.M.**
- ❖ **If your child is or will be absent**, please contact Ms. Garcia (9-10th Grade Students) at ext. 5052 or email at NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov ; Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Grade Students) at ext. 5091 or via email at NVega11@schools.nyc.gov ; or Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator, at ext. 1012 or email at ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov . **Please be sure to send an excuse note for your child's absence and/or a doctor's note if your child has a medical appointment.**
 - **Please ensure that your child's medical documents or any other important documents are updated and we have updated copies.**
- ❖ **Please keep track of your child's academic progress, grades, and attendance in their classes through the SyncGrades website.** Please be sure that your child's NYC Student Email account is updated. If you would like to schedule meetings with teachers on Tuesdays, please contact your child's School Counselor.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**
 - **Monday, February 16th – Friday, February 20th : School Closed, Mid-Winter Recess**
 - **Tuesday, March 17th – 1st Marking Period Ends**
 - **Wednesday, March 18th – PSAT/SAT Day for 10th and 11th Grades**
 - **Evening Parent Teacher Conferences**
 - **Thursday, March 19th – Day Parent Teacher Conferences**
 - **Friday, March 20th – School Closed in Observance of Eid al-Fitr**
- ❖ **COLLEGE NOW** – If you are interested in having your 11th or 12th grader take **FREE** College courses while in high school through the City University of New York Colleges/Universities, please contact **Mrs. Vega-Beltran**. This is a great opportunity for your child to have those course credits apply to their College Degree for FREE!
- ❖ In order to maintain a positive learning environment, it is **expected that students dress in a professional manner.** **We expect students to be dressed appropriately** to ensure safety and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. **We would like all parents and guardians to remind students of proper dress protocols on campus.**
Prohibited forms of dress at school include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Clothing that contains references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, racism, or gang-affiliation.
 - 2) Revealing clothing that does not provide coverage of torso, undergarments, and private body parts, including see-through garments of any kind.

3) Sunglasses while indoors.

If you need assistance providing your child clothing, please contact your child's counselor.

- ❖ **Students are NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS. This includes iPads, Apple MacBook, Smart watches or any non-DOE issued electronic device.** They must keep their phones locked in their yonder pouch. **In case of an emergency, please call the school to contact your child and students can use a school office phone to contact their parent/guardian.**
- ❖ **12th GRADE SENIOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Please work closely with your senior child this school year to discuss their post-secondary options (plans after high school). They will need your support and encouragement when applying to college/university, trade school, military, and/or financial aid/scholarships. Please look out for future communication regarding college trips, workshops, financial aid, and important deadlines.
- ❖ **CATCH and ELEVATE** – community based organizations, will be providing in class workshops to students of various grade levels regarding making positive choices for healthier lifestyles. This health education program will provide various workshops throughout the semester.
 - Health Service Fridays in Room 108
- ❖ **Please have your child meet for one on one academic/personal progress meetings with their counselor immediately:** Ms. Garcia (9-10th Graders) and Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Graders). This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation and to check in on their personal well-being.
- ❖ **Please reach out to Ms. Garcia (9-10th Grades) or Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Grade) if 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.
- ❖ **Please have your child attend tutoring and join extra-curricular activities** to be an active member of the school community. This a great way for students to make new friends, network, and be exposed to various activities/hobbies. We will send information for tutoring and extra-curricular activities in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact your child's School Counselor directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance:

Ms. Niurkary Garcia, 9 & 10th Grade Counselor (212)391-0041 Ext. 5052

Email: NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov

Mrs. Nicole Vega-Beltran, 11 & 12th Grade Counselor 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Email:

NVega11@schools.nyc.gov

DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASESORAMIENTO:



- ❖ **1 periodo La clase comienza a las 8:20 A.M.** Los estudiantes **deben llegar a la escuela antes de las 8:20 A.M.** y puntualmente regularmente para que puedan participar de manera efectiva en su lección del primer período. La tardanza afecta negativamente el rendimiento académico de un estudiante. La jornada escolar finaliza a las 14:40 horas.
- ❖ **Si su hijo está o estará ausente**, comuníquese con la Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) en la ext. 5052 o correo electrónico a NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov; Sra. Vega-Beltran (Estudiantes de 11º y 12º grado) en la ext. 5091 o por correo electrónico a NVega11@schools.nyc.gov; o la Sra. Bernabel, Coordinadora de Padres, en la ext. 1012 o correo electrónico a ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov. **Asegúrese de enviar una nota de excusa por la ausencia de su hijo y/o una nota del médico si su hijo tiene una cita médica.**
 - **Asegúrese de que los documentos médicos de su hijo o cualquier otro documento importante estén actualizados y que tengamos copias actualizadas.**
- ❖ **Realice un seguimiento del progreso académico, las calificaciones y la asistencia a clases de su hijo a través del sitio web SyncGrades.** Asegúrese de que la cuenta de correo electrónico estudiantil de NYC de su hijo esté actualizada. Si desea programar reuniones con los maestros los martes, comuníquese con el consejero escolar de su hijo.

FECHAS IMPORTANTES PARA RECORDAR:

- o Lunes 16 de febrero - Viernes 20 de febrero: Escuela cerrada, vacaciones de invierno
- o Martes 17 de marzo: Finaliza el primer trimestre
- o Miércoles 18 de marzo: Día de exámenes PSAT/SAT para los alumnos de 10.º y 11.º

grado

- Reuniones de padres y profesores por la tarde
 - o Jueves 19 de marzo: Reuniones de padres y profesores durante el día
 - o Viernes 20 de marzo: Escuela cerrada por la celebración de Eid al-Fitr
-
- ❖ **UNIVERSIDAD AHORA** – Si está interesado en que su hijo de 11.º o 12.º grado tome cursos universitarios GRATUITOS mientras está en la escuela secundaria a través de las universidades de la City University of New York, comuníquese con la Sra. Vega-Beltrán. ¡Esta es una gran oportunidad para que su hijo obtenga los créditos de esos cursos para su título universitario GRATIS!
 - ❖ Para mantener un ambiente de aprendizaje positivo, **se espera que los estudiantes se vistan de manera profesional. Esperamos que los estudiantes vistan apropiadamente** para garantizar la seguridad y mantener el enfoque en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje. **Nos gustaría que todos los padres y tutores recuerden a los estudiantes los protocolos de vestimenta adecuados en el campus.**
Las formas de vestimenta prohibidas en la escuela incluyen, entre otras:
 - 1) Ropa que contenga referencias a drogas, alcohol, sexo, violencia, racismo o afiliación a pandillas.
 - 2) Ropa reveladora que no cubra el torso, la ropa interior y las partes privadas del cuerpo, incluidas prendas transparentes de cualquier tipo.
 - 3) Gafas de sol mientras esté en el interior.**Si necesita ayuda para proporcionarle ropa a su hijo, comuníquese con el consejero de su hijo.**

- ❖ **NO SE PERMITE A LOS ESTUDIANTES UTILIZAR TELÉFONOS CELULARES DURANTE EL HORARIO ESCOLAR. Esto incluye iPads y relojes inteligentes que están conectados a sus teléfonos.** Deben mantener sus teléfonos bajo llave en su bolsa. En caso de una emergencia, llame a la escuela para comunicarse con su hijo y los estudiantes pueden usar el teléfono de la oficina de la escuela para comunicarse con sus padres/tutores.
- ❖ **12º GRADO PADRES/TUTORES MAYORES:** Trabaje estrechamente con su hijo mayor este año escolar para discutir sus opciones postsecundarias (planes después de la escuela secundaria). Necesitarán su apoyo y aliento cuando soliciten ingreso a la universidad, escuela de oficios, ejército y/o ayuda/becas financieras. Esté atento a comunicaciones futuras sobre viajes universitarios, talleres, ayuda financiera y fechas límite importantes.
- ❖ **CATCH y ELEVATE** – organizaciones comunitarias, impartirán talleres en el aula a estudiantes de diferentes niveles educativos sobre cómo tomar decisiones positivas para llevar un estilo de vida más saludable. Este programa de educación para la salud ofrecerá varios talleres a lo largo del semestre.
 - o Viernes de Servicios de Salud en el Salón 108
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo se reúna inmediatamente para reuniones individuales de progreso académico/personal con su consejero:** Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) y Sra. Vega-Beltrán (estudiantes de 11.º a 12.º grado). Esta reunión es importante para garantizar que estén encaminados académicamente con su progreso hacia la graduación y para controlar su bienestar personal.
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo asista a tutorías y se una a actividades extracurriculares para ser un miembro activo de la comunidad escolar.** Esta es una excelente manera para que los estudiantes hagan nuevos amigos, establezcan contactos y estén expuestos a diversas actividades/pasatiempos. Enviaremos información para tutorías y actividades extracurriculares en las próximas semanas.
- ❖ **Comuníquese con la Sra. García (grados 9-10) o la Sra. Vega-Beltrán (grados 11-12) si cree que su hijo necesita apoyo social/emocional.** Tenemos una gran cantidad de servicios para los estudiantes en la escuela y podemos derivar a su familia a recursos/asistencia externos.

No dude en comunicarse directamente con el consejero escolar de su hijo si tiene alguna pregunta, inquietud o si necesita ayuda:

Sra. Niurkary García, Consejera de 9y10 grado(212)391-0041 Ext.5052 Correo electrónico:

NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov

Sra. Nicole Vega-Beltran, Consejera de 11º y 12º grado 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Correo electrónico:

NVega11@schools.nyc.gov



Dear JKO,

I wanted to share with you our photo gallery "*Unplugged*." JKO has been participating in the *DiverCity Lens* Photography program for over 13 years. This year the program has changed.

It is now the Photography Series with over 45 schools. The program will culminate with a gallery exhibition at the Tweed Courthouse in May. Four students will be chosen to represent JKO at the gallery. When you have time, take a look at the gallery and let me know which images may have stood out to you. This year the theme was "*Unplugged*."

What does it mean to unplug? Who/what are we unplugging from?

Students explored the theme through images and text.

["Unplugged" Photo Gallery](#)

Thank you!
Ms. D



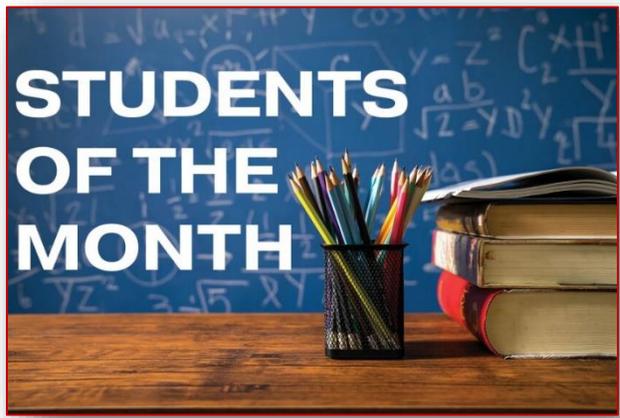
In this photography project, students were invited to explore the theme "*Unplugged*" and consider what it means to disconnect in a world shaped by constant motion, technology, and noise. Rather than focusing solely on devices, students interpreted unplugged in deeply personal ways—moments of quiet, reflection, presence, isolation, connection, resistance, and reconnection. Through their lenses, students examined what happens when something goes silent, when attention shifts, or when we pause long enough to truly observe.

As part of this project, students explored photography as a storytelling medium, learning how framing and composition, camera angles, lighting, and perspective can communicate meaning beyond what is immediately visible. Each image was created intentionally, not only to capture a moment, but to suggest a narrative, emotion, or idea. Students paired their photographs with written captions, combining image and text to deepen the story and invite viewers to look more closely and think more critically.

Together, these photographs reflect a wide range of voices and experiences, yet reveal shared questions about presence, identity, and connection in contemporary life. In a city as diverse and fast-paced as New York, these images remind us of the power of slowing down, observing, and seeing one another—unplugged. - *Ms. De Gregorio*



In the Spotlight



A message from Mr. Williams:

I am happy to announce the names of the following students who have been named a student of the month of December:

9th Grade:
Stella Moore
Katie Rosas

10th Grade:
Yariel Contreras

11th Grade:
Jasleen Millia

12th Grade:
Valeria Torterolo
Sowlin Aktar

Please join me in applauding them for their contributions to the JKO community!





A message from Ms. Rushforth:

I am happy to announce that we completed our lacrosse unit. This was a challenging unit for students, as developing hand-eye coordination during this sport is very demanding. In addition, lacrosse is not a sport many of our students are familiar with, so for some, this was their first experience learning and practicing the skills of the game.



I would like to acknowledge and thank **Mr. Van** for joining our Pe. class during this unit, implementing cross-curricular learning between English and Physical Education, and actively participating throughout. As a lacrosse legend, Mr. Van involvement made this experience even more meaningful for our students.

I truly love our teachers community. Last year, many of you supported me with the PBL unit, and this year Mr. Van stepped in to collaborate. I cannot imagine working with a better team of people. Thank you all for your dedication to our students and their growth, and for teaching them that they can do hard, unfamiliar things—and have fun while doing it.



Best to you all,

Thank you, Ms. Rushforth, for spearheading this!!!



In the Spotlight

- A message from Mr. Vincent:

Michaela,

I wanted to send a huge, heartfelt thank you for always keeping our students at the very center of everything you do. Your genuine care for their social and emotional well-being, especially during the whirlwind of the holidays, is nothing short of inspiring. You truly make our school feel like a second home. I hope you have a restful break!

Also, a massive thank you to everyone who assisted in turning JKO into a holiday wonderland. We are so lucky to have this team.

I echo Mr. Vincent's message of thanks. We are truly fortunate to have you as part of the JKO family, always putting students first in all that you do!!!




In the
Spotlight



Kudos to Ms. Newell's students for decorating their classroom door for the holidays. They connected the decorations to their cultural backgrounds and to the units of study they were learning about: "We Prototype. A diverse, equitable, and inclusive company, focused on becoming accountable, adaptable, and driven employees as well as entrepreneurs."

