



## Meet Sarah, one of Q300's Second Grade Teachers!

Stop by Class 202 and you will find a group of highly verbal students with plenty of energy and enthusiasm asking LOTS of questions! They are constantly thinking one step ahead and are always excited about learning . . . but this group comes alive the most during science and engineering investigations. At these times their teacher asks them to work in triads to solve a problem, allowing them explore at first with very little direction or structure so that they can experiment. The students make the most of the opportunity to investigate and delight in self-discovery.

Class 202 recently completed a 10-week unit on Architecture where they built a scale model of the immediate school neighborhood using lightweight paper boxes, glues, and tape, to create buildings. They built one side of the street and Class 201 built the other side of the street and then brought them together for the final product. (See pictures of the creation on page 2!) One of the most successful aspects of the lesson was that the model the students created and the discussions the class had established a shared neighborhood for all of the second graders, making where Q300 is feel more familiar and connected. Taking that one step further, the students connected the project to broader questions about communities – thinking about how

## Fundraising

**Zumbathon:** Last Friday, Q300 and PS 17 held their first joint fundraiser: a Zumbathon sponsored by Zumba by Tanuja. Parents, teachers, kids, and administrators from both schools worked up a sweat for an hour and a half and had a blast! Together, we raised \$2,875!

**Boxtops:** From Jan 23 - Feb 12, Q300 families submitted 1,183 Box Tops for Education. Q300 will receive \$118.30 for our first submission this school year. Continue to save, clip and glue Box Tops and send in to the PTA! Stay tuned for our next submission to Box Tops for Education.

**March Madness reaches 71% participation totalling about \$40K!** In the month of March, family participation jumped a whopping 28% to reach 71%! This represents nearly \$30,000 in contributions from Q300 families plus an additional \$10,000 in corporate matches.

For those who haven't given, there's still time to participate! We're a few families short of our Goal of 80% participation to receive an additional \$4,000 challenge grant! All donations are held in strict confidence, so please consider giving in the amount that makes sense for your family - \$3, \$30, \$300 or more!

Through your participation and support of Q300 PTA, we are able to pay for Model UN Pins and Binders, Chromebooks and security carts, Middle School Spanish Language teachers, Robotics Kits, teacher wish lists for all the grades, Teaching Assistant for the lower grades, Enrichment activities including Music and so much more!

**Go to [q300pta.org](http://q300pta.org) to donate today.**

communities are organized and what the architecture of a neighborhood can teach us about the community that lives there.

So who is in charge of this Class 202? Meet Sarah, who joined Q300 last Fall for her first year as a head classroom teacher, something she has known she wanted to be since she was a young girl. Her mother is a second grade teacher in New Jersey and when Sarah was growing up there she saw first-hand the substantial impact a teacher had on her students, their families, and her community. Sarah went off to college on the West Coast, attending Occidental College in California where she had the opportunity to work as a first grade teaching assistant, running small group instruction and reading groups. She came back to the East Coast for graduate school, where she was one of eight Abby O'Neill Fellows at Teachers College at Columbia University.

The O'Neill fellowship was endowed to support teachers seeking dual certification to prepare them to work in public schools. For Sarah's part, she obtained her certification in Elementary Education and Gifted & Talented and sought a public school teaching career because she wanted to be teaching in an environment that is as diverse as possible in every sense, be it socioeconomically, learning styles, family backgrounds, and more. She believes the public school system is essential

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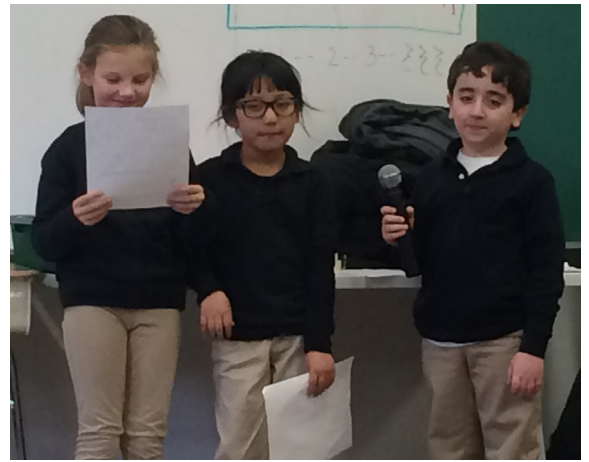
to providing opportunity in our society for all individuals. She is also excited by the challenge of taking limited resources and making things work!

Sarah became familiar with Q300 because she lives in Astoria and walked by it every day on her way to graduate school last year. When she was seeking a teaching position she researched our school and

decided to join the community because her educational philosophy is very well aligned with the schools' values of Inquiry, Inclusion, and Responsibility. She was also excited about teaching in the community that she lives, just like her mother back in New Jersey. Her favorite part of her first year has been getting to know the staff which she calls an amazing group of people who are highly collaborative. Sarah works especially closely with Brooke, the other second grade teacher, about what is going on in their classroom, what they can learn from each other, and provide support.

Sarah is a self-described bookstore junkie – and in her free time you might run into her inside one of the many she frequents across the city. Sarah also enjoys exploring farmers markets, practicing yoga, and spending time with her family. Sarah has three siblings who are spread across the country studying for their own careers in law, nursing and psychology. We can imagine lively family dinner discussions with that group!

Sarah is appreciative of the support that Q300 parents have provided her this year, both for her own classroom but also for the broader school community. With everyone so busy and with so much going on, Sarah tells us that the things that parents and PTA never go unnoticed, but they do sometimes go unsaid – and offers a sincere thank you for all those that have invested a lot of time and effort into the school behind the scenes. Here, here! 🍷



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## 2nd Grade Architecture Celebration

In November, the 2nd Grade Classes kicked off their Architecture unit by walking around the Q300 ES neighborhood to study the buildings, parks & streets. Once a week for the next few months, the students worked with their teachers and (add Architecture firm name) to create a 5/8 scale model of the neighborhood. Each triad was assigned a building & they used materials such as shoe or cereal boxes, construction paper and cardboard. The Architecture unit was concluded with a grade-wide celebration. Each student prepared a speech about the work they had done, what they learned and what it was like to work as a team. They then presented all of this to their peers, teachers and families! It took an amazing amount of courage for the students to get up in front of such a large group to share this information. Building the model of Astoria, along with working as a team & presenting to the group was a memorable experience for all! 🍷



## Mayor de Blasio selects Q300's 7th Grade as NYC Junior Ambassadors for outstanding achievements in Model UN competition

Mayor de Blasio awarded Q300's Seventh Grade Model UN Team with the unique distinction as NYC Junior Ambassadors. Our young scholars worked tirelessly to identify and solve world problems which successfully earned them their top 10 rank over 73 other teams comprised of 7th graders from across the five boroughs. This new program serves to help educate young New Yorkers about the important role the United Nations plays in the global community while encouraging participating students to engage in social change.

"The NYC Junior Ambassadors program offers middle school students a unique opportunity to use the United Nations as a global classroom to become active and civically aware citizens prepared for college and careers. This initiative will cultivate an important awareness about global issues and teach our students important skills such as critical thinking, public speaking and conflict resolution," said Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and Member of the Selection Committee.

"We are thrilled to be a NYC Junior Ambassadors classroom. As an educator, I have the opportunity to guide my students into realizing and fulfilling their voice through advocacy to make a meaningful impact in the future. Being able to assist in the process of inspiring my students is truly rewarding, because it reinforces why I am here, and what I am doing to help these students change the world," said Annette Bindert a Literature Teacher at the 30th Avenue School.

Under the umbrella of the NYC Junior Ambassadors program, 701 will be focusing on human rights in our Literature class. Students are reading texts including, *A Long Walk to Water*, *I Am Malala: Young Reader's Edition*, and *The Breadwinner*. Our scholars will make connections to the work of the United Nations, The Declaration of Human

Rights, and further investigate how to become advocates within the global community, specifically for children whose inalienable rights are violated. Students will receive a curricula-curated tour of the United Nations, host a visit from a UN diplomat, and also visit a UN organization that relates to the work they will be doing. They are very excited to participate!

Three of our delegates took home Honorable Mention Awards for Best Delegate: Emily Strez (representing South Korea), Charles Falivena (representing France), and Aleena Ahmed (representing Bangladesh). 🇨🇪

### Middle School Model UN Trip

The Model UN team got to preview their upcoming United Nations experience by heading to the United Nations for a very special field trip and tour. They took the subway into Manhattan and walked east until they reached the magnificent UN building. Soon, they were inside, with a tour guide ready and willing to take them to incredible locations, including the General Assembly and Security Council meeting rooms. They were stunning in their scope, size and beauty – and the students were clearly impressed. They also impressed the tour guide with their knowledge and answers to a variety of questions. The UN's peacekeeping displays, including a gun transformed into a musical instrument and a sculpture of a gun knotted at its barrel, were particularly fascinating. Special thanks to Ms. Annette for organizing!

# Q300 Community Corner



**Hellenic Padeia Children's Chorus** Dalia, a Q300 second grader, performed with renowned Greek folk singer Sofia Papazoglou as part of the Hellenic Padeia Children's chorus. [http://plannify.com/long-island-city/events/sofia\\_papazoglou\\_concert-4487042.html](http://plannify.com/long-island-city/events/sofia_papazoglou_concert-4487042.html)

**Agamemnon** Iphigenia, a Q300 second grader, performed Agamemnon with La Mama experimental theatre company in February with at the Ellen Stewart Theatre in Manhattan.

**A Big Winner!** Julia, a student in Q300's class 602, won the Outstanding Supporting Actress award in this year's Queens Kudos, a set of awards for local theater given by the Times Ledger newspapers. Julia won the award for her performance of Jojo in Seussical the Musical, a role she played last summer with JC Players, a community theater group based in Middle Village. Julia studies acting and songwriting at Art House Astoria, and theater and ballroom dance at American Dance and Drama in Fresh Meadows.



## Middle School Dance

The middle school held its first dance in February – and it was an incredible success! The students, including some of the middle school's "class coordinators" developed a theme ("Winter Wonderland") and got approval from Kristina. Then the dance committee organized the entire dance, helped to buy decorations, brought snacks, and organized the playlist. They took selfies, DJed, lip synched, sang karaoke-style, and, yes, even danced a bit. Special thanks to the families who donated funds or snacks, to the parents who chaperoned and to the teachers who stayed after school to make the event such a success. Particular thanks to Betty, who guided the students through organizing the event, and made sure everything ran smoothly. Students and teachers seemed to have an equally fabulous time! 🎉

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