

5/14

### Principal's Corner

West Side School is filled with music. We start our day each morning with a song. Our music classes are joyful places and our concerts are beautiful. Our students enjoy many Cultural Arts programs where music plays an important role. Music is integrated into so many aspects of our curriculum! And last Friday night, our sixth graders enjoyed music together with their peers from the Lloyd Harbor School and the Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School.

The West Side School students gather in the gymnasium every morning as the school day begins. At 8:45, we say the Pledge of Allegiance together, and then we sing. Sometimes we sing a patriotic song, and sometimes we sing the West Side School song. No matter what we sing, it is a joyful way to start the day.

The fifth and sixth grade concert was beautiful on Monday night! The children and their teachers worked hard to pull every voice, every note together to give us the gift of music. We enjoyed the theme song from *Batman*, played by our orchestra, and the *Flintstones Song*, played by our band. (both carried me back to my childhood!) Our chorus took us on a musical journey to Mount Kilimanjaro, accompanied by a slide show of our students' art work. It was a wonderful night.

Music is an important part of our curriculum. The fourth grade Colonial Day concert last Friday was really special. The children came to school dressed in clothes of the period, and sang songs from Colonial America. (I loved hearing them sing all of the verses to Yankee Doodle!) Every student in our school can recite the names of the fifty states because they've learned the song "Fifty Nifty!" Last week many parents visited the second grade FLES classes, where the students sang songs about numbers and weather in Spanish!

Finally, Friday night exemplified the power of music to bring people together. At our first Annual 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance held at the Junior-Senior High School, our sixth graders danced the night away with the students who will be their schoolmates next year. It was a resounding success!

*Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without. ~Confucius*

Yours,

Mrs. Herschlein