

Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY REMINDER

Vehicles bringing students to school in the morning and/or picking them up after school **MUST** use the back parking lot. The front parking lot is not to be used for this purpose.



MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools' does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Manchester Public Schools' is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public Schools' nondiscrimination policies and practices should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX Coordinator
Manchester Public Schools, 45 North School Street Man-
chester, CT 06042, 860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant
Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Section 504 Co-Coordinator, Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3452

or
Linda Hodgkins, Coordinator of School Health Services
Section 504 Co-Coordinator, Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3324

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please use extreme caution when driving a vehicle through the school parking lots and on the streets nearby. In the morning before school and at dismissal time there are many people, both students and adults, walking along the sidewalks and IN the parking lots. Be sure to obey the posted signs.

Those spaces marked for handicapped parking, in both the back parking lot and the front, are only for vehicles displaying a state handicapped tag. Violation of any of the parking lot regulations can result in a costly fine from the Manchester Police Department. The police will focus their attention on school parking lots and the streets surrounding the schools this fall, to insure student safety.

Unfortunately, some vehicles were ticketed last year for violations.

The parking lot regulations are designed to keep our children safe. Please keep this in mind at all times.

Please remember that pick-up of students after school and drop off of students in the morning takes place in our **back parking lot**. School staff is on duty in the morning and afternoon to supervise.

The front parking lot is not to be used for the drop-off or pick-up of students. If you are running late in the morning (after 9:05) you may park in the front lot and walk your student into the school office to sign them in. If you arrive late in the afternoon (after 3:40) you may park in the front lot and come into the school office to sign your student out.



The back parking lot is supervised by school staff from 8:35 – 9:05 every morning and from 3:25 – 3:40 every afternoon. The back doors are locked until 8:35 and after 9:05 so please do not drop a student off outside of that time frame.

Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Springtime brings warm weather; therefore, this is a good time for a reminder about appropriate dress in school. The Student/Parent handbook states this about acceptable clothing in school:

- ◇ Clothing should be neat, clean and free of any pictures, slogans or advertisements that are not appropriate in an elementary school;
- ◇ Halter-tops, tank tops and short shorts are not acceptable. (A rule of thumb for tops is that the straps on a top should be wide enough to cover most of the shoulder. For shorts, nothing shorter than basketball or soccer shorts should be worn).
- ◇ Open-toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops are not safe in a school environment and should be avoided.

Please help us keep all of our students focused on the task at hand—learning—during the last two months of school. Thank you.



EARLY STUDENT PICKUP

If it is absolutely necessary to pick your child up early from school, be sure to follow the appropriate procedure. Report directly to the office when you enter the school. Let us know who your child is and why you need to remove them from school early. The office will call the classroom to ask that your child come to the office with their belongings. Be sure to sign them out in the notebook that is on the office counter.

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, no student will be dismissed directly from his or her classroom. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

FIELD TRIPS

Many of our classes will be taking one or more field trips during May and June. Our field trips are always directly related to the curriculum at your child's grade level and are fantastic ways for students to have a personal experience in an area that they have learned about. First hand experience is one of the most powerful ways to learn.



Please check your child's backpack daily to look for field trip notices. Each field trip requires parental permission for students to be able to participate. Be sure that when a field trip notice comes home, you take a few minutes to read about the trip and then sign the permission slip for your child to be able to be a part of the learning experience.

Field trips are also excellent opportunities for you to participate in an aspect of your child's education. Volunteer to go along with them. It's a great experience!

Title IX Notice

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
Phone: 860-647-3595
Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.

Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

MEMORIAL DAY FLOWERS

The Permanent Memorial Day Committee is making plans for the Memorial Day Weekend and the annual Memorial Day Parade. Elementary school children have always played a very important part in this observance by supplying the committee with an abundance of potted plants.

These plants and flowers are used to decorate Center Park for Memorial Day. The committee is asking all elementary school children to bring plants to school on Friday, May 27, 2016. They will be collected later that day to be placed in the park.

VALUABLE ITEMS IN SCHOOL

Our Parent/Student handbook states that there are certain items that should not be brought to school. This is a good time of year for a reminder.

Electronic games or other electronic gear, radios, or trading cards are among the items that should not be brought to school. All of these can cause a distract-



SPRING SAFETY TIPS

With the onset of warm weather and the increase in daylight, everyone will be spending more time outdoors. Here are a few safety reminders that you may want to review with your child.

Please remind your child that when walking to and from school or to his/her bus stop:

- * It is safer to walk with a buddy rather than alone.
- * Never talk to strangers. If a stranger approaches you or asks for your help, walk away quickly. Report this incident to an adult immediately.
- * Avoid all contact with strangers in cars.
- * If you think someone is following you, seek immediate help from an adult that you know.
- * Stay on sidewalks and cross at designated crossing areas only. Obey traffic signals, signs, and crossing guards. Always look both ways when crossing a street.

- * Do not cut through vacant lots and/or backyards. Do walk where you can see and be seen by other people.

Manchester Public Schools wishes to ensure the safety of all its students. All parents are asked to do their part by reviewing these guidelines with their children. Please contact the school office to report any unusual occurrences.

Additional safety information is available through various Public Safety Web Sites on the Town of Manchester Home Page as well as the Public Safety Home Page of the State of Connecticut Web Site.

Town of Manchester:

<http://www.ci.manchester.ct.us/dept.htm>

State of CT. Department of Public Safety:

<http://www.state.ct.us/dps/>



Music: Ms. Grieco & Mr. Hayden

I cannot believe it is almost the end of the year! All grade levels in room 8 are working on music technology this month.

Grades K-1 are working in their classes to create original songs using Garage Band and Grades 2-5 are working on their own or in groups of two to create their own pieces of music on the same app. After creating their music, students in all grade levels will then make up stories, narratives, raps, songs, or dances that they think match the music they put together. This exercise in music technology will show the students what it is like to be a music producer or to work in a studio creating a soundtrack for a movie. The music that they create has the power to invoke emotions of happiness, sadness, anger or suspense.

There will be a Spring Concert for the 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra, Chorus and Band on May 25th at 2:15 and 7 p.m. The fifth grade chorus will be performing an African piece called "Sansa Kroma," a traditional canon called "Grasshopper's Three" and a ballad called "Remember Me This Way." There will be instrumentalists as well as vocal soloists.

Students in all of the music groups have been practicing for months and truly sound amazing. The 2:15 p.m. performance is for students and school staff and the 7:00 p.m. performance is for families.

Have a musical month!

MUSIC MATTERS!



STEM News: Mrs. Gardner & Ms. Munoz

K-2 students have been studying plants this spring. All grades observed sprouting acorns and pieces of wood to learn about the life cycles of oak trees. Kindergarten classes examined potatoes and then conducted an experiment to learn how potatoes sprout. Our final STEM unit for the year will focus on using senses to explore matter.

First graders are conducting experiments to prove that plants need sunlight. They are also learning about life cycles. As they observe the lady bugs they are raising in their classroom, they are researching the lifecycles of frogs and other animals.

In second grade, students are investigating their own questions about what plants need to survive. They designed their own experiments, identified variables and designed fair tests. Now they are patiently monitoring their plants as they discover the answers to their questions.

During the past month, third grade scientists have been working on obtaining information from printed and digital resources and using Google Classroom features. Students conducted research and participated in virtual learning opportunities related to conservation and taking care of our environment. In May, students will begin their final topic of the year: rocks and minerals. Also, we are very excited to be going to the Connecticut Science Center on Friday May 13th and want to thank all of the parents who have signed up as chaperones! Thank you!



Meanwhile, fourth grade scientists devoted most of the month of April to learning about forces and motion. Students are participating in engineering teams to design, build, and alter Kinect cars in order to answer questions regarding speed, force, friction, and energy.



In May, we will begin our last topic: land and water, and will be participating in an all day trip to the Audubon Audubon Society.

Finally, our fifth grade scientists have been working hard to prepare for sixth grade. Students are focused on their scientific writing and understanding of creating scientific models.

Additionally, students are beginning introductions of sixth grade science topics such as physical and chemical changes and reading patterns on the periodic table.

Kindergarten: Mrs. O'Coin, Mrs. Clare, Mrs. Polochanin, Ms. Smith

The kindergarten classes have been busy bees! We are preparing for our spring field trip at Northwest Park in Windsor on Monday, May 23rd. Please watch for field trip information coming home soon! We will be looking for chaperones to join us on this fun trip!



We celebrated Earth Day by taking a scavenger hunt. During a beautiful spring morning, students took a nature walk and went searching for different things in nature. They had a blast!

In math, we continue working on addition and subtraction facts. Our goal is for students to master all 42 (21 addition and 21 subtraction) facts within 70 seconds. Keep practicing!

We continue to work on 2-D and 3-D shapes. Try finding these shapes at home, at the store, or at the playground:

Sphere
Cylinder
Cube
Cone
Square
Rectangle
Circle
Triangle
Hexagon

In science, we are getting a “green thumb” in our plant unit. Students have planted flowers and are learning about how plants grow and plant parts. Watch for these beautiful plants coming home soon!

Can you believe all these kindergarten readers? We are so proud of how the students are reading and comprehending. Be sure to listen to your child read and read to them every day! In the classroom, we continue to read both fiction and non-fiction. We spend a lot of time discussing connections, and the author's message. We compare, retell, and act out stories.

As the weather gets warmer, be sure your child has appropriate shoes for the playground and light jacket for the cooler days. Hopefully, the days will be warmer and we can enjoy time outside!



Upcoming Dates:

Field Trip: May 23rd
PTA meeting: May 11th
Half Day (teacher PD): May 18th
NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day: May 30th



First Grade: Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Beauregard, Mrs. Rawlins, Ms. Rubino

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing April vacation!

Writer's Workshop

In Reader's Workshop, we are continuing to read for meaning to learn the lesson the author intended. This involves determining the details that are important in a text and understanding the roles of the main characters and supporting characters. We will also pay close attention to how characters' feelings change over the course of a story, and when we read aloud, we will read with expression. Our voices will have to convey the voices of the characters (their actions indicate their feelings and, therefore, their voice). We will spend time comparing texts and sharing and defending our opinions of them.

In Writer's Workshop, we are moving from writing Nonfiction/Information/How-To books to writing about our opinions. Opinion writing involves giving several reasons for our opinion and providing supporting details for those reasons in order to persuade others to share our opinion. We will also be comparing different versions of Fairy Tales.

In Math Workshop, we have been hard at work learning about place value! We are learning to show and compare numbers as tens and

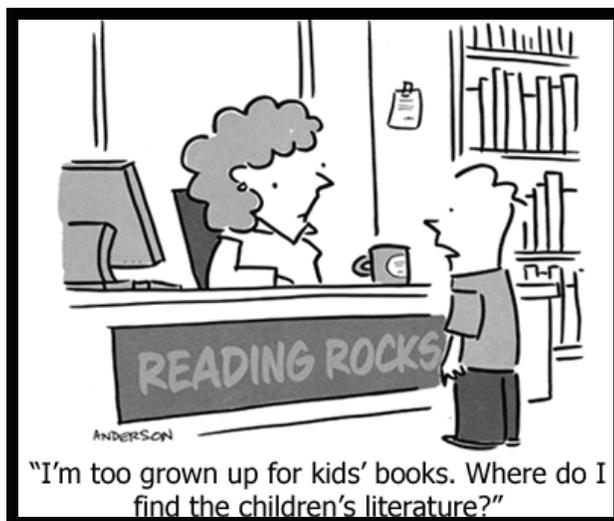
**MATH
ROCKS**

ones with math tools and drawn representations. Later in the month we will begin our unit on measurement.

During Social Thinking, we are just finishing our unit on "Breathe, Think, Do!" The final step is to talk about and practice what else we can do if our plans do not work the first time. We have incorporated the act-along stories and videos from Sesame Street's social thinking curriculum to address additional skills and make the learning fun and interactive.

Our next unit will be "Thinking With Our Eyes" and the objective will be for students to understand thinking with your eyes. This means to use their eyes to look around them to figure out what the group plan is. Also, we use our eyes to let others know we are thinking, listening and talking to them.

Happy Mother's Day! Enjoy the beautiful weather.



2nd Grade: Mrs. Osella, Mrs. Mundy, Mr. Jones, Ms. Ruggiero

Second graders have been learning about characterization and character traits. We are reading books such as *Horrible Harry*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Wemberly Worried*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. We compared the characters in the stories and looked at how they changed throughout the journeys they took. Students participated in discussions about the various characters and looked for specific character traits in their JUST RIGHT books.



In writing, we are ending our unit on opinion writing. Students were taught to write an opinion essay which included an introduction, three reasons for their opinion, and a conclusion. Students not only had to state their reasons but explain WHY they felt a certain way.

In writing we will begin working on our animal research projects. Students will learn how to take notes, summarize their notes and put together a presentation (Google SlideShow or a book) about the animal they chose to research.



In math, we are continuing our units on addition and subtraction within 1,000. Students are learning strategies that will help them to solve three-digit addition and subtraction problems that include regrouping or borrowing. Please continue to review basic addition and subtraction facts within 20 with your child. This will help them solve larger problems faster and students will not have to rely so much on their fingers to count on or down.

After our subtraction unit we will be starting our unit on Geometry. Students will be comparing and contrasting polygons and three-dimensional shapes. Then we will start our measurement and graphing unit.

We will begin using rulers to learn about standard units of measure. Students will be exposed to measuring objects in centimeters, inches, feet and yards. We will also be using graphs to interpret data and discuss patterns within data.

In science, students will use this information to predict which soil samples would support the growth of plants. They will document their findings in written lab reports. In preparation for a unit on plants we are growing plants. Some of us have planted marigolds, and others have planted peas, corn and beans. As the plants grow, we will be learning about what plants need to be healthy and about plant life cycles.



Please remember that homework is due every Friday. As the school year winds down and the weather gets nicer we have noticed that less and less homework packets are being handed in. Homework is an integral part of your child's education. It allows them to practice what we are learning and for you to stay connected with what is going on in school. If you need an extension, please let your child's teacher know and accommodations can and will be made.



3rd Grade: Mr. Pepin, Mrs. Case, Mr. Moynihan

Reading:

During the last reading unit of the 2015-2016 school year, the students will be working together by forming Research clubs and studying various topics. They will review how to use tools like the table of contents to find subtopics, like we did earlier in the year in our writing lessons. The students will also have the opportunity to cross check information among various texts to synthesize information just like the experts do. While doing their research, our third graders will learn to use to use vocabulary, that is specific to the topic they are studying while asking continuous questions like an expert researcher.

Math:

Our next unit will focus on the very important life-long skills of measurement and data. The students will build on their understanding of time to the nearest minute including skip-counting by fives, then counting by ones, and use a counting-up strategy to determine elapsed time. You can help your child practice telling time at home by using an analog clock.

The students will also develop a better understanding of liquid volume (capacity) and mass, through the use of a variety of tools, such as pouring liquids between familiar containers and standard unit containers to measure volume and using the scale/number line on the container will help students determine volume in liters and milliliters. The students will also use a pan balance to measure mass in grams and kilograms.

For the data portion of the unit, we will focus on reading and making scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs that represent a data set with several categories. The unit further involves having students generate fractional measurement data, and representing the data on line plots. We will also use data from a frequency table to make a picture graph in which a picture or symbol represents more than one of something. Students will connect the size of the numbers that will affect the choice of scale. We will then go to the next step of using the data from a table to make a bar graph in which the interval between grid lines represents more than one.

Students will continue to solve word problems. During this unit, we will be using an addition and subtraction of time intervals, and use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve word problems involving volume, mass and data represented in graphs by solving one and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information represented in scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs.

Writing:

In our last writing unit, our students will be going back to the classics and studying fairy tales, just like the ones that have been told for generations. They will learn that writers create their own fairy tales by adapting the classic ones, and analyze multiple versions of a tale and ask "Why might the author have made these versions?" Examples include the classic *Gingerbread Man* being adapted into the 1992 fairy tale of *The Stinky Cheese Man*. The students will understand that writers or storytellers adapt fairy tales in meaningful ways by acting out their story as they plan while incorporating a lesson/moral into the tale. Our third graders will then take their new learning to create their own fairy tale!



Upcoming Field Trips:

May 13th- Connecticut Science Center
May 24th- Instrument Demo @ MHS 9:00-11:00 a.m.
May 25th- Manchester Walking Tour

Field Trip!

4th Grade: Mrs. Blundo, Ms. Oritz & Mrs. Gatmaitan

April brought the much awaited warm weather and with it, a slew of activities for the fourth graders.

We celebrated Earth Day by reading Chris Van Allsburg's book entitled, *Just A Dream*. Through our discussions, the students got to imagine what the world would look like if we continued to neglect our responsibilities toward our planet. They realized that we must do our part by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Reading classes have entered the 18th century. We are studying the Revolutionary War while discussing the ways to attack historical books. Students have been very interested in this topic and have had great questions. They should be able to tell you about the cause for the war and who was involved.



They will be digging deeper into a subtopic for writing. Our students will be writing a nonfiction "book" about everything they have learned on a person or event during the Revolutionary War.

Math classes are wrapping up fractions and decimals. We have learned how to add, subtract and multiply with mixed numbers. We also worked on decimals with grids and number lines. Next month, we will move into our Geometry unit.

We are glad to announce that SBAC testing has ended! We are so proud of how hard our students worked on these tests. Everyone was focused, respectful and did the best they could.

Reminder:

We are looking forward to our next trip this May to the Audubon Society in Glastonbury.

Yea!
We're going on
a
FIELD TRIP!

5th Grade: Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Frye , Mrs. Kearney

Language Arts: In May, students will be reading fantasy books! Students are working in Book Clubs to read and discuss the elements of fantasy. Ask your students about the amazing adventures they are reading about!

In writing, fifth graders will begin to work on writing their own memoirs. We will brainstorm important moments from their lives that they would like to share. We will also work on using the writing cycle to develop and improve our writing pieces.

Math: We finished our geometry unit in April and have moved on to volume. We are working on calculating the volume of rectangular prisms and combined shapes. Students can practice measuring and calculating the volume of everyday objects! Ask them to show you how!

On May 17th we will heading to Hammonasset State Park to explore the ocean and marsh there. We are looking for chaperones so please let us know if you are interested!



On May 10th students will be taking a trip to Manchester High School to participate in a 5th grade leadership conference. Students will be learning a variety of leadership skills as well as touring the high school.

Fifth Grade will also take a trip to Bennet Academy, Manchester's sixth grade school, on May 13th. We know the students will be so excited to learn their way around this new place and meet some of the teachers and staff who they will be with next year. This is an exciting time as our students prepare to end their time at Robertson and travel on to Bennet!



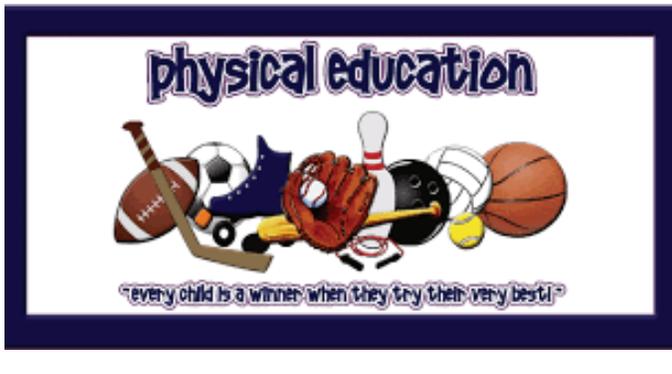
Let's finish the year out by putting in our best effort and continuing to show those Robertson core values!

Physical Education: Ms. White & Ms. Falkowski

The students completed our adventure unit. There are three different elements for them to try. These elements included the rock wall, climbing ropes and the cargo net. It is so awesome to see our younger students taking risks and trying things for the first time!

For the older grades, they had different levels to complete on the rock wall to create challenge and competition.

Moving forward we will begin practicing for Field Day (June 3, 2016- more info to come!).



Library/ Media Center: Mr. Hadge & Mrs. Courtney

For the month of May kindergarten and first grade classes will be reviewing skills learned this year. Second through fifth grades will be learning about new books and areas in the library and appropriate book selection.

Many classrooms have been working weekly on the code.org website. Students learn the basics of coding and work on collaboration, creativity, and persistence.

Throughout May the library will be making a big push to get all overdue library books returned. If your child brings home an overdue notice please help them locate and return the books. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

The PTA and the library will be sponsoring a third book fair this year. It will be a buy one, get one free event. It will only run from Wednesday, June 8th to Friday, June 10th. Look for exact times and volunteer opportunities as we get closer to the date.

Robertson Library summer book loans are back! Students in grades 2, 3, and 4 will be allowed to borrow 10 books from the library for the summer. Look for applications later on in May.

K-8 Resource Page: Many of the sites your children visit at school can be found on this page. Just visit our school website (<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=714>), click on "Resources" in the top row, and then click on "K-8".



Art: Mrs. Sheroff & Ms. Beyer

Kindergarten artists painted buildings and used primary and secondary color while painting and decorating their three-D flowers in vases.

First graders created tag board sculptures with circles and pop-up card, creating a scene in a home or outside.

Second graders were studying warm and cool colors while creating a wood and clay sculpture and are now working on a watercolor drawing of a carrot, onion, and a beet. With the help of Mrs. Gardner, the science teacher, students observed the soil, roots, the vegetable, and the leaf shoots.

Third graders are working on drawing faces and flowers.

Fourth graders were painting and collaging 3-D boxes.

Fifth graders studied Vincent Van Gogh and his bedroom and students created their own pop-up bedroom scenes.

Below are the students selected for the Lutz Museum Art Show. Due to the size of the venue, 64 students were selected for the exhibit. The art opening will be Friday, May 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. I hope to see all of these students and their families at the show:

Bryn Yingling
Ethan Sourinho
Marwa Bouchemia
Trisha Sharma
Raniya Alasmari
Leliana Paulino Fernandez
Tanisha Lakshmanan
Looma Taha
Sierra Chappell
Soujatya Dasgupta
Prabajan Saravanan
Karmalisse Nurse
Trilochana Sivakumar
A'kera Latimer
Ryan Preetham

Makayla Rowe
Retal Saman
Kenneth Karvonen
Alayna Escobar
Cameron Pathoomvanh
Sidney Fosberg
Jazleene Mattingly
Athena Lavigne
Nyalisse Nurse
Chanelle Melcher
Tyler Foster
Erin Watt
Shawnyra Honegan
Rigo Martinez Pagan
Zenaida Charway
Justice Powell
Louiciah Pierre Jacques
Antwhan Diaz
Landon Smith
Alex Blagrove
Emma Heimer
Krishna Catta
Jayden Cruz
Kyla Melhado
Hailey Kennedy
Amyrah Melcher
Alex Coniam
Danielle Gaboury
Fayz Baig
Ame Thammavong
Mohamed Ali
Tahira Streater
Linda Graves
Nevaeh Cuyler
Anne Pierre
Jahai Blocker
Shriya Krishnakumar
Nigae Ledbetter
Sumitra Bramwell
Anshul Kulkarni
Malik Mendez
Brittany Aklibosu
Christina Collazo
David Parkins
Juliana Foster
Anusha Butala
Ishmael Johnson
Dhay Alshaye
Niraj Prakash