

FLI News

Future Leaders Institute Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue...

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Always reference the calendar posted on the school's website for the most up-to-date info

CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

Check out spotlights of what our students are currently learning as well as other important information.

EXTENDED DAY SPOTLIGHT

Get a more in depth look at key components about our Extended Day program and the classes offered.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The students are the center of it all. Hear all about what's happening at FLI from the perspective of our students.

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

Learn about FLI's core values, the foundation of our community, and how we will be celebrating throughout the school year.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FLI wants to help fulfill any needs that you might have outside of the school community. This section will always communicate opportunities and resources offered in or around the neighborhood.



GREETINGS FROM...

Jody Flowers
Principal

Dear FLI Community,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2025-26 school year. September has flown by! I am in awe of how many of our returning students have grown and I am enjoying every opportunity to learn more about students and families who are new to FLI this school year. Did you know that FLI has been around since 1999 and we are the longest running K-8 charter school in Harlem?! This year marks our 26th year in operation. I am proud to share that I started my 20th year in education and 20th year at FLI this school year. It is truly my home away from home! This year we will be going through a charter renewal. Join me at our first Parent Involvement Council (PIC) meeting to learn more about the renewal process and where your support is needed.

Our first PIC meeting will take place on Friday, October 24 at 8:45 AM in FLI's cafeteria. Come and join us to learn more about the renewal process, including where your support is needed, and upcoming events, news, and announcements for the year. All families are welcome and are encouraged to join. Breakfast will be served. I hope to see you there.

Here's to a wonderful school year ahead!

FLI School Calendar

1. [Click here for FLI's School Year Calendar - Website](#)

-Or-

2. Scan below for FLI School year calendar - FLI website



*This link or QR code will take you to FLI's Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year.
Dates are subject to change. Please use this calendar to plan ahead for the year when it comes to major school events, parent teacher conferences, school closures, major assessments and much much more.*

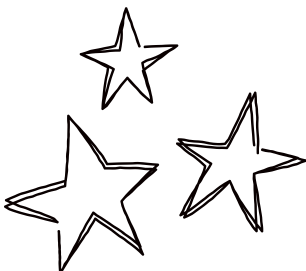
FLI Monthly Calendar

1. [Click here for FLI's Monthly calendar](#)

-Or-

2. Scan below for FLI's Monthly calendar

*This link or QR code will take you to FLI's Monthly Calendar for the current month.
This calendar will included the most up to date information with even more detail.*



Curriculum Spotlight

"Curriculum should help children have deeper and fuller understanding of their own experience."

...STAY IN THE KNOW



2nd Grade students had fun creating their own maps in social studies class.



A Message From...

Jaime Marino
8th Grade ELA Teacher

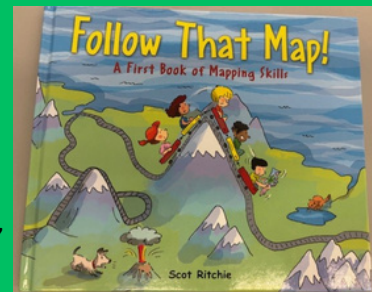
Hello FLI families! If you do not know me already, I am the 8th Grade ELA Teacher here at FLI. I have been teaching here for 16 years and love that I get to see how our students grow from kindergarten all the way up through middle school.

While Ms. Gonzalez is out on maternity leave, I will be curating the "Curriculum Spotlight" page. You can check here each month for information on content units, assessments, and events centered around learning.

We have started the 2025-2026 school year with lots of excitement and I can't wait to see how much our students learn and grow this school year!

BOOK OF THE MONTH...

Second grade students have started off this school year learning about maps and our community in their social studies class. Using the NYC Department of Education Passport to Social Studies curriculum, students have been learning about cardinal directions, physical vs. political maps, where we are in the world, NYC's geographic features and more. Students have also had a chance to create their own classroom maps to practice their skills as well as a 5 borough map of NYC.



A LOOK AHEAD...

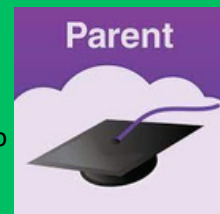
Week of September 29th: iReady Mathematics Diagnostic for students in K through 8

-Week of November 17th: English Language Arts and Math Benchmark I for students in 3-8



PLUS PORTAL

Every FLI student and parent have a PlusPortal account where they can access students' grades as well as communicate with teachers. Through this online platform one can see whenever a new classwork, homework, quiz, or assessment grade has been added to a student's class average. At the end-of-each marking period, report cards will also be accessible via the portal:
<https://www.plusportals.com/FLI>



CURRICULUM MAP

Each grade level has a curriculum map where we have laid out the instructional units and curriculum that students will be learning this school year in each subject area: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Civics. Reach out to your child's teacher for a copy of the 2025-2026 school year curriculum map so you can learn about the topics we will study and know when end-of-unit assessments will take place. Moreover, you can use it to ask your child specific questions about what they are learning in school!

Extended Day Spotlight

"Curriculum should help children have deeper and fuller understanding of their own experience."



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- FLI's School Calendar includes all days that Extended Day will be in session for the 2025-26 school year (gray colored days).
- Pickup time is 4:45 PM. Early pickup from Extended Day ends at 4:15 PM. If you arrive after 4:15 PM you must wait till 4:45 PM.
- To keep your child's seat in the Extended Day program, your child must maintain at least a 90% attendance rate.



FLI EXTENDED DAY HAS BEGUN

*Monday, Sept. 15th was the first day of E.D.
All permission slips are due no later than October 3rd.*



A Message From....

Ms. Nadijah
Extended Day Coordinator

Welcome back families to Extended Day for the 2025-2026 school year! Every month you can check the "Extended Day Spotlight" page to see what your students may be learning in the Extended Day program from 2:30 pm to 4:45 pm. We have started the school year off with much excitement with the introduction of our new cheerleading and chess programs!

Lower School Courses Offered

Grades K-5 stay with their regular school day class during the extended day program. Their scheduled offerings change daily and are offered 5 days a week.

Dance	Choir
Recorders	Chess
Ballet	Art
Computer Science	Physical Education
Girls on the Run	

Middle School Courses Offered

Middle school students have the option to choose two classes per week. Siblings of lower school students have the option to choose 5 classes.

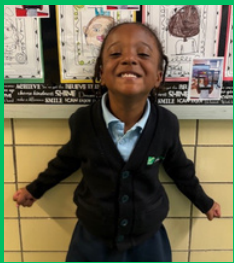
Physical Education	Soccer
Algebra 1 Regents	Cheerleading
Dance	Art
Basketball Clinic	Volleyball
Computer Science	Chess
Yearbook	Elevate: Business Entrepreneurship

Student Spotlight

"Developing the children of today to be the leaders of tomorrow."

...LOOK WHO'S TALKING

This month's spotlight is on Ms. Michelle's Kindergarten class! We asked our youngest students, **"What do you love most about kindergarten?"**



My favorite things to do in kindergarten is drawing art and reading books with my class!

X'ane



I like that I've made friends in kindergarten and we all get to play together.

Xuri



In kindergarten, I like that I get to play LEGO's. During free time I build houses out of LEGO's!

Grayson

Kindergarten is so much fun! I like that I can do science and learn my letters.



Imani

I like going to Kindergarten! It's so fun. I'm so excited! I like that I get to write my name.



Letrell

I love playing trains. I play trains at my grandma's house and I can play them at school with my friends.

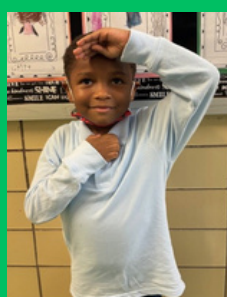


Tobias



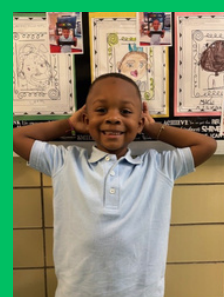
Kindergarten is fun because you get to play with friends. My friends and I play blocks and magnatiles.

Seveynn



When we have recess in the classroom, I get to play magnatiles. I like building with them.

Peter



Kindergarten is really fun! I like that I can play LEGO's with my friends. We build a lot of things.

Kobe

Inside the Community

COMMUNITY AND VALUES...

*"Teach the child
not just the curriculum"*



The Foundation of FLI

FLI was founded on the basis of six core values that we believe are just as essential to teach as our curriculum. Our mission is to develop the whole child so they have all the tools necessary to continue to be successful in all future chapters of their lives. While teaching into these core values is a daily task, each month is dedicated to a specific value. By the end of the month, teachers and classmates nominate students in each class as an exemplar of that value. These students are then celebrated at our monthly community circles.

Community Circles

Each month FLI hosts both a lower and middle school community circle organized for lower school by the school guidance counselors, reading specialist and for middle school a 7th grade teacher and our Dean. Community circle embodies the style of a true morning meeting where as a group we take part in a greeting, share and activity. Community circles will always take place in the school's gymnasium from 8:30AM - 8:45AM at the end of each month. For the month of September we focused on Community Building and getting to know each other. We played "Just Like Me/ Stand up, Sit Down" as a way to see our similarities and differences. Will we see you at the next one?

September Perfect Attendance - Honorees

While FLI wants to honor all recipients of September's Perfect Attendance accomplishment, there are just too many to fit on the page! Checkout the recipients on our website!

FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL

CORE VALUES

Leadership

Compassion

Responsibility

Respect

Effort

Truth

Community Resources

OFFERINGS IN AND AROUND HARLEM



FUTURE LEADERS IS HERE TO HELP AND SUPPORT

FLI wants to help fulfill any needs that you might have outside of the school community. This section will always communicate opportunities, resources and school needs offered in or around the neighborhood. Also, please let us know if you come across any resources available for us to share.

INSTAGRAM - ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?! [fli_charter_school](#)



Follow FLI's instagram account to catch all the fun that is taking place inside the school community and show us your love!

Other Resources

Keep scrolling to find the following information/resources:

- Parent Involvement Committee
- NYC Parks Employment Opportunities
- "Learn to Play" Hockey Program
- Costume Roller Skate Party
- Fall Harvest
- Hispanic Heritage Concert
- Free Play Pickleball

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE



JOIN the Parent Involvement Council (PIC) at FLI! We Need YOU

The Parent Involvement Committee is a formal organization of FLI Family members and staff intended to facilitate and encourage family participation at FLI.

Join us to...

- Advocate for students and families
- keep updated on events/ issues about the school
- Assist with communication
- Lead & participate in activities for students & families (including, but not limited to fundraisers, field trips, class/school-wide celebrations, workshops, & more!)



Who can be a member of the PIC at FLI?

As a parent or guardian of a child at FLI, you're automatically a PIC member! PIC meetings are open to all!

- All Parents/ Guardians, including step parents, foster parents, etc.
- Grandparents
- Aunts, uncles
- Godparents
- older adult siblings of FLI students

PIC Meetings during the 2025- 26 school year will be held in person at FLI, starting at 8:45AM.

Breakfast will be served.

Friday, October 24, 2025

Friday, December 19, 2025

Friday, February 13, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026

Friday, May 29, 2026

INVOLUCRAMIENTO DE LOS PADRES

COMITÉ



¡VEN al Consejo de Participación de Padres (PIC) en FLI! Te necesitamos mucho.

El Comité de Participación de Padres es un grupo formal de familiares y personal de FLI que tiene como objetivo ayudar y promover la participación de las familias en FLI. Únete a nosotros para...

- Defensor de los alumnos y las familias
- Mantente al tanto de los eventos y problemas de la escuela.
- Ayudar con la charla
- Dirigir y participar en actividades para estudiantes y familias, como recaudaciones de fondos, excursiones, celebraciones de clase o de la escuela, talleres y mucho más.



¿Quién puede unirse al PIC en FLI? Como papá, mamá o tutor de un niño en FLI, ¡ya eres parte del PIC! ¡Las reuniones del PIC son para todos!

- Todos los papás y mamás, incluyendo a los padrastros, padres adoptivos, y demás.
- Abuelos
- Tías, tíos
- Padrinos
- hermanos mayores de estudiantes de FLI

Las reuniones del PIC para el año escolar 2025-26 se realizarán en persona en FLI, comenzando a las 8:45 a. m.

Se ofrecerá el desayuno.

Viernes 24 de octubre de 2025

Viernes 19 de diciembre de 2025

Viernes 13 de febrero de 2026

Viernes 24 de abril de 2026

Viernes 29 de mayo de 2026

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK
679 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT 145TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10031

***To Get More Information About
Employment Opportunities***

SCAN HERE



Please e-mail your application & resume to:
NYCVacancies@parks.ny.gov

Scan this QR Code to get to the application:



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL
RANDY SIMONS
LESLIE WRIGHT

Governor
Commissioner Pro Tempore
NYC Regional Director

Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

679 Riverside Drive at West 145th Street, New York, NY, 10031

NEW YORK RANGERS

JUNIOR PROGRAM

“Learn to Play Hockey”

Ages 5-8



Saturdays

8:30am-9:30am

November 8, 2025 - January 24, 2026

Cost: \$195

What's Included:

- Helmet with cage
- Shoulder and elbow pads
- Shin guards
- Hockey gloves and pants
- Socks and skates
- Stick
- NY Ranger jersey



Register:



Promo Code:
RBK25

For more information, please call (212) 694-3642 or email Ricky.Davis@parks.ny.gov | Kemar.Malcolm@parks.ny.gov



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL GOVERNOR
RANDY SIMONS COMMISSIONER PRO TEM
LESLIE WRIGHT NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK

679 Riverside Drive at West 145th Street, New York, NY 10031

COSTUME ROLLER SKATE PARTY

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 31, 2025

3:00PM – 6:00PM

KIDS (17 & YOUNGER)*

*** PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY KIDS 12 AND YOUNGER**

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

ADULTS ONLY (18+)

RENTAL: \$6 PER PERSON

ADMISSION: \$2 PER PERSON

WEAR YOUR BEST COSTUME FOR A CHANCE TO

WIN A GREAT PRIZE!



For more information email us at
DFRBSPSkating@parks.ny.gov or call

(212) 694-3642



@DennyFarrellRiverbankStatePark

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Kathy Hochul
Randy Simons
Leslie Wright

Governor
Commissioner Pro Tempore
NYC Regional Director

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK

679 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT WEST 145TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10031

FALL HARVEST



Sunday
October 26, 2025
1:00 PM - 4:00PM



**COSTUMES
WELCOME**

**AGES 14 AND
UNDER**

FREE!



- ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOP
- FAMILY DANCE OFF
- FAMILY PARTY GAMES
- CAROUSEL RIDE
- POPCORN
- TREAT BAG

Inside the Robert F. Smith Center for the Performing Arts
For more information please call (212) 694-3633

 **@DennyFarrellRiverbankStatePark**

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL
RANDY SIMONS
LESLIE WRIGHT

GOVERNOR
COMMISSIONER PRO TEMPORE
NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

000014

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK

679 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT WEST 145TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10031

HISPANIC HERITAGE CONCERT SERIES

Culturas Unidos

Cumbia on the Hudson

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 4, 2025

5:00PM - 8:30PM



MUSIC BY:



DJ GORILA



LA PLEBADA NYC



DJ PLEBEZZEEE

PLAYING LIVE!

Estrellas de La Kumbia

**PROGRAM SUBJECT
TO CHANGE**



FREE



For more information please call (212) 694-3634

Inside the Robert Frederick Smith Center for Performing Arts



@DennyFarrellRiverbankStatePark



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

**KATHY HOCHUL
RANDY SIMONS
LESLIE WRIGHT**

**GOVERNOR
COMMISSIONER PRO TEMPORE
NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

000013

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK

679 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT WEST 145TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10031

FREE PLAY PICKLEBALL



Saturdays

4:00pm - 6:00pm

September 13- December 27, 2025

Location: Gymnasium Cost: Free!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AT 212-694-3638
OR DFRBSPATHLETICS@PARKS.NY.GOV**



@DennyFarrellRiverbankStatePark



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

KATHY HOCHUL
RANDY SIMONS
LESLIE WRIGHT

GOVERNOR
COMMISSIONER PRO TEMPORE
NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

000009

DENNY FARRELL RIVERBANK STATE PARK
679 RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT WEST 145TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10031

ROLLER SKATING SEASON IS HERE!



ADMISSION: \$2 SKATE RENTAL: \$6

PUBLIC SKATING

Mondays & Tuesdays
4:00PM - 7:00PM

Wednesdays & Fridays (18 yrs. & up)
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Saturdays & Sundays
1:00PM - 4:00PM
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Holidays
11:00AM - 2:00PM
3:00PM - 6:00PM

For additional information, please email the Skating Department at
DFRBSPSkating@parks.ny.gov



@DennyFarrellRiverbankStatePark

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

KATHY HOCHUL
RANDY SIMONS
LESLIE WRIGHT

GOVERNOR
COMMISSIONER PRO TEM
NYC REGIONAL DIRECTOR