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Building Community at PS/IS 217!

At PS/IS 217, we believe in the importance of the home-school connection by working together with families to support their children's education, as well as building community in the school and outside of the school. Throughout the school year, we have had a variety of events from morning workshops before school starts, parent engagement events during the school day, and annual events that are considered school traditions.

Back in December, families were invited to participate in a "Let's Code Family Night" at Cornell Tech. Students worked on Scratch alongside their family to apply their problem-solving and collaboration skills. We also had our 3rd Annual Family Maker Night before Mid-Winter Recess. This year, students worked at different stations remixing different Scratch games and using the Makey Makey kits. In one popular station, students needed to work together to create a closed circuit while they maneuvered along a circuit tape maze so that their dinosaur would not fall down in their remixed Scratch game.

In January, we held our annual International Dinner, which allows families to celebrate and showcase their regional cuisine and fantastic demonstrations of activities from across the globe. Over 100 cooks contributed to the delicious buffet and families and local organizations demonstrated Chinese calligraphy, Taekwondo, Capoeira, and dances from China, Nigeria, and Cambodia.

Another favorite school tradition is our take on Respect for All Week in February. Each day, students analyzed a quote, listened to a song, and discussed how they were related to respect and kindness. They participated in the Great Kindness Challenge and were encouraged to have conversations at home about the daily activities. With the community service initiative, students also made and delivered valentines to local senior citizens to show that they are cared for in our community.



Let's Code Family Night at Cornell Tech



Annual International Dinner



Delivering Valentines to the local senior center
with the Community Service team



Students signing hearts to show that each person
is important and contributes to our school