

Caribbean Life

ENTERTAINMENT > ARTS & THEATRE

NDI Children celebrate the magic of the arts

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Throughout December, New York City public school children participated in National Dance Institute's (NDI) In-School Program by taking to the stage in celebration of the arts at PS 1M in Chinatown, PS 234 in Tribeca and PS 183M on the Upper East Side.

In its 24th year of partnership, pupils from PS 1M on Henry Street in Chinatown celebrated the magic of the arts during a performance highlighting their participation in NDI's 32-week In-School Program. With enthusiasm and commitment to arts education by school administrators, teachers and parents, NDI is a family tradition.

Children at PS 1M, with a large population of new immigrants many of whom are Chinese, explored the concepts of levels, sizes, speed, qualities and shapes used in dance to form structured improvisations taught by professional dancers and musicians.

For the youngsters at PS 234 on Greenwich Street in Tribeca, NDI's In-School Program has reinforced the school's focus of children working together in an interactive setting, since 2007. To highlight what they have learned, hundreds of fifth grade students showcased their new dance techniques in two performances for their peers on Dec. 16.

On Dec. 17, pupils at PS 183M, East 66th Street, on the Upper East Side took to the stage in a high-spirited performance. For the past 18 years, NDI's In-School Program has been a tradition at PS 183M.

With support from the community including school administrators and parents, many of whom are scientists and researchers at nearby Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, children danced with great enthusiasm while learning about music, literature and global citizenship, taught by world-class dancers and musicians.

The National Dance Institute is a not-for-profit organization founded in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage children and motivate them towards excellence.

Using professional artists and a distinctive combination of dance classes and performances integrated with music, literature and the visual arts, children learn how to work together to reach for their personal best. More than two million children have participated in NDI programs.

NDI was founded in 1976 by world-renowned New York City Ballet dancer Jacques d'Amboise, and since 1995 has been under the artistic leadership of Ellen Weinstein. For more information, please log on to www.nationaldance.org.



Young people perform during National Dance Institute's In-School performance at PS 183.