

# In the Community

## PS 5 Master Class where students teach adults

By Keith L. Forest  
Contributing Scribe

Students at Ronald E McNair Public School 5 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn are celebrating a stellar school year. In addition to having great attendance and elevating their test scores, students are thankful for the outstanding community support they've been receiving. To express their gratitude and show appreciation for those who've invested in their educa-

tional future, students recently hosted an Aviation, STEM and Urban Farm Master Class.

"The Bed Stuy community has always and continues to be very supportive of our school. Whether its parents helping in the garden or forming partnership with local eateries like Saraghina and Grand Champs, who both are providing support for our (student run) restaurant, we are truly grateful. It has helped us provide a safe haven for our children to grow and learn," said Principal Lena

Gates.

The Master Classes included guided lessons from PS 5's young aviators who showcased and provided topflight simulation instructions out of their very own Dr. Ronald E McNair Aviation Center Sponsored by American Airlines. "Before we start, we want to make sure our wings are even out," shared Student Aviator Elijah Roberts.

STEM Student and Master Instructor Clinton Steele was on hand to provide a tutorial on how he can use the 3D



Master Instructor Clinton Steele takes time out to speak with News 12 about our nation and the world of the 21st century.

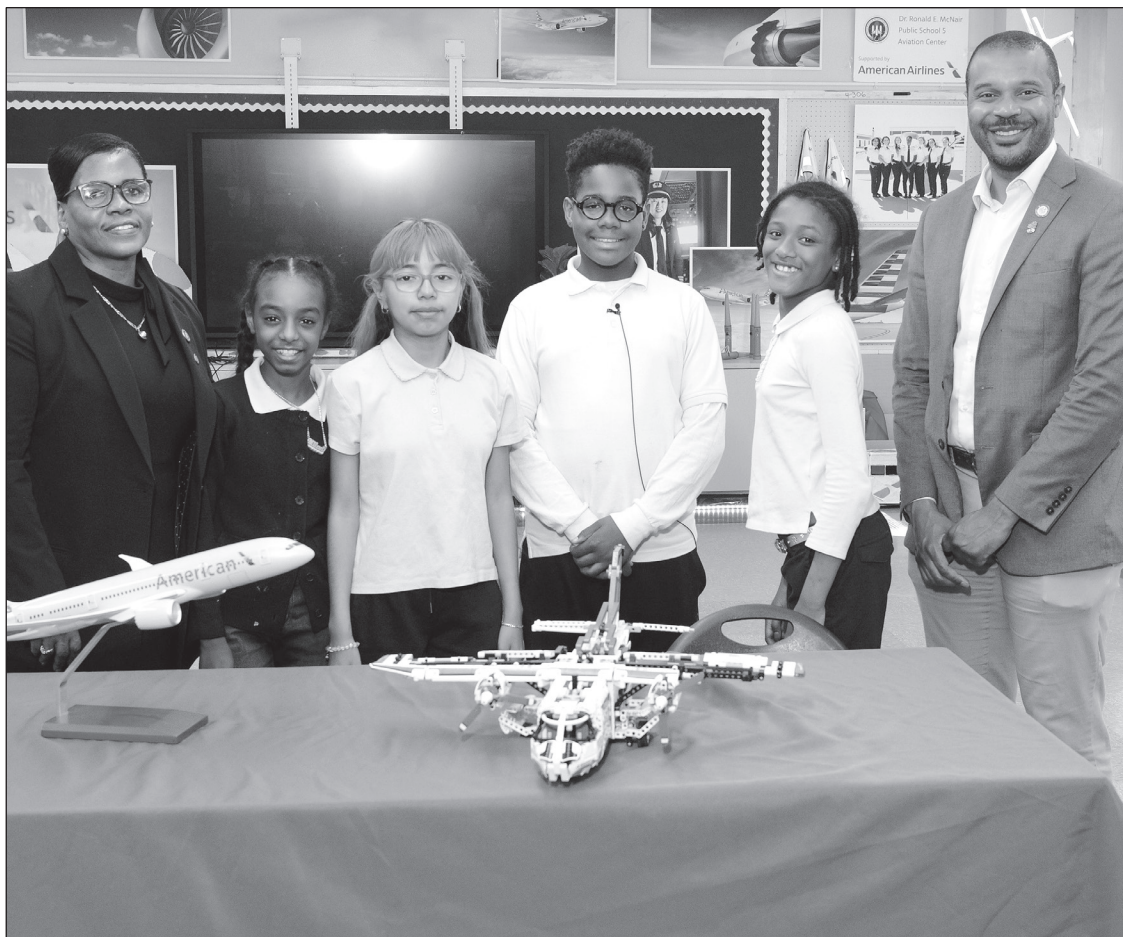
animation program Blender to bring a snowman to virtual life. "Blender is a place where you can create whatever you can imagine. If you keep practicing you only get better," Clinton enthusiastically said.

In attendance were NY State Senator Jabari Brisport, who took a guided tour of the school. His tour included a sneak peak of PS 5's student-run book store, where students are engaged in entrepreneurial and financial literacy. He also stopped by the music program, which thanks to funding from the New York City Department of Education Arts Partnership grant, is in full swing and will expand in the fall to include a podcast studio. "I just love that you have the kids building a whole village here," said New York State Senator Jabari Brisport.

The last Master Class took place outdoors in PS 5's courtyard where urban gardeners shared how they are using

technology to grow sustainable food and how they are creating delectable menu items as part of their healthy eating cooking program. Master Instructor Amiyah Philips was on hand to provide instructions on planting collard greens, and tomatoes.

Located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, the Ronald E. McNair Public School 5 affirms as its central mission that every child has the to a quality education in safe and secure environment which reflects high expectations and high academic standards; that literacy is the first and most essential goal; and that every child can and will succeed in ways that mirror his or her own aptitudes; interests and culture. PS 5 supports collaboration among staff, parents, and community groups, to ensure that each child will become a contributing member



(L-R) Principal Lena Gates, Milan Oquendo, Emily Rivera, Eliah Roberts, Winter Byers and New York State Senator Jabari Brisport (Photos: Click Photos)

## MF provides students with positive opportunities

Posted By Don Thomas

Mama Foundation (MF) located in the Village of Harlem is devoted to providing low-income students with opportunities to learn and perform music and theater. "Through our programs, students not only gain valuable skills but also build a sense of community and belonging. Our mission is to ensure that every child has access to the transformative power of the arts, regardless of their background.

"Music has the power to transform lives, especially for kids. It can help them express themselves, build confidence, and develop important life skills, including teamwork, discipline and perseverance. In 2022, Mama Foundation saw a 17% increase in students' self-reported confidence levels and an overall improvement in student's self-reported academic performance, with C level grades decreasing by 60% and A level grades increasing 58%.



"By supporting the Mama Foundation, you can help give kids the tools they need to

succeed and thrive. Support us in our mission to make music education accessible. Make a

donation today!. Thank you," says Vy Higginsen, founder of Mama Foundation