

Central Queens Academy Elementary School



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Welcome!

September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month which celebrates the histories, cultures, achievements, and contributions of Americans having ancestors from the Caribbean, Spain and Central and South America.

The 15th of September also marks the independence days of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in Latin America. In addition, on September 16 and 18, Mexico and Chile celebrate their respective independence days. Additionally, Indigenous Peoples Day and Día de la Raza, falls on October 11th, and is included in this 30-day period.



Celebrating Hispanic/Latine Americans

BY ROSANY GONZALEZ

Helen Rodríguez Trías (July 7, 1929 – December 27, 2001) was a Puerto Rican American pediatrician, educator and women's rights activist. She was the first Latine president of the American Public Health Association (APHA), a founding member of the Women's Caucus of the APHA, and a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

She worked tirelessly throughout her career to expand the range of health care services available to women and children, especially those in underserved and marginalized communities in Puerto Rico and across the United States.

Evelyn Cisneros-Legate (November 18, 1958-) is a Mexican American ballerina. She was the first Latine/Hispanic Prima ballerina. As a young child her mother had her take ballet classes in an attempt to overcome her shyness. She began to study ballet at eight years of age.



Helen Rodriguez, left. her first students. To the right, is Evelyn Cisneros.

Cisneros joined the company of the San Francisco Ballet in 1977 where she danced for 23 years, performing nearly every starring role in the company's repertoire. In 1992 Cisneros was named in Hispanic Business's "100 Influentials". Cisneros was also recognized for her contribution to art in 1992 by Huntington Beach, California, where she had attended Marina High School, during the city's fifth annual arts awards program. She was recognized as an outstanding performing artist. In 2014 Cisneros was named by the Huffington Post as one of the "17 Ballet Icons Who Are Changing The Face Of Dance Today."

Isabel Allende(August 2, 1942-) is a novelist, feminist, and philanthropist. Allende is one of the world's most widely read authors, having sold over 75 million books.

Celebrating Hispanic/Latine Americans

BY ROSANY GONZALEZ

Isabel, a Chilean born in Peru, achieved worldwide acclaim in 1982 with the publication of *The House of the Spirits*, her first novel, which began as a letter to her dying grandfather. She has written over twenty-five best-selling and critically acclaimed books since then, including *Daughter of Fortune*, *Island Beneath the Sea*, *Paula*, *The Japanese Lover*, *A Long Petal of the Sea*, and her most recent memoir, *The Soul of a Woman*. Allende's works, which have been translated into more than forty-two languages, entertain, and educate readers by interweaving imaginative stories with significant historical events.

She was inducted into the California Hall of Fame, received the PEN Center Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Anisfield-Wolf Lifetime Achievement Award, and has received fifteen honorary doctorates, including one from Harvard University.



President Barack Obama awarded Allende the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 2014, and the National Book Foundation honored her with the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in 2018.



Isabel Allende



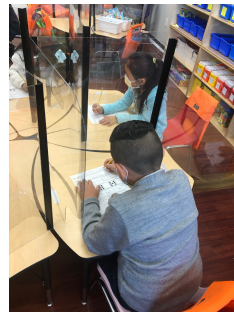
What are we learning?

Inside the Music and Movement class we are exploring Tempo, which is the speed and pace of a song. We are learning how to listen to music and find the tempo or the beat of a song by clapping it out and counting to eight. We count to eight because in dance we count music in eights. After counting to eight, start all over at one for example: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, etc. If you see and/or hear your scholar clapping/counting out music it is because they are practicing this skill of finding the tempo and counting it. Practice with them if you'd like. I promise you it will be a fun activity to share with your scholar.



Kindergarten


They just started their literacy unit on Toys and Play. They are also working on letter recognition and counting!

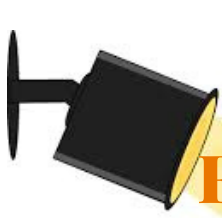


First Grade

They started their literacy unit on Tools and Work. They are also working on letter recognition and counting!

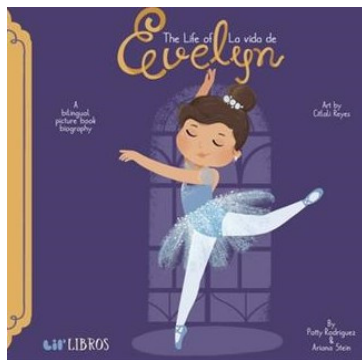
What's Happening at CQA?

- **September 24 - Spirit Day - Sports Day!** Your scholar should come wearing the clothes of their favorite sports team or athlete.
 - **September 27 - Meet the Teacher Night (via Zoom)**
 - **October 11 - No School - Indigenous People's Day**
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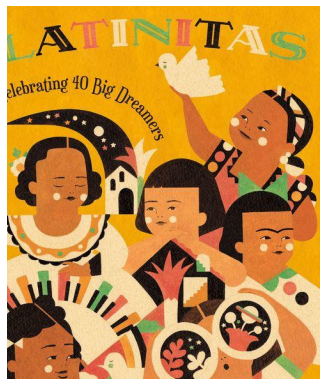


Reader's Spotlight

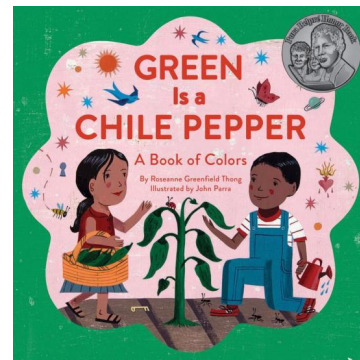
Not sure what to read next? Take a look at these picks. All of these books are available at your local library.



The Life Of/La Vida de Evelyn Cisneros
by *Patty Rodriguez*



Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers
by *Juliet Menéndez*



Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors Paperback
by *Roseanne Greenfield Thong*

#WhyCQA



"As a Dance Educator, it brings me joy sharing my passion for dance and music with young minds. Seeing the scholar's joy while we dance and move always brings a smile to my face and reassures me that I have chosen the correct career path. I love CQA for acknowledging a child's holistic approach to learning and education."

- Mr. Gonzalez is the Music and Movement Teacher

Community Resources

Community Events

- NYC's *Panamanian Parade and Street Fair* is in Crown Heights, Brooklyn on Sat, Oct 9, 2021 at 12pm. FREE
- *Hispanic Day Parade* that is taking place on Sunday, October 10, on Fifth Avenue, between 44th and 77th Streets
- *ESTAMOS BIEN - LA TRIENAL 20/21*- Discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures by visiting Estamos Bien – La Trienal 20/21 at El Museo del Barrio-1230 Fifth Ave., Manhattan. This exhibition is the first national large-scale exposition of Latino contemporary art. The institution currently is featuring more than 40 artists from across the United States and Puerto Rico. On view until September 26 <https://www.elmuseo.org/exhibitions/>

Resources

- Therapy for children and family—Catholic Charities <https://www.ccbq.org/>
- JCCA-<https://www.jccany.org/>
- The Child Center of NYC-- <https://childcenterny.org/>
- ACCESS HRA <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>
- Rent and housing- <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>
- Utility Assistance Program (UAP)- 212-331-3126.
- Food pantries- <https://www.foodbanknyc.org/covid-19/>

Tip Corner

Questions to ask your scholar while you are reading:

1. Who are the characters in this book?
2. How are the characters feeling? How do you know?
3. What happened in this story?
4. What was your favorite part of this book?
5. What did you learn from this book?

