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We would like to extend our deep thanks to the McCormack teachers and staff, our partners: CityYear and Trinity, and our volunteers: Stephen Bannister, Reed Jenkins, and Chris Palmariello for helping all of our students grow and thrive.
Thank You!

What a year it has been! I can't believe this year has flown by and I'm so sad we won't be able to see each other in person because of the pandemic. However, I know you are resilient, creative and wise people. I am so incredibly proud of each you. Shout out to the 8th graders going to high school who've been growing into mature young individuals; you're ready to overcome new challenges. Thank you to the 7th graders for your never-ending enthusiasm and energy; you're the new leaders so use your voice for positive change. To the 6th graders, thank you for your kindness and willingness to improve; you are so helpful. Each of you bring a smile to my face and I know that you'll do amazing things in life. Work hard. Work together. Panther Pride. Keep reading and having fun! Have a great summer!

Ms. Mbaka

Students, you bring a smile to my face each day. I have been so thankful for the ability to work with each of you, each of you unique and curious in your very own way. I am consistently impressed by your earnestness and thoughtfulness. I believe the Tenacity McCormack community is defined by your eagerness to stick up for what is right and to take care of one-another. You are also one of the most fun groups of students I have ever witnessed, witty, deadpan, and hilarious in every way. Your joy makes the world a brighter place. The best is yet to come! I hope you enjoy the summer. McCormack will be lucky of have our 6th and 7th graders back, but I know our 8th graders will take high school and all that comes with it by the horns.

Ms. Huynh

Where did the time go? I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to rejoin the DMC tenacity community this year, and what a year it’s been. It’s difficult to express how overjoyed I was to teach and learn with the students in this program. Bitter-sweetly, I say adios to a very talented and mature 8th grade class. My wish is that you all continue to grow and learn and strive for the successful futures I know you all will have. To the rising 8th graders it has been a privilege to have worked with the toughest, swaggyest, most resilient group of students the world has ever created. The McCormack is blessed to have such strong young leaders going into next year. I’m looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for the McCormack.

Mr. Neville
Dear PAWEsomes!

Well, it was short, but sweet… I arrived to the Tenacity DMC team midway through the school year, and then we ended up leaving early because of the pandemic. This is a year I’ll never forget and, even in the short time I was there, you left an indelible and positive impression on me. I wish you all well in your future endeavors, that you stay healthy, and hope that you keep up the fun game of tennis! Keep up the great work.

Mr. Kerzner

Hey awesome McCormack students,

This year, working with you all, has been one of the best years of my life so far! You guys made me laugh every day, shared about yourselves and had amazing conversations with me, and definitely showed me what strong, confident girls look like in every Girls Got Game event! Thank you for opening up your lives to me and allowing me to share in your growth. Never forget each of you is unique and can succeed in anything you put your mind to. Have a great summer and to the 8th graders: don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone in high school! Here's to another fun year, even though it was shortened!

Ms. Brown

I can’t believe it’s been a year! Time flies! The time when we welcomed you to our classroom on the first day of school and introduced ourselves to each other was just like yesterday! Thank you all so much for such an amazing year! I am so grateful to be part of the Tenacity community and get to know each one of you. Seeing your smile, learning together in the classroom, having fun in the gym and on field trips, writing to each other in the journals and chatting during lunch bunch are beautiful memories for me this school year! You are all amazing, and I’m so proud of all of you! Best wishes to you all for the future, and I will miss you all so much!

Ms. Li

Have a great summer, students! It was a pleasure teaching and learning from you all. Unfortunately, the year was cut short but I have missed you all very much. I wish you all the best and good luck in your future endeavors. I will miss you all.

Ms. Crooks

Dear PAWEsomes!

Well, it was short, but sweet… I arrived to the Tenacity DMC team midway through the school year, and then we ended up leaving early because of the pandemic. This is a year I’ll never forget and, even in the short time I was there, you left an indelible and positive impression on me. I wish you all well in your future endeavors, that you stay healthy, and hope that you keep up the fun game of tennis! Keep up the great work.

Mr. Kerzner
STUDENT ARTWORK by:
Kiarelize Cartagena
Eliana Gutierrez
Hallie Gomez
8th grade
SUPERlatives

Eliana Gutierrez
Most likely to win a Grammy

Janayda De La Cruz
Most likely to become a lawyer

Shaleeca Joseph
Best motivational speaker

Isaiah George
Most likely to be a coach

Sarah Cardona-Tavares
Best Sportsmanship
Angelys Soto-Gonzalez
Most likely to run in the Boston Marathon

Aniyah Givens
Most likely to learn a new language

Joseph Vizcaino
Most likely to be a music historian

Daniel Justiniano
Most likely to engage in important conversations

Victor Batista
Most likely to build his own house
Samoya Galloway
Most likely to be a famous comedian

Hallie Gomez
Most Positive on a Tennis Court

Emily Barros
Most likely to become a doctor

Andrew Rodriguez
Most likely to attend an Ivy League school

Nathaniel Williams
Most likely to travel abroad

Rosalye Mejia
Most expressive
Eighth Grade Baby Pictures
7th grade
SUPERlatives

Eimi Tejeda
Most likely to model in a fashion show

Aliyana Docanto
Best hairstyles

Jivan Balata
Most likely to talk about Fortnite

Yisandry Santos-German
Most likely to give a TedTalk

Mussa Dahaba
Most likely to become a comedian

Brithanie Vallejo-Polanco
Most likely to be team captain
Yazlin Ventura-Gutierrez
Most prepared in class

Micah Echols
Best conversationalist

Candy Berganza-Morales
Most likely to cheer you up

Rainesi Gonzalez
Most likely to make you laugh

Juliana Tena
Most responsible

Yael Jean-Louis
Most Curious
Jean Negron
Most dedicated basketball player

Khalil Dunbar
Most Competitive

Manuel Rosario
Most likely to become a social activist

India Pickett
Most involved in Tenacity

Khiem (Billy) Nguyen
Most excited to play team tennis

Amaya Martinez
Best Artist

Carmen Garcia
Most likely to become a researcher
Dinya Balata
Strongest Community Advocate

Omar Nova
Most likely to become a game designer

Jathyn Fletcher
Most likely to become an Americorps Fellow

Randel Diaz
Most likely to become a DJ

Syrianna Santos-Andrade
Most likely to be a multisport athlete

Heleen Balata
Most likely to become a volleyball star
Seventh Grade Baby Pictures
6th grade
SUPERlatives

Benilson Correia
Most likely to support his friends

Laussa Do Souto Goncalves
The Next Female President

Joseph Lopez
Most dedicated to sports

Kiarelize Cartagena
Most likely to work with kids

Katelyn Huynh
Most likely to become a teacher

Malachi Fleurimond
Most likely to answer questions in class
Eliany Dominguez
Most Creative

Cristal Welch
Most likely to become a tiktok star

Termonric Opont
Most likely to become a riddle creator

Analise Veliz
Most artistic

Laila Lewis
Most likely to travel abroad

Gilberto Filpo Carrasco
Most Caring
Theresa Robinson
Most likely to own their hair salon

Allen Anciani Presinal
Most Compassionate

Jahkii Gibbs
Most likely to win “So you think you can dance”

Kim Nguyen
Most likely to produce music

Suriani Andrews
Most empathetic

Theresa Robinson
Most likely to own their hair salon
Victor Jose Batista  
Most likely to become a story-teller

Lia Heyaime Marinez  
Most likely to become a scholar

Kervin Jackson  
Most likely to enrich his community

Ederson Bermudez  
Most dedicated to schoolwork

Edward Pachano  
Most likely to become a sneaker designer
Sixth Grade Baby Pictures
A wonderful year of tennis programming at the McCormack has once again concluded! The journey under the direction of a new tennis coordinator, Malcolm Neville, had many highlights that made it a special and truly memorable year.

Our journey began in September, when all grades learned and re-learned basic tennis mechanics. During that time period, Isaiah George, Victor Batista, and Hallie Gomez represented McCormack at the annual Tenacity Cup Event. As we moved through the year, all students improved their game! The results showed up in team tennis during the fall when players like Billy Nguyen, Isaiah George, Micah Echols, Sarah Cardona, Shaleeca Joseph, India Pickett, Candy Morales, Victor Batista, Hallie Gomez, Angeleys Soto Gonzalez, and Daniel Justiniano helped us post a 4-3 record before heading into the Holiday Classic and Rising Stars Tournament in December.

December 13, 2019 was one of the more sensational days of our year when McCormack, represented by Hallie Gomez, Sarah Cardona, Isaiah George, Victor Batista, Daniel Justiniano, and Shaleeca Joseph, competed and won the Holiday Classic. Simultaneously, Heleen Balata, Theresa Robinson, Garvy Gonzales, Yael Jean-louis, Sanai Whiteside, and Candy Morales competed in the Rising Stars tournament. Following this thrilling event, students enjoyed competition day in and day out during program time. Whether we were playing games like “in and out” or competing in one-point tournaments, class was never dull. What a year to be remembered!
It’s been an amazing year full of ideas, inspirations, joy, growth and enrichment. Throughout the year, we shared our unique stories through poetry, journal writing, artworks, music and communications. As a community, we shared our ideas, emotions and feelings, we listened to one another’s amazing stories, we inspired each other, and we built valuable relationships.

We started in September by talking about the themes we’d focus on: personal identities, community and social justice as well as future aspirations. Through a variety of class activities, students reflected on and talked about their personalities, hobbies and talents, developed real-world skills, set goals for the future and made plans to achieve their goals. In the poetry unit, students had an opportunity to write different types of poetry, free verse, bop and decima; a valuable experience that helped them understand an important platform for storytelling. We created children’s novels, protest posters in the understanding of social justice as well as college/life after high school project. We explored a diverse range of subjects during our electives, including musical, rapping, cooking, art, the creative scribbler, US vs the World and Scuba theory.

In the book club unit, we read inspirational books and had meaningful conversations. We were inspired by the main character Melody in Out of my Mind, a book that gives us insight into the experiences of someone with disability. Melody perseveres and learns to believe in herself, though continuously frustrated by obstacles in her life and is also often underestimated and bullied by those around her. Bud, not Buddy took us through the mind of a 10-year-old motherless boy, Bud’s point of view while searching for the missing part of his life, his father. We had a deeper understanding of immigration by reading The Sun is Also a Star. We also learned about what makes one proud of their community and background by reading Zuri’s story in Pride.

We are so happy to see how much our students have grown this year. We are grateful for the Tenacity Team, teachers and administrators at McCormack and families for your all the hard work you do and your support to our program!
This year, students participated in a variety of field trips. They played tennis after school at Harbor Point, went roller skating, ice skating, and played laser tag. They also enjoyed delicious food at Flaming Grill and got to make their own pizzas at Uno’s! Additionally, many students saw inspirational movies while others visited some of the top attractions in Boston, such as the JFK Library & Museum and the Aquarium.

Girls in our program also participated in monthly “Girls Got Game” events as a McCormack group and with girls from other Tenacity sites. These events, aimed at empowering girls and fostering a passion for physical activity, included bowling, rock climbing, a self-defense class, local sporting events, and tennis activities with female collegiate athletes. Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, events continued virtually through Zoom competitions, which included Pictionary, Scattergories, and trivia!

These field trips broadened our students’ horizons and allowed them to form valuable relationships with Tenacity staff and community members outside of class!
Memories
We Love Our Friends
SIGNATURES AND VIDEO LINKS

Sixth grade video: https://youtu.be/V5F8e76Imdc
Seventh grade video: https://youtu.be/3Gsixv7czwM
Eighth grade video: https://youtu.be/TUwGA7Ti4pA