

Metropolitan Ballet Company

Kinetic Literacy Program

in partnership with

The School District of Philadelphia



Dedication

May 2020

To all the inspiring students at Joseph Pennell, Anna L. Lingelbach, and Martin Luther schools, **Thank You** for welcoming us into your classrooms, where we can dance and learn together.

The Kinetic Literacy Program, established in 2008 by Metropolitan Ballet Company, in partnership with The School District of Philadelphia



"The Kinetic Literacy components are standards-aligned, so students get rigorous instruction and have fun at the same time. A student whose multiple intelligence is musical or kinesthetic really benefits – it's challenging for teachers to fit this type of instruction in with the common core demands. I hope many more students can benefit from this instruction, for many years to come."

- Michele Warren, 2nd Grade Teacher, Joseph Pennell Elementary



Metropolitan Ballet Company is proud to partner with **The School District of Philadelphia** to deliver an innovative **Kinetic Literacy Program** to Kindergarten through 2nd grade students.

Since 2008, Metropolitan faculty have had the honor of engaging over **4,800 students** in their classrooms. Because the program encompasses K-2, Met's teachers build relationships with students and classroom teachers over a three-year period. In the 2019-2020 school year, 88 classes were conducted in 20 classrooms, and 425 students participated from Joseph Pennell, Anna L. Lingelbach, and Martin Luther elementary schools.

This is not a one time, "drop in" dance program. Rather, it's a standards-based, integrated academic program, combining visual, auditory, and kinesthetic methodologies to invigorate English Language Arts and Math curriculum. Incorporating movement as a learning device increases comprehension and helps students make connections between movement and math and language concepts. Metropolitan is a **consistent cultural resource** in our partner schools. Beyond the serious learning taking place is a shared, joyous experience for students and teachers!

Kinetic Literacy Encompasses two components:

M³ = Math X Music X Movement[®] is grounded in the PA Core State Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practice. Concepts of geometry, fractions, and numerical patterns are brought to life through movement, for children ages 5-8.

Reading Moves Me[®] utilizes movement activities, read-aloud sessions, and instruction about live theater performances, to enhance the School District's Core ELA Curricula and Standards. Each year, students engage with children's literature throughout their classroom learning, culminating in...



... A Special Performance!

Each year, Kinetic Literacy students also attend a free, fully produced ballet performance especially created for children, which incorporates literature that the children study in their classrooms. In November, 2019 students saw the stories of Peter Pan and The Ugly Duckling brought to life on stage. This matinee performance is a traditional part of Metropolitan's annual November Family Concert Series.

Spirits were soaring, on stage and in the seats!

Back in their classrooms, Pennell Elementary School students responded to the performance with their own illustrated reflections, many of which are featured in this book.



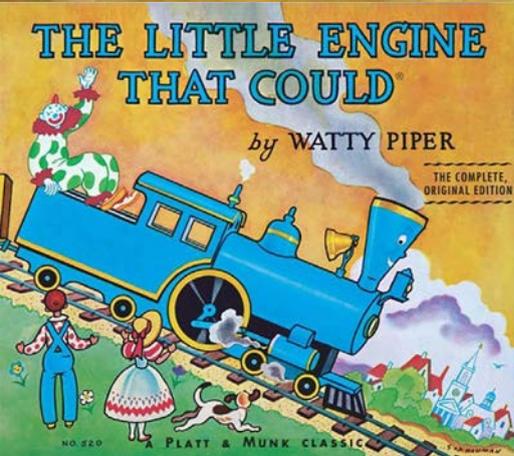
M³ = Math X Music X Movement[®] Patterns, fractions and geometry at Lingelbach and Pennell.





In Class: Math

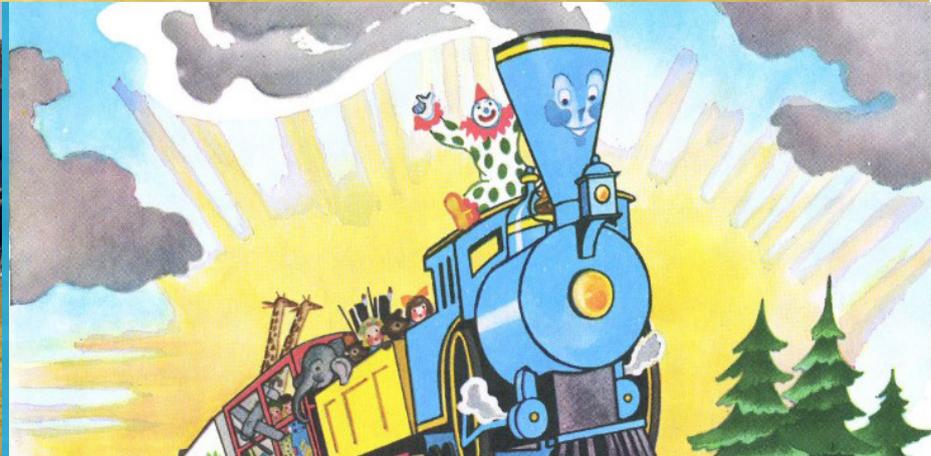




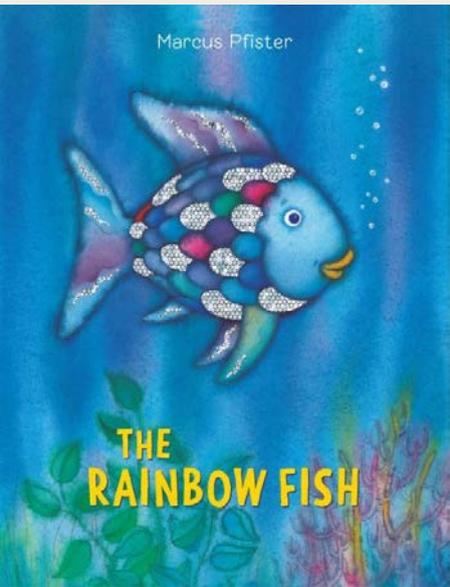
**"I think I can, I think I can!"
Pennell students demonstrate
the power of persistence.**



In Class: Reading







Pennell students learn that it's more fun to help your friends shine, too!



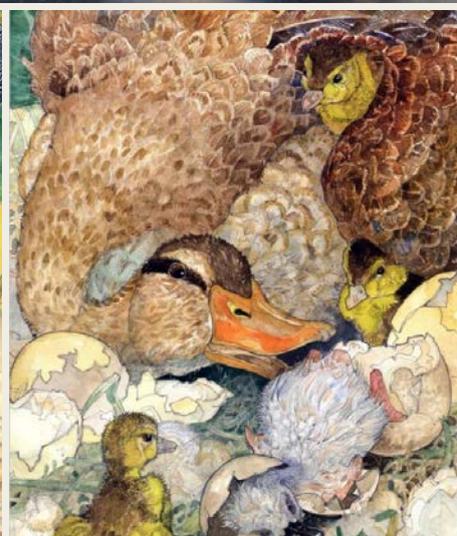
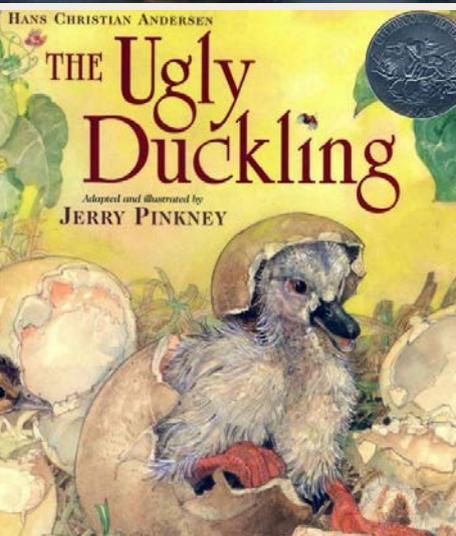


Discovering the beauty within: Pennell & Martin Luther students take expansive steps. Next, it's off to see Metropolitan's performance of *The Ugly Duckling*, choreographed by Ashley Walton, November 2019.





At the theater





"I won't grow up!" Students channel Peter Pan's confident attitude in the classroom and then see the story unfold on stage in Metropolitan Ballet Company's performance, November 2019. Original choreography by Kanji Segawa.

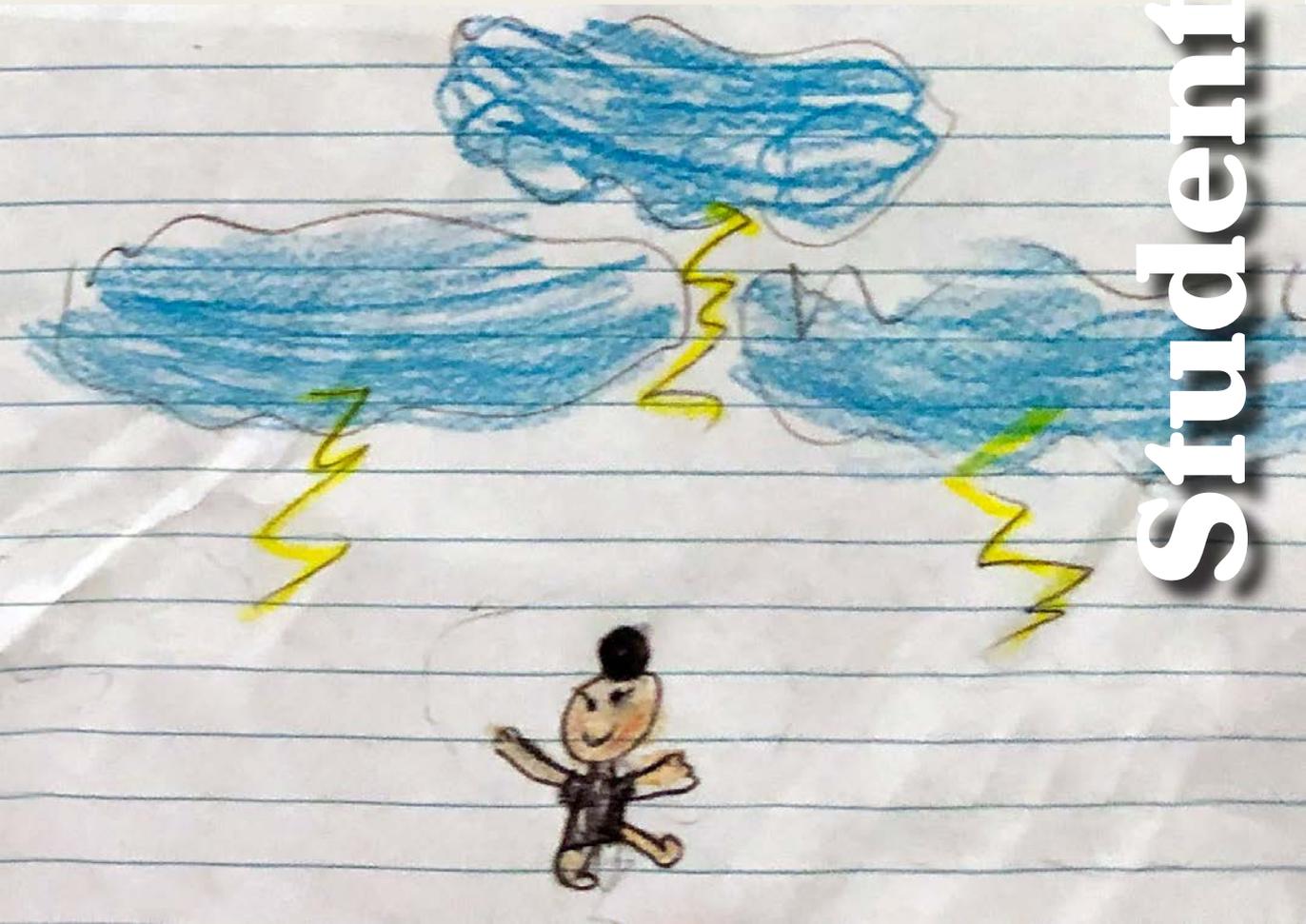






Pennell Elementary second graders write and draw about their theater experience, seeing *Peter Pan* and *The Ugly Duckling* brought to life on stage.

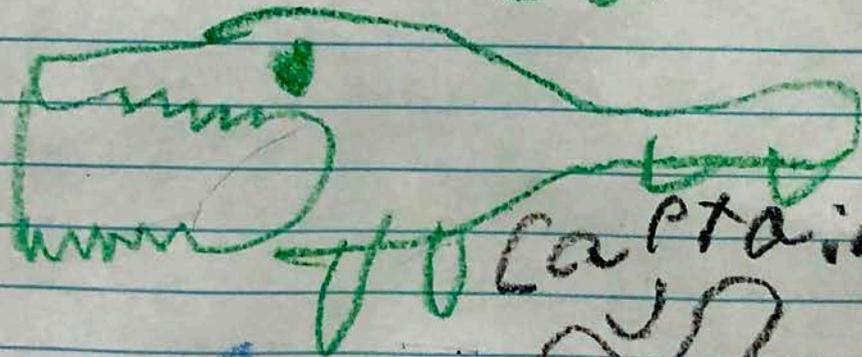




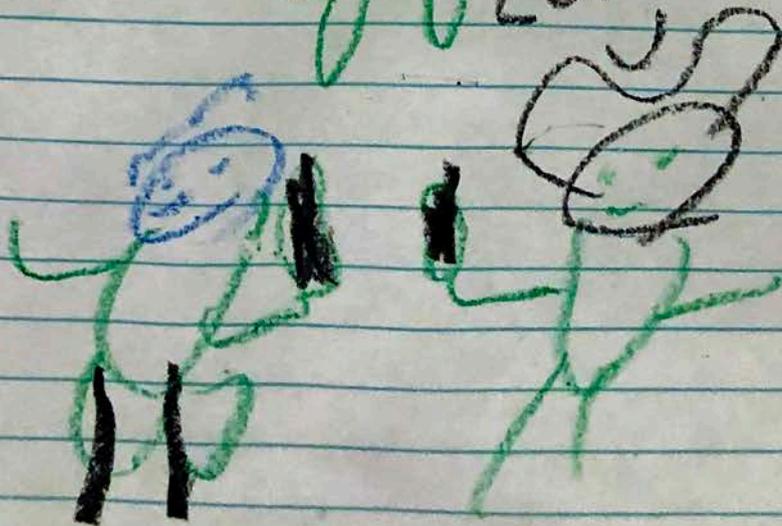
Student Reflections

Maximiliano Vrenay
November 11/25/18 I like the
I like the performance. The first reason
is the hunters didn't catch the fa
the second reason I like how
Peter Pan adapts in hook fight
in the stage. Third reason is
I got to see all the
character Peter Pan the ugly duck
the they have a lot of moves
The have speaker's chain up
at the top. These are the
reason I like the performance.
performance.

crocodile



Captain hook



Brigella carmona
November 11/25/19

I

liked Peter Pan. the first reason is when Peter Pan took Wendy John Michael to never land. the second reason is when Captain Hook pushed Wendy but Peter Pan saved her. the third reason is when Captain Hook was fighting against Peter Pan Captain Hook pushed him in to the water but Peter Pan flew. these are the reasons why I liked the story of Peter Pan.

These are the reasons why I like the performance.

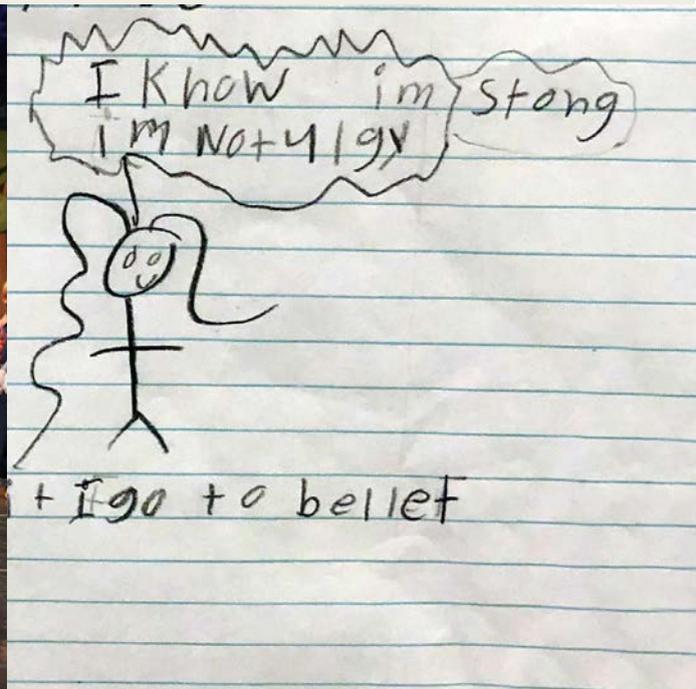


BRAVO!

"I love it and I want to do it all year."

- Myasia, Grade 2

Joseph Pennell Elementary



Creators and Teaching Artists

Lisa Collins Vidnovic, Artistic Director and Founder of Metropolitan Ballet, draws on three decades of experience as a dance educator for young students, and as a former dancer, ballet mistress and teacher for Pennsylvania Ballet, in designing classroom learning experiences. She and the Kinetic Literacy team partner with Principals and elementary educators to test and refine the curriculum.

Janet Blenheim is an esteemed educator who began as an elementary school teacher and then lead Upper Dublin, PA's K-5 Math Department, where she was awarded the Outstanding Educator Medal in 2015. She also danced professionally and was a Japan Fulbright Scholar. Her passion for mathematics, dance, and education are evident in her design of $M^3 = \text{Math X Music X Movement}^{\circledR}$

Caroline Broullon, a beloved Kinetic Literacy and Metropolitan Ballet faculty member, has trained in Philadelphia, San Francisco, North Carolina, and Brussels. These passionate educators evolved Kinetic Literacy into a highly regarded enrichment experience, recognized by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

The Kinetic Literacy Program is made possible by:

Children Can Shape the Future

Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial, The Philadelphia Foundation

Lindy Communities / Carolyn Hirsh and Alan Lindy

Meridian Bank

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

PNC Charitable Trusts

Rosenlund Family Foundation

And generous individual donors.

Metropolitan Ballet Company thanks:

Lisa Matthews, Principal, Anna L. Lingelbach Elementary School

Angelique Taylor, Principal, Joseph Pennell Elementary School

Eva Morrison, School Director, Martin Luther School

Jason Harris, former Principal, Joseph Pennell Elementary School

Gina Steiner, former Principal, Joseph Pennell Elementary School

And the dedicated classroom teachers who welcome us each year.



Photography:

All performance photos by Eduardo Patino, NYC.

This page, top left photo by Ed Hille, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Photographer.

METROPOLITAN

BALLET COMPANY

Metropolitan Ballet Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that prepares the next generation of classical dancers, and advances the art form through performances, scholarships, and community and school outreach programs. Metropolitan marks its 25th Anniversary season in 2020-2021.