

OCTOBER  
2023



MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



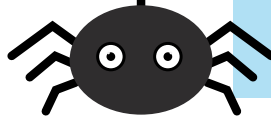
# MADISON MATTERS



## IN THIS ISSUE

- OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BOOK MONTH
- SPOOKY SEASON
- 6<sup>th</sup> NETWORKING EVENT

## FALL INTO READING



Did you know that October is National Book Month? Our Clubhouses have been brimming with excitement around reading, writing and all that can be learned from curling up with a good book.

Ensuring every member from 6 to 18 feels

**Continued on p. 4**



OCTOBER  
2023

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT



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# SPOOKY SEASON



## *Members enjoy the fun of Halloween at the Clubhouse*

In the spirit of Halloween, our Clubhouses have been hosting frighteningly fun festivities across the boroughs. Parents and guardians were welcomed into the Clubhouse to help their kids carve jack-o-lanterns. Members were excited to design and carve their own pumpkins, each coming out especially spooooooky and BOO-tiful! Everyone had a blast getting their hands dirty cleaning out the slimy pumpkin guts, with lots of laughs and giggles.

Our Juniors have been hard at work writing and illustrating their own Halloween Books in celebration of spooky season. Stories range from pumpkin friends to friendly witches and everything in between. Our members were thrilled to share their stories with their peers once their books were completed, making for an extra-special Halloween. Also on October 31, members are invited to participate in costume contests, trunk-or-treats, a haunted maze, ghoulish games and a beastly bash dance at their Clubs.





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## 6° NETWORKING & FUNDRAISER



### **Madison Council hosts new event in Brooklyn**

We were thrilled to gather together in Brooklyn on October 6 to support our youth and provide resources for members to explore different career paths. Hosted by Madison Council – Madison’s young professionals’ leadership group – in association with CultureCon, the event welcomed professionals, teen members and alumni to meet and network, have new headshots taken and ask questions to a diverse career panel. Youth were encouraged to practice their networking skills and confidence, with the help of a networking bingo game. The panel featured four individuals, covering the fields of business/entrepreneurship/arts, medicine, politics and sports management. Our panelists, Cierra Britton; Dr. Benjamin Schultz, AUD; André Richardson; and Carlos Fleming, respectively, shared amazing career and life advice, giving honest and realistic answers to every question asked. Our youth left feeling confident and excited to take control of their futures.

We send a special thanks to Cierra Britton for hosting the event at Cierra Britton Gallery and to Madison Council Co-Presidents Sylvia Black and James Martin for their support.



OCTOBER  
2023



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*Continued from p. 1*

## **Fall into Reading**

comfortable and confident reading, writing and understanding literature is at the forefront of our Academic Success pillar here at Madison. Starting every day with Power Hour – an hour dedicated to homework help – members are encouraged to ask questions and ask for help so that they can feel empowered at school and beyond. And once their homework is complete, members are free to explore the Clubhouse, participating in art, dance, science projects, gym and so much more!

This month's focus on reading has seen some extra special visits and programs spring up.

We were especially delighted to welcome **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson** to the Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse in the Bronx. President Gibson toured the Club, meeting members and staff alike, taking the time to talk with everyone. She then shared her own story and future vision of the Bronx and answered questions from our members. She read the book *I'm Going to Have a Good Day! Daily Affirmations with Scarlett* by Tiania Haneline, emphasizing the importance of believing in yourself. We send our deepest thanks to President Gibson for all of her amazing work to support education in the Bronx and for taking the time to meet and speak with our youth.

Our Explorers have been delving into their love of reading through daily story times, led by staff member Mrs. S. Everyday, the Explorers come together, sit on the floor and listen as Mrs. S. reads a book of their choosing. Beyond working on their listening skills, Explorers have also learned about different aspects of books, from the setting and plot to authors and illustrators. Some particular favorites so far have been, *Never Talk to Strangers* and *The Sloth Life*.

**Madison members were excited to meet and speak with Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson!**







The Clubhouse also saw a visit from local Children’s Book Author Fatima Straughn, who participated in Madison’s Big Red Chair program. Straughn, who grew up in the South Bronx, shared her book *He Can’t Come In*, which introduces a young peanut on his first day of school, teaching readers about allergy awareness, understanding and friendship. Our Big Red Chair program brings Madison partners into the Clubhouse with the opportunity to meet our members and read them a book that has been particularly impactful on their life.

And to ensure everyone has something to carry their books in, Madison once again participated in back-to-school backpack giveaways across the city. Making sure our members are ready to start the school year off right is key in supporting their success and making sure every kid feels confident, from the first day of the school to the last. We are so grateful to all our partners who see the potential in every single child and work to support them day in and day out.



## WANT TO HAVE A BIGGER IMPACT?



Everyone needs a will, whether you’re 18 or 80. And there’s no better moment than now to find some peace of mind in planning for the future.

While you’re writing your will, you’ll also have the opportunity to join the amazing people who have helped Madison by including legacy gifts in their wills.

Interested in learning more about how to make a lasting impact in the lives of NYC youth? Contact Anna Phewa, senior director of individual donor partnerships of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Foundation, at [aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org](mailto:aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org).

Click [here](#) to learn more!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Christmas Tree Ball**  
December 1, 2023



*Click invite  
to register!*

  
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
FOUNDATION

57TH ANNUAL

Christmas Tree  
Ball

DEC | 1 | 6 PM

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