

NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 27, 2026

Dear 596X School Community,

I am pleased to announce that 596X has been selected to showcase an original short film for the 16th Annual District 75 Film Festival taking place at the Museum of Modern Art's Celest Barto Theater.

This year's theme, "Reimagine a Story," challenged students to take a familiar text and recreate the conflict in a new and original way. Our class submitted an original short film entitled *The Friends Listened*, inspired by our Book of the Month, *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld. In our reimagined version, students brought the message into a modern-day classroom setting. The film tells the story of a student who experiences a frustrating challenge. Through the voices and actions of real students, the film highlights the importance of empathy, emotional understanding, and the power of truly listening to others during difficult moments.

The film was created by Avery, Mahrus, Ethan, Ethan, Gabriel, Michaelin, Grayson, and Liam. The students collaboratively brainstormed ideas, rewrote the storyline, developed the script, storyboarded scenes, acted in the production, and participated in the filming process. The film will be presented at the District 75 film festival later this month.

Congratulations to our students on this wonderful achievement and to their teacher, Ms. Joanne Saglimbeni!

Sincerely,

John Siracuse
Principal