

# Green Connections for Students

by Cynthia DeHosson and Jocelyn Massa, Ellenville Middle School students

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, our class went on a trip to Inwood Park in Washington Heights, Manhattan. On this trip there were many interesting things that taught us about what life was like in history. The first thing we did when we got there was to go to the Morris-Jumel Mansion (photo above) where George Washington stayed for a while. The building is a landmark and has three floors. There are eight rooms that you can go into or see. The basement has one room, the second floor has four rooms, and the third floor has three rooms.

After that, we went to Inwood Park and had lunch. During lunch, we got a chance to meet our penpals of MS 117K of Brooklyn. Once we got to know each other, we went on a hike to the Washington Heights Bridge, which they are trying to reopen. We did get to peek through the black metal doors. After that, we hiked to the Inwood-Washington Heights Water Tower. Inwood Tower was where George Washington watched for Red Coats (Lobster Backs). The Inwood Tower has about 178 stairs, not including the stairs that were closed off by a cage. We really wanted to go up the caged stairs to see a better view but we did get to see a great view of Manhattan from the windows at the top of the stairs.

The last thing we did in the day was going to the Highland Recreation Center where we played basketball, pool, and had a lot of fun. The trip was very interesting.

(Science teacher Mary Brackman added that this trip was part of the Catskill Center Green Connections Grant, focussing on establishing a connection between upstate (Ellenville) and New York City (MS117K, Brooklyn) students for environmental project activities. Plans include a trip for both groups to attend a program at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville.)



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