

From the Desk of the Principal

P.S. 139Q

September 2013

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

With much anticipation, I welcome you to the 2013-2014 school year. My staff and I are eager and well prepared to provide your child with a first class education filled with challenging learning opportunities aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards.

This year, our school goals will continue to spotlight the rigor of the Common Core Learning Standards to prepare our students to be college and career ready. In ELA, science, and social studies, our learners will ground their reading and writing to evidence based on the text. Students will participate in close reading exercises on a daily basis to anchor their discussions and writing. Our instructional focus in literacy will spotlight strengthening student to student discussion to enhance and stretch student thinking. Our young mathematicians will fine tune their logic and dive into critical thinking skills that will help students solve multi-step word problems applied to real world applications. Fluency in numeracy will be strengthened with memorization of number facts, mastery of times tables, and proficiency in place value content.

This year, our school is embracing a new Go Math! curriculum which is strongly aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards. I hope you will join us on October 8th at 6:00 p.m. for a Go Math! workshop on this exciting new program that will challenge our students and individualize their learning needs.

In literacy, we encourage you to read to your child on a daily basis and surround your child with quality literature. Educational research continues to inform us that children that read a large volume of literature are able to navigate complex texts and improve their comprehension skills. Please do your part in making sure your child visits the Rego Park Public Library frequently. Students need to complete a reading log provided by the school on a daily basis. The home-school connection is vital in promoting reading as a lifelong skill. Make time for reading with your child every evening. The benefits are amazing!

The arts play a large role in developing critical thinking skills in our learners. These residencies with professional teaching artists build self-confidence, are closely linked to the curriculum, and capture the imagination of all learners. This year, we hope to continue the art residencies such as Dancing Classrooms, Dancing on Broadway, Yoga, and Circus Arts, just to name a few. Of course, experiential learning is enhanced with field trips to New York City which is the cultural capital of the world. Students will be visiting the Tenement Museum, King's Manor, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Jewish Museum of New York. Our students will take full advantage of what New York City and surrounding boroughs have to offer with educational opportunities. In addition, our learners will have fun with the Stock Market Game, National Geographic's Geography Bee, and the Math Olympic initiatives.

We are delighted to report that our lower grade classrooms will be participating in the exciting Cook Shop program. These lessons are carefully developed to introduce students to non-processed foods such as fruits and vegetables. Each week classes will participate in preparing healthy, scrumptious recipes with the assistance of the teacher and parent volunteers. Students will learn about making healthy choices and the benefits to eating fruits and vegetables. This federally funded program is supervised through the Food Bank of New York. As we know, nutritious eating strengthens strong minds.

On another note, school wellness is always at the forefront of what we emphasize with our students. and parents. Many of my staff members have been trained in Move to Improve structured exercises to be used right in the classroom. These physical education activities are engaging and structured for our students. Parents will have an opportunity to participate in the Walking to Stay Fit club with Mrs. Lipton, our Parent Coordinator commencing September 24th.

Students in grades 3-5 will have a golden opportunity to join our exciting and multi-talented Glee Club. The Glee Club members are showcased and perform to a full house of friends and family members during the winter concert and the ever popular International Festival. New members will enjoy the teamwork building activities and learn how music is the universal language that can strengthen student leadership and confidence. Glee Club members will also participate in the highly acclaimed city-wide competition called Music Memory. This worthy initiative tests the music memory of students in recognizing the works of the Great Masters.

The Curriculum Conferences scheduled for last week were well attended. Parents gained more insight and understanding of the learning expectations for their child. Circle your calendar and join me for a Meet the Principal event to get a deeper look at the Common Core Learning Standards for the new school year along with school-wide performance data on September 19th at 9:00 a.m. Look for a flyer in your child's backpack announcing the event.

As you can see, we have crafted a plethora of rich and vibrant events and learning activities for your child this year. However, we can't do it alone. We are proud of our parental presence and support in the school building. You play a major role in supporting P.S. 139 by volunteering your efforts as Class Parent, chaperoning field trips, attending standardized testing workshops, periodic assessment workshops, participating in an Emerging Writer workshop, creating school scenery for our grade performances, volunteering for the Candy Sale, and Picture Day along with a host of other events. Be involved and help P.S.139 continue to improve.

My staff and I look forward to a fantastic year of learning and collaboration. Thank you for your support as we strive for continual school improvement.

Sincerely,

Monica Powers-Meade