
QAHS NEWS BULLETIN

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Student Health from “The Principals’ Weekly” - *H1N1*

Important H1N1 Update

... Below are some proactive things to be aware of at the beginning of the school year in anticipation of flu season:

Emphasize Flu Preventive Measures

- Students must wash their hands often, avoid touching their nose and mouth, and to cover their coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the inside of an arm.
 - The idea of providing hand sanitizers to schools is being explored
 - “Cover Your Cough” posters will arrive at schools in mid-September that should be prominently posted in common areas.
- Tell parents to keep their children home from school if they have a fever and cough or sore throat (main office staff).
 - Children sent home with these symptoms will not be able to return to school until at least one full day has passed.

Establish a flu response team to:

- Communicate preventive measures throughout the school.
- Report student illness to the main office immediately.

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School Budget

We are all aware that our country is in the midst of tough economic times, and as such our school budget reflects the financial troubles of the economy. We are fortunate that our school did not have to excess any staff positions as a number of schools did. In order to maintain positions, we cut our OTPS (other than personnel services) and per session budgets.

This means there will be monetary restraints this year. For example, last year we allocated approximately \$60,000 for books. This year we have allocated approximately \$19,000.

It is important to be realistic about our finances. However, please recognize that you are the greatest resource to our school and students. This year, please your ingenuity and resourcefulness to seek out donations, grants, etc. that can help out school and support our students. Thank you.

Service in Schools Initiative

In his January 15 *State of the City Address*, the Mayor announced his intention to make New York City a national leader in President Obama’s new public service effort. Officials from the Mayor’s office are currently designing a blueprint for engaging New Yorkers in public service and are meeting with leaders from around the City to discuss ways to help New Yorkers become part of the new national era of public service.

What: Service in Schools provides NYC public schools with opportunities to integrate community service and service learning into classrooms.

When: Schools will be able to determine when and how often they will conduct service or service-learning projects.

Where: Children for Children, Hands On Network, and a host of organizational partners are committed to helping schools plan, design, and implement their visions of service and service learning. As well, these organizations will be helpful to find volunteer opportunities and donation locations.

How: Schools will identify a community need and design related service project(s), with the support of service coordinators.

Why: Studies show that service provides measurable outcomes such as improved academic engagement, increased critical thinking and skills and reduction in risky behaviors. Service-learning outcomes, including the ability to empathize and be altruistic, are critical avenues for success among students and lead to success in school, motivation, a sense of self-awareness, leadership and achievement.

Service Learning Curriculum Lessons to Commemorate 9/11

Children for Children and the National September 11th Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center are offering new service-learning 9/11 supplemental curriculum lessons. These lesson plans are designed to be implemented alongside *The Spirit of Volunteerism: 9/11 and Beyond*, commemorative materials. The 9/11 Service Learning Supplement will be available for download at www.childrenforchildren.org and www.national911memorial.org/volunteerismvideo

- Have all students update student contact information.

Information to Share with Parents:

- The importance of providing up-to-date contact information.
- Unlike in the spring, schools with flu activity will not close.
- **Any child with fever and a cough or sore throat should stay home until he or she is well and fever free for 24 hours.**
- Students do **not** need a doctor's note to return to school after a flu illness.
- If a student feels feverish at school, he or she should go to the main office and should be separated from others until a parent arrives.
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Information to Share with Teachers and Other Staff

- Cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands frequently with soap and water and stay home when they are sick with fever and either a cough or sore throat.
- Staff members do not need a doctor's note to return to school after a flu illness.

Vaccinations

H1N1 vaccinations will be offered to all school-age children. The current plan is to vaccinate elementary school students in their school, with parental consent. As of now, there are also plans to set up central locations to vaccinate middle and high school students, with parental consent, on weekends. The vaccine should be available to schools by the end of October. Two shots are required so there will be two, four-week sessions offered, ending in December. Vaccinations will be available at many non-school locations as well. You will be kept updated on the progress of this plan and be provided information as soon as it becomes available.

Constitution Day Made Easy

Take Part in the Celebration on September 17th

On September 17, 1787, the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention held their final meeting. Only one item of business occupied the agenda that day, to sign the Constitution of the United States of America. Thus, September 17 has come to be known as Constitution Day. To commemorate Constitution Day, the Annenberg Foundation offers materials for teachers to use in the classroom.

The materials are free and include videos on DVD of a discussion with Supreme Court justices and high school students and talking radio programs reviewing highlights of the Supreme Court this term.

Find out more on the Constitution Day Web site.
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/default.aspx>

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15–October 15, 2009

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens who trace their ancestry to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America.

Hispanic Education Resources, Issues, & Scholarships<http://www.nea.org/home/15648.htm>

Teaching Resources

Bilingual and ESL Resources - Links to articles, newsletters, curriculum resources, and Web resources.

Famous Hispanics Hall of Fame - Lesson plan.

Write a Hispanic Folktale - Lesson plan.

ReadRightThink - Lesson plans and activity ideas.

Bilingual Booklist/Recomendada Lectura - NEA's Read Across America compiled these 65 titles for K-12, including poetry, folktales, stories of contemporary life.

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month - Learn more about the history and culture of Hispanic people.

Hispanic Heritage - This site from Gale Cengage Learning provides a list of links to biographies, Hispanic culture quiz, a timeline, a list of Hispanic holidays, music genres, and links to other pertinent sites.

Mi Mundo en Palabras - The Cervantes Center has a variety of free interactive materials online for Spanish teachers to use with children ages 7 to 9 to reinforce the Spanish they learn in class.

Education Issues

Hispanics: Education Issues - Hispanic communities face educational issues similar to other minority groups.

What Is a Hispanic? - This Web page explores the contributions of Hispanics and provides biographies of famous Hispanics.

Community Issues

Hispanics: Community Issues - Promoting employment and economic opportunities.

GobiernoUSA.gov - The U.S. government's official Spanish-language portal. The site makes it easy to register to vote, file a consumer complaint, or apply for student financial aid. The site also contains a directory of more than 80 federal agencies that can answer questions in Spanish and a list of more than 200 free government publications in Spanish on federal benefits, taking care of kids, and traveling safely, to name a few.

College Preparatory Kit

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute - This Web site provides a college preparatory kit to assist college-bound students in the admissions process. The site also features a list of scholarships and programs for Hispanic students, information on financial aid for parents, and tips on how to complete college applications.

SIDEBAR

The **School Leadership Team** is seeking faculty, staff, students, and parents to join our leadership community. The core responsibility of each SLT is to develop the school's Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) that is aligned with the school-based budget. SLTs are strongly encouraged to solicit input from various school community constituencies in order to ensure that all voices are heard regarding the needs of students. Functioning in a collaborative manner, SLTs also help to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's educational programs and their impact on student achievement.

Learning Strategies for Success will begin officially on Wednesday, September 9th. Please welcome all students who arrive for your class and begin to assist them with organization of their binder.

There will be a **bus "drill"** at both campuses on Friday, September 11th. You will find a direction memo in your mailbox on Thursday. After reading the information to the students, please have each student sign their name on the attendance sheet. Please sign your name and the date certifying you completed the "drill" and place all documents in Bill's mailbox (Flushing), Beverly's mailbox (Jamaica).

As students arrive this week, please have them complete the **emergency information form**. Make sure students include cell numbers for their parents/guardians and themselves.

During one of our summer professional development sessions a review of The Learning Environment Survey indicated that communication is an area that needs to be addressed in our school. One suggestion was to have a **Questions and Answers** section in our newsletter so questions can be addressed and both campuses can be kept informed. Therefore, we will set up question/suggestion box in the main office where you can place a suggestion or a professional question. Questions/suggestions will be removed from the box on Thursday afternoon, so they can be answered and placed in the next week's news bulletin.

TARGET FIELD TRIP GRANTS + LOCAL STORE GRANTS

Target gives 5,000 grants of up to \$800 each to help students explore the world outside the classroom. Target stores provide grants to support local arts, early childhood reading and family violence prevention programs.

More than 729,000 students have explored the world outside the classroom with a Target Field Trip Grant
Go to Target.com/fieldtrips

Special thanks to Barbara Piccione for her contributions to this news bulletin.

Bloodborne Pathogen Tool

To meet the mandates of state and federal law, the NYCDOE is implementing immediately revised workplace procedures for employees at risk of workplace exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials ("OPIM").

The law requires that:

- All employees who may be at risk from exposure to bloodborne pathogens must be trained and offered vaccinations.
- Certain precautionary measures are in place to reduce the risk of exposures to bloodborne pathogens.
- Procedures are in place in the event of an exposure.

David Benz and Tamar Singh, our SESA (Site Employee Safety Administrator) administrators will be responsible for our school's coordination and compliance with the new procedures.

Each SESA will identify members of our school staff who are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. A full roster of employees from our table of organization has been pre-populated into the BBP Compliance Tool with an initial assessment of whether the employee may be at risk from exposure based on their school title. It is the responsibility of the SESA to review the roster, confirm whether the assessment is correct and to identify any additional staff who may be at risk due to their job duties. The SESAs will provide staff identified as at risk about their required training and how to obtain additional available information.

By September 30: At-risk employees **must** take part in a one-hour Webinar. At-risk employees will be sent an e-mail advising that they must register for the one-hour Webinar. Note: The Webinar must be attended during normal work hours (i.e. not during a lunch period) at a time that is both convenient and not disruptive to school operations.

Once training has been completed, each at-risk employee will be offered the opportunity to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. The scheduling of this vaccine will be coordinated with our SESA but will be automated and managed through the BBP Compliance Tool.

Each school must have a local Exposure Control Plan and a local cleaning schedule. Both of these documents will be created with assistance from the BBP Compliance Tool, starting August 28th. For more information, contact the [Office of Occupational Safety and Health](#) at 718-935-2319.