

From the Desk of the Principal

P.S.139

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With much anticipation, I welcome you to the 2012-2013 school year. My staff and I are eager to provide your child with a quality education filled with rewarding and challenging opportunities to excel.

This year, the school's goals will spotlight Common Core aligned instruction in all academic areas. In ELA, social studies, and science, students will anchor their reading, writing, and discussion, based on evidence from the text. We will continue to nourish a culture of learning and set high expectations for all children. Our young learners will demonstrate their understanding through rigorous learning activities. Our students will be immersed in reading informational texts and be able to express their ideas across all content areas.

In mathematics, students will become proficient in the major work of their grade, strongly emphasizing problem solving and critical thinking skills. Our enthusiastic mathematicians will engage in deeper mathematical investigations and construct arguments by taking a stance to explain their thinking. We will harness all our energy to provide engaging experiences that bring out the best in all students.

On another note, my committed staff and I are mindful that childhood is a precious time to develop talents and good citizenship. We want our students to excel not only academically but also emotionally. Enrichment serves a critical role sharpening the imagination, honing higher level thinking, and improving school tone. We have planned numerous art residencies with well recognized cultural organizations for our students. Look out for Dancing Classrooms, Bhangra dancing, and Circus Arts, just to name a few of the residencies. Students will be visiting New York museums and other cultural centers such the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jewish Museum of New York, King's Manor, and the Tenement Museum. They will tap their interpretative thinking skills by reading a canvas just like a text. Experiential learning builds a strong knowledge and vocabulary base. Our students will take full advantage of what New York City can offer with educational opportunities.

Once again, The Rego Park School has been approved to participate in the exciting Cook Shop program for grades K-2 classrooms. This is a federally funded educational initiative through Food Bank of New York City. Each week students and teachers prepare scrumptious salads as they learn all about non-processed foods through instructional materials and thoughtfully delivered lessons. Students learn where fruits and vegetables come from, and how they can incorporate them in their daily diets. Many parents volunteer their time in the classroom assisting the teachers and students with this popular endeavor. Nutritious eating strengthens strong minds.

In addition, our smart learners will have fun with the Math Olympiad, Stock Market Game, and National Geographic's Geography Bee. These initiatives make learning fun, while also developing knowledge and application skills.

Students in grades 3-5 will also have an opportunity to join our exciting and multi-talented Glee Club. New members will enjoy the teamwork building activities and learn how music is the universal language that can strengthen student leadership and confidence. The Glee Club members are showcased and perform to a full house of relatives and friends at the annual Holiday Concert and International Festival. Students will also participate in the city-wide Music Memory Competition. This worthy initiative tests the music memory of students in recognizing the works of the Great Masters. Last year, P.S.139 placed in the silver category!

As you can see, we have crafted a plethora of rich, vibrant, events and learning activities for your child this year. However, we can't do it alone. I invite you to join me at Meet the Principal events, The Emerging Writer Workshop, standardized testing workshops, monthly writing celebrations, Walking for a Healthier You weekly event, and so much more. Take the time to attend the Parents' Association meetings and join one of our committees to enhance learning at P.S.139. We are proud of our strong parent presence and partnership. Together we can provide a brighter tomorrow for your child.

On a final note, please remember the most important thing you can do with your child is read. Educational research continues to prove that reading to and with your child is an important gift that will positively impact your child. Students who read more always read better and possess larger vocabularies. This year, surround your child with great books!

My staff and I look forward to an amazing year of learning and collaboration at P.S.139. Thank you for your continued support as we strive for school improvement.

Sincerely,

Monica Powers-Meade

