

From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

While June is often consumed with end of year planning, it is also a time to pause and reflect back on the wonderful accomplishments and rich opportunities at The Rego Park School. As a vibrant school community, we have much to be proud of! While the New York State Department of Education has proudly designated PS 139 as a “School in Good Standing”, we see ourselves as a school in continual improvement. My staff and I strive to do more for the parents and children. We honor the whole child and embrace the pivotal role families play in this educational endeavor.

This year, we offered a plethora of parent workshops and Meet the Principal events to build the home-school connection. Several of these workshops spotlighted the role of the Common Core Learning Standards in raising high expectations for all learners. Students are expected to read complex texts and access the text using successful reading strategies taught by their teachers. Students are required to craft opinion writing pieces after gathering research on a particular topic. Even our little ones are able to make a claim and support it with text based evidence.

Our culminating art residencies and Student of the Month assembly programs were well attended by families. We have frontloaded the message that college and career readiness starts at an early age. Coming to school on time, completing homework assignments on a consistent basis, and putting forth great effort with studies ensures a bright future for your child. You play a significant role as an educational partner with the school. Your presence in our school building along with your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

The arts and other exciting initiatives strengthen school attachment and promote academic success. We are especially proud of PS 139’s Music Memory Team and their training through the efforts of Mrs. Lena Samokhleb, our talented music teacher. These young teams are able to identify so fluidly the works of the great classical composers. This city-wide competition is a rigorous endeavor for our upper grade students. The members of the Glee Club are also to be commended for their show stopping performances planned during the school year. In addition, PS 139’s International Festival is another example of the arts at work through music and dance led by Mrs. Brenda Zuckerman. We celebrate the school community’s diversity and multi-cultural tone through student-led performances. Please join us for the annual Jump-a-thon and Jog-a-thon scheduled for June 11th. Come out and cheer on the teams! We are hoping for good weather and glistening sunshine.

Two fifth grade teams placed first and second place in the highly competitive Stock Market Game against 152 teams in the Elementary School Division. Ms. Charissa Gigatti served as their

advisor as these teams acquired financial literacy and real world applications to mathematics. How proud we are of their accomplishments!

On another note, I wish to thank Mrs. Alsina Perry and Mrs. Maggie Padilla, our Parents' Association Co- Presidents, for their leadership and collaborative tone. Because of the efforts of the Parents' Association Executive Board members, the school continues to make tremendous gains. Special thanks to Mrs. Susan Lee for her many contributions on behalf of the Parents' Executive Board. I would be remiss if I didn't tip my hat to Stone Hsieh for serving as the Parents' Voice editor this year. This is a huge undertaking and one that is appreciated by the school community. The engagement of families in our instructional programs contributes to school success. Mrs. Nina Lipton, our talented Parent Coordinator, facilitated numerous workshops for parents promoting a vision that values your role.

While the summer months beckon us, please do not take a vacation from literacy. Surround your child with a plethora of books especially the non-fiction genre. Reading quality books every day will help your child maintain and exceed his/her independent reading level. Please dedicate time each day for your child to be immersed in independent reading. This family practice will help your child acquire new vocabulary and deepen literacy understanding. Join The Rego Park Library summer fun reading club. Your child will receive several incentives. Make books a critical part of your child's life.

During the summer months, we expect our writers to generate twenty entries in their writer's notebook. Good writers craft entries about the world around them and showcase everyday experiences. Please do your part to encourage your child to be a good writer.

Finally, I wish our graduating fifth grade students much success and happiness as they journey to middle school. The students all have bright futures ahead of them. They know that The Rego Park School will always be their second home.

As always, I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer. My amazing staff and I remain committed to you and your child. Thank you for your continued support. There is no place like P.S.139!

Sincerely,

Monica Powers-Meade

Principal