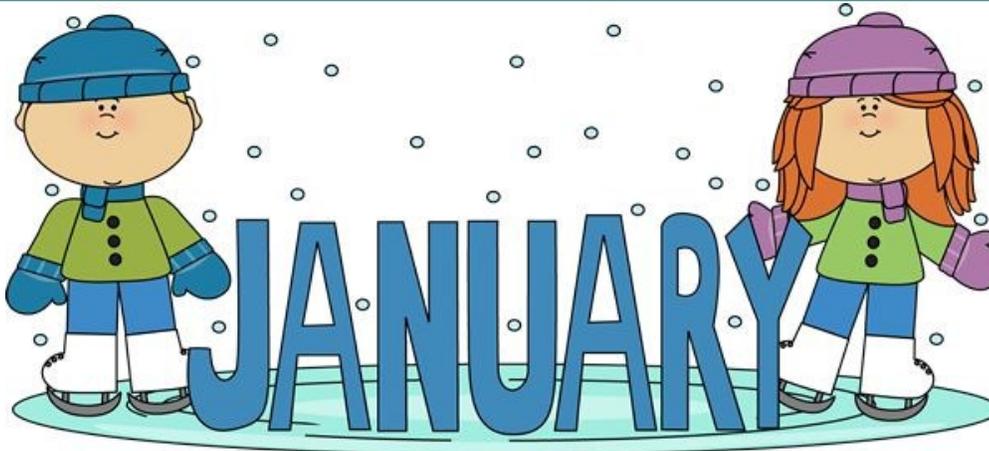




Newsletter

The Floyd Bennett School, P.S. 203 K



Indoor Fun for the Family

With the increasingly cold weather, finding fun indoor activities for the kids is more and more difficult. Here are a few kid-friendly locations you may want to check out this winter!

Aviator Sports and Events Center 3159 Flatbush Ave. Brooklyn, NY

Located within Floyd Bennett Field, Aviator Sports and Events Center provides a wide variety of sports leagues and activities, including birthday parties, field trips, ice skating, CrossFit, hockey, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, soccer and more.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden 990 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY

The BBG provides wooded trails, rose gardens and a gem of a Japanese hill-and-pond garden on the other side of their lovely visitors' center. If nature alone doesn't do it for you, the BBG also puts on some of the most colorful (and kid-friendly) fests in the city.

Brooklyn Boulders 575 DeGraw St., Brooklyn, NY

This Gowanus climbing gym is the largest in New York City, featuring more than 18,000 square feet of bouldering and climbing walls. Climbing classes for all skill levels, as well as yoga and pilates instruction, are also available.

Mill Basin Library 2385 Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, NY

The more you read, sing and talk with toddlers, the more they learn. Your local library provides free learning activities for children and adults. From reading aloud during Toddler Time to Chess Club for Kids, there is something fun for everyone!

Puppetworks 338 Sixth Ave., Brooklyn, NY

At this low-tech playhouse, kids will gladly cast phones and gadgets aside to see amazing hand-made puppets in action. Founder Nicolas Coppola adapts classic tales for his marionettes to perform in the cozy theater. Kids sit on rugs, while parents are on benches at the back.

Yocasta Miller,
Principal I.A.
Brian Sadowski,
Asst. Principal

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2016

School Hours:

- © Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. via the ramp entrance on Avenue M
- © Pre-K: 8:00 a.m.-2:10 p.m.
- © K-5: 8:00 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Please arrive on time for drop-off and dismissal!

APPLY TO KINDERGARTEN
for the 2016-2017
School Year from
December 7 through
January 15

Inside this issue:

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From Principal Miller ...

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Greetings for a New Year! I hope you enjoy much happiness in 2016. We at P.S. 203 continue to expect that all our students learn at high levels, are supported at home and school so they can learn at high levels, and can demonstrate their learning at high levels. I encourage you to look for more ways to become involved in your child's school and hope that you will urge your friends who have children to do the same. When it comes to parent engagement, the research is clear: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. Life is demanding and there is almost never enough time to get everything done; but, being involved in your child's education is arguably one of the most important roles you play as parents. During our Family Engagement time on Tuesdays our teachers have planned activities and presentations. Please attend scheduled sessions for your grade which are listed in this newsletter.

As this month progresses, there will be opportunities for families to help prepare their children to meet the rigorous expectations of the Common Core. Our students will keep working on building their stamina when they read independently. Students in grades K-2 should be building up to thirty minutes of solid uninterrupted reading time daily. Students in grades 3-5 should be doing the same for fifty-five minutes daily. This prac-

tice at home will help our students face the demands of reading on their own for long periods of time on standardized tests. In addition, students in Pre-K-Grade 2 who already applied for the Gifted and Talented Program will be tested this month and next month. Families will be notified prior to their child's appointment.

Also over the next 2 months, grades will continue working on a variety of tasks in literacy and mathematics. This is one way students can demonstrate what they have learned in their studies. It will inform our teaching so we can help ensure that our students will have the strongest foundation possible with the ultimate goal of being college and career ready.

During the month of January, teachers will be carefully reviewing the progress your child has been making so far this school year. If there is a concern that your child may not be making adequate growth to be prepared for the next grade your child's teacher will be requesting a meeting with you. Promotion in Doubt appointment letters will be distributed next month. These appointments are excellent opportunities to make a plan with your child's teacher about how you can both work together to support your child's success. Your children will also be receiving a Progress Report in February to give you a better idea of how they are doing.

Our current Pre-K families can apply for Kindergarten from December 7-January 15. If you know of families

whose children will be going to Kindergarten next year who are not currently in our school, please let them know about applying. Applications will be available online and at borough enrollment centers.

Our PTA has scheduled some exciting family events. Please look further for their fliers throughout the month and support them in the activities they have planned for our children and families.

The end of January marks the completion of the first half of the school year. The time has gone by so quickly and we have much to be proud of, as well as much to look forward to. As you continue to work with your children at home, remember how important it is that they read every night, get a good night's sleep and come to school on time each day prepared and ready to work. Please be reminded that school begins at 8 am daily for all students and students must be in their line up area by 8:00 am. Your help in having your children arrive on time to be in the building by 7:50 am is greatly appreciated. Also remember that we are a uniform school and our students are to wear their uniforms each day except on days they have dance/gym. Your support of all we have done together so far and your presence at school and school functions is always appreciated.

Sincerely,
Yocasta Miller
Principal I.A.

Assistance for Children with Special Needs

The Brooklyn Public Library is providing one-to-one expert assistance for families of children with special needs. They provide help for you and your child with:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process
- Early childhood services and programs
- Transition planning
- Transportation issues
- Navigating systems, including Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and others
- Camps, afterschool, and other community resources

Meet with a professional on:

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

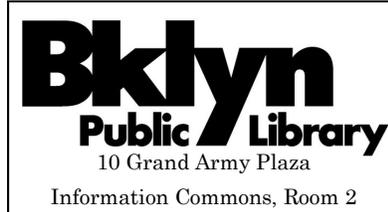
Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

10am-1pm

10am-1pm

10am-1pm



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Winter Recess School Closed	2
3	4	5 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (Specialists)	6	7	8 PTA Valentine's Day Candy Sale Begins	9
10	11	12 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (Pre-K, K & 1) CookShop for Families @ 5:30 p.m.	13	14	15 Grades Pre-K, K, & 1 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m. Last Day to Apply for Kinder- garten 2016- 2017 School Year	16
17	18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day School Closed	19 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (2 & 3) SLT Meeting @ 3:45 p.m.	20	21 PTA Meeting @ 8:30 a.m.	22 Grades 4 & 5 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m. with Core Knowledge Per- formance PTA Family Game Night/Karaoke @ 6:30 p.m.	23
24 31	25	26 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (4 & 5)	27 College Awareness Day	28 Pre-Kindergarten Non-Attendance Day Grades 2 & 3 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	29 PTA Picture Re- take Day	30

Next Month ...

Monday, 2/8: Lunar New Year; School Closed
 Friday, 2/12: PTA Valentine's Day Dance
 Sunday, 2/14: Valentine's Day
 Monday-Friday, 2/15-2/19: Midwinter Recess; School Closed
 Thursday, 2/25: PTA Meeting
 Friday, 2/26: Multicultural Festival



The Floyd Bennett School, P.S. 203 K

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SOAR!



KAITLIN MORIARTY

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Parent-Teacher Conferences

2015-2016

MAR. 3 Afternoon & Evening
Conference

MAY 12 Evening Conference

LOST & FOUND

Don't forget to look through our lost and found collection, located outside the auditorium. Any items that are not claimed will be donated. Please contact Ms. Moriarty, the Parent Coordinator, for assistance.

Facts About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. In January, we honor his life and work with a national holiday. Here are some interesting facts about his life ...

Fact No. 1: Dr. King received a C in public speaking at seminary school. In his first year of seminary school in Chester, Pennsylvania, one of Dr. King's professors gave him a C in a public speaking course. In his third and final year, Dr. King was valedictorian with straight A's.

Fact No. 2: While at Crozer Theological Seminary, Dr. King was introduced to the teachings and philosophies of Mohandas Gandhi. In an interview, Dr. King said he attended a lecture from the president of Howard University given in Philadelphia about Gandhi, and he immediately became "deeply influenced" by the philosophy of nonviolence.

Fact No. 3: Dr. King was virtually unknown when he was named as spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. He had recently arrived in Alabama, and the leaders of the boycott, which was sparked by Rosa Parks' decision to keep her bus seat, wanted a newcomer to be the public voice of the movement. There were concerns that some rivalries within the movement could present problems, and Dr. King was picked as a bipartisan leader.



Fact No. 4: Dr. King apparently improvised parts of the "I Have A Dream" speech in August 1963, including its title passage. Clarence B. Jones worked on the draft of the speech, which was being revised up to the time Dr. King took the podium. He says Dr. King's remarks were up in the air about 12 hours before he spoke, and the "dream" reference wasn't in the speech. Dr. King later added it live when singer Mahalia Jackson prompted him to speak about the "dream." In June 1963, Dr. King had talked about his dream in a speech in Detroit.

Fact No. 5: When Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at the time he was the youngest Peace Prize winner ever, at the age of 35. Currently, Malala Yousafzai is the youngest winner on record; she was 17 when she won the prize in 2014. His acceptance speech in Norway included the famous statement, "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant."