



Newsletter

The Floyd Bennett School, P.S. 203 K

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

Volume 1, Issue 6

March 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!

All late pick-ups must show I.D. at the Front Desk.



Women's History Month

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thursday, March 3rd
12:20-2:20 p.m. &
4:30-7:30 p.m.

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Since 1910, March 8 has been observed as International Women's Day by people around the world. That is why March was chosen to be National Women's History Month in the United States, declared as such by a biennial Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress since 1987.

Research to recover women's "lost" stories began on college campuses in the early 1970s. But in elementary and secondary school history textbooks, the imbalance remained glaring: women were outnumbered eleven to one. In 1978, the founders of the National Women's History Project began asking the historical question, "But, what were the women doing?" They have been sharing the answers about women's historic and contemporary contributions with the public ever since.

Women's history does not rewrite history, but



it does add very different perspectives about what is historically significant. Traditionally, history has focused on political, military, and economic leaders and events. That approach has virtually excluded women, both leaders and ordinary citizens, from history books. In addition to exploring the contributions of leaders in the public sphere, women's history also examines women's activities in the private sphere, and women's experiences at the crossroads where the two spheres meet and interact

In recognition of Women's History Month, Councilman Alan Maisel's office is sponsoring a poetry writing contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. They invite students from our school to participate by writing a poem about a woman they most admire. Please submit the poems to Ms. Moriarty by **Wednesday, April 6, 2016.**

From Principal Miller ...

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your voices can be heard regarding the quality of education your child is receiving when the Learning Environment Surveys (green envelope) are returned. Please know that your input is valued and it will be considered when our school's Progress Report is determined. We are hoping to increase the percentage of people taking the survey so everyone's input can be considered. There will be a parent/guardian raffle for all parents/guardians who complete their surveys at Parent Teacher Conferences and drop them in the green boxes before they leave. They will receive a raffle ticket and winners will be announced and notified on March 23rd.

This March, amid all of the preparation for the upcoming State exams, we are looking forward to other opportunities to share in some extra experiences that should prove to be enjoyable as well. On March 11th, our 1st grade will be taking us back in time. You are invited to watch our 1st grade share all they have learned about Ancient Egypt in their Core Knowledge celebration. You may also wish to help your children further their interest in books by supporting our PTA Scholastic Book Fair this month during the week of March 7th.

As you know, the Chancellor has established very strict promotion guidelines

that will be applied to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. As of this writing, to be promoted to the next level, third, fourth, and fifth graders *must be approaching the standards in both Reading (ELA) and Mathematics*. The new, more rigorous tests affect student scores. Please check the Department of Education website and www.engageNY.org to learn more about the new exams. If you are a parent or guardian of a 3rd - 5th grader, please be sure your child is reading uninterrupted for 70 minutes per day. Students in grades 1-2 should be reading uninterrupted for 35 minutes per day. This year the NYS ELA Exam will be administered on April 5th, 6th, and 7th. The NYS Math Exam will be administered on April 13th, 14th, and 15th.

As you visit our school this month, please check our school's Lost and Found, if you haven't done so already. Students have lost many items ranging from hats and gloves to winter coats and lunch boxes. Items not claimed by the Spring Break will be donated to charity. Please plan on stopping by to see if something your child has lost is in our Lost and Found. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support over the past few months by attending the many meetings and functions you have on behalf of your child. Your involvement in activities, conferences, fundraising, performances, and PTA events shows your concern and can only further your child's progress in

school. I ask you to continue to read to and with your child as often as you can. Remember our Grade 3-5 students should be reading for 70 minutes of uninterrupted time daily, and our Grade 1-2 students should be doing the same for 35 minutes. After reading, when your child is involved in talking with you about what he/she has read and learned, he/she is actually practicing the skills being covered in school.

Please make it a priority to have your child(ren) arrive to school on time. Students start every day at 8:00 am. The students must be with their teachers by 8:00 am. If they arrive any time after that, they are marked late. The best way to help your child start the day is to know he/she is in the classroom on time and ready to learn. Try to arrive by 7:50 am to be sure your child is on time.

We would like to remind all families that P.S. 203 is a uniform school. This means all students are expected to wear a school uniform except on gym or dance, unless an opt-out form is on file.

As we all look forward to the signs of new life that appear with spring on its way, I look forward to seeing you throughout the month at P.S. 203.

Sincerely,
Yocasta Miller
Principal I.A.

Get Connected - Join Remind!

Our school is very excited to introduce a new form of parent communication! Our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Moriarty invites you to join "Parent Communication" with the Remind app.

Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps school staff share important updates and reminders with



students & parents. Subscribe by text, email or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private. Staff will never see your phone number, nor will you see theirs.

How To Subscribe

To receive messages via text, text @ps203pc to **81010**. Standard text message rates apply. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @ps203pc'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @ps203pc to **(718) 502-6923** instead.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to ps203pc@email.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Visit remind.com to learn more. Feel free to contact Ms. Moriarty with any questions or concerns.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (4 & 5)	2	3 11:20 a.m. DISMISSAL PARENT- TEACHER CONFERENCES @ 12:20-2:20 & 4:30-7:30	4 Grades 4 & 5 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	5
6	7 Scholastic Book Fair Begins	8 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (Guidance) 5:30 p.m.— CookShop for Families	9 Last Day to Apply to Pre-K for 2016-2017	10	11 Scholastic Book Fair Ends Grades K & 1 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14	15 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (Pre-K, K, & 1) 6:00 p.m.—IEP Workshop for Families	16 Grade Pre-K Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	17 8:45 a.m.—PTA Meeting St. Patrick's Day	18 Grades 2 & 3 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	19
20	21	22 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (2 & 3)	23	24	25 Good Friday School Closed	26
27 Easter	28	29 Family Engage- ment Session @ 2:20 p.m. (4 & 5)				

Next Month ...

Friday, 4/1: Last day to submit NYC School Survey
Rock the Test Assembly for Grades 3-5
Tuesday, 4/5-Thursday, 4/7: ELA State Exams
Wednesday, 4/13-Friday, 4/15: Math State Exams
Thursday, 4/21: PTA Meeting @ 6:45 p.m.
Monday, 4/25-Friday, 4/29: Spring Recess; School Closed



The Floyd Bennett School, P.S. 203 K

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SOAR!



KATLIN MORIARTY

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Staff Shout Out

We would like to acknowledge several staff members for making donations to our emergency clothing supply. Thank you for your support!

- ◆ Penny Berman
- ◆ Claudia Farula
- ◆ Tammy Hyams
- ◆ Barbara Stein

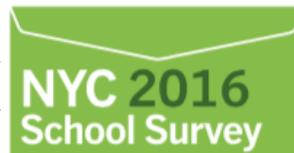
LOST & FOUND

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.

Current Events

2015-2016 NYC SCHOOL SURVEY

The 2015-2016 NYC School Survey period has begun! Every year, all parents, teachers, and students in grades 6-12 take the NYC School Survey. The survey ranks among the largest surveys of any kind ever conducted nationally. The survey helps school leaders understand what key members of the school community say about the learning environment at each school. The information captured by the survey is designed to support a dialogue among all members of the school community about how to make the school a better place to learn.



Each family will receive a green envelope with instructions on how to complete the survey. It is vital that all families and staff members complete the survey in order to capture a comprehensive snapshot of our school. Surveys must be completed by **Friday, April 1, 2016!**

REQUESTING DONATIONS—Emergency Clothing Supply

Throughout the school day, there are times when children have accidents, and we have the ability to change them out of their wet or soiled clothing into clean clothes. Unfortunately, our emergency clothing supply is now running so low we hardly have any items for accidents.

The PTA is reaching out to our P.S. 203 Family to send in donations for any of the following items: sweatpants, socks, and packages of underwear for boys and girls. We will be rewarding each student with a free pass for **ONE** night of homework for any donation brought in of the above items. **THIS IS A ONE TIME ONLY PASS.** Only one pass will be issued to each student no matter the amount of the donation turned in. These items must be new and unworn. We thank you in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

ROCK THE TEST

As our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students prepare to take the New York State Common Core Tests in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, we want to support them and encourage a positive attitude toward test-taking. In an effort to boost the confidence of our students prior to the State Exams, we will be introducing the "Rock the Test" campaign to P.S. 203.



The "Rock the Test" campaign aims to bring our community together and increase students' self-esteem. All students in grades 3-5 are invited to participate in a "Rock the Test" Pep Rally that will be held on April 1, 2016 in the school's gymnasium. We are requesting that each child pay a small fee of \$10.00. This fee includes a T-shirt, wrist bracelet, pom-poms or hand clappers to be used during the Pep Rally. All money is due on **Wednesday, March 16, 2016**. Submit cash or money order **only**, made payable to P.S. 203. Thank you for your support!

POWERFUL PENNIES/CHANGE FOR A CHANGE

Student Government is hosting a fundraiser called Powerful Pennies/Change for A Change to provide assistance to families in our school community. Donations will go toward providing needy families with gift cards for local grocery stores. Donations will be accepted throughout the month of March.

