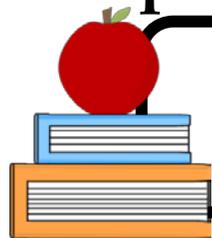


# September 2014



## Stay Connected

from the Principal



I am excited and honored to welcome each and every single one of you back to the beginning of a new school year at P.S. 117. This year, like past years, we will be focused on setting and reaching our annual school goals, working harder and smarter, and taking our school and student achievement to the next level. At P.S. 117 we are dedicated to making sure we provide students with a sound and quality education. As a staff, we are here to support all of you and to make sure our students reach their fullest potential. We look forward to working with you, our parents/guardians and members of the community as we provide all students with the high quality education they deserve. We will continue to maintain high standards for our students and strive for a productive school year. We need your continued support and assistance to maintain our great school environment. We are looking for 100% participation at our Back to School Curriculum Night, which will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Testing Updates

As you are probably aware, the state released the results of the annual **New York State Math and English Language Arts (ELA) exams** for students in grades 3 - 5. This fall, parents will receive individualized reports from the state with their child's test scores. Students' scores are also available to all parents online. By accessing your child's test scores through the DOE's **ARIS Parent Link** website, you will see personalized student data pertaining to your child. In order to access the site, you must have your child's student ID number and a temporary password, go to [www.arisparentlink.org](http://www.arisparentlink.org) to login. Once there, click on your child's student profile to see their results.

As you may be aware, in 2010 New York State significantly increased the *cut scale score* for students scoring 3 or 4 on the ELA and Math assessments given to students in grades 3-5. The state raised the "*proficiency*" standard scores to better reflect the level of achievement needed to indicate that a student is on track to achieve college-ready scores on future state exams.



In public schools across NYC, educators work hard to prepare students for future opportunities. Our students have been challenged by the new Common Core standards. These standards describe what all students need to know and be able to do to graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

In spring 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade State tests were administered to assess the important skills students are learning through the Common Core. Unlike past year's tests, the 2014 State Common Core tests focused more on the skills students need to become ready for college and a good job.

This year's tests were harder and more comprehensive. In addition these assessments are better measures of students' skills than tests given in past years so the scores do not mean the same thing. A lower score simply means that there will be areas to focus on and improve.



### Important Arrival/Dismissal School Time

Our official school hours for the 2014-2015 school year are as follows: Monday-Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 2:20 P.M. Parents please make sure to arrive on time and to pick up your children at their designated dismissal areas. Banners are displayed on the school grounds indicating the location of all dismissal areas. Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten children are dismissed at 2:15 P.M. Please note our school will be making more time this year for professional development for teachers and for engagement with parents. Towards this end, teachers will be working diligently on Monday and Tuesday afternoons to engage in these capacities.

### Late Pick-up Procedures

**TIMING IS EVERYTHING.** That is certainly true at the end of the school day. When children are not picked up on time, the delay causes difficulty for everyone involved – for the child who worries about where the parent is; for the parent who is anxious about being late; and for the staff, who is supportive, but have other professional obligations.

We all want to avoid a late-pick up scenario. In the event you arrive late to pick up your child, please go to Exit 8 (ramp). Please be prepared to wait patiently for assistance, show ID and record your signature and time of arrival in the official late-pick recording binder.