

* March *
April 

Parent Connection

P 77

March - April 2009

Spring News for P 77K Parents and families



P 77's 3rd Annual Spring Awakening

Our 3rd Annual Spring Awakening will be held on Saturday, April 4th, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. here at P 77's Main Site. Tickets for our 3rd Annual Spring Awakening are now on sale and are only \$12.00 each. No guests under 18 years of age will be admitted. Ticket order forms are being sent out and tickets for this event are limited and are given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donations are needed and very important. Anyone who would like to make a donation or would like to attend please call Nancy Gasparino at 718-789-1191 or Donna Miglino at 347-526-7141. This is a wonderful chance to help support our school and have a fun night out. Hope to see you there!

* Learning Environment Surveys *



Get Ready: Starting Mid-March **look** for the "BRIGHT GREEN" envelope to be mailed directly to you! This is the 2nd year District 75 will be participating in the Learning Environment Survey. It is important for all parents in District 75 Special Education schools to fill out a copy of this survey developed to articulate the experience of District 75 school communities. ". You are encouraged to complete the survey online, if you need any help please feel free to contact Nancy Gasparino at 718-789-1191.

Last year, over 347,000 parents participated in the survey. As a parent, your feedback on the Learning Environment Survey helps principals and school leaders work to improve your child's school. Survey results also contribute to your school's annual Progress Report grade.

Survey results will be released in the early summer.



WELCOME

*The P 77 Family happily welcomes our newest Assistant Principal
Marisa Beharry Vanzie!*



A Letter from the President

It's just about Spring Awakening time again, (Saturday April 4). The teachers at 164 have agreed to put together Class Baskets based on specific themes. We have asked parents to send in a \$5 donation to be used toward the Class Basket, but if you can spare more, it would really help. Contact your child's teacher to find out the theme of your class and maybe you could send in merchandise that will go along with the theme. (New, unused merchandise only, please.) We're asking the teachers at Park Place and 178 to join us in our basket making mission, and we'd like to propose a "Most Creative Basket" contest. We will award a pizza party to the winning basket. We will also provide a pizza party to the class that raises the most money by selling 50/25/25 tickets, selling Autism Awareness merchandise and collecting donations for our auction. (50/25/25 tickets will be available when we return from the February break.) All funds raised will be considered, so good luck to all our classes.

We are going to be in need of extra hands to put our baskets together in the coming weeks, so if you have any creative ability, call me. (347-526-7141)

We already sent out the community "Request for Donations" letter, but if there is a chance you know anyone who might be interested in making a donation, another copy of the letter is attached to the back of this newsletter. Feel free to ask merchants at stores you usually shop in for donations because people are a lot more willing to help than you might think.

The most important thing to remember is, the more people we have at the fund-raiser, the more money we can make. Invite people to join us for a great night out. Tell your family, friends, neighbors...it's only \$12.00 to get in and that includes food, beverages, coffee, tea and dessert. Tickets for the auction merchandise cost extra, but every penny goes to our kids. Money raised in the past has gone toward the purchase of computer programs to help our kids communicate, tables for our auditorium to be used at future functions, a color printer for our kids to make books about themselves, field day fun, and lots of other great stuff.

Everything you do to help is greatly appreciated! Happy Fund-raising!

Donna Miglino

PTA MEETING SCHEDULES

The PTA meets the first Friday of every month at the main site, 62 Park Place, Brooklyn, NY from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon. Light refreshments are served, so come join us!

EXCEPTION

Our March meeting will be held on Friday, March 13.

Photography Day

The following days are to be saved for Photography Day: Tuesday, April 7th, @ PS 164, Friday, April 24th, 2009 @ Main Site, and Thursday, April 30th, 2009 @ PS 178.



FUND-RAISING

The PTA is pleased to announce our major fund-raising event. Parents, teachers, staff, family friends and community leaders come together for a fun night and a great cause. Tickets are only \$12.00 per person and includes food, beverages, coffee, tea and dessert. Space is limited so buy your tickets early **AND BRING FRIENDS WITH MONEY!**

3rd Annual Spring Awakening

Saturday, April 4, 2009
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
62 Park Place, Brooklyn, NY
DON'T MISS IT!

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SAY THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Maimonides Medical EPS unit for adopting all the students of P77 at 164. For the last five years they have bought holiday gifts for our kids and even donated money for a pizza party. Thanks to all of you!



Contact Me

As the Parent Coordinator at P 77, I am always available to assist you when you need it. Please call the school at (718) 789-1191 or my cell at (347) 563 -5284. You can also e-mail me at ngasparino@schools.nyc.gov.

Spring Break

Spring Recess will be from Thursday, April 9th through Friday, April 17th, 2009. Students return to school on Monday, April 22nd, 2009.

Spring Forward

Remember to change your clocks one hour ahead on March 8th, 2008 and change all batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES



March is Parent-Teacher Conference Month. We look forward to meeting each of you. Please keep the following dates open:

Building	Day	Date	Afternoon	Evening
P 77K @ PS 164 4211 14 th Ave.	Thursday	*March 19, 2009	1:00-3:00	5:30-8:00
P 77 K @ PS 178 2133 Dean St.	Thursday	*March 19, 2009	1:00-3:00	5:30-8:00
P 77K @ Main Site 62 Park Place	Monday Tuesday	March 30, 2009 ** March 31, 2009	1:00-3:00	5:30-8:00

- ***On Thursday, March 19, 2009 P 77K @ PS 164 and PS 178 will follow a half day schedule with early dismissal.**
- ****On Tuesday, March 31, 2009 P 77K at Main site will follow a half day schedule with early dismissal.**

Funding Changes Cause Problems for Services

NY State is changing funding sources for some services that were still being funded under Family Support dollars. Programs such as Respite, Recreation, Reshabilitation, School Holiday and Afterschool will now be fully funded by Medicaid. This means that everyone receiving any of those services will need to have a Medicaid Waiver in order to continue receiving the services. The mandated date for compliance is July 1, 2009!

How this will effect you is if your child is currently receiving services such as after school, Recreation, Reshab, school holiday and he / she does not have Medicaid, the services will be interrupted effective July 1st. You will have to apply for a Medicaid Waiver. The application process has a few steps that include your child having a current psychological eval, psychosocial eval and a full medical with a PPD. The agencies that are providing the services that your child is enrolled in will be able to assist you in applying for Medicaid Waiver. You can also contact P 77's Transition Coordinator Louise Masiello for more information.

Important Dates for March and April 2009

March 8, 2009 – Daylight Savings Time Begins	10:00am
March 13, 2009 - PTA Meeting – Main Site 10:00am	April 4 th , 2009 – 3 rd Annual Spring Awakening Fund Raiser – Main Site 7:00pm
March 19, 2009 – Half Day (Elementary Sites) Dismissal – 11:30am Parent Teacher conferences for Elementary Sites	April 7 th , 2009 - Photography Day-P 77@ PS 164 April 9 th – 17 th - School Closed – Spring Recess
March 30, 2009 – Parent Teacher conferences for Main Site – Evening Hours	April 20, 2009 - School Resumes April 24 th , 2009 – Photography Day – Main Site
March 31, 2009 – Half Day (Main Site) Dismissal – 11:30am Parent Teacher conferences – Main Site – Daytime Hours	April 30 th , 2009 - Photography Day-P 77 @ PS 178

April 3rd, 2009 - PTA Meeting – Main Site



MARCH 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Day light savings  begins	9	10	11	12	13 PTA MEETING 10:00AM Main Site	14
15	16	17 	18	19 P/T Conferences @ PS 164-178 1:00-3:00 5:30-8:00	20 1st Day of Spring 	21
22	23	24	25 SLT Meeting 1:00pm Main Site	26	27	28
29	30 P/T Conferences @ Main Site 1:00 - 3:00	31 P/T Conferences @ Main Site 5:30 - 8:00				