



# PARTNERS

## NEWSLETTER OF AND FOR THE PS 231 COMMUNITY



### MARK THE DATES – NOVEMBER



Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Election Day – Schools Closed

Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>

Parent Teacher Conferences at all sites. *Students dismissed early!* Please watch the backpack for exact dismissal times for your child's site, and please plan to attend the conferences in the afternoon or the evening

Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day – Schools Closed

Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>

PTA Fundraiser at Chuck E. Cheese's

The PTA of PS 231 has expanded this fundraiser from an annual to a semi-annual event. Bring all your children! 3:30 PM – 9:00 PM, Atlantic Terminal Mall

Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>

Calendar meeting for the District 75 Community Education Council  
Special Presentation by YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities  
6:30 – 8:00 PM – 400 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, NY, NY

Friday November 19<sup>th</sup>

Monthly meeting of the PTA of PS 231 – This month will held at our site PS231@54  
195 Sandford St., Brooklyn, NY

Special Presentation this month by Resources for Children with Special Needs:  
"What's Out There and How to Get It!" - see page 2 for details

Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Monday Support Sessions – How to cope with the Stress of the Holidays  
See below for more details

Thursday and Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools Closed

### Parent-Teacher Conferences November 9<sup>th</sup>



On Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, PS 231 will be having the Fall **Parent Teacher Conferences** at all sites. PLEASE make sure you are able to attend the conferences which will be held in the afternoon AND evening. It is vital to your child's education and well-being that you participate. You will have the opportunity to speak with child's teachers, school administrators, counselors, and therapists (afternoon only). *Please watch backpacks for notices of exact time.*

Some questions you might want to ask are:

1. What skills and knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?
2. How will my child be evaluated?
3. What can I do to stay more involved in my child's academic progress?
4. How do you accommodate differences in learning?

For more tips on making the most of Conferences, call your Parent Coordinator, and visit

<http://school.familyeducation.com/parents-and-school/parent-teacher-conferences/38584.html>



### Start Saving Coupons for Chuck E. Cheese!

On **Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>**, the PTA of PS 231 will host their annual Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser. From 3:00 until 9:00 pm, PS 231 will take over Chuck E. Cheese's at the Atlantic Terminal. Our kids have the opportunity to have fun, see their school friends in a non-school environment, and *just be themselves with no pressure.* And Chuckee will donate a portion of all proceeds back to our school! Bring all your kids, your friends, your friends kids, your neighbors, everyone!. For more information, contact PTA Member-at-large Monique Trescott at 718-941-3609



**CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!** SUGGESTIONS? SUBMISSIONS?

CALL/EMAIL PARENT COORDINATOR JAMES LOLA 347.563.4425

[JLOLA@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV](mailto:JLOLA@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV)

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# November Meeting of the PTA of PS 231 – Fri Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, PS 231 @ 54

The PTA will be holding their meeting at our site PS231@54, 195 Sandford St, Fri Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

## Special Presentation by Gary Shulman of Resources for Children with Special Needs

### “Community Resources – What’s Out There and How to Get It”

Here is a small sample of what RCSN might be able to help YOU with

- Child Care Services
- Financial Aid
- Camps and summer programs
- Vocational and job training programs
- Family support and respite services
- After-school, tutoring, recreational, social programs
- Cultural resources
- Legal and advocacy services
- Benefits and entitlements

### SAVE THE DATE, AND BRING YOUR WISH LIST!

More details to follow in November – watch your child’s backpack!

## SPOTLIGHT ON: BROOKLYN PARENT CENTER

The Brooklyn Parent Center and PS 231 have joined together this year to form a School-Community Partnership. As part of the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled, BPC offers information, referrals, trainings, support, advocacy, and more. This school year so far BPC has offered support sessions on **Pupil Transportation** (see adjacent) and on **learning to advocate for yourself and your child**.

### STRESS REDUCTION

On **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at **10 am** BPC will offer a **Stress Reduction** session. The Holiday Season can be stressful for anyone – especially those caring for a child with a disability. We’ll spend time **relaxing and de-stressing ourselves**, get some strategies about **how to cope with the demands** of raising a child with a disability, and learn some valuable **“self care” tips for parents**.

**BROOKLYN PARENT CENTER**  
**27 SMITH STREET, BROOKLYN NY**  
**718-998-3000**  
**Ruth DiRoma – PS231 Liaison**

## Nov. 21-27: National Family Week



Strong families are at the center of strong communities. This year's theme is *Connections Count*. Children live better lives when their families are strong.

Families are strong when they're part of a community that connects them to networks of support. This week, try to hook up with your family and community: *search out and connect with community groups* such as Boys & Girls Clubs, church groups, volunteer clubs, PTA's, service organizations, etc.

*Everyone has a role in making families successful*

Visit [www.nationalfamilyweek.org](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org) for suggestions and information

**9.3** Average number of minutes that families spend eating breakfast every morning

**6.3** Average number of tasks moms complete in that time e.g., making lunches, packing backpacks, etc

## Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Families will explore the vibrant celebration of *Dia de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, held annually in Mexico. Rich in symbolism and emotion, *Dia de los Muertos* commemorates and celebrates family and friends who have passed away.

Explore this holiday's practices and learn how people are celebrating these ancient traditions today! See authentic objects from the Museum's collection and create a unique art piece to take home.

**Brooklyn Children's Museum**  
**145 Brooklyn Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11213**  
**718 735-4400**



## PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

On **October 21<sup>st</sup>**, **Ruth DiRoma**  
 (The Brooklyn Parent Center)

and **Ed Jacobsen**  
 (Office of Pupil Transportation -OPT)

presented to our community an overview of Special Education Busing.

### Key points that want people to remember:

- When there is a problem with a bus company, always call OPT (718-392-8855) first, and get a complaint number
- Requests for special accommodations (limited run, mini-bus, a/c, etc) must have supporting medical documentation from a physician, on specific forms (call the school for a “request for medical accommodation” form and a HIPA form)
- You may request a drop-off location in the afternoon different from the morning pick-up
- Only those accommodations listed on your child’s IEP will be addressed
- Even if “limited time travel” is granted (60 minutes or less each way), the pickup time cannot be specified. Time is computed from the time of pickup to the start of school
- Try to resolve problems at the school level, or by calling OPT. If you still cannot resolve them, call

**Ed Jacobsen – 718-482-3797**  
**Ruth DiRoma – 718-998-3000**

**MAKING TIME COUNT:** Remember that children need to spend time with you alone. If you have several children, try to spend at least *one hour a week* alone with each child. In hectic families, children will treasure those moments when they have you all to themselves. In years to come, kids will forget most of the toys you bought them. But they’ll never forget the gifts you gave of yourself.

### DID YOU KNOW...

That November 4<sup>th</sup> is National Men Make Dinner Day? Guys, break out that chef hat and show what you can do!



That November 18 is the Great American Smoke-out? Quit smoking, if even for one day. If you don’t smoke, be a buddy for a quitter



## NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> is ELECTION DAY

Remember to  
**GO OUT AND VOTE!!!**

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