

THE PS.226M TIMES

“Our Mission at P226 is to enable every student to achieve his or her potential”

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2010

DISTRICT 75

Dania Cheddie

Principal

Imma Jardi

Shelly Klainberg

Debra Mastriano

Assistant Principals

Dahyana Francis

Parent Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Trina Taylor

Family Worker

Anna Blanchette

PA President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- * Principal's Letter
- * Info From Our Parent Coordinator
- * School Inquiry Team
- * Site Reports
- * Technology Update
- * Guidance Counselors Counsel
- * Message From Our School Nurse
- * Educational Corner
- * Our PA President
- * Notes From Our APs
- * Transition News
- * News From Our Pupil Account Secretary
- * Message Board

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

2010 is off to a terrific start at P226M, and, as always, our students are busy developing many skills, including their communication, mathematical, and social skills. The end of the NYSAA assessment period is approaching. We expect that the hard work by the students and teaching staff will pay off when the assessment results are published. Those students who will be taking standardized assessments are preparing to take their tests, soon.

As we continue through the school year, I would like to remind you to attend the different parent workshops and class celebrations that will continue to happen at each site. You should be receiving notices for these events. Also look out for the **Learning Environ-**

ment Survey which will be mailed home sometime in the spring. Please look out for your child's **class newsletter**, which you should be receiving every month. The class newsletter is specific to your child's class, and contains information about what the class is learning. Knowing what your child is learning helps to strengthen the home-school partnership.

Please note that the City's public notification program, **Notify NYC**, now sends updates for emergency situations at school and other events that have an impact on the school day by phone, text message, or e-mail to parents and guardians who sign up for the service. The service updates parents about delayed school openings and early dismissals, student relocations, and temporary school closures related to

weather or other unexpected events. Parents and guardians can choose to receive alerts for up to five zip codes, and will receive notifications about schools within those zip codes. Parents and guardians can sign up either by visiting www.nyc.gov/notifynyc or by calling 311.

Finally, kudos to teachers, Judy Knafo and Sarai Bakal from the P76 and P208 sites for obtaining special tickets to take some of our students to the Big Apple circus. The students and staff had a grand time!

Have a great year!

Dania Cheddie

Principal

Info From Our Parent Coordinator

FREE

Government-Supported Cell Phone

Applying is as easy as 1,2,3!!

@SafeLink.com

Receive your phone in 3-5 days by using this prom code:

EXPRESS

SafeLink Wireless

1-800-SafeLink

Or

SafeLink.com

With FREE:

1. Monthly Minutes
2. Voicemail Account
3. Carryover Minutes
4. Call Waiting
5. National and International Long Distance

If you participate in a government assistance program or fall under a certain yearly household income and are located in our coverage area, you could be eligible for a free SafeLink Wireless phone and free monthly minutes. The program is limited to one phone per household, no credit report is necessary, no contracts are required and you will never get an invoice or bill. Check the eligibility requirements online at SafeLink.com or call 1-800-SafeLink.



School Inquiry Team

This month, the Social Skills in Our Schools Inquiry Team has brought the entire Speech Department on board in order to promote the development of social skills programming throughout P226M. Using the success of our Inquiry Project as a model, the SOS curricu-

lum will serve as a basis for instructing our students in the basics of social communication, from staying in control and greeting others to understanding the basic components of a conversation. We recognize the diverse social skill needs of our students,

and look forward to developing individualized approaches to meet these needs.

Shelly Klainberg, AP

“Our Mission at P226 is to enable every student to achieve his or her potential”

The SIT teachers are now running the School Inquiry Team at P 208M, which is a very exciting step in our group. Some teachers are leading the way at JREC by pushing forth the best practices that have been developed at P 208M.

The teachers are also putting together Social Stories to help increase the amount of student-initiated communication related to instruction. The focus of our group still remains consistent with the original goal. This year we are expanding JARS to the academic lessons. The SIT

group has been working hard at modifying instruction and the physical environment to help students increase their spontaneous communication. The SIT teachers have been working on putting together the “Excuse Me” books and also working on implementing JARS into existing academic lessons in the hopes that students will increase their initiations in their communication skills, as noted through data collection. The SIT teachers are incorporating the sequential task analysis to ensure that all components are consis-

tently used across different classrooms. This helps to build consistency and reliability into our study.

Some ways that parents can help students at home is to involve their children in cooking or housework activities, where the children can help out with a small step of the activity or process. By building a routine and involving your child, you help them make their world more predictable, whereby they know exactly what to do. This helps them become more independent as well.

**Peter Di Nuovo
Teacher @ P208**



PS. 226M @ 12th Street

The new year has gotten off to a busy start here at 12th Street. Winter dressing is a popular theme here. Students are learning about winter dressing and



working on zipping snapping and buttoning jackets. We are looking forward to a musical concert in February with Lou Gallo and friends. He will be here singing songs

to popular books we have read in school, along with some other great music the kids typically enjoy. In some of our classes, as February approaches, we will be planning classroom activities for families to join in, such as Lunch with a Loved One. In addition with some of our pre-school families we are beginning the Turn-



ing 5 process. This is a time when the Committee on Special Education will evaluate students to see what type of kindergarten programs they will need in the fall. If you get calls from school social workers or psychologists this is probably the start of the process. Please do not hesitate to call us at 12th street if you need assistance. Your child's teacher and therapists will be participating in the process to help find a place where your child will succeed.

PS. 226M @ P76

The students of [P226M@P76](#) have been very busy with a variety of activities from making sculptures, paper Mache and paintings, from their visit to the Circus at Lincoln Center. Next month some classes will visit The MOMA under the guidance of our Art Teacher, Judy Knafo and MOMA representative Kirstin Broussard. the students are also preparing for the annual Art show, which will be held in April this year. A.P.E.. Teachers, Rose Sylvester and Haritz Goya continue to help students work on eye-foot coordination, jumps from position and dynamic position read (while moving) and jumps from different sites. Science Teacher, Sarai Bakal began a new unit on force, motion and balance. Students will continue to explore these concepts by investigating gears, pulleys, wheels

and other simple machines. Classroom Teachers and Paraprofessionals continue to use the Saxon Math Program, along with Math Steps and Everyday Math, teaching students a variety of concepts, such as place value for tens and ones places, identifying coins, telling time and solving addition and subtraction word problems while using manipulatives. Some students will count forward and backward, adding 2 to a number, measuring length and width, sorting objects, colors and shapes. sequencing, matching to correspondent counterparts, number recognition and placing numbers in order to "least and greatest" is also being focused on. During Reading students are learning to identify and produce letter sounds, such as finding words



that rhyme while reading poetry daily. the students are also involved in Read Alouds, Guided Reading and learning Independent reading techniques, as well as encouraging students to increase their writing skills.

In Social Studies students continue to study their community environment. They also are participating in turn-taking activities related to their school environment. We look forward to participating with HAI through Project Arts and getting ready for The Spring Fling. March is also Parent Teacher Conferences. Thanks once again to all parents/guardians for 100% participation!

Camilla Swift, Lead Teacher

PS. 226M @ P208

Here at P208, we have enthusiastically welcomed 2010! Teachers are adapting and differentiating lessons for their students using the Saxon Phonics and Math, as well as Balanced Literacy components during skills streaming. Students are working on social skills as well as money, time, sequencing, addition and subtraction in math. In ELA, students are using leveled readers, adapted books, journals, and graphic



organizers.

This month, we had the opportunity to attend a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, the Pirates of Penzance at City Center. We also went to Battery Park's ice skating rink, and our staff was amazed at how well our students picked up ice skating! Select students also had an opportunity to visit the

Big Apple Circus. Upcoming trips planned for February included, our site's favorite bowling trip.

Other projects and upcoming events include near completion of the NYSAA administration, ABA/VB program, Inside Broadway, Portfolio checklists, and on-going data collection. We look forward to the African-American walk through scheduled for February 26th, where each class will perform their tributes to our African-American history. We look forward to all that 2010 has to offer!

PS. 226M @ JREC

The staff and students at JREC are gearing up for the start of the spring semester, and preparing for the many changes the new semester will bring. At the beginning of February, schedule changes will be implemented at JREC. Our math and ELA skill streaming groups will be reformed and some students will have

different teachers for these periods. The students also will be attending health classes on Fridays during the spring semester. These classes will be taught by our APE teachers, Jerry Stegman and Sarando Salyer. Our new speech therapist, Jaime Hollander, has seamlessly taken over the caseload at JREC. She has been fo-

cusing on social skills with the students during push-in group sessions in the classrooms. Many students have exhibited progress in this area. We hope to see everyone during our spring Parent Teacher Conferences at JREC. The dates for conferences are Thursday, March 18th (5:00pm-7:30PM) & Thursday, March 23rd (12:00pm-2:00PM).



Technology Update



You may have seen the term Web 2.0 on the news or in the paper. Web 2.0 refers to web pages and web content that are interactive for the user or allow more information sharing and collaboration. One of our favorite Web 2.0 sites is the Tar Heel Reader <http://tarheelreader.org/>. It is a collection of free, easy-to-read books for all ages. Some books are slide shows and others are flash movie files.

The book topics cover a wide range of interests and subjects. There is also an application that allows you to create your own book. Check it out and let us know what you think! You can always find us at the Family Connection: <http://p226familyconnection.ning.com/>

Susan Keyock and Catie Lanham

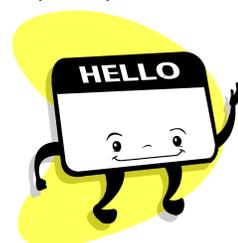
Guidance Counselors Counsel...

Role Models.

Basketball great Charles Barkley once deflected criticism by saying, "I'm not a role model. A child's parents are his role models." Was he right? We say the Round Mound of Rebound was half right. We are all role models. Our words and actions influence others. If we speak obscenities, our children will hear us and do the

same. If we use anger, threats or violence to settle disagreements, are we not teaching our children to do the same? Positively, if we exercise and make healthy food choices, we sow these habits in the younger generation. If we practice good manners and are neat and clean in hygiene and dress, we encourage these choices in others. Let us all examine our own behaviors and commit ourselves

to doing our best to be good role models. Then, as a pebble tossed in a pond creates ever expanding circles, we will spread peace, kindness and love to all humanity and world peace.



Message From Our School Nurse



Let's Get Physical: Exercising with Your Children

Physical activity is an important part of children's growth and development. The American Heart Association recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of modern to vigorous physical activity every day. Children who are active develop stronger muscles and bones, and are less likely to develop health problems such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and other conditions later in

life. Being active can also help children maintain a stable mood and sleep better.

The lifestyles of today's youth have undergone enormous change. Television, computers and video games have replaced many of the physical activities children once enjoyed. We are responsible as parents, and caregivers to ensure that fitness does not take the backseat, when it comes to the modern child. We do not want our children to become victims of inactive, unmotivated, unhealthy lifestyles as this will lead to health deterioration

Active exercise is not just for children! As a parent, you can set a

good example for your children by being active yourself. Exercising together can be fun for everyone. Activities such as walking, dancing, and ball play such as football or soccer are some inexpensive ways for the whole family to get exercise as well as spending time together. Competitive sports can also help children stay fit and engage with other children socially.

Hilary Brennan,

Nurse @ P208



Does AAC Impede Speech?

Augmentative and Alternative Communication has been a source of controversy for some time now. Many parents and practitioners are reluctant to introduce AAC. It is believed by many that AAC is viewed as a last option. They argue that AAC-based communication condemns a child to a lifetime of abnormal and limited communication. It is considered the end of all hope of natural speech, to be used only after years of failed speech therapy.

Research throughout the years has shown that this is not the case. Numerous studies have found that the introduction of AAC frequently has a positive effect on speech; children who are given AAC often develop speech faster than they would have.

Recent studies have shown that AAC helps assist students to speak better or more often, because it serves as a model for speaking each time a message is selected.

An AAC System is an integrated group of components, including the symbols, aids, strategies and techniques used by individuals to enhance communication:

- A. Gestural Systems
- B. Sign/Total Communication
- C. Communication Boards
- D. Electronic Devices

There are two different types of AAC:

1. Low-Tech AAC has no voice output. It involves using picture symbols, objects, photos and words. This can be used in a communication book or communication board. Pecs (Picture Exchange Communication System) is an example of a low-tech communication system as mentioned by our colleagues.

2. High-tech AAC (technology-based) usually has some kind of voice output communication aids (VOCA). These devices vary in size and technology, and can be single button types (Big Mac), static display types

(LEO), or dynamic display types (Dynavox).

A Speech Language Pathologist is usually the person who is responsible for initiation or making referrals for the AAC assessment, making recommendations for AAC type, developing collaborative goals, and organizing and running training with students, family and teaching staff. Other professionals that are involved in this process are classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, physical therapists, occupational therapists, guidance counselors and paraprofessionals. It is crucial to involve the families to ensure successful and functional maintenance and use of AAC for the student.



Cherise Aceveda,

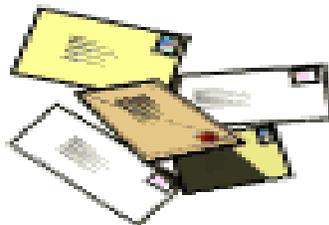
Speech teacher P208

An Invite From Our PA President

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students.:

Happy New Year and we hope that all is well. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that there are workshops available regarding transition and other topics that may interest your family. Please take advantage to attend especially the transitional workshops. It is very important your son / daughter are growing and that you know what services are available to you both. Also, we are having a School Lead-

ership Team Meeting on February 10, 2010 at the Julia Richmond Educational Complex Located at 317 East 67th Street, between 1st and 2nd avenues, NY NY 10021. Our meetings begin at 12:30pm and end at 3:00pm. ALL ARE WEL-



COME! Please feel free to contact the following office, cell phone number, and e-mail address if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Ms. Anna Blanchette- PA President

Ms. Jazmin Alvarado- Secretary

Mr. Gaku Takanashi- Treasurer

OFFICE: 212-477-5017 or 4939

Cell Phone: 646-283-3361

E-mail: asblanchette@aol.com

Notes From Our APs

Imma Jardi



We are already starting the second semester. We had had a great semester and we are confident that this will continue throughout the year. With students, staff and parents working together, great things will continue to happen for students in our school. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you, parents, to work with your children at home. Support your child to finish their homework everyday. Help them with their

reading and math. We notice faster improvements, when our students study and practice at home the skills they learned in school

At the High School, classrooms are going to visit different agencies where students will transition after they complete their school years. Some parents are going too. It is wonderful to see the collaboration between the parents and the teachers to better prepare the future of our students

Our Family Worker, Trina Taylor, and Parent Coordinator, Dahyana Francis, work closely with families to connect them with agencies and Medicaid Service Coordinators. It is important that these affiliations are made before our students graduate there to facilitate the transition process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call them at (212) 477-5017

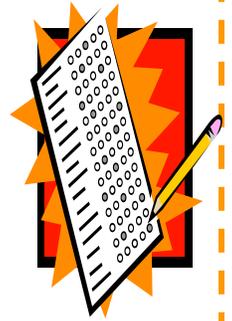
Shelly Klainberg

Happy 2010! The new year has taken off with a whirlwind of activity at P226M. We are now in the final stages of completion of NYSAA assessment as students participating in Standardized Assessment prepare for Regents and State

Tests.

We are seeing impressive uses of data throughout our sites, through Behavior Intervention Plans, IEP task analyses, Job Skill checklists, Social Skills programming, and our Sensory Scan project, as

well as through analysis of the quality work samples our students produce in class every day. Data will continue to drive the high expectations we have for our students, as they continue to thrive both inside and outside of the classroom.



Debra Mastriano



Happy New Year to all! This year P226 teachers and students are continuing to grow in our teaching of reading and writing. We have implemented the District 75 Units of Study in our reading and writing which can be visited by logging into the District 75 website and going into Literacy- Units of Study- either elementary, middle school and high school levels.

We are also expanding Star Reporter to JREC and it is at 15th Street for some classes. The Star Reporter Program provides educators with nine monthly units of theme-based lessons for students. The units are applicable to special education students, provide a range of topics and are high interest to students and staff. Some unit themes

are September – Individuality; October – Rocks and Caves; November – Food and Nutrition; December – Around the World Celebration; January – Polar Animals; February – Famous Americans; March- Weather; April – Horticulture/Gardening; and May – Water Life. Each monthly unit begins with the student objectives and an introduction to the topic and vocabulary words. It also provides specific lessons to build background knowledge for the topic.

Another exciting program that is being implemented at JREC and 15th Street is SMILE- Structured Methods in Language Education. The SMILE program has a specific teaching order starting with syllables, simple nouns, nouns with consonant blends,

two-syllable words, and compound words. The purpose is to learn how to say, read and write individual phonemes and syllables and to discriminate visually and auditorally between them. Then the teaching structures are say, trace, copy and write the sound.

Remember to read, read and read some more to our students. Literacy is one of the most important gifts we can give our learners.



2010 Graduates

Due to the wonderful communication and follow-up from our students' families and affiliated Medicaid Service Coordinators this year, our six 2010 graduates are in great transitional shape and very close to getting coordinated with their first choice of adult-service agencies. The Adult-Service Agency Packet Exchange (@ DDSO, 75 Morton Street) is scheduled for February 10th, 2010 at 9:30 AM-12:30 AM. Dozens of agency representatives will be there to answer any and all questions and begin the intake process, so all families and MSCs of 2010 graduates are encouraged to attend. I hope to see you there.

2011-2012 Graduates

Recently, introduction letters and requests for copies of Medicaid cards, Social Security cards and birth certificates have gone out to the families of our 2011 and 2012 graduates. As of next year, our numbers of graduates will double and then triple, so I am requesting that all families get necessary documentation to me, as soon as possible.



TURNING 18 ISSUES!

Social Security—Get ready for the re-determination process. You will be notified by SSA during your child's 17th year.

Medicaid—Select Straight Medicaid as your insurance option—This is usually not one of the options on the forms Medicaid sends you, so make sure you speak to someone at Medicaid and request it.

Guardianship (if your child requires it)—apply during the 17th year! Call me for info! (Irene Kawamura, 212-477-4836)

Obtain basic information online at: <http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/P226MTransition/>

Job Development News

Over at our Pace University inclusion-based campus, a student piloted P226M's first **Job Club** training program, and had this to say about his experience...

My experiences in the job club were a success. At first it was overwhelming because in this economy, it's really difficult to find a job and the fact that everyone is getting laid off. I think that this job club that I'm in really motivated me to go get a job on my own and experience real life jobs. I also feel that this job club did a really good job getting me prepared for the future. I strongly recommend that other than P226 @ Pace a lot of other schools should give their students a chance to participate in a job club like the one that I did. I strongly would say that it's worth the work. The things that I did were make a resume. Since I started making a resume last year I just needed to update

my resume. Then I had to go to different stores either around my house or perhaps downtown, and get applications like that I send them out. After I did that, I had to write a few cover letters to clarify that I'm seeking work and is ready to work. In this job club I'm doing, I'm learning how to be more focus on what I'm doing. I'm learning not to "flip flop" on jobs and when a job comes through I have to stick with it. I also learned to ask for help. In this job club I preferred to work on all of the assignments by myself but then I noticed that I procrastinated a few times on when work was supposed to be handed in.

This year in 2010, January 15 I got the opportunity to get a retail job at Radio Shack. On the day of my interview I handed in my resume with my cover letter to my boss. After the next day had passed I said to myself I can't believe I did that. The boss at Radio Shack really likes me, he told me every time I come to work come to work in casual clothing. The boss's name is Jose Galvez. He's really friendly. I have to honestly say that I really like this Radio Shack job. I hope after I graduate I get the chance to actually work at Radio Shack full time. I'm learning a lot there. My employees are very sociable. In this year in 2010, I'm finally seeing that it's going to be a good year for me.

-Corey Johnson

News From Our Pupil Account Secretary

Dear Parents,

Your child's safe and timely commute to and from school means a lot to us. OPT asks us to remind all parents that if your child takes the bus, she or he should be ready for pick up at their designated time in the mornings. They've informed us that while the bus drivers cannot avoid any unexpected traffic delays, they are not allowed to wait more than 1 minute for any student, as waiting longer creates a problem when you consider how every student would detain the entire bus if they each were late for pickup. Please emphasize to your child how important it is to obey the safety rules and remain courteous while on the bus, as each child's behavior impacts everyone on board, includ-

ing the bus driver who is diligently trying to provide his/her services in a safe manner while getting all students to school on time.

In order to avoid any gaps in your child's bus service, please be aware that it usually takes as long as 10 days for OPT to reassign your child a new bus route. So if your child will be relocating, it is important to alert your child's school site of the new address and telephone number at least a week before, along with the projected date of your move so a request can be submitted to OPT in advance. (Note: As soon as available, please make sure to provide

your child's site with some proof of your new address and to fill out a new blue emergency card)

Lastly, always have your child's bus company telephone number available should there be a problem with the bus that needs to be addressed.

And now to give a loud cheer to the 12 students who made Perfect Attendance from the start of the school year until the 1st week of February:

- Brandon D., Namory D., Jonathan G., Fridrik G., Deandre H., Biliah M., Robert P., Andre R., Evan R., Anthony R., Brian R., Jeremy S. (at our 208 site) and Ben T.**



Message Board

To Keisha,
Dear Keisha. I miss you.
I saw Susan last Friday for
dinner. Please write back.
Oscar Segal

To Mr. Tom Gassert,
I hope you give me candy, I saw
Charles. You are a good basketball
player. I wish you a Happy Valen-
tine's Day.
Shequan Clarke

To Warren Dugdale,
I hope you have a
Happy Valentine's
Day. Everyone loves
you so much.
Zenia Crispino

To Nikola, James and Jermaine,
I hear you all are doing fantastic
job at 15th street. Keep up the
good work. We miss you!!
Mrs. Moran

To Sarai
I hope you like you valentine. I
miss you very much. Happy Val-
entine's Day.
Ben Takanashi

Message Board

To Mary Ortiz,
You are a good teacher,
think you for helping me
everyday.
Rayvon Lampart

To James, Jermaine and Nikola,
Miss Vanessa says you three are
doing an amazing job this year. I am
proud of you.
Mrs. Moran

To Peter,
Dear Peter, I miss you.
Do you still have a brown
Honda Civic and the
black jeep?
Please write back to me.
Oscar Segal

To Zenia,
Dear Zenia, I love you so much and I
will take you to Burger King and I will
give you a rose, chocolate and a ring.
Quavon

To Deon,
Dear Deon, I miss you. I am having
fun and I am looking forward to see-
ing you please write back.
Oscar Segal

School Calendar

February 2010

February 15– 19— Mid winter Recess (includes Washington’s Birthday) **NO SCHOOL**

March 2010

March 29 thru April 6—Spring Recess (including Good Friday, Easter and Passover) **NO SCHOOL**

May 2010

May 1—Epic Conference @ P811X from 8am to 12pm

May 31— Memorial Day Observed– **NO SCHOOL**

PS 226 M SITES

PS. 226M @ The Manhattan School
12 West 12th. Street
Room #305
New York, NYC 10011
(212)691-4135

PS. 226M @ P.76
220 West 121st. Street
Room #306
New York, NYC 10027
(212)864-6559

PS. 226M @ P.208
21 West 111th. Street
Room #415
New York, NYC 10026
(212)410-0566

PS. 226M @ JREC
317 East 67th. Street
Room #312
New York, NYC 10021
(212)288-1748

PS. 226M @ 15th St.
345 East 15th. Street
Room #503
New York, NYC 10003
(212)477-4939

PS. 226M @ Millennium HS
75 Broad Street
Room #1237
New York, NYC 10004
(212)825-9008 ext.1316

PS. 226M @ Pace University
163 Williams Street
11th Floor
New York, NYC 10038
(212)346-1977

