

# The Buzz of P993 Queens

Going and Growing Strong

VOLUME 22 - JUNE

SUMMER 2010

## Frank Sinatra HS (FSHS)

### Celebrating Our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

The staff and students of P993Q@FSSA would like to thank everyone for making this first year at our new home truly wonderful. The staff here at FSSA have been very generous towards us, including us in their forensic science labs and allowing us to



Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

use their beautiful dance studio for our dance program, and making us feel truly welcome. Our students have also risen to the occasion by excelling in all academic areas, maintaining a responsible and respectable presence here and overall being the type of student P993 can be proud of.

### The Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Contest and PS Art 2010.

Two of our students have brought special honors to P993 by winning

#### The Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Contest and PS Art 2010.

Roberto Zamora wrote and illustrated "My Crazy Ride Home", a story about the challenges our students can face on a daily basis. The award for this, a medal and cash prize, was given at a reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The book is on display at the New York Public Library.

Edward Kahn won the 2010 PS ART Contest with his painting "Waterfalls". The reception for this was held at The Metropolitan Museum of Art where the painting will be on display until August.



Roberto Zomora with Principal, Jackie and AP Alexis

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians and Colleagues,  
As the school year is rapidly coming to an end, it is a good time to reflect on our students' and school's progress and growth.



Jacqueline Zaretsky

Our school mission has been to create environments and systems that will help our students achieve their greatest potential in academic and social skill competencies. Therefore, we want our students to be successful in school, at home and in the community. Thus, P993Q has endeavored to provide a broad range of school-wide and individualized strategies to support our students' academic and social growth. Our reading and math programs, such as Everyday Math, Early Learning Skill Builders, District 75 Literacy Units of Study in the specialized programs supporting Reading and Writing, are sound instructional tools to address a variety of student learning styles. The staff has received on-going professional development opportunities through numerous workshops and conferences.

AT our last annual Quality Review (QR) evaluation we received an excellent ('*well developed*') rating of which we're very proud. Because our school is a 12 month program, we intend to maintain a rigid instructional academic program for our students

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through the summer and into the new (2010-11) school year. We intend to build upon all our successes. However we can't do this alone. We need the solid and continuous participation of our parent community as we see parents as a critical partner in the success of our students.

These activities are our commitment to excellence in teaching and professional growth. This school year has also seen a major emphasis on creating a positive school atmosphere through developing school-wide behavioral expectations. Our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program teaches, acknowledges, and rewards appropriate social behaviors in all school environments. We view academic, social, and behavioral competence as major goals for successful student growth. I want to thank all the staff members whose tireless efforts, on behalf of our students, reflect the utmost in caring, skill and professionalism. Thank you, parents, guardians and friends, whose love and support are so crucial to the children. We are honored to be entrusted with your children's education. Please know that we are always here for you, as well as for your children. Have a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Zaretsky, Principal

### Science Fair & IS 208

*(Lisa Kaufman)*



We held our science fair at P993@208 on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Class Y31 has been learning about colors. They have been learning to observe and compare things. Class Y32 has learned that all things are made of matter. They have performed many on the three forms of matter. Class Y33 has been learning about how to take care of their teeth. They shared with us one way to keep your teeth healthy and white. Y34 learned about mixtures. They had lots of fun doing experiments with different substances and showing us their explosive results. Class X31 told us where they found the most germs in their classroom. Class X32 learned about motion and forces. They had a lot of fun experimenting with marbles, balls and cars. They shared what they learned about ramps. Class V31 performed experiments on sound. They demonstrated that sound

waves move through the air. Everyone worked hard to make this an enjoyable learning event.

### PARENT COORDINATOR'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

June 28, 2010 marks the official end of the 2009-10 school year and we're happy to announce that we've had an interesting and resourceful year.

The year went by quickly and came with both successes and challenges. Our primary challenge is to continue motivating parents to become actively involved in the parent association and the spectrum of other parent related activities; to continue convincing parents of the importance of their involvement in the school and community programs as critical ingredients in their child's development. The successes were tremendous. Our parent involvement continues to increase in both volume (this year around 30% over 2008-09) and diversity. For example, we've had over twenty five parent events, including workshops, indoor & outdoor activities, family instructional week-end programs and many others. Altogether, this represents an increase in parent attendance of about 18%. For the first time we've established an online social network. At the request of the PA membership and in the interest of promoting virtual social support a facebook page was establish. Thus far, twenty-five parents are using the account. Additionally, the parent association has had several general and executive meetings and has been functional in the school leadership (SLT) team along with executive meetings with the Principal.

As a result of our positive outreach and engagement parents are increasingly becoming more trusting active in the school community and in the delivery of education and services to their children. We've also identified and utilize key members of the PA as resource personnel to help other parents get resources. There were also a dramatic increase in services for families, including evaluations, and MSC, which are critical baseline steps to getting services.

For the third successive year, we've had several activities involving parents and siblings both with and without disabilities.

The PA has scheduled its annual elections (June 18<sup>th</sup> 2010) of which the results will be published in our September (2010-11 school year) Newsletter. It is hoped

that the results of the election will yield greater parent involvement, which will translate into increased opportunity and overall growth for the parent body.

After the elections meeting there would not be any other official PA general meeting until the start of the new (2010-11) school year in September. However, the new PA leaders and I will be meeting in July & possibly August to plan collaboratively for the upcoming school year. Parents I'm urging you to seize this platinum opportunity! Join the PA! Contact me or any of the PA leaders for more information (see letter informing you of PA new leaders). We're also continuously looking for parent volunteers to assist with PA related activities.

Together we can and will be the strongest resource for each other and our kids.

Sincerely

Neville Waldron,  
Parent Coordinator



## SCHOOL BUS - REMINDERS

The following rules are intended to make your trip to and from school both safe and enjoyable. Seat belts and their usage on yellow school buses

is an area of transportation that has generated a great deal of interest. Many parents and educators are requesting information about seat belt usage on yellow school buses.

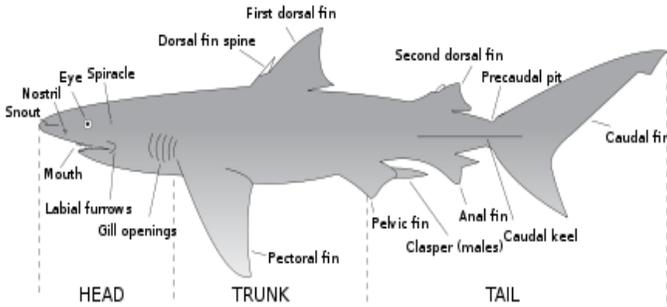
**Section 383 of the Vehicle & Traffic Law** - requires seat belts for school buses transporting general education students only on vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1987. At the time the law was enacted there was no provision requiring that buses be retrofitted with seatbelts nor is there a law requiring that seat belts, where provided on large general education buses, be used. The only students mandated by the NYC Administrative Codes Sections 19-601, 19-602 and 19-603 to wear seat belts are special education students.

**The Office of Pupil Transportation** - will work toward providing schools with buses equipped with seat belts if requested and if procedures are enacted by the school that will ensure their proper use. In order to ensure that seat belts, once provided, are properly used, it is necessary for a seat belt safety plan to be developed which includes: the name of the staff member who will be responsible for ensuring that students are belted in, specification of the training that will be given to students, and a description of the disciplinary action that will be taken should students refuse to wear their safety belts. It is recommended that parents of the students receiving service be consulted in the development of that plan. (source:<http://www.opt-sfns.org/opt/>)

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/translation/languages/>

## KIDS CORNER - QUESTIONS

1. Why did the turtle joined the band?
2. What's cute and fuzzy and lives at the north pole?
3. Why did the cheetah go on vacation?
4. What happened when the two clumsy oxen bumped into each other?
5. What do you get when you cross a turtle and a porcupine?
6. Pretend you're in the jungle and a tiger is after you. What do you do?
7. How can you tell if there's been a hippo in your fridge?
8. What do you call a snake that works?
9. What do you call a camel with three humps?
10. What is an owl's favorite website?



## Animal facts - SHARKS

Although sharks have a reputation as destructive beasts that attack almost anything that enters their water habitat, the actual number of shark attacks is probably lower than you imagine. There are many different types of sharks including the great white shark, hammerhead shark, bull shark, tiger shark and mako, they all offer varied and interesting information.

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals.html>

- Sharks do not have a single bone in their bodies. Instead they have a skeleton made up of cartilage; the same type of tough, flexible tissue that makes up human ears and noses.
- Some sharks remain on the move for their entire lives. This forces water over their gills, delivering oxygen to the blood stream. If the shark stops moving then it will suffocate and die.
- Sharks have outstanding hearing. They can hear a fish thrashing in the water from as far as 500 metres away!
- If a shark was put into a large swimming pool, it would be able to smell a single drop of blood in the water.
- Although most species of shark are less than one metre long, there are some species such as the whale shark, which can be 14 metres long.



Newsletter Compiled & Edited by Neville Waldron, Parent Coordinator

Tel: 718-224-0940 | 347-563-4390

Email: [nwaldron2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:nwaldron2@schools.nyc.gov)

Co-editors

Jacqueline Zaretsky, Principal

Michelle Boruchow, Unit Teacher

Linda Johnson, Instruction Coach

Contributions of Articles and other information were made by staff members of P993Q, extracted from the internet, and many other resource agencies, which (direct or indirectly) support the cause of the students of NYC District 75 public schools.

## School Survey - Results Comparison by Year (2007 through 2010)

Our annual School Survey is completed and we're pleased to announce the results. Although we had some challenges in maximizing participation, we're happy with the total entries and anticipate a positive outcome. Here are the results showing comparison to the previous years.

The data shows that P993Q has exceeded response rates for parents and teachers. For the students however, the data a lower response rate at minus 2%. This is due to a number of factors ranging from many students no longer attending P993, through others being locked out and unable to reconnect.

Weekly updates on response rates, generated by the Department of Education, were reviewed by the P993 Survey Team, at which it was realized that response rates were lower than expected. As a result, interventions were put into place to address the sluggish survey returns. The team implemented an action plan to step up the campaign at each site. Included were additional mailings, telephone calls, and raffles for parents, as well as direct appeals to teachers to participate in the survey process. Improved results were noted on the next DOE update.

Survey Results 3 yr % Comparison

Surveys	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Growth
Parents	34%	42%	47%	5%
Teachers	52%	70%	71%	1%
Students	41%	94%	92%	-2%

Survey Results 3 yrs Numbers Comparison

Surveys	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Growth
Parents	124	155	184	29
Teachers	46	62	66	4
Students	52	67	47	- 20

**10 Title III Institute – SUCCESS!**

*(Leigh Eisenberg and Angela Everett – ESL Teachers)*

P.993Q has successfully reestablished the Title III ESL instructional institute that it ran last school year. This year's program ran for 5 Saturdays from December through June. Instruction was delivered in English using ESL methodologies to over 8 students and their families (around 24 persons). The focus of the instructional program for English Language Learners this year was "Bridging the Gap Between Home and School language Acquisition". Our goal was to build listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English using ESL methodologies. NYS ESL, ELA, and technology standards were addressed. Through participation in arts and crafts activities, technology trainings, shared readings, and open discussions regarding matters of bilingualism our goal has been achieved. Thanks to all participating staff members for their hard work and professionalism!

Feedback from the parents/guardians indicated that they felt that the program provided incredible opportunities for the parents to see how their children work in school and how much they are capable of.



**P993@208**

**The Home and School Team**

*(Andy Tuttle-Unit Coordinator)*

P993@208 is working as a team between the home and school. What does this mean for our students? We all know that educating students with special needs requires follow through and consistency throughout the student's day. It is important for the home and school work together to ensure that the student's IEP goals are reinforced in the student's home environment and that the parent's goals are reinforced in the school environment. Communication between the school and home is essential in working with the "whole" student. What are the steps that we need to take to ensure this communication. Listed are some suggestions that might help foster this process.

**School**

Communication through:

- a) Daily communication book
- b) Monthly News Letters
- c) Phone calls on teacher's prep
- d) Phone calls to unit coordinators
- e) Change in behavior in school
- f) Concerns with behaviors on bus
- g) Special Activities or trips
- h) Annual Reviews
- i) Parent meetings

**Home**

Communication through:

- a) Daily communication book
- b) Phone calls on teacher's prep
- c) Phone calls to unit coordinator
- d) Scheduled school visits
- e) Open school visits
- f) Annual Review meetings
- g) School Events
- h) Case Worker visits
- i) PTA meetings and workshops

We must try to provide the opportunities for our students to reach their maximum potential. Working together

between the school and home environment on common goals and expectations will help our students learn the skills they need to be as independent as possible.

# Around Our Circle

**P.993@41**

## **Achieving Our Goals**

*(Renata Saranik)*

*Another school year has gone by for the busy staff and students of P993@41. Our students have succeeded in achieving many of their goals and had lots of fun along the way.*



Once again our dancing with the stars cast, classes Y52 and V41 performed at the district 75 dance festival. This year the theme was "Under the Sea." Not only did our beautiful mermaids and assorted tropical

fish perform to raving reviews, they also helped create, design, and paint the fabulous and colorful scenery.

Classes Y53, Y51, and Z01 created beautiful projects about our neighborhoods and the Communities we live in. Ms. Susan's class created a colorful mural of the park in the neighborhood. Ms. Renata's class created posters of the local library, park, supermarket and firehouse. Ms. Kathy's class created safety worksheets for the students. They studied safety in our school and in our community.



**P993 @ MS. 72**

## **Tremendous Improvement in Reading and Science – the Gateway to Transition**

*(Ms. Lee Haekyung)*

Students in class Z11 has shown tremendous improvement in reading and writing greatly due to using



the ELSB program. We are very proud of them, many who could not read efficiently are now reading and spelling words with little or no assistance.

Students in class Y41 worked on farming and planted pumpkin and other seedlings in the classroom. They learned how farmers grow food plants and experimented with various stage of plant growth. It was fun to see the seeds evolve through the stages. They enjoyed the lessons very much.

Students from our High School (Cardozo high school) give peer-tutoring lessons about wild animals in Africa in Class V10. They learned about African animals and their habitats. It was fun to work with students from the high school and to get to know high school students. They talked about what high school life is like and how it is different from junior high school.

Students from V11 have improved in reading and writing by working with the Weekly Reader. They enjoyed reading, writing & learning different topics in different articles. Compared to the beginning of the school year the PBIS program has increased in participation and has shown tremendous success.

**P993@208**

## **Project Arts at P993@208**

*(Andy Tuttle-Unit Coordinator)*

This year, District 75 sponsored an "Idol" contest. Debbie Serrano, our Physical Education teacher and Project Arts coordinator at the site entered three students into the contest. We are proud of our students, Robert Schlosser and Owen Miller who made it to round "two" and will be performing live on stage at Frank Sinatra High School in May. Robert and Owen performed a duet singing "I'll Be There". We are hopeful that they will make it into the finals.

Our students will be putting on another school play in May. This year's performance is "Education Rocks". All of our students will be back on stage singing and dancing to the music. We look forward to seeing our many "shining stars".

**P993 @ IS 499**

## **Our collaborative inquiry**

*(Anna Shullman-Unit Coordinator)*

In conjunction with our 499's collaborative inquiry, the students have been participating in studies about holidays. The April holiday explored was Earth Day. The students participated in a recycling program, where they differentiated between plastic

and styrofoam. Students returned bottles at Waldbaums for deposit towards an Earth Day celebration. Students planted flowers and vegetable seeds and learned about a compost.

The curriculum used to help achieve our April goal included, but was not limited to was Weekly Readers, Foss Science, Big Books for literature, Power Point slide presentations and Arts and Crafts.



Our culminating activity was a trip to the Queens Botanical Gardens on Earth Day. The students investigated the beauty of our planet and learned procedures needed to protect our planet from the irresponsibilities of mankind. The students celebrated with a party in honor of Mother Earth.

## P993 @ LICHS TRANSITIONING FOR SUCCESS

*(Jane Blumer)*



Our students at Long Island City High School have accomplished a multitude of exciting things this past school year. Many of them have been travel trained as well as participated in various worksite opportunities. Rising Star Cafe, Goodwill-

Steinway Store, Goodwill Training Opportunity Program, Astoria Senior Center, AHRC Project Hire, Weingold Dayhab, YASA, 14<sup>th</sup> Street Playground for Gardening, Seaburn Bookstore and the Manhattan Transition Center Building Trades Program, are some of the programs that have welcomed our students.

Two students are employed at **Citi Field** in food services and two are employed as Custodial Engineers, one at Bellevue Hospital and for Hudson River Properties in Manhattan.

Additionally one of our students is participating in the School Food Internship Program through the Department of Education.

Our students who worked at the Astoria Senior Center were honored with a luncheon and awards ceremony several weeks ago. Several students will also be acknowledged at the District 75 Student Recognition and Business Awards Ceremony on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

This year, our annual Poetry Slam Fest was exceptionally wonderful because the students had the opportunity to collaborate with Derek Cross from Arts Horizons and his Hip-Hop Residency. In November, our students participated in their annual Multicultural Festival. The festival included academic activities and as well as a luncheon.

During the month of April, our "The Rising Star Dancers" did an amazing job at the District 75 Dance Festival. On May 1<sup>st</sup> 993Q participated in the District 75 Achievement Fair where our Long Island City students displayed their "Balance Your Life" exhibit.

At present, we have budding chefs as several of our students have joined LICHS's mainstream culinary class.

Finally, our "Just ourselves chorus" are getting their voices tuned in time for Graduation.

## PARENTS

*Remember that P993 is a 12 month school program, therefore there is school during the summer: from July 6<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*Start thinking about summer camps for your child(ren) after school ends*

*Remember to get involved in your school parent association (PA)*

*Learn your rights and responsibilities as they relates to school*

*Ask you school parent coordinator or unit coordinator for a copy of the parent rights*

## **Family Resources & References** **Websites and Links**

*Each newsletter we feature a few resource agencies which may be useful in helping your child's development. The picks for this issue focuses on summer camps*

### **Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (RCSN)**

#### **Services: Multiple Resources**

116 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Fifth Floor  
New York, NY 10003  
212-677-4650

E-mail: [info@resourcesnyc.org](mailto:info@resourcesnyc.org); [www.resourcesnyc.org](http://www.resourcesnyc.org)

Visit our Database on the Web™ at  
[www.resourcesnycdatabase.org](http://www.resourcesnycdatabase.org)

#### **Contact us at:**

**116 E. 16th Street**

**5th Floor**

**New York, NY 10003**

**(212) 677-4650 (212) 254-4070 fax**

### **ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DAY CARE PROGRAM**

-29-01 216th Street Room 307  
Bayside, NY 11360 (Queens)

-Camps/Summer Programs  
-(718) 281-8800 Administrative  
-(718) 281-8841 FAX  
-(718) 281-8819 FAX

-[www.stmaryskids.org](http://www.stmaryskids.org)

-Serves ages 5 to 18

### **CROSS ISLAND YMCA**

-238-10 Hillside Avenue  
Bellerose, NY 11426 (Queens)

-Camps/Summer Programs  
-(718) 479-0505 Administrative  
-(718) 468-9568 FAX

-[www.ymcanyc.org](http://www.ymcanyc.org)

-Serves ages 5 to 15

### **FLYING FINGERS CAMP**

-PO Box 750851  
Forest Hills, NY 11375 (Queens)

-Camps/Summer Programs  
-(718) 544-8981 Administrative/FAX  
-[www.flyingfingerscamp.org](http://www.flyingfingerscamp.org)

-Serves ages 5 to 15

### **QUEENS R.E.A.C.H. - CAMP SMILE**

-Confidential Address

Kew Gardens, NY 11415 (Queens)

-Camps/Summer Programs  
-(718) 520-5936 Administrative  
-(718) 699-8283 FAX  
-[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)  
-Serves ages 7 to 40

### **SAMUEL FIELD Y - LISA BETH GERSTMAN DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED CAMP**

-58-20 Little Neck Parkway  
Little Neck, NY 11362 (Queens)

-Camps/Summer Programs  
-(718) 225-6750 Administrative  
-(718) 423-8276 FAX

-[www.sfy.org](http://www.sfy.org)

-Serves ages 7 to 13

### **SAMUEL FIELD Y - SPECIAL SERVICES CAMP**

58-20 Little Neck Parkway  
Little Neck, NY 11362 (Queens)

Camps/Summer Programs  
(718) 225-6750 Administrative  
(718) 423-8276 FAX

[www.sfy.org](http://www.sfy.org)

Serves ages 5 to 21

### **SAMUEL FIELD Y - SUMMER CAMP INCLUSION PROGRAM**

58-20 Little Neck Parkway  
Little Neck, NY 11362 (Queens)

Camps/Summer Programs  
(718) 225-6750 Administrative  
(718) 423-8276 FAX

[www.sfy.org](http://www.sfy.org)

Serves ages 5 to 15

### **STEINWAY CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC. FAMILY**

#### **SUPPORT PROGRAMS - SUMMER CAMP**

41-36 27th Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101 (Queens)

Camps/Summer Programs  
(718) 389-5100 Administrative  
(718) 391-9633 FAX

[www.vbgco.org](http://www.vbgco.org)

Serves ages 6 to 14

### **SAMUEL FIELD Y SUMMER RESPITE PROGRAM**

163-59 17th Avenue  
Whitestone, NY 11357 (Queens)

Camps/Summer Programs  
(718) 352-4157 Administrative  
(718) 352-7638 FAX

## Summer Safety Tips For Children

When summer arrives and school lets out, most children enjoy outdoor activities—swimming, biking, camping, and more. It's a time when injuries ranging from playground falls and sunburns to accidents at the pool and the beach are more likely to occur. These tips for parents and caregivers are designed to help keep children safe and healthy during the summer months.

### General Summer Safety Tips for Children

- **Maintain constant supervision** of children in and around *any* water environment—pool, stream, lake, tub, toilet, bucket of water—no matter what skills your child has acquired and no matter how shallow the water.
- **Have children wear** only U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests, also known as personal flotation devices (PFDs), on boats, docks and around deep or swift water.
- **Make sure** children always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter, or are rollerblading or skateboarding.
- **Protect children** from excessive sun exposure, especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Use sunscreen** with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- **Always supervise** children when they use play equipment.
- **Always keep** children away from lawn mowers in use. Never allow a child to ride on a mower.
- **Have children wear** shoes and light-colored clothing to minimize the risk of bee and insect stings.
- **Use insect repellent sparingly** on older children and never on infants.
- **Teach children never to eat or pick** any plant without checking with an adult.

- **Call** your nearest Poison Control Center, or if you feel the condition is serious, dial 911 immediately, if you suspect a child has been poisoned by a plant. In New York City, Poison Control is 1-800-222-1222. If you live in Rockland, Orange, Putnam or Sullivan Counties, call Poison Control at 1-800-336-6997.
- **Always keep children away** from barbecues, bonfires and lighter fluid.
- **Strap children** in a properly-fitting seat belt, car seat or booster seat when traveling by car or airplane.

### How to Keep Children Safe from Insect Bites

- **Cover** as much of a child's skin as possible with clothing—long sleeve shirt, long pants, socks and a cap.
- **Have children wear** light-colored clothing, which should attract fewer bugs.
- **Don't use scented soaps** or perfumes on an infant, since fragrances can attract insects.
- **Use safe** and effective insect repellents to protect your child—those with DEET, citronella or soybean oil. Only use repellents with DEET that contain less than 10-30% DEET.
- **Never use** insect repellents on infants.
- **Use only products** that are approved for children and use sparingly.
- **Apply insect repellent** to clothing instead of to skin so that it won't be absorbed.
- **Avoid applying** repellent to areas near the eyes, mouth, open cuts or hands of small children. They may rub their eyes or put their fingers in their mouth.
- **Wash off** insect repellent as soon as possible.
- **Follow** the manufacturer's instructions for any insect repellent you use.
- **Remember** that insect repellents don't protect against most stinging insects, such as fire ants, wasps and bees.
- **Avoid areas** with insect nests.

(<http://www.ny>

[redcross.org](http://redcross.org))

# HAVE A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER