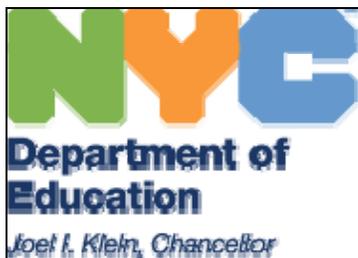


PS 373R JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2010



PS 373R

91 Henderson Avenue
Staten Island, New York
10301

PHONE (718) 816-8897

Ilene Goldstein-Harnett
Principal

Susan DiScala
Danielle Simeoli

Paulette Benevento
Assistant Principals

Questions? Concerns?

Kirsten Rorke
Parent Coordinator
(347)563-5281 (cell)
krorke@schools.nyc.gov

Principal Message

Happy New Year! I cannot believe we entered into another year! Throughout the school year, we will continue to keep you informed of your child's progress and school activities. Look for papers coming home from school each day—newsletters, invitations, updates, tips, and reminders. In addition you can find updates and information by attending the school PTA meetings. The PTA has been rotating meeting sites to get you involved.

Our Mission at P373R is *Teamwork in the Best Interest of Children*. I urge you to please be part of this team!

Please subscribe to the virtual PTA www.373virtualpta.wordpress.com where you can be updated with information on all school events, family and student links to resources. You can access links to school and classroom blogs on this site and read about all the wonderful things your child is involved in.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to log into ARIS (Achievement Reporting and Innovation System) please contact our Parent Coordinator Kirsten Rorke who will assist you or better yet....attend the Spring Parent-Teacher conference which will begin in February through March. Please look out for notices with dates and times specific to sites. We will help you access ARIS at that time if needed.

Some students will be inviting you to school to review their test scores and inform you of their goals. Getting involved with your child as they complete their homework or seek your help on special projects and participating in school meetings and events will provide a greater motivation for your child as you continue to show interest in their academic and social experiences within the school environment.

Your communication with us is very important. We will certainly work on our end to provide your child with the best education possible. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have a question or concern. Please contact our Parent Coordinator-Kirsten Rorke and she will assist and/or direct you to the appropriate Administrative team to assist you in communicating with your child's teacher and/or related service providers.

Let's continue to work together to continue to make this a great school year in every way!
Remember.....

TEAMWORK IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN!

Ilene Goldstein-Harnett



January 2010 Letter from the PS 373R PTA President

To Everyone in the PS 373R Family,

January, 2010

As we begin the New Year 2010, I am reminded of the famous opening of the Dickens's classic *A Tale of Two Cities*; "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". I wish to focus on the best. First of all, I want to thank my two Vice Presidents, Dawn Port and Laura Strohm. Far almost a whole year, Dawn has been working almost single handedly planning our Holiday Fair and along with a small group of parents who came out and volunteered their time, make it a success. Laura's endless hours coordinating the cookie dough fund raiser also made that fundraiser a success. A special thanks to Jen Walsh and Perian Wise for their countless hours donated to the PTA.

We are looking forward to an exciting spring which will include the Mother's Day plant sale at the Main Site and at the Petrides site, and the Spring Carnival in May at the Main Site. Without the dedication

of these people, Kirsten Rorke our Parent Coordinator and the small group of parents who give so much of their time we would have no PTA. The PTA wants to also thank those parents who donated to the PTA's operating fund this fall.



And now to some unpleasant realities: Last year the PTA was hit with some monetary requests for help which cause us to dip into our reserve fund. This year we have been struggling to build up those reserves but have fallen short with some of our fundraisers. Again, our parents were very generous when asked for help. The second and most important problem we face is the continued dismal attendance by parents to the monthly PTA meetings. To be frank, the PTA is hanging on by a thread. The executive board members also have jobs and family demands placed upon them. It has been decided that due to the lack of parental involvement in the last month's fair, it will be discontinued in lieu of another event that takes will require less preparation and execution.

If there is not a turnaround soon in parental involvement in the PTA, it may cease to exist. The PTA is your voice with the school, and we are tireless advocates for YOUR children. Each year, the PTA also funds part of Spring Carnival and pays for the rides as well as other goodies. Last year it was all the rides, the clown and cotton candy machine, therefore without the PTA, these all goes away. This is a real possibility that can be averted with your help so please get involved. I pray my next update will be more positive.

Thank you,

John Scarso, President PTA 373R 2009-2010



Congratulations! Mr. K's Class Wins the Great American Smokeout Contest!

Mr. Knudson's class X05 was one of the winners for the American Cancer Societies' 2009 Great American Smokeout Contest! The class wrote a poem entitled "Please Don't Smoke". On December 17, 2009, the class was invited to the award ceremony at St. John's University. They were published as the November Poem in The Great American Smoke-out 1010 Calendar. We are so proud of our students! They are **Quamel M., Barry L., Kevin H., Justin M. Tyriek A., Adrian U.**

So please remember:

"It ain't no joke

You watch your money, fly in the breeze

But smoking will make you cough and wheeze

So, Please don't smoke"



The Class read their poem on December 23, 2009 at the Holiday Performance/Santa visit. We are so proud of our their creative accomplishment! Every student received an Award and a Bear!

PS 373R Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

From Annette Panteli's Class:

- I have a dream that the world will be peaceful. - **Ashanti**
- I have a dream that... I can be a scientist because I watched Discovery channel. - **Christian M.**
- I have a dream that I will be a policeman. -**Anthony**
- I have a dream that...school teachers help us to learn about the earth. -**Allen**
- I have a dream that I will be a cop. -**Daquan**

From Kristen Gunderson's Class:

- I have a dream that there was no more gunshots. -**Juan**
- I have a dream that there are no more bad guys. -**Allen**
- I have a dream that every teacher could be like Ms. Gunderson. - **Malik**
- I have a dream that everyone stops polluting. -**Kayshanna**
- I have a dream that people won't run through the streets and get hit by a car. - **Czhine**
- I have a dream that no one gets shot. - **Jordan**
- I have a dream that there is no more war. -**Luis**
- I have a dream that Martin Luther King, Jr. was not dead. - **Jose**
- I have a dream that there is no more graffiti. - **Justin**



STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICE OFFICE (SIDDSO) PROVIDES BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION SERVICES

Intensive Behavior Management Team Behavior Consultation Services (BCS) are provided by a team of professionals that include a Psychologist, Social Worker, Special Educator and Registered Nurse.

Services: The team provides short-term behavior consultation and support services to individuals and their families who are coping with severely challenging problem behaviors. These services can include behavior assessment, referral to services, linkage to services, supportive counseling, facilitating cross-agency support / cooperation, and behavior management planning. Team members are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Evening appointments are available.

Persons Served: Behavior Consultation Services are offered, free of charge, to residents of Staten Island who are developmentally disabled and have been found eligible for NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) services.

Referrals: Referrals are accepted from family members and agencies.

Individuals / Families Contact: Barbara Schubert, Coordinator, Information Exchange Phone: 718-982-1904

Beacon Center for Family Services Need Help? Call Now!

Services for Children 18 years and younger.

MON-FRI 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

- *Crisis Intervention*
- *Tutorial Programs*
- *All Levels of Sports*
- *Case Management Services*
- *Vocational /Educational Counseling*
- *Parent Training*
- *Advocacy Assistance*
- *Individual Counseling*



Ask for Karen Felton, Social Work Supervisor, BEACON CENTER - 221 Broadway, Staten Island, NY, 10310 (718) 448-5591 or (718) 448-7634

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts from Notify NYC



NEW Starting on January 1, 2010, Notify NYC will provide expanded information on school delays, closings, and early dismissals! To receive school notifications and alerts, register for Notify NYC.

CALL 311 and tell them you want to sign up for NOTIFY NYC!

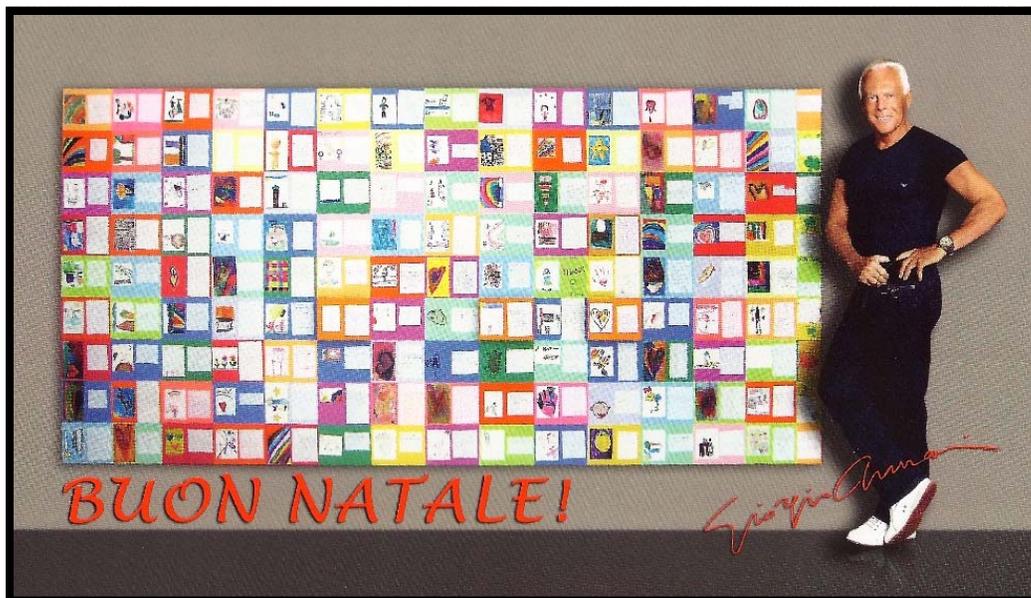
You can choose to get an alert by Text, Telephone or E-Mail.

On-line: www.nyc.gov/notifynyc

Notify NYC is brought to you by the NYC Office of Emergency Management

Giorgio Armani Sends Holiday Greetings to Students at P373R

Before the holiday break students at P373R were the recipients of some very special holiday greetings, straight from Milan, Italy! Mr. Giorgio Armani, internationally acclaimed fashion designer, sent framed, personalized greetings to each of the 134 students who sent him a card in March of 2009 in a display of gratitude for the designer's monetary gift to the Arts in Public Schools Fund. While we were not direct recipients of funds, it is important to remember that without funding there is no art program in any of our schools, so that his gift becomes very important in the message that it sends to the world – that the arts do count. Our students, in Ms. Seminara's art room, created individual miniature original artworks and then wrote messages to Mr. Armani, which were sent to him in Milan by his director of public relations, Ms. Molnar. The messages, which were heartfelt declarations by many of the children about the importance of the arts in their lives, struck such a chord with Mr. Armani that he arranged them into a huge collage which we are told is hanging in his home office in Milan. To show his love of their work he photographed himself with the framed artwork and sent greetings of "Buon Natale" (Merry Christmas) in leather Armani Casa frames, which were gift wrapped for each student. Mr. Armani has shown New York what the arts mean to him by his benevolent gesture to the Fund and more importantly, what our children's art means to him. Grazie Signor Armani!



PS 373R Fathers Day Game: S.I. Yankees Vs. Brooklyn Cyclones!

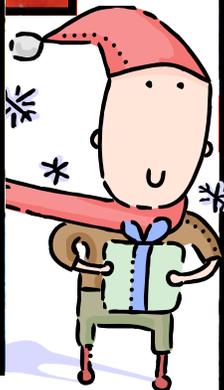
The PS 373R PTA has purchased tickets for the SI Yankees vs. Brooklyn Cyclones Game on **Sunday, June 20, 2010 @ 4pm.**

\$18.00 includes tickets to the game, all you can eat hot dogs, burgers, chicken sandwiches, pop corn & soda, a special Yankee hat and a program. Kids may run the bases! **Call after 2/8/10 - John Scarso PTA President 718-986-8856.** No tickets will be reserved without payment.





PS 373R at our PS 58 Site Celebrates the Holiday Season!



Holiday Celebration at the Main with the NYPD!



Mini Building "Winter Wonderland" - December 2010



Teddy Atlas visits PS 373R and Brings Santa and the Founders of Everlast to Help Hand Out Toys!



We had a terrific holiday celebration for the kids on Monday, December 21, 2009 when Teddy Atlas came to visit our school. We first got to know Teddy three years ago when he established a partnership with our school. Ever since then, he has been extremely generous with his foundation. He got every single student (with the help of Santa) a holiday gift. Even the children at the off-sites received a gift. Then he came on Monday and brought Santa to help distribute the gifts at our Main Site. Teddy gave a great speech to our older kids about improving behaviors and being positive leaders at school. He promised 50 Nets tickets and transportation to a Nets game for the students who demonstrated the best positive choices at school; with good attendance, respect for others, and positive attitudes. We really commend him for being such a great role model for our kids!



TWO FUNDRAISERS FOR HAITI
 - "HIP HOP 4 HAITI" & "BENEFIT
 CONCERT FOR HAITI AT SINATRA
 SCHOOL OF THE ARTS"

NYOIL host
 NYC leg of HIP
 HOP 4 HAITI —
 A National Day of
 Observance
 Saturday, January
 30, 2010 5:00 -
 11:00 pm



IN NEW YORK,
 the event will be
 hosted by N.Y.OIL and open to the public to be
 held at **The National Black Theater in Harlem
 NY from 5:00 - 11:00 pm est.** Sponsors are
 suggesting a donation of \$20, but "everyone who
 wants to help in any amount should feel wel-
 come, this is a difficult time for all of us and eve-
 ryone's help is a blessing we cannot afford to
 dismiss," according to NYOIL. "Our goal is to
 raise spirits and funds of at least \$10,000. And
 of course this is Hip Hop so we're going in with
 both feet! Beats, Rhymes, B-Boys, DJ's and
 plenty of Knowledge for self!"

For more information on the event contact:(New
 York) NYOIL 347-291-3094. Website:

<http://hiphop4haiti.ning.com>

4 FEBRUARY 2010, 7 PM

**Benefit
 Concert
 for Haiti**



at Sinatra

AMERICAN BALLET THEATER
 JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS' BALLET SCHOOL
 BALLET HISPANICO SCHOOL OF DANCE
 FRANK SINATRA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
 GRAHAM II
 HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
 HUNTER COLLEGE
 LEHMAN COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
 MERCY CUNNINGHAM
 CDF REPERTORY UNDERSTUDY GROUP
 P.P.A.S./THE AILEY SCHOOL
 SCIENCE SKILLS CENTER H.S.'S
 JOW-ILE-BAILAR DANCE COMPANY
 THE FIELDSTON DANCE COMPANY
 UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD
 HIGH SCHOOL
 AND MORE

FRANK SINATRA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, 35-12TH AVENUE, ASTORIA
 TICKETS AT BOX OFFICE. SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20 ADULTS. \$10 STUDENTS
 PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

**PS 373R Murals on Display at the
 Queens Museum of Art**

Three murals from PS373s main building are on display at the Queens Museum of Art through January 6, 2010. The works, which were created for the Very Special Arts Festival in May of 2009, were featured in an exhibition at the museum and have been visited by students, families and other interested museum goers over the past several days. A Welcome Celebration was held on Tuesday, January 5th and was hosted by Ms. Bebe Bernstein, Director of VSA, during which certificates were awarded to the schools whose murals were chosen for the VSA NYC 2010 Calendar. Congratulations once more to the students of Ms. Leston, Ms. Vivaldi, and Ms. Gundersen, who created the murals. Special recognition to Ms. Leston's students, creators of Celebrate Friendship on being chosen as the image for February 2010. The murals will now move on to the State house in Albany where they will be on exhibit. After that? On to Washington, DC for one mural from our state. VSA arts is an educational Affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. I cannot wait to work with classes on the 2010 projects for VSA in May!



**Ms. Bernstein, Ms. Seminara and
 Ms. London at
 VSA Murals on Parade 2010**



Petrides Site Celebrates Holiday with Visit from Santa

To celebrate this Holiday Season the students at PS373R enjoyed a very delicious breakfast with a visit from Santa. Students enjoyed bacon, pancakes, french toast, and juice all made o order by our very own Miss Leah and Miss Fran. After breakfast Class Photo's were taken with Santa and all student's received a special gift from Santa. Thank you to all staff members who helped to make this event possible for our students. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable HOLIDAY SEASON!!!



PS 373R ON THE WEB:

WWW.373VIRTUALPTA.WORDPRESS.COM

Free Healthcare Notebook Training at IBR

When: Wednesday February 10, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 1p.m.

Where: Parent to Parent, NYS at Institute for Basic Research 1050 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY 10314



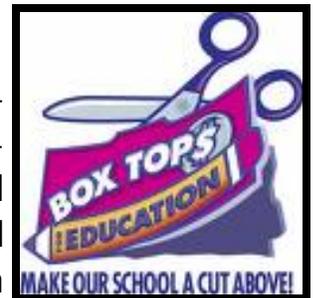
RSVP to Reserve a Notebook: 718-494-3462

In caring for you child with special needs you will receive information from many sources. Parent to Parent of NYS has created The Health Care Notebook to provide an invaluable reference tool that will make keeping your child's records easy and convenient. Using a Health Care Notebook can help you keep track of important information about your child's health, provider, health history and more!

BOX TOPS NEWS from SONJA BUSHEY at PS373R

Hi Everyone!

I'd like to thank all of the parents and staff who have contributed to the Box Tops for Education cause. The school just received its December check for almost \$200! The school will be using the funds towards the school carnival. I'm set to mail in more box tops in mid February for the next deadline and I'm hoping for another big check for the school. This could not have been done without all of you sending in those box tops. The box tops are collected all year long, including from all of the off-sites.



I'd like to give a special thank you to Kirsten Rorke and Dawn Port for their ongoing help in collecting the box tops. It really makes a difference!!! Please keep visiting the box tops website as the contests may help the school win money. The website is www.Boxtops4education.com if anyone has not yet signed up. Just pick **PS373 Robert Randall School**, even if your child attends an off-site. Thanks to everyone!