

# PS 373R OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009



## Welcome Letter from the Principal

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, as part of our educational family, to another wonderful school year. A new school year is always exciting especially this year as we open new classes in the newly built PS 861 site on Regis Drive. This will be our sixth site!

Our staff and administrative team have been very busy this summer. We have participated in staff development workshops and trainings which enabled us to further our expertise in various curriculum areas and refine classroom management skills. We also have spent valuable time previewing instructional materials for use in our educational programs. Academic emphasis on the core content areas of reading, language arts, science, social studies and math will remain a priority as well as instruction in the arts, technology, and physical education providing each student with the opportunity to develop skills in these areas.

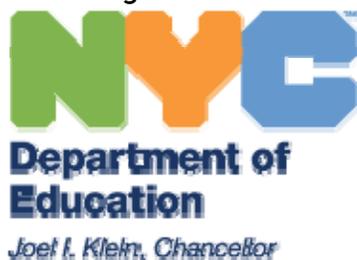
Our professional goals this year also include: an examination of the alignment of our social studies curriculum with the New York State Standards; the continuation of our efforts to differentiate instruction at each grade level to meet all students at their point of need and to challenge students to reach their potential and know what their goals are.

We will also continue the wonderful initiatives such as the Get ready to Learn Program, Collaborative team teaching, use of assistive technology and increasing classrooms for structured teaching (TEACCH).

Our focus is always providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. We will be expanding our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Program throughout the organization aligned with the Power of Choice (POW) system and modified to meet individual needs. We were fortunate to begin this process supported by the district to offer staff training in PBIS and intervention strategies such as TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention). We will continue to train staff and expand these programs throughout the organization with our internal coach and PBIS committee representing staff and administrators from all sites.

As we begin this year, please remember that this is your school and we welcome your involvement. Since we recognize that parents are their children's first and most important teachers, we need your cooperation and involvement to provide your child with the best education possible. Take time to review and/or talk with your children about their school experiences. Your interest and concern in their school progress will motivate them to do their best. Maintain contact with your child's teachers and related service staff members to establish a successful home/school connection.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our Parent Coordinator Kirsten Rorke who can assist you. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success



**Ilene Goldstein-Harnett Principal**



## New School Mascot for PS 373R

During the 2008-2009 school year, students and staff voted on our new school mascot, the wolf! It may surprise you to know that one of the distinct characteristics of the wolf is friendliness. It is said that the wolf's strongest personality trait is its capacity for making emotional attachments to others. Another surprising characteristic of the wolf is its aversion to fighting.....wolves would do much to avoid aggressive encounters. Wolves are also very intelligent, ready to learn and show a high degree of adaptability.

## The Green Team Needs YOU!



Bring in your old wrappers and juice pouches! The Mars Company has a Recycle Your Wrappers Program that will help us



keep our **Power of Choice** Program going strong!! Send in the empty wrappers from Skittles, M&M's, Twix, Snickers, Starburst or the containers from CapriSun Juices. Send in these items marked for the Main Site to the attention of Ms. Cristina Navarrete or Ms. Andrea Fusco. **GO GREEN!**



**S.I.U.H. & PS 373R BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thursday, October 29th**

**9:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Main Site - 91 Henderson Ave - Raffle/Donor  
Bags/Free Lunch/Breakfast/Class with most dona-  
tions gets pizza party/Call 718-816-8897 ext 2511**

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## **Send Us *Your E-Mail Address* for News Alerts and School Announcements**

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Would you like to receive School Announcements and Community News Alerts as soon as they are available?

Just email the **PARENT COORDINATOR** (Kirsten Rorke (718) 816-8897 ext. 2511) with your email address and you will be added to the all-school news alert listing. We do not share this list with **ANYONE ELSE**—it is private and for school news alerts only.

*E-mail your address to:*

**KRORKE@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV**

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## ARIS—Your NYC DOE Parent Link

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### ARIS: **Achievement Reporting and Information System**

In ARIS Parent Link, you can find:

- Up-to-date academic information about your child, available in nine languages
- Results and explanations of assessments your child has taken
- Your child's attendance record

You can log in to ARIS Parent Link anytime, from any computer. To get started, you need:

1. A computer with Internet access
2. An e-mail address
3. Your child's ID number (OSIS #)
4. Your temporary password (you can get this from your child's school)

Go to: [www.arisparentlink.org](http://www.arisparentlink.org)

If you need assistance in logging on to your child's account, call the Parent Coordinator for PS 373R, **Kirsten Rorke (718) 816-8897 ext. 2511**. You may set up an appointment at the school for a 1:1 session to learn all about ARIS.

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## Parent Workshop- Autism: Using Visual Supports in the Home

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Presented by: District 75 Office of Autism.

Topics will include:

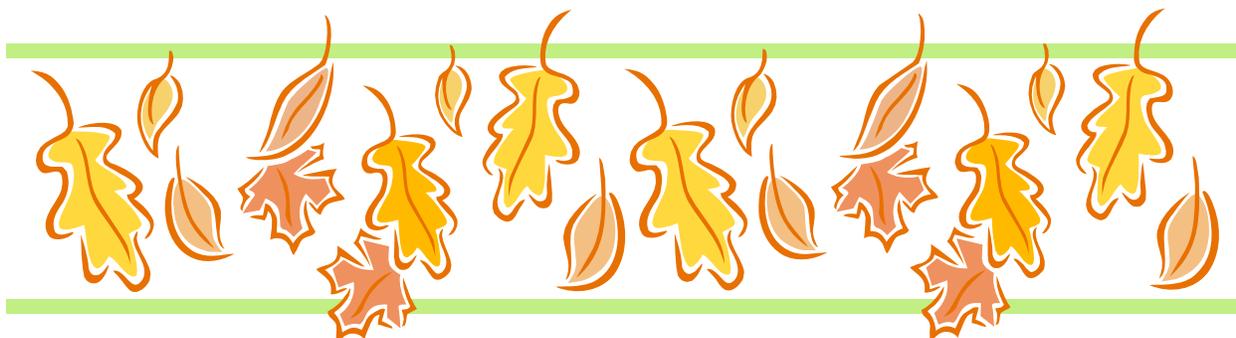
- Using schedules at home
- Visual supports

**Date:** October 21, 2009 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** District Office, 400 First Avenue, NY, NY 10010

Call (718) 816-8897 ext 2511 to register

For additional information about the workshop itself call the Office of Autism: (917) 256-4268.



## Staten Island Federation of PTAs Forum, Thursday, November 19th

Save the Date! Staten Island Federation Of PTAs will be hosting a Legislative Forum

Thursday Evening – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Petrides Complex – Conference Center Building C, 715 Ocean Terrace

T. 718 356-3247 www.sifpta.org or email sifptadelegate@aol.com



## September 29, 2009 PS 373R PTA Meeting Minutes

### Officers Present:

**John Scarso, President; Dawn Port 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Laura Strohm, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Jen Walsh, Treasurer**

Introductions –Executive Board, general membership in attendance and Kirsten Rorke, Parent Coordinator

Kirsten Rorke, Parent Coordinator discussed the PS373 Website and offered her assistance to all families. She communicates via the website ([www.373virtualpta.wordpress.com](http://www.373virtualpta.wordpress.com)), email, the PS373 newsletter and flyers that go home in the children's backpacks. You can also reach her by telephone.

### What does the PTA do?

Our PTA runs several fundraisers and all money raised goes to the children. We fund a good portion of the school Carnival each May. We run the Holiday Fair where our children can purchase reasonably priced items for their loved ones. We also hold a Plant Sale in May where the children can purchase small plants for Mother's Day. When asked, we may fund small programs, provide backpacks or even new shoes for children in need. We purchased our own copier last year to cut back on costs related to using Staples or Kinko's.

We really need help to set up, clean up and put on the Holiday Fair. If you cannot come to the meetings, please call John or Dawn to offer your assistance. Thank you.

2009-2010 PTA Projected Budget: See Chart

All projected amounts are based on last year's income and expenses.

Jen Walsh made a motion to pass the budget, seconded by Laura Strohm.

The projected budget was passed.

**Our next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at 91 Henderson Avenue.**

Holiday Fair Dates- December 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday and Thursday).

If there is much interest we will consider evening hours.

PS58 parents complained that they were not getting any information from the teachers since school started. One parent asked if she could join the PS58 PTA and was told "No, you are from PS373."

Advice from Kirsten Rorke: Keep a copy of your child's IEP. Communicate with your teachers. Know if your child is getting his services. RSA's will be provided when needed. Call Kirsten if you need help getting information or RSA's. Call Kirsten with busing issues. **(Kirsten Rorke (718) 816-8897 ext. 2511)**

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up, where you can meet with your teacher's and service providers. Kirsten is in the process of planning a Meet and Greet at PS58, to bring parents and teachers together.

New Business:

**Question:** What is the job of a Para?

**Answer:** The para assists in teaching, while promoting independence.

Complaint: Some paras are leaving at 2:30 PM. Kirsten will discuss with parents further and assist.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.**

### Projected Income

Councilman Mitchell	\$1,000
PTA Dues	\$ 300
Box Tops	\$ 150
Cookie dough Sales	\$6,800
Holiday Fair	\$2,000
Plant sale	\$ 800
Carnival donations	\$ 750

**TOTAL \$11,800**

### Projected Expenses

SIFPTA dues	\$ 150
Cookie dough	\$4,200
Holiday Fair	\$1,500
Plant sale	\$ 500
Carnival donation	\$3,000
School Garden Program	\$ 250
Costco Membership	\$ 56
Office supplies	\$ 500
Postage	\$ 500
Postage	\$ 100
Meetings	\$ 300
Future expenses	\$1,244
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,800</b>

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## Pumpkin Patch at Decker Farm in Staten Island

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Part of the **Historic Richmond Town** complex, *Decker Farm* is accessible from HRT by shuttle bus. Decker hosts seasonal farm activities, including an annual autumn pumpkin patch. Saturdays and Sundays in October, and Columbus Day, Monday, October 12, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Visit the historic 1800s Decker farm and bring home a pumpkin; enjoy a self-guided tour, hayride and corn maze. Shuttle bus leaves from HRT parking lot; included in site admission.

\$5/person, \$16/family of 4. Call: 718-351-1611

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## "Understanding Guardianship" - NYS Mental Hygiene Legal Services

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**This Guardianship Workshop that will be hosted on Wednesday, October 28, from 10AM to 12PM. Robin Silverman from NYS Mental Hygiene Legal Services will be presenting.**



Location: Institute for Basic Research, 1050 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY 10314 Registration Required.

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## YMCA Counseling Service "Little Steps"

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Are your children: Sad, angry, confused? Underachieving in school? Withdrawing emotionally? Defying rules and limits?

YMCA Counseling Service can help your child:

\*Understand addiction & alcoholism \* Identify & express feelings appropriately \* Improve interaction with peers & develop social skills

Weekly Group Psychotherapy \* Weekly Parent Groups \* Expressive Arts Therapy

Medicaid and Most Insurance Accepted—Sliding Scale Fees

South Shore (718) 948-3232 North Shore (718) 981-4382



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## Parent to Parent: “Advocacy Training for Parents”

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Save the date! **The NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and St. Mary’s Healthcare System for Children and Parent of Parent of NYS present: “Advocacy Training for Parents”**. This is a workshop for parents of children and adolescents with special needs with specific emphasis on children who are medically fragile.

Learn about:

- *Accessing entitlements*
- *Advocacy with school and healthcare professionals,*
- *Legislative advocacy and*
- *Financial and estate planning to address transitioning concerns.*



**Date:** Saturday, November 21, 2009 **Time:** 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Location:** Institute for Basic Research (IBR), 1050 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY 10314

Registration Required. For more details, please call **(718) 281-8666** **Breakfast and Lunch Provided.**



# OCTOBER 2009

**Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

**Look for your COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER LETTER FOR PS 373R! The PS 373R PTA is sponsoring this event to benefit ALL OUR STUDENTS at ALL OF OUR SITES! Orders are due Wed., Nov. 4, 2009 Contact: Laura Strohm 718-431-4719**



**3 Decker Farm Pumpkin Picking**  
Every weekend in October! 351-1611

**4 2:30 p.m. Mass for Sp. Needs Children** St. Thomas (All Welcome!) 718-984-1156

**5 K-2 Everyday Math Workshop** 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. 91 Henderson

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**8 Dealing with Sibling Issues Workshop** at IBR, 7-9p.m. 718-494-3462

**9 ARIS Training for Parents—** Call 347-563-5281 for a personal appointment

**10 Willowbrook Park Carousel** 12-5 p.m. **Annual Greenbelt Pumpkin Event** 351-3450 \$1.50

**11 DragonFly Workshop w/ SI Museum** at Great Kills Park 12-1:30 p.m. 718-483-7105

**12 NO SCHOOL COLUMN-BUS DAY**



**13 GRACE Foundation** Parent Support Group 10 a.m.—264 Watchogue Rd. 983-3800

**14 ARIS Training for Parents—** Call 347-563-5281 for a personal appointment

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**16 SI ZOO Pumpkin Carving** 6:30 to 8p.m. Pizza, Pumpkins \$15 718-442-3100

**17 Transition Fair for Families w/ Disabilities** 10:30-12:30p.m. **PS721 155 Tompkins Ave 447-2956**

**18 Historic Richmondtown "Old Home Day"** Blacksmiths, beekeepers, "colonial cooks" 718-351-1611

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**20 Spanish Support Group** 10-12pm 91 Henderson 347-265-8991

**21 CCSE Mtg.** 6p.m. IS 43, 100 Essex Drive - NYCDOE Sp. Ed. Updates 718-752-7393

**22 ARIS Training for Parents—** Call 347-563-5281 for a personal appointment

**23 SI Children's Museum Haunted Tour** \$8 5-6:30p.m. 273-2060 Crafts/

**24 Historic Richmond Town "Scary Stories"** 351-1611

**25 SIZOO Spooktacular!** 5:30-9p.m. Call for tickets 442-3100

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**27 PS 373R PTA Meeting** 5:30 p.m. 91 Henderson Ave.

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**29 PS 373R Blood Drive at the Main Site** Auditorium 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

**30 S.I.D.D.C. General Council Mtg.** 9:30 a.m. 718-983-5354

**31 Halloween**



## Schedule of Events

- **Get Trained Today!! ARIS** Achievement Reporting and Innovation System for Parents/Guardians of Students in the NYCDOE system. Call Kirsten Rorke (718) 816-8897 ext. 2511 for your child's ID number and Password.
- 10/8/09 **"Dealing with Sibling Issues"** at the Institute for Basic Research Call Parent to Parent 718-494-3462
- 10/13/09 & 10/27/09 (Autism) **Parent Support Group** 10a.m. at G.R.A.C.E., 718-963-3800 264 Watchogue Rd.
- 10/17/09 Saturday, 10:30—12:30p.m. **PS 721 Transition Fair** 155 Tompkins Ave. 447-2956 Reps from SIDDISO, On Your Mark, Grace Foundation, Social Security, UCP of NYC and CP of NYS, Koicheff Health Care, Parent to Parent DON'T MISS!
- 10/20/09 **Grupo de apoyo para familias en español** 10-12p.m. Contacto Jen Acosta 347-265-8991 - 91 Henderson Avenue, MAIN SITE
- 10/21/09 CCSE, **Citywide Council on Special Education Meeting** 6:30 p.m. at I.S. 43, 100 Essex Drive (Behind the Mall - Come let your voice be heard - Sign up to speak—718-752-7393)
- 10/27/09 **PS 373R PTA Meeting** 5:30 p.m. Main Site 91 Henderson Ave. Sign up NOW for the Holiday Fair!
- 10/29/09 **PS 373R BLOOD DRIVE 9:30 to 1:30 p.m.** Auditorium Main Site -Sign up NOW- Class who has the most Parent/Guardian donors GETS A PIZZA PARTY from JIMMY MAX RESTAURANT! (718) 816-8897 ext. 2511

## S.I. Developmental Disabilities Council October Meeting

**On Friday, October 30th, The Honorable Judge Robert Gigante and Richmond County Surrogate Court Staff will be available for questions concerning Guardianship for individuals with disabilities. Don't miss it!**

Meetings begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and end between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

The meeting room is open at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and light breakfast.

Meetings are held at the Elizabeth Connelly Center, 930 Willowbrook Road, unless otherwise indicated.

**Please Join Now! Call Jackie Tripodi  
718-983-5354**

email: [contactsiddc@aol.com](mailto:contactsiddc@aol.com)

website: <http://www.siddc.org/>

*The SIDDC, which is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, family members, agency and governmental representatives, is a partnership of people who share a mission to develop services and resources, to provide information, promote advocacy and focus on issues that benefit Staten Islanders with developmental disabilities and their families with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of their lives.*

*Many positive changes have come about over the years as a result of the input from the SIDDC in its advisory role to our governing bodies: Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Office (SIDDSO), The New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH). Council members are involved in city and statewide activities with other representatives and legislators that directly affect the future plans of people with developmental disabilities.*

## Grupo de apoyo para familias en español

Este grupo es para familias que hablan español y tienen niños con necesidades especiales. Acompáñenos en un grupo de apoyo donde pueden conversar sobre su familia en español. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, nosotros estamos aquí para ayudarles.

Martes 20 de octubre de 2009 a las 10 a.m.

Escuela P.S. 373R – 91 Henderson Ave.  
(esquina de Lafayette)

Contacto: Jennifer Acosta (347) 265-8991



WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.373VIRTUALPTA.WORDPRESS.COM](http://WWW.373VIRTUALPTA.WORDPRESS.COM)



## AHRC Workshop, Thursday, October 22, 2009

**AHRC Workshop (Association for the Help of Retarded Children) Main Office – 83 Maiden Lane, NYC 10038, Penthouse Thursday, October 22, 2009 from 6pm-8pm**

Join AHRC experts as they provide an overview of Waiver Services, Medicaid, and Social Security Benefits for your family member with a developmental disability. We will outline the eligibility requirements and tell you about the details particular to each benefit along with some little known tools and tips of the trade.

Call Donna Gifford at 212-780-2713 or Jennifer Amendola at 212-895-3446.

## PS 721R Transition Fair 2009, Saturday, Oct. 17th

Attention Parents and Guardians of Children with Disabilities! This is an opportunity to meet the fine folks who will one day provide services for your adult child when they leave the NYC Department of Education.

Representatives from the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office (SIDDSO), On Your Mark, A Very Special Place, GRACE Foundation, Parent to Parent, UCP of NYC and CP of NYS, Koicheff Health Care, Social Security and many more agencies will be joining the staff at Hungerford, PS 721.

**DATE:** Saturday, October 17, 2009

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** PS 721R, The Hungerford Main Site, 155 Tompkins Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10304

**CONTACT:** Janet Manolakos, PC (718) 447-2956

A light lunch will be served. Sorry, they are unable to provide child care.

