

## Guidance Corner – A Message from Ms. Chimera-Stass

The word of the month for March is:  
**COOPERATION**

### Definition of *cooperation*

1: the actions of someone who is being helpful by doing what is wanted or asked for: common effort we are asking for your full *cooperation*.

2: association of persons for common benefit



**Please return your parent survey. Your opinions matter to us!!**



Peggy Wyns-Madison  
PRINCIPAL

Julie Cavanagh  
Assistant Principal



March, 2019

Greetings Families!

March has finally arrived with a gentle dusting of snow. We have reached the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and look forward to springing ahead when day light's savings time kicks in.

Our Deputy Chancellor Chief Academic Officer, Phil Weinberg visited PS 15 on February 28<sup>th</sup> and shared how very impressed he was with his visit and "to witness the wonderful work and the absolute joy taking place within the school." As you may know, our school will participate in a Quality Review on March 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>. The reviewer will visit classrooms, talk to students, staff and parents. We are ready to show the promising instructional practices that are in place and how our students are progressing towards meeting their academic goals.

Please join us on March 14<sup>th</sup> for our parent-teacher conferences. All students will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. **The afternoon conferences will be held from 12:30 pm and end at 2:30 pm. Evening conferences will resume at 4:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm.** Our teachers are setting up appointments for you. Please honor the suggested times and make sure to meet all of the teachers and service providers who work with your child.

We are pleased to announce that our school has been recognized as a Move to Improve All Star School for 2018-19. Many thanks to all of our teachers and our physical education teacher, Mr. Josh Fox for using move-to-improve techniques not only in the gym but also in the classrooms to support active student learning. This designation recognizes our efforts to increase healthy habits for our school community.

Our guidance and social services are expanding. I'm pleased to introduce a new colleague to our staff, Ms. Carolyn Lyons, M.S. Ed. Ms. Lyons is a child and family therapist who has experience working with clients aged 4 to 19. She is a NY State Certified School Counselor and has accepted an F-status position as a guidance counselor from March to June, 2019 of this year. She will work three days of the week, Wednesday-Friday from 8:10 am-2:30 pm. Ms. Stass, our full-time mandated guidance counselor will continue to serve our community of students as well. In addition, the Red Hook Family Counseling Office will be hosting a pilot on-site service at PS 15. The times and dates are as follows:

March 5 from 2:15-4:15 pm  
March 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm and 5:00-6:30 pm  
March 26 from 2:15 pm-5:00 pm

**\*\*continued on page 2\*\***

Gentle reminder—We are noticing more students at younger ages with cellphones in school. Please review the cell phone policy with your child. I'd like to highlight specific items in our school's cellphone policy below:

**“Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may not be used in locker rooms or bathrooms. Cell phones may not be turned on or used while on school property. (Please note: This includes the playgrounds during recess.) Cell phones may not be turned on or used while on field trips. This includes travel to and from the field trip location. Cell phones may not be turned on or used during PS 15 after school intervention or enrichment clubs.”** If you are in need of a copy of the full version of the policy, please contact our parent coordinator.

There have been disturbing reports on the “Momo Challenge” that appears on social media apps: WhatsApp, YouTube, YouTube Kids, Fortnite and Peppa Pig videos, etc. It has been reported that the content is disturbing and dangerous. Please be pro-active and monitor the social media your child has access to and regularly monitor the virtual games or videos your children engage. Let's continue to work together and support the health and wellbeing our students.

As always, I look forward to seeing you again this month for many varied activities for you and your child.

Sincerely,

Peggy Wyns-Madison  
Principal

#### Pre-Kindergarten News

The students in Pre-K are beginning to think about how they, as scientists and artists, use their 5 senses to understand the world around them.

Through fine and performing arts in our new integrated unit of study of *The Five Senses*, students will focus on how we use our five senses (smell, taste, touch, sight and hearing) to explore, investigate, and understand ourselves and our world. In this unit we will support cognitive and language development by encouraging children to observe things in their immediate environment and begin to describe them in detail. These foundational inquiry and science skills will spark curiosity and interest of the students as they start to use those observations to make predictions, ask questions and draw conclusions.

We look forward to seeing you on March 14, 2019 for Parent Teacher Conferences, and mark your calendars for March 15, 2019, as well. Our students will be marching in *The Littlest Leprechaun Parade* which will be followed by a PTA sponsored parent activity directly after.

#### Kindergarten News

We hope March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb! In March, kindergarteners will work on subtraction and counting, identifying, and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. We will be wrapping up our Wacky Weather unit. Children are really making strides in their reading. Please make sure that they continue to read every night and review sight words. Please make sure your child is using Raz-Kids at home, if you still need help with the username and password please come see your child's teacher for assistance. We will celebrate the arrival of spring and St. Patrick's Day. Be on the lookout for information about our parade. See you at Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, March 14th!



## March Birthdays



Alejandro Aguilar  
Victor Alcantara-Lebron  
Avery Reed  
Edward Baloch  
Amy Beltre  
Boomer Bailey  
Osmary Britto Llaverias  
Khamiya Bynum  
Aaron Cherry  
Diante Chery  
Shawn Cina-Belis  
Melanie Delgado  
Teagan Devaney  
Pavle Devis  
Emmet Donato  
Lancaster Fowler  
Grace Gathers  
Savannah Green  
Scott Green  
Satchel Haynes  
Mackenzie Johnson  
Leilaani Jusino  
James Kemp

Nevaeh Kiser Anderson  
Jordin Lopez  
Antonio McBean-Colbert  
Latrell McClellan  
Omar Meza Perez  
Kantapon Miller  
Jayden Minaya  
Gael Marin-Solis  
William Murillo  
Skylaa Nunez  
Beatrice O'Dea  
Steven Robinson  
Summer Roman  
Kiyah Samuels  
Isabella Scott-Nuti  
Daunte Smith  
Jahwai Spencer  
Makayla Torres  
Waverly Van Aalsburg  
Skylar Vanderhorst  
Sumyha White  
Tenaj Young



**Parent Teacher Conference  
Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**DISMISSAL IS AT 11:30 am**

**Conference Times  
12:30 – 2:30 pm  
4:30 – 7:30 pm**

**PTA/FTF Aftercare will run from 11:30 – 3:30 pm only.  
All other afterschool programs will NOT be in session.**



First Grade News

March is an exciting month for first graders! In both reading and writing we are continuing our Magnet unit “On the Move... Transportation in our Community”. We will continue to look at subway cars and begin designing our own subway car.

First graders will continue to read both fiction and nonfiction texts. We will revisit writing small moment stories. Students will focus on writing with detail and dialogue to help bring their stories to life!

First grade mathematicians will revisit telling time to the hour and half hour on our monthly calendar. They will continue to practice fact fluency through mad minute math. In Go Math, we’ll use place value to model, read and write numbers to 120!

Second Grade News

Second Grade will continue to work in the genre of Non-Fiction. We are finishing up our unit on New Amsterdam and can't wait to share what we've learned and created. Our next unit will soon be under way and the students will be learning about different communities: urban, suburban and rural. In math we are working on three-digit addition and subtraction. Please continue to have your child read every day for at least twenty minutes.

Third Grade News

The third grade is focusing on our new magnet unit, Africa. We left China and are now heading west to the continent of Africa. We will be learning about Nigeria which is one of the 54 countries in Africa. Nigeria is located in the western part of Africa, near the west coast. We will be learning about the country’s history, geography, government, culture and traditions. This month, we will be continuing to have our dance program visiting our classrooms one day each week. They are helping us incorporate dance with our everyday lessons and Magnet unit. In our math workshop, we are continuing our learning about two digit multiplication, basic division and fractions. In our Writer's Workshop, we are responding to different types of literature and different types of questions that help support student's ability to practice testing strategies.

Fourth Grade News

March is here! This month fourth grade will complete their research and writing projects on Native Americans of NY and begin the Social Studies unit of Colonial Times. We will study the Middle, New England, and Southern Colonies and learn about how they were formed during this era. We will continue to prepare for the ELA state test by studying various text structures and responding to text based questions. In Math, Fourth grade will be hard at work learning about fractions as we also continue to strengthen our long division skills. The fourth grade would like to wish the Red Hook community a Happy Spring!

Fifth Grade News

Fractions, fraction everywhere! In the fifth grade we are knee deep in fractions. This is sometimes a hard concept for our students to understand. It's important for them to see that fractions are everywhere around them: when cooking, eating, how we tell time, and of course, when we calculate money. Fractions will seem less scary once they realize they are everywhere and used all the time. In writing, we are winding down our Opinion Unit. Students are learning how to substantiate their opinions with relevant facts. Don't be surprised if your child becomes a debater at home!