

Guidance Corner – A Message from Ms. Chimera-Stass

The Word of the Month for November is
GRATITUDE

Definition:

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

"she expressed her gratitude to the committee for their support"

Gratitude is the best medicine. It heals your mind, your body and your spirit and attracts more things to be grateful for.

Parents of 5th Graders

Parent Teacher conferences are on Thursday 11/15 from 12:30-2:30 and 4:30-7:30. I will be available in the library to assist with middle school applications. They are due 12/2! If you cannot make it schedule an appointment with me at another time.

gchimerastass@schools.nyc.gov

or 718-722-6609



71 Sullivan St.
Brooklyn, NY 11231
Phone: (718) 330-9280
Fax: (718) 596-2576

Peggy Wynn-Madison
Principal
pwynns@schools.nyc.gov

Julie Cavanagh
Assistant Principal
jcavanagh@schools.nyc.gov

P.S.15 THE PATRICK F. DALY
Magnet School of the Arts

November, 2019

Greetings PS 15 Families!

This is the month of the year where we can all marvel at the autumn colors that emerge each day right outside of our windows. It is also a time of gratitude and thanksgiving. So know how much you, our PS 15 families are appreciated and how thankful we are for all that you do on behalf of our children.

Congratulations to our new PTA Executive Board! They are as follows:

- Co-Presidents: Katherine Sing and Cateia Rembert
- Co-Vice Presidents: Sandrine Lago and Katherine Thompson
- Co-Treasurers: Zohar Kfir and Katie Dixon
- Co-Secretaries: Debbie Riservato and Justin Riservato
- Congratulations to our newly elected Title I Chair: Edwin Pacheco

Parent involvement is an essential component to the success of our school. Please support your child's PTA. Attend our PTA meetings. The executive board is working hard to support our school in every way possible. Your time, talent and input matter!

As temperatures continue to dip down, please be sure your child is prepared for the elements. Coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots/sneakers are essential for recess. Children will go outside for recess as long as it is not raining and temperatures are not "frigid". You may also want to consider labeling the inside of his/her clothing as many student items look similar. Do encourage your children to visit the "Lost & Found" bin; there are SEVERAL items that have been "found" this school year.

Last month, we focused on introducing the new math curriculum to families at my Sip and Learn series. As you support your child at home, know that our staff is working to help your child with mathematical practices, which are as follows:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Please join me on Wednesday, November 6th for the next Sip and Learn on reading and reading responses. It is open to all families of students in grades PK-5.

Report cards will be distributed to students in Grades 1-5 on Wednesday, November 13th.
(Please note: Kindergarteners do not receive a report card until January. However, kindergarten families are encouraged to come to the parent/teacher conference to find out

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what your child is working on and how the child is progressing academically.) As you review the report card, please note your child's attendance for the marking period. Many of our students have made great strides to improve their attendance. It's essential that your child report to school on time. Our school day begins at 8:10 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you on November 14th for our first parent-teacher conferences. **All students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.** Our afternoon conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm and the evening conference is from 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

Here are some questions that may help you have a productive conversation with the teacher:

- What is my child expected to learn, know, and do at this grade level?
- What does my child do well, and what does my child struggle with? Can you give me examples?
- How do you know when my child is making progress and when they need additional help?
- What are you doing to support and motivate my child?
- How do you challenge my child when they are already doing well at something?
- What does my child get excited about learning?
- What can I do at home to support my child?
- Are there programs or services in the community that could also help my child?
- Are there times when my child is more or less engaged?
- Has my child made friends?
- How does my child get along with classmates and adults?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and group activities?

As always, I am grateful for the unyielding support of my staff and you, our families. Enjoy this season of thanksgiving and know that you are appreciated. I look forward to seeing you throughout the month.

Sincerely,

Peggy Wyns-Madison

Pre-Kindergarten News

Our youngest learners have settled in nicely and are learning all about *Fantastic Fall* in the Pre-K classrooms! Through exploration and investigation, the students are taking a closer look at the changes that occur during this season while participating in art, drama, music and movement activities. All the while, continuing our yearlong study of *All About Me* and ways to manage the different feelings we all experience.

Kindergarten News

As we welcome the month of November, kindergartners will reflect on what we are thankful for. We are working on our Magnet Unit "Our School Community". Students will have an opportunity to interview some of the staff members. In reading, we will continue to explore familiar books. At home, please encourage your child to stretch their words and listen for the sounds that they hear. Our letter study is well under way; please support this at home by reviewing the letters and their sounds with your child on a daily basis. As the weather gets colder, please be sure to dress your child appropriately. We will continue to go outside on the playground, please make sure your child has the necessary clothing items to keep them warm. We will start our first residency with Marquis Studios called "Circus Arts". The residency will take place every Thursday. Thank you for your continued support!

November Birthdays



Milan Alava
Alden Arthur
Joseph Brown
Princeton Chan
Joseph Chappel
Londyn Cherry
Lola Derris
Harmony Dudley
Jayden Espinal
Nathalie Esteban
Ruby Fleming
Keymori Franklin
Malachi Green
Rishi Hamilton
Luis Hernandez
Mia Hernandez
Judalys Hierro Vargas
Ethan Honore
Jordyn Hudson
Caroline Hulen

Jeremiah Johnson
Lucis Jollon
Wynne Libbee
Brandon Maradiaga-Nieto
Annabri McCloud
Luke O'Dea
Roberto Palapa
Liam Peets
Felix Pendry
Quanasia Phillips
Noah Rivera
Uno Shaye
Isaiah Simmonds
Jamyia Smith
Haylee Sosa
Jayden Soto
Kenya Thomas-Dennis
Josiah Westbrook
Orign Williams
Aaliyah Zokari

November Happenings!

- **Students are not in session on the following days in November: Tuesday, 11/5, Monday, 11/11, Thursday 11/28 and Friday 11/29**
- **Principals' Sip & Learn 11/6 8:15 Library**
- **DOH Vision Screening for Kindergarten and 1st Grade 11/13**
- **Open House for 2020 Kindergarten Seats 11/13 8:30 am**
- **11/14 Parent Teacher Conference DISMISSAL 11:30 AM**
 - **Sessions 12:30 to 2:30 – 4:30 to 7:30**
 - **PTA/PS15 Aftercare 11:30 to 3:30**
 - **NO BEACON/GOOD SHEPHERD PROGRAM**
- **Picture Day 11/18**
- **PTA Meeting 11/20, 8:15 am Auditorium**

Dear Colleagues, Families and Members of the District 15 Community:

As you are probably aware, the DOE has been partnering with CEC 15 and school communities since spring 2019 to develop a collaborative rezoning and admissions plan that aims to increase diversity and integration, reduce overcrowding, and advance equity. This planning has involved seven zoned schools: P.S. 38, P.S. 261, P.S. 32, P.S. 15, P.S. 29, P.S. 58 and P.S. 676 Red Hook Neighborhood School.

The engagement process has been community-driven, entailing extensive outreach across this area of the district. Many planning meetings were held with CEC members, principals, and SLTs, along with 12 public community meetings, many of which were targeted to reach families in historically underserved communities, such as Red Hook and Gowanus.

As a result of this engagement, the DOE and the CEC heard from hundreds of District 15 community members. One piece of feedback that stood out was the need for more time to consider potential plans and further empower historically underserved communities in the process through Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods that directly connect community members with other community members to maximize participation in the process.

Given community and CEC feedback, the DOE announced at last week's CEC meeting that it has decided not to submit a proposal for 2020-2021 implementation in order to provide more time to hear from as many voices as possible, and to further empower communities. Therefore, instead of submitting a proposal for a vote by the CEC for implementation beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, we will work with our communities on **PAR and other engagement opportunities with the goal of a Spring 2020 vote for 2021-2022 implementation. The DOE is also planning a similar process for potential rezoning in Sunset Park aligned to new schools and buildings opening over the next few years.**

In the coming weeks, the DOE will begin months-long engagement with the CEC and other community stakeholders about the process, and expects to provide further details at the November 19 CEC meeting. Please note that while the zone for P.S. 32 will remain unchanged for the 2020-2021 school year, the school will use the new facilities in the addition to increasing enrollment accordingly.

If anyone in the community has feedback on what this process should ultimately look like, please reach out to me, your Superintendent, at 718-935-4317 or by e-mail at askop@schools.nyc.gov, or e-mail brooklynzoning@schools.nyc.gov.

I want to thank the CEC members for their ongoing partnership and you, the dedicated District 15 community, for your continued willingness to engage in this process as we continue to develop a plan that advances equity and excellence for all our students.

Sincerely yours,
Anita Skop
Community Superintendent-District 15

First Grade News

In November, first grade writers are moving away from small moment stories and diving into the exciting world of information writing! First grade will be writing "How to" books and teaching books all about a topic!

In reading workshop, students have been practicing reading both independently and with a partner. This month, readers are learning about the world and getting smart about nonfiction topics.

First grade mathematicians are continuing to study addition concepts, counting within and beyond 120. We'll also be working on subtraction!

First grade is continuing to work on their magnet unit, which takes a look at families now and long ago. We'll begin interviewing family members and documenting their oral histories.

Second Grade News

In November second grade will be working on becoming experts in reading and writing non-fiction. We will also continue to improve our writing and reading by building accuracy and stamina. Second grade is excited to be delving into our first magnet unit study of New Amsterdam, which explores NYC over time. This magnet unit incorporates reading, writing and social studies! In math, we are working with equal groups. Students are learning about even and odd numbers and using and making arrays to find totals. This will help our students develop a strong number sense. Please continue to have students read every night and have a happy November!

Third Grade News

In Reading -We will be learning how to grasp the main idea within a text. Students will learn how text structures help in organizing information and further comprehension.

In Writing -We will start our Informational Unit in writing. Students will learn how to use a text to inform readers about a non-fiction topic.

In Social Studies: Our unit of study will be on the country of Nigeria. We will be studying Nigeria's geography, culture, history and how it's geography influences and shapes the country.

In Math: We will continue to understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.

Fourth Grade News

In November, fourth graders will move onto the Social Studies Unit, The Age of Exploration, which will lead to Native American People. We will use expository resources to gather information about explorers and the daily life of Native Americans. In math, we will be working on multiplying numbers by one and two digits. In literacy, fourth graders are studying informational texts with a focus on identifying text structures and features. We will continue responding to literature with an emphasis on text-based questions throughout the year.

Fifth Grade News

This month the 5th grade is wrapping up our middle school tours, November 1st (448) and November 4th (136). Parents are, of course welcome to tour the middle schools on their own - which we strongly recommend. On November 14th, Open-school night, Ms. Stass will provide more information regarding the applications.

We have completed our Narrative writing unit and will be moving on to Informational. Students will be provided a variety of topic from which to choose and write about. Please continue to have your child read for at least 35 minutes a night. See you all on November 14th!