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"A community school committed to academic and personal excellence for all students"

Stephanie Carroll
Principal
Maria Guzman
Assistant Principal

December 5, 2016

Dear P.S. 307 Families and Friends:

Greetings to all of you. T'is the season for a number of exciting things taking place here at P.S. 307.

While the U.S. Presidential election is over, we are just beginning our own elections for President and Student Government. Students in grades 3-5 have been campaigning (respectfully and with poise) for a variety of positions. On Thursday, December 8th, elections will be held.

I will be meeting with the Student Government Cabinet on a monthly basis. As representatives of the entire student body, it is important for them to be given multiple opportunities to share what they want and need from their school. It is also important for them to be reminded of what they can do to contribute and make a difference to our community. I look forward to learning the results and beginning these conversations.

If you were not here on December 1st at 6 p.m., you missed a great workshop introducing families to the Sounds Fun program, created by Lois Heymann. This program came to us through our partnership with Dr. Jane Aronson. Dr. Jane collaborated with Lois Heymann in the development of Element of Play and the accompanying toy library. Lois Heymann trained staff, who with great enthusiasm, teach our students to learn the sounds of letters and use them to form words and build their auditory and literacy skills.

We will be holding another session in January. Please check the P.S. 307 website to learn more about the program and save the date for the next opportunity.

Our school library is coming together quite nicely. We have recently installed 9 brand new desktop iMac Pros, received through a grant, for students and staff, as well as a laptop cart with 15 Macbook pros. More will be added, including a Promethean board, so stay tuned.

Our student peer mediators have been trained and are actively conducting Peer Mediation whenever the situation calls for it. They were recognized for their contributions at our Community Meeting on November 30th and I have to say they are taking their positions quite seriously. We are all very proud of them.

The afterschool academy for students in grades 2-5 began on December 1st. Students participating in the academy will be working on specific standards in math and English language arts that they are in need of mastering as they prepare for earlier NYS testing. If you are interested in signing your child up for this opportunity, please do so as soon as possible.

We are not in favor of test prepping students extensively as we believe that every day access to a viable curriculum and strong instruction is essential. However, I do believe in setting students up for success and

opening up doors for them that might otherwise not open, such as getting selected to a great middle school. We will be hosting another information session for families of students in grades 2-5 on the NYS English Language Arts and Math exams on December 13th. I encourage you to come, get informed, and learn ways to support your child as they prepare for these exams.

In keeping with P.S. 307 tradition, you will not want to miss our Winter Concert on December 16th. Come and get in the spirit of the season as we watch our students celebrate the winter and upcoming holidays. Each year tops the previous one ☺

At our Community meeting on November 30th, our theme was being the best that we can be and gratitude. All of our students want to be the best that they can be and our job is to help them do this. In the spirit of gratitude, I want to thank our families and friends who collaborate with us and support us so that we can make this happen for every child. It is so critical that we work together. At the end of the day all of us; families, teachers and staff, evaluate ourselves based on the impact we have made on our children. And, yes in our eyes, they are our children too. ☺

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season full of peace, love, and tons of happiness.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll
Principal

Reminders:

- Check your December calendar for important dates.
- This Wednesday the 7th there is a PAC (Title 1 Parent Advisory Committee) meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- This Thursday the 8th is Picture Day retakes and Graduation Picture Day
- Student Elections on Thursday, the 8th.
- Don't forget to visit ps307.com regularly for updates on all things P.S. 307.