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

Stephanie Carroll

Principal

Maria Guzman

Assistant Principal

January 3, 2017

Dear P.S. 307 Friends and Families:

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

As I wished the P.S. 307 staff and students, I also wish you a new year full of new dreams, goals, and an abundance of energy.

With 2016 behind us, we have our eyes set on the next couple months, including preparing for the New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics Exam which begin in March and end in May for grades 3-5. You may think that this has little to do with students in grades K-2, however, it does impact grades K-2.

This year we have been focusing a lot on the standards. Our curriculum has been selected with the standards in mind and, as you know, there are standards for students in grades Kindergarten through grade 12. Teachers work together in Professional Learning Communities across grades as a way to unpack these standards and plan to ensure that pre-requisite skills are mastered at the appropriate time so that they can be built upon as students move up through the grades. Because teachers are working across grades, they are able to see how the building blocks form continuity and cohesiveness. Teachers in grades 3-5 look at the released items from the ELA and Math state exams to study how the standards are measured. This also helps to inform teachers in grades K-2.

For families in grades 3-5, it is important for you to be familiar with what students need to know, understand and be able to do to demonstrate mastery of standards. For families in grades Kindergarten through 2, it is important to understand the necessary pre-requisite skills that your child will need to prevent any gaps learning. This being said, there are two upcoming events in particular that I urge you to attend. The first, is "Pizza and Problem Solving" on January 12th, facilitated by Ms. Kady Safar, our third grade ICT teacher. The focus will be on supporting students with mathematical problem-solving through the use of various strategies. On January 17th, we will host another Family Literacy Night, led by our Literacy Coach, Ms. Crystal Brinn. These are great opportunities to engage with the curriculum and learn how to further support your child.

Beloved Community

On January 20, 2017 we will have our second annual Martin Luther King Jr. concert, wherein we honor Dr. King's vision for a **Beloved Community**. You will definitely not want to miss it!

Coffee and Conversations

Our next round of Coffee and Conversations will be held on Monday, January 9th for families of grades Pre-K, K, and 1. Wednesday, January 11th for grades 4 and 5 and Tuesday, January 17th for grades 2 and 3. All

sessions are held in the library and begin at 8:15 a.m. I look forward to having coffee and conversation with you.

Parent Engagement

P.S. 307 loves family engagement and we truly believe the more involvement the better. We are seeking families who either have a special talent or an area of expertise or know people who do to come out and share this knowledge with our students. Please consider helping us to inspire our future leaders as they see first-hand all the possibilities that exist for them.

In addition to this, we are still seeking volunteers for a variety of assignments. Please reach out to the PTA or Ms. Servena Narine, Magnet Resource Specialist, if you are interested in becoming involved.

Family Handbook

In the beginning of the school year, we distributed Family Handbooks. If you have not received one or happen to have misplaced it, feel free to pick one up in the main office or visit www.ps307.com. On page 19 of the handbook, there is a *Who to Ask About...* section. I have a great team of people who are equipped to handle many of the inquiries that families have and, as much as I would love to accommodate every family who visits the main office, I am also committed to spending as much time in the classrooms and on the ground as possible. However, you should always feel comfortable scheduling a meeting with me if you have any concerns that you feel cannot be addressed by my team. You may also email me directly at scarroll2@schools.nyc.gov.

“Sometimes the littlest voices have the biggest things to say.”

This Friday, January 5th, I will be meeting with our newly elected Student Government. I am looking forward to hearing what they have to say regarding the state of P.S. 307 and how they will work together to enrich the student body experience. Very exciting!

Once again, I wish you all great things for 2017 and thank you always for choosing P.S. 307.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll
Principal