



Daniel Hale Williams ~ Public School 307  
 The Magnet School for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Studies  
 209 York Street ~ Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel. 718-834-4748 ~ Fax 718-855-4181 ~ [www.ps307.com](http://www.ps307.com)

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

**Stephanie Carroll**

Principal

**Maria Guzman**

Assistant Principal

September 16, 2016

Dear P.S. 307 Families:

It has been a wonderful beginning. Students are getting to know their classmates and teachers. Our old timers are familiar with the routines and quick to learn the new routines and our new students are melding in perfectly.

We had our first Fire Drill yesterday afternoon and everyone was well-prepared. It was evident that teachers had gone over the protocol for evacuation of the building with the students because they were quiet, alert, and following instructions. Please reiterate to your child how important it is that they are practicing safety and that, as I told them after the drill, I am very proud of them.

On Thursday and Friday, we reviewed with students, some of the fundamental rules and procedures that are important for all our students to follow as they work at always being a P.S. 307 scholar. Each morning the students recite the following:

*I am a P.S. 307 scholar.*

*I am expected to leave a lasting legacy by always striving for excellence.*

*Every day I am an active, enthusiastic and responsible learner.*

*I work hard and make smart choices.*

*I am respectful of myself, my school and my community.*

*I am inspired to contribute generously to the wellbeing of my school.*

We discussed with students what this looks like and sounds like at different parts of the day. We messaged the importance of being in school on time every day and encouraged them to earn as many STAR Bucks as possible. We will also share this information with you on Back to School Night on September 22<sup>nd</sup> so that you also can encourage your child to be a STAR Student.

### **Embracing Diversity**

As you know last year's rezoning of P.S. 307 and P.S. 8 put our two schools in national and international headlines. I am glad that that we have moved on from last year's debate and into a new discussion about P.S. 307. A diversity plan that is inclusive and respectful of preserving all that is great about P.S. 307 is a big part of the work this year. I am neither a politician nor a spokesperson for anyone other than our students. Yet, I believe firmly in my heart, that fostering a community where diversity is celebrated, where everyone feels a true

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sense of belonging to a greater good, and everyone is valued and given unlimited opportunities to thrive makes for a perfect school. I say a perfect school because any school that is committed to making this a reality for every child is investing in our future and making the world a much better place.

That being said, staff members from a non-profit effort called **The Public Good (a partnership between Teachers College, Columbia University and New York Appleseed)** may be contacting you in the coming weeks and months to listen to your thoughts, priorities, and vision for the future of PS 307. Your participation will help to preserve the core values and traditions of P.S. 307 as new students and parents become part of our school community.

I encourage you to give them a chance to hear your own ideas and reflections! If you would like to reach out to the Public Good team directly, please e-mail **Juontel White** [jw2866@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:jw2866@tc.columbia.edu) or **Dominic Walker** [dtw2120@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:dtw2120@tc.columbia.edu) to set up a meeting this month or in October.

### **Back to School Night – Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> (4:30-7:30 p.m.)**

Our staff is eager to share with you all the wonderful things your child will be learning and engaged in this school year. Back to School Night will begin in the Auditorium at 4:30. Please anticipate being here for the duration of the time as you will be also visiting your child's classroom for an informative presentation from the teacher/s.

In addition to learning about the curriculum, instruction, and student enrichment opportunities, you can look forward to hearing more about:

#### **Element of Play**

A very special guest, Dr. Jane Aronson, Pediatrician and founder of Element of Play, will be with us to unveil the Toy Library in our new Family Resource Center. The Toy Library is an essential part of the Element of Play program that Dr. Aronson and her team have brought to P.S. 307. We are very excited about this program and about what it means to our students, our families, and the community and we look forward to sharing more about Element of Play with you on Back to School Night.

#### **Fostering Independence in Grades 3, 4 and 5**

Yesterday we shared with students in grades 3, 4 and 5 that they are being entrusted with traveling to their classrooms by themselves at arrival. This is a new procedure and one that the staff agreed we would try out.

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Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will still be required to line up outside by 8 am. Designated staff will then direct them to go upstairs to their classrooms where they will be greeted by their teacher at the classroom door. Students who do not follow the directions for traveling through the building will have the privilege taken away until they can demonstrate that they are responsible.

### **Communication**

On the first day of school, families received a Family Handbook. The handbook can also be found on our website, [www.ps307.com](http://www.ps307.com) in the About P.S. 307 section.

The purpose of the handbook is to facilitate communication and to keep you informed so that you can best support your child. I welcome any feedback you have regarding the handbook and its contents as I want it to be user friendly.

### **Coffee and Conversation with Principal Carroll**

Like last year, I will be hosting a series of Coffee and Conversations with families. The first round of Coffee and Conversation with Principal Carroll is during the week of September 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:15-9:00 a.m. in the Family Resource Room (room 202).

Pre-K and Grade 1 – Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

Grade 2 and 3 – Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Grade 4 and 5 – Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

I wish everyone a wonderful weekend and I look forward to welcoming you back at Back to School Night next Thursday.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll  
Principal

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