



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



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

Stephanie Carroll
Principal
Maria Guzman
Assistant Principal

November 4, 2016

Dear P.S. 307 Families:

What a fantastic end to a great week. Our students, your children, were so articulate during Student-Led Conferences! It was such a pleasure to watch and listen to our students present to families and teachers and share their evidence of progress, goal-setting, and action steps for improving as a learner. I know that some of our students were nervous and I think that might be a good sign, because it shows that they care about their learning and about doing their best. This was a great starting point and necessary for students to take ownership of their learning as they move into the rest of the school year and beyond.

The important aspect of the conferences is that it also addresses critical Speaking and Listening standards that our children will need to master in order to be on track to college and career readiness. Being smart isn't enough. However, communicating what you know, don't know, and what you intend to do about it in a confident manner is. There is definitely a sense of urgency coming out of the students today and I know that this approach to engaging students in their learning will have far reaching impact on their achievement.

If you were not able to make it in yesterday, please schedule an appointment for any Tuesday during the month of November with your child's teacher. It is important that every student get an opportunity to lead a conference. We are very flexible.

I am happy to announce that our school's PTA is extremely busy recruiting volunteers and fundraising for our school. Yesterday, in addition to the wonderful baked goods they were selling, the PTA set up a voting booth for students, staff, and families to vote for enrichment and extracurricular activities they would like to see here at P.S. 307. I cannot wait to hear the results. So, while the students are too young to vote in this upcoming election, they are already learning about the democratic process and the power of individual and group voice ☺

Family workshops have begun. Two weeks ago we hosted an ELA and Math Test information session for families in grades 2-5, giving the 2nd grade families a head start in preparing to support their children. We have already hosted 2 of our 6 Saturday Parent and Child Engineering workshops through our partnership with CUNY. Dates for the next 4 sessions are posted on our website and 2016-2017 calendar. Please save the date for the next one on Saturday, December 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the P.S. 307 STEM lab, Room 254.

We also hosted our STEM Family Night on October 18th. Thanks to the families who came out to engage in STEM learning with their child. It was truly a STEM for all experience. Our upcoming Literacy Family Night will be November 15th for K-2 families. Look forward to lots of information and great ideas for making literacy a family affair.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten staff have begun receiving training in the *Element of Play* program and the use of the Toy Library as a tool to nurture social and communication development. Side by side with the Sounds Fun program aimed at auditory process building, we are equipping ourselves with ways to further support our students holistically; All very exciting. Our families are invited to an *Element of Play* training, taking place at the Toy Library in our Family Resource Room on December 1st from 6-7 p.m. We encourage you to come out and experience it.

Finally, I wanted to reach out to urge additional families to volunteer during arrival and breakfast. P.S. 307 offers a free breakfast program and we open our doors 30 minutes ahead of the actual start time of 8:00 a.m. We rely heavily on volunteers to assist as most of the staff begin their work day at 8:00 a.m. We are happy to receive so many students for breakfast because it's a great time to make connections and transition to first period. However, we also want to ensure the safety of our students by increasing the adult to student ratio. If your time permits and you are interested in lending a hand, please reach out to the school and the PTA. We want to sustain the breakfast program, but I admit that we need help in this capacity.

Please continue to review the website weekly for important grade news and school updates.

Thanks so much for your continued support of the school and the students we serve.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll
Principal