

P.S. 196Q
THE GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY SCHOOL
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schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/Q196/default.htm

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Susan Migliano
Principal

May 2010 Newsletter

Dear Families:

As the year winds down, we wanted to keep you up to date on all of the great things happening at PS196. Here are some highlights:

Math-a-thon

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated in this year's Math-a-thon. We are thrilled to announce that our students raised \$4,732 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Yes, you read it right...four thousand seven hundred and thirty-two dollars!!! All first through fifth grade students who participated will receive a certificate, and those who were able to raise more will get prizes including t-shirts, backpacks and electronics. As soon as the goodies arrive, we will distribute them to the students. Kudos to Ms. Koatz for doing a terrific job in organizing this very special event. Thank you again for all of your help in making this year's Math-a-thon such a resounding success...and keep up that giving spirit...the Read-a-thon for Literacy Day is coming up soon.

Literacy Day

On May 27th we will be celebrating our fourth Literacy Day. To launch Literacy Day we are challenging our families to participate in our second Read-a-thon. The money that is raised by our students will be donated to FirstBook.org, which provides new books to children in need. This year's theme is P.S.196 Goes Wild for Reading. We have planned many fun-filled activities to ensure that this day will be memorable. The activities include decorating our classroom doors with our favorite books that feature animals, puppets of our favorite animal characters, literature trivia and other games. The children will have a chance to read independently or with a reading buddy throughout the day in their pajamas. We will have many guest readers in our classrooms. We are looking forward to another terrific Literacy Day.

Author Visit

We are excited to announce that author Dan Greenburg will be visiting our school on Thursday, May 13th. Most students know Mr. Greenburg through his Zack Files and Dripping Fang series. Children from all grades will be hearing Mr. Greenburg read, and will have the opportunity to have their books autographed.

Katie Couric Comes to PS196

Speaking of special visitors, CBS News Anchor Katie Couric will be coming to PS196 on May 25th from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. to read to our children. Ms. Couric, the author of The Brand New Kid and The Blue Ribbon Day, will be speaking with all of our students about being an author. There are limited spaces available for parents to attend, so if you are interested, please contact our Parent Coordinator, Ellen Maurer.

The Wiz

Our P.S. 196 Theater Arts program is busy rehearsing for our show, “The Wiz”. The children are learning their lines and singing and dancing, as we follow the Yellow Brick Road. Please join us on June 19th at 7:00 p.m. to “ease on down the road”.

In the Heights

On Wednesday, June 9th, our graduating class of 2010 will be traveling into Manhattan to see the Broadway musical “In the Heights” and have lunch at Planet Hollywood. A good time will be had by all.

Spring Concert

On May 20th at 6:00 p.m. parents are invited to our school’s Annual Spring Concert. Our 4th and 5th grade chorus, under the direction of our music teacher, Ms. Lee will take us through a musical experience with songs by The Beatles and Michael Jackson. Grade 3 to 5 students will play solo instruments, such as the piano, cello, violin, and the guitar. There will be school wide performances for the children to attend on May 21st.

International Night

We are very excited to announce that on May 26th P.S. 196 will hold its annual International Night, which highlights the school’s commitment to cultural awareness and ethnic heritage in our community. The school wide event, sponsored by the Parents Association, will be held in our lunchroom and outdoor café.

This event is our chance to showcase the many cultures at our school and in our community. Parents bring delicious homemade foods representing their cultures. Many parents come dressed in traditional clothes, and the decorations include magnificent paper dolls created by students and their families. There will also be a silent auction at the event.

Kindergarten Show

Our annual kindergarten celebration will be on May 26th at 9:30 a.m. This event gives our little ones the opportunity to showcase their talents. It also gives our kindergarten parents the opportunity to gush over their children. This year’s performance will include songs and poetry.

Parent Workshops

On Thursday, May 13th at 7:45 a.m., our guidance counselor, Ms. Corbett, will be giving a workshop on “Helping our Families Cope With Divorce”. Also, on May 18th at 3:15 p.m., Ms. Raber, our science teacher, will present a workshop to 4th grade parents on the upcoming science exams. If you have ideas for other parent workshops for this year or next year, please contact our Parent Coordinator, Ellen Maurer, at school or by e-mail (emaurer@schools.nyc.gov).

A Place I Call My Own

by Xiyuan Sharon Yu – Class 5-218

It's a place where trees reach the sky
A place where meadows never end

The grass sways back and forth gracefully
A river near by shimmers under the sun

It's filled with different creatures
Friends are always nearby
Asking if you can play

Every time I see this place
A smile lights up my face.

Schedule of Events in May

May 6	Lunch Collection
May 5-6	New York State Math Exams (Grades 3 & 5)
May 5-7	New York State Math Exams (Grade 4)
May 7	Police Officer visits First Grade
May 12	English Language Arts and Math Field Test (Grades 3-5)
May 13	Dan Greenburg – Author Visit
May 13	Parent Workshop: Helping Our Families Cope with Divorce 7:45 a.m.
May 15	Science Saturday Academy (Grade 4)
May 17-27	NYSESLAT* Tests for English Language Learner (ELL) students
May 18	Science Field Test (4 th Grade)
May 18	Parent Wrkshp: What to Expect on the 4 th Grade Science Exams 3:15 p.m.
May 18	Parents Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.
May 20	Spring Concert 6:00 p.m.
May 21	School Leadership Team 7:30 a.m.
May 22	Science Saturday Academy (Grade 4)
May 24	New York State Science Exam—Hands-on (4-113, 4-116, 4-211)
May 25	New York State Science Exam—Hands-on (4-213, 4-220, ELLs)
May 25	Celebrate America (2 nd Grade) 12:30 p.m.
May 25	Katie Couric, Author Visit 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
May 26	New York State Science Exams—Hands-on (students with test mods)
May 26	Kindergarten Show 9:30 a.m.
May 26	International Night 6:30 p.m.

May 27 Literacy Day
May 28 Coffee & Conversation, 7:45 a.m.
May 28 4th Grade Show, 9:00 a.m.
May 31 Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

*New York State English as a Second Language Aptitude Test

Schedule of Events in June

June 4 Lunch Collection
June 7 New York State Science Exam—Written (All 4th Grade Students)
June 8 Half Day – Students dismissed at noon
June 9 5th Grade trip to Broadway Show “In the Heights”
June 10 Chancellor’s Day – NO SCHOOL
June 15 Class Parent Breakfast
June 15 Parents Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.
June 17 Half Day – Students dismissed at noon
June 18 School Leadership Team 7:30 a.m.
June 18 End of 3rd Marking Period
June 19 The Wiz, 7:00 p.m.
June 21 Field Day
June 23 5th Grade Graduation
June 24 Graduation Dance
June 25 Coffee & Conversation, 7:45 a.m.
June 28 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – Report Cards Distributed

Sincerely yours,

Susan Migliano

P.S. Looking for ways to help your children with grammar? Take a peak at the Literacy Corner on our web site (schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/Q196/default.htm) for some helpful links.

PS196 Goal Highlights for 2009-2010

- ✓ We are using horizontal (same grade) and vertical (across grades) teacher teams to share best teaching practices and improve student achievement.
- ✓ We are increasing collaboration and cohesiveness between our special education and general education teachers to improve instruction.
- ✓ We are focusing on strengthening students’ reading achievement through improved instruction.
- ✓ We are enhancing our use of data, in order to better differentiate instruction for all students.
- ✓ We are expanding communication between the school and families, with regard to student achievement/successes, curriculum and additional services.