

P.S. 196Q
THE GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY SCHOOL
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Susan Migliano
Principal

April 2010 Newsletter

Dear Families:

April Poetry Month

During the month of April, we will be celebrating poetry month. Children in all grades will be immersed in poetry in their classrooms – reading, writing, and reciting. We will be bringing out our friend Paddington Bear, who will be displayed in our lobby. Children are encouraged to fill his pockets with their poems. Families are invited to share in the poetry fun during the following publication parties:

Kindergarten—April 28th at 10:00 a.m.
1st Grade—April 30th at 8:45 a.m.
2nd Grade—April 29th at 8:45 a.m.
3rd Grade—April 30th at 9:00 a.m.
4th Grade—April 29th at 9:00 a.m.
5th Grade—April 30th at 9:00 a.m.

Tips for Families: Enjoying Poetry with Your Children

Reading Poetry Together

For younger children, Mother Goose nursery rhymes and lullabies are good choices. There are also many beautifully illustrated collections of poetry for families and for the very young. Read just a couple of rhymes, poems or lullabies each night and enjoy the “sing-song” quality of the rhymes, the language and the word play. You might even clap or tap out the rhythm on your child’s back as you calm him/her to sleep.

With older children, you may want to read fewer poems, maybe selecting just one or two to read, recite together, and talk about. Encourage children to talk about the feelings they have after hearing the poem, and share your own. What words helped them to see images or pictures in their minds? What part of the poem did they like or dislike and why? Listen, discuss, engage in conversation, but resist the urge to “teach”. You’ll just want to share your ideas and feelings about the poetry with each other.

Standing Tall—Respect for All

In honor of Respect for All Week, which the New York City Department of Education declared as the first week of March, our students stood tall on principles of equity, empathy, fairness and friendship. The students in each of our classrooms listened as their teachers read the marvelous book, Stand Tall Molly Lou Mellon. The book is about a little girl who stands up for herself when others make fun of her. Each grade had its own project to do based on four themes: “I can stand tall by...”, “I will make a difference by...”, “I will believe in myself by...”, “I will have the confidence to...”. Visitors can see students’ *Standing Tall* footprints all over the school.

Parent Workshops

This month we will be having two early morning workshops for parents. The first, on April 12th at 7:45 a.m. will be on filling out the Parent Survey. Join us in the Computer Lab and you will be able to fill out your survey online. Our next workshop, on April 19th at 7:45 a.m. will be on ARIS Parent Link. We would like 100% of our families to log on, so join us that morning for a tutorial on how to use this valuable tool.

If you have ideas for other parent workshops, please contact our Parent Coordinator, Ellen Maurer, at school or by e-mail (emaurer@schools.nyc.gov).

Theater Arts Program

We are happy to announce that we have begun our second season of our Theater Arts Program. Our actors are already busy practicing their lines and will start learning their moves shortly. Our grand musical will be on Saturday evening, June 19th, so please save the date. Last year's program was a great success and we're looking forward to another high quality night of entertainment.

School Surveys

Remember, parent surveys are due by April 23rd. For the fourth year, the New York City Department of Education has distributed surveys to parents and teachers. Your participation is very important...a strong response could help our school report card. Please complete your survey as soon as possible. If you have questions, you can attend our workshop on April 12th at 7:45 a.m.

2010 Math-a-thon

Students in 1st through 5th grades are working hard to gather collections to help the children of St. Jude's Children's Hospital. And, the best part is they are solving math problems to get there! Last time the students of PS196 participated in the Math-a-thon, they were able to raise thousands of dollars. Hopefully, we will be as successful this time around.

Dates to Remember

April 7	School Resumes
8	Lunch Collection
9	Spring Picture Day
12	Parent Workshop – DOE Parent Surveys, 7:45 a.m., Computer Lab
15	Maple Truck Visits
19	Parent Workshop – ARIS Parent Link, 7:45 a.m., Computer Lab
20	Parents Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
23	School Leadership Team Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
26-27	3 rd and 5 th Grade New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment
26-28	4 th Grade NYS ELA Assessments
29-30	Kids Boutique
30	Coffee & Conversation with Ms. Migliano, 7:45 a.m.

Save the Date: May 27th, 2010 for Literacy Day – Volunteers/Readers needed

Planning a Move?

Remember, if you are planning on moving before September 2010, please notify Ms. Carroll, our Pupil Accounting Secretary, as we are beginning to plan for next year.

Very truly yours,

Susan Migliano
Principal

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.