




The Oakland Gardens School – PS 203Q
53-11 Springfield Boulevard
Bayside, New York 11364
P: 718-423-8652 F: 718-423-8713
www.oaklandgardens203.org  @PS203Q

Ai-Huei Chang-Lau, Assistant Principal

Deborah A. Florio, Principal

Debra Halpern, Parent Coordinator

February 1, 2019

Dear PS 203 School Community,

With our Lunar New Year Celebration day completed, I have had time to reflect on the day and the process leading up to it. The last assembly had an additional guest; NYC DOE Chancellor Richard A. Carranza. He was serenaded by *Les Chanteurs* and when he spoke, he was passionate in his remarks about how fortunate we are, as a school community, to have the arts so present here and how proud he was of this school community for embracing heritages, cultures and hope.

This day culminates almost a full year of planning, developing, refining, conferencing, collaboration, rehearsing, and general joyful chaos. It is the combined efforts and energies of parents, children and staff that make it happen. And at the core is this school's deep sense of commitment to unity, diversity, shared leadership and respect among all stakeholders.

Each of us had a hand in the day either directly or indirectly. From the smallest detail to the largest display we created a day that comes from our hearts. As always, we do it for the children.

"We" is an all-encompassing word that I take seriously. It is a word that lets everyone else know that what 'we' do affects all of us and is because of all of us. Within that word there are sometimes specific people and/or specific groups that stand out for exemplary and extraordinary effort put forth. The PS 203 Lunar New Year Committee of parent volunteers is such a group. Parents dedicated to creating, working on tirelessly and even sacrificing watching the performances so that they may take care of so much that is going on behind the scenes during the Celebration day. The gym was decorated by parents with panels of red, yellow and blue. I equate them not only to be representative of our Asian cultures but to the mood meter colors for passion/excitement, joyful celebration tired (and worth it!).

It is always my goal to have every parent find their connection to the school community. We are building new bridges each day to accomplish that. My door is always open to new ideas for our community.

Sincerely,

D. Florio