MCKINLEY MONTHLY
April 2019

ADMINISTRATORS’ ANNOUNCEMENT

It is wonderful to see that Spring has finally sprung! We are looking forward to admiring the beautiful gardens bloom and always enjoy watching our students flourish as well.

We would like to thank you for dedicating time to meet with the teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The total number of parents/guardians that attended Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 14th was 447! It is wonderful to see such great dedication – thank you!

We would like to also thank you for taking the time to complete and submit the NYC School Survey. As you know, you are an essential part of our school community and your voice matters. The survey results provide insight into our school’s learning environment and contribute to our School’s Quality Snapshot.

We are happy to see the success of our after school enrichment programs as they continue throughout the month of April. Our Grade K thru 2 students are enjoying their work with Mrs. Postler and Mrs. Albanese in the STEAM Club, Mrs. Dari in the English language Learners Program, and Ms. Marsala in the “Fun Fitness Club.” Our Grades 3 and 4 students are still singing their hearts out and drumming away as the practice for their culminating performance in May with the Midori and Friends Enrichment program. Lastly, our PS 127 Rocks! Club is getting ready to share their inspirational creations with the community.

Throughout the school year, the students have been engaged in well-sequenced units of instruction that are fully aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards. We have been working very hard to provide all students with richer learning experiences and we have continued to set high expectations in order to strengthen student work. As we visit classes, we are delighted to see the children’s excitement for learning and commend the extraordinary work that they are producing.

The students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have worked diligently as they prepared for the NYS ELA exam which will be administered on April 2nd & 3rd. The students will continue to actively prepare for the NYS Math exam which is scheduled for: May 1st & 2nd.

Please be sure that all students who are taking the state exams get a good night sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive to school on time.

Spring Recess this year is from April 19, 2019 through April 26, 2019. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable vacation!

Happy Spring to all of our P.S. 127 families!

PARENT COORDINATOR

Happy Spring Everyone! Congratulations to grades 3, 4 and 5 on the NYS ELA exams! Next up….NYS Math exams! Good luck to all. I know all the teachers’ and students’ hard work will pay off. Our P.S. 127 Radio Bingo Fundraiser Event will take place on May 16th. A flyer has been distributed. All are welcome.
GRADE NEWS

Kindergarten
April is a rainbow month of sudden springtime showers, Bright with golden daffodils and lots of pretty flowers. Hopefully we will get some warmer spring temperatures! Reading! Writing! Geometry! Our Kindergarteners are hard at work. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful and restful spring break! We are looking forward to our Spring Trips!

First Grade
First grade is excited to welcome spring for it has been a long winter! In math, we will be organizing various types of information using graphs and tally charts. In reading, we will continue to work on putting story events in order and understanding characters’ feelings by making inferences. In our writing program, we will be reading and writing poetry for national poetry month. Class 1-101 will be performing in an Earth Day Assembly on April 18th. We hope everyone has a restful spring break and please remember to replenish all necessary supplies!

Second Grade
Great work continues to bloom in second grade during the month of April! Our math lessons will revolve around measurement. Journeys lessons will focus on skills such as main idea/details and drawing conclusions, and we will be wrapping up our unit on narratives during writing workshop. Second graders can look forward to fun and educational trips during this month, and we would like to wish our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders the best of luck as they take their ELA exams.

Third Grade
Spring is in the air! This month the third grade will continue to prep the children for the E.L.A. & Math State assessments. We will be celebrating Poetry Month by reading and writing poetry as our new writing unit. In math, we will begin learning about Perimeter and Area. We will be “traveling” to Europe to conduct a case study of Italy. We wish all the third graders good luck on the state assessments!

4/5
The students in class 3/4/5-206 continue to strive for their goals. The state math test is quickly approaching. Each day, students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 are working on test prep to enhance their test taking strategies. I encourage you to practice all math concepts. I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy spring recess.

4th Grade SS/Writing
Happy Spring! This month in Social Studies/ Writing, fourth grade will focus on Industrial Growth and Immigration. Students will explore the complexity of European immigrant experience in New York City during the early 1900’s. Students will investigate the various factors contributing to Europeans’ decisions to immigrate and their contributions to New York City. Students will explore the living and working conditions under which these immigrants had to endure or adapt. At the end of the Unit, students will use this information to write an informational / explanatory piece.

5th Grade ELA
April begins with The ELA state exam. The children are prepared and ready for this test. After, we will finish our novel study of Holes and then will begin our last novel study of the year, Wonder.

5th Grade SS/Writing
5th grade will begin to learn about how Westward Expansion played a huge impact on the growth of our country. In writing we will begin the fundamentals of a Personal Narrative.

Happy Spring Break
CLUSTER NEWS

Art
Kindergarten are creating paper sculptures from recycled colored paper. First and second grade are creating posters about the importance of recycling. Third grade will create self-portraits in graphite pencil and will learn about value. Fourth grade will create a part of a totem pole in the media of oil pastel. Fifth grade are creating abstract compositions in the media of oil pastel.

Science
Happy Spring! I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all students in Grades 3-5 for completing and presenting excellent science projects. Our school Creativity Convention was a Success! I really enjoyed your projects and presentations. Congratulations to the students that represented P.S. 127 at the District 20 STEM/STEAM Expo. I am proud of all the students at P.S. 127. Grade 4 will begin preparing for the New York State Science Test. The test is given in two parts. The first part is a Performance test and the second part is a written test. Testing begins in late May. I will be hosting a parent workshop in May giving more information about the Grade 4 New York State Science Test. An invitation will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Physical Education
We are finished with fitness gram as of April, 2019. Students did a great job with all the fitness tests. We are now finishing up our Basketball Units. Students enjoyed the stations and practicing various dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. We are looking forward to the last two months of the school year to be engaging in outdoor sports and activities. Wishing everyone a Happy Spring Break!

Dance
Happy Spring! In dance, students are working on different elements of dance enhancing their gross motor skills. Dynamic Dance Club is getting ready for their performance at McKinley Junior High School on May 17th. Parents will be receiving a handout with information this week.

ENL
NYSESLAT testing will begin on April 8th, with speaking portion. Students that attended our Saturday ELL Academy are receiving support with developing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills for the upcoming exams. Students are learning strategies to help them do their best. The speaking part of the NYSESLAT will administered April 9th until May 17th. Reading, listening, and writing components will be administered May 6th until May, 187th. Please take the time to visit https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-english-a-second-languageachievement-test-nyeslat-sample-items-annotations, where you will find NYSESLAT test samples according to your child’s level. Good Luck to all our students on the upcoming exams. We are confident that our students will do their best as they continue to improve their English language skills.

SUPPORT SERVICES

OT/PT
Hello Families! April is here! Which means that it’s Occupational Therapy awareness month. Last year we celebrated OT month by leading the school in Mindful Mornings. This year we are going to re-share and inform parents of Occupational Therapy’s role in a school based setting. As school based OT’s we work to improve our students’ abilities and skills that let them be independent students. This includes improving: pencil grasps, scissor skills, hand fatigue, producing organized written work, organization of school tools/materials, sensory self-regulation, and accessing the school environment. If you think your child has trouble performing in school that stems from one of these challenges then give the OT department a call or email!

Speech
This is month we are working on skills that address vocabulary in a variety of different approaches. The older students are learning to figure out unknown words in context, relating it to information they already know, and connecting it to newly learned ideas. The younger students are developing their vocabulary skills through categorization and semantic relationships. Please continue these skills at home by helping your child identify words that have prefixes (re-, un-,non-) or suffixes (-ed, -ation, -ing) and asking them “what do you think that means?” Discuss the meaning with them. Younger children can name as many items in a category as possible and describe 'why' they go together. Make everyday conversations a ‘teachable moment’!

AIS/IEP/SETSS - SETSS is Springing away from Test Anxiety….It’s good to be concerned about taking a test. It’s not good to get “test anxiety.” This is excessive worry about doing well on a test and it can mean disaster for a student. It does not help to tell the child to relax, to think about something else, or stop worrying. But there are ways to reduce test anxiety. Budget your test taking time, don’t panic when students start handing in their papers; there’s no reward for being the first done. Take slow, deep breaths and realize that you have done, and are doing, your best! Good Luck!!
Mrs. Fusco ~ SE Support Teacher/IEP Teacher/AIS

Counselor
Spring has sprung! Let’s remember to stay safe when playing outside and always make good choices.
Student Council Corner

Student Council Members and Mrs. Meola are working on our Purple day, which will take place on Thursday, April 18th. Our school community will be invited to wear our P.S. 127 Team Butterflies shirt to help raise money for our Relay For Life team.

PTA

April 5 - Latin@ fiesta, family Friday
April 10 – Spring Photos
April 18 - UNOs Night
April 19-26 Spring Break/School Closed
April 29 – Back to School
May 16 – Radio Bingo – information flyer was sent home
June 7 - Annual Volunteer Breakfast. All are welcome.

Sweet Shop every Friday.
We want to thank our wonderful parents. We appreciate all the support.

NYC School Survey

Your School. Your Voice. Take your School Survey!

Please remember to complete the NYC School Survey.

Our goal is to have all of our P.S. 127 families respond and gain insight into our school learning environment.
Thank you.

Nurse Notes:

The Flu is still above our baseline and there’s still time to receive your immunization!

Recently some children are reporting bedtimes of 9:30 and 10:30 at night! This is too late for children who need a consistent bedtime, recommending 8 to 8:30 pm with a book to unwind in bed, clothes laid out and all papers signed and homework done.

The shoe laces are less of an issue please continue double knotting at home.
Thank you!
Nurse Mary

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**Book of the Month**

**APRIL**

The Tin Forest by Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson

The Tin Forest written by authors Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson, conveys a message that one individual who dares to dream can make a world of difference.

Living alone in the midst of environmental devastation, an old man refuses to resign himself to the junkyard views that surround him. "Every day he tried to clear away the garbage, and sorting, burning and burying. And every night the old man dreamed." The authors portrayal; of the desolate landscape, for all its metallic grayness, possess a jarring, unexpected beauty, which grows under the diligent care of the story’s hero. This fantasy delivers a message of dreaming to make a real difference and goes along well with the celebration that takes place this month of April: Earth Day and how we should take care of our Earth!

**Title 1:**

2019 Title 1 Parent Committee /PTA Events:
(all take place after Family Friday)

June 7 - Annual Volunteer Breakfast. All are welcome.

All events include coffee, snacks, and smiling faces! Hope to see you there.