



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

"We are Learners, We are Leaders, We are the RichmondTown Eagles"



November/December 2017

"There is no greater leadership challenge than parenting"

- Jim Rohn



CONNECT WITH US...



Homepage

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 15- Report Cards Distribution**
- ◆ **November 16- 1/2 Day- Afternoon & Evening Parent Teacher Conferences**
- ◆ **November 17- Fun Run Event**
- ◆ **November 23-24- School Closed Thanksgiving**
- ◆ **November 27-28- In-class Fire Safety Lessons**
- ◆ **November 29- AM PTA Meeting**
- ◆ **December 5- PTA Holiday Dinner**
- ◆ **December 7- PM Holiday Fair**
- ◆ **December 8- AM Holiday Fair**
- ◆ **December 21- Winter Concert**
- ◆ **December 22- AM PTA Meeting**
- ◆ **December 25-January 1 School Closed- Winter Recess**
- ◆ **January 12, 2017- College Awareness Day; Wear your favorite college apparel**

From the Principal's Desk

By Paul Proscia, Principal

AM Traffic & Stop and Drop Lane

At the end of May I said "I can't wait for July". July passed and then it was September. Now it's the end of November. Thanksgiving is here and I can smell the pumpkin pie, stuffing, and homemade potato pie (my favorite). I am getting hungry writing this; anyhow, I love this time of the year! It's all about good food (the real key to my heart) and time spent with family. With all the joys of the holidays, comes stress. Although our stresses tend to dominate our thinking, remember how fortunate you are as well. This holiday season don't forget those families in need; like hurricane victims in Texas, the Caribbean Islands, and Puerto Rico; families affected by the Las Vegas, New York, and California tragedies; as well as the California wildfire victims. They need all the support and well wishes they can get during this time of the year.

"Today will never come again. Be a blessing. Be a friend. Encourage someone. Take time to care. Let your words heal, and not wound."

Dismissal and Arrival Procedures

We ask for your support in limiting the interruptions to our classes by relaying any messages and schedule changes to your children before they leave home in the morning and writing a note to the teacher. We need your help in limiting early pick-ups and we appreciate any calls for homework requests before 10:00 AM to ensure teachers get the message during their lunch time. Unnecessary interruptions take away from instructional time. Also, we will no longer be able accommodate early pick-ups after 1:45 PM. During this time of the day, our school is in a state of transition. We transition from one period to the next; our cluster teachers transition to their RTI groups, and we prepare for dismissal soon after. As a result, early pick-ups after 1:45 PM will be prohibited. Also at this time, entrance into the school will not be permissible for the purpose of picking up a student early and the person picking up will be asked to wait outside until regular dismissal time at 2:20 PM.

As principal, the instructional program is my main focus and the core focus to any well run school. With this in mind, let's move from our instructional program to some distractions that have taken time away from priorities, like traffic and manners. I have spoken with our school crossing guards, as well as our parent volunteers about AM traffic issues. I am hearing about parents disregarding the Crossing Guard cutting in front of other parents as they comply with traffic laws, parents parking in the middle of the street, stopping on the other side of the stop and drop lane and letting their young children out in the middle of the street forcing the kids to walk in front of moving vehicles, giving our crossing guards and parent volunteers a hard time by not complying with their requests to park legally, and even in isolated cases cursing them out.

Please take extra time in the morning and afternoon (especially during inclement weather) to drive safely, park legally, avoid double parking and blocking bus lanes, waiting on the stop and drop lane, don't cut cars off, refrain from showing road rage like behaviors, cross with our two crossing guards, and show respect at all times to our parent volunteers, crossing guards, and staff. **Remember, you are not in a fish bowl, your actions affect the safety of others.**

Attendance & Consistency

Routines and rituals are very important for the proper development of a child. This can be done by having consistent morning routines, eating a healthy breakfast, attending school regularly and on time, eating a healthy lunch, eating an after school snack, having a consistent homework time and bedtime and having constant behavioral expectations. Children learn by example. If the parents value education, then so will the children. With this in mind, I ask that you please plan family vacations, doctor's appointments, and other activities when school is not in session. Elementary School attendance is an important factor in a child's current



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

"We are Learners, We are Leaders, We are the Richmondtown Eagles"



November/December

Month	Monthly Virtue
Oct.	Consideration
Nov.	Adapt
Dec.	Pay It Forward
Jan.	Kindness
Feb.	Respect For All
March	Purposefulness
April	Be True To Self
May	Friendship/ Choice
June	Self-Respect

From the Principal's Desk

and future success. Research shows a direct link between Chronic Absenteeism (attendance percentage below 90%) in K-5 schooling to the high school dropout rate. Students who are Chronically Absent in Elementary School are more likely to drop out of high school. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics article *Every School Day Counts, "Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates."*

Academic Celebrations & Goals

Teachers will be inviting parents up to school (if they haven't already done so) to participate in an academic activity with their child. Our goal is to further educate parents about our curricula and academic structures, give parents an opportunity to see how their child works in school, and really give parents a feel of the classroom experience. I look forward to seeing you at these academic celebrations!

As we continue our Leader In Me journey, this year we are in the process of revising the tabs of the student leadership notebooks. The notebooks will be organized into 5 different tabs with the below content in each tab:

- 1) **My Self**
 - Things that inspire me
 - All about me collages and pictures
 - Summary of the 7 Habits
 - Autobiography
 - Personal and class mission statements
- 2) **My Wildly Important Goals**
 - Personal leadership goal
 - Math Academic Goal
 - Reading Academic Goal
- 3) **My Learning**
 - Data
 - Charts & graphs
 - Reflection

- 4) **My Leadership Contributions**
 - Leadership role applications
 - Leadership role tracker
 - Leadership role reflections
- 5) **My Celebrations**
 - Victories (pictures, certificates, & awards)
 - Achieved Wildly Important Goals

Fun Run

It is amazing what a community can do when we work together. Over a week's time, we raised over \$18,500. We couldn't have done it without you! This is great news, but what was more amazing to see was the excitement our students showed each day as they got daily morning updates from Jimmy the Jet and Amazing Amanda. We had a blast being announced in and running on the day of the Fun-run. I am so proud of the work the Boosterthon staff did to create excitement and promote character virtues. All money raised will go back to support our teachers and students in making PS 23 the best educational environment possible. I want to also thank our wonderful Parent Coordinator Janie Swincicki for coordinating this activity. She worked diligently to make this a successful and fruitful activity that will benefit the students of PS 23.

In Closing

I wish you and your family the happiest and healthiest of holidays. As parents and students at PS 23, we are one big school family. **"Family is like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one."** As Richmondtown Eagles, our roots are grounded in learning and leadership. Let's continue to strive to do our best and be the best people possible.

Suggested Reading

- ♦ [Have You Filled a Bucket Today?](#) by Carol McCloud
- ♦ [One](#) by Kathryn Otoshi
- ♦ [7 Habits of Happy Kids](#) by Sean Covey
- ♦ [7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) by Sean Covey
- ♦ [7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#) by Stephen R. Covey
- ♦ [7 Habits of Highly Effective Families](#) by Stephen R. Covey
- ♦ [Man's Search For Meaning](#) by Viktor Frankl
- ♦ [Emotional Intelligence](#) by Daniel Goleman
- ♦ [Falling Forward](#) by John C. Maxwell
- ♦ [Drive](#) by Daniel Pink
- ♦ [Wooden On Leadership](#) by John Wooden
- ♦ [Unbroken](#) by Laura Hillenbrand