



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

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



Jan./February/March 2018

"There is no greater leadership challenge than parenting"

- Jim Rohn



CONNECT WITH US...



Homepage

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **February 15- BINGO Night for students & families in grades 2-3**
- ◆ **March 12- Bread of Life Food Drive Starts**
- ◆ **March 14- Report Card Distribution**
- ◆ **March 15- Afternoon & Evening Parent Teacher Conferences**
- ◆ **March 15- 1/2 day dismissal for all students at 11:20 AM; no Afternoon Latchkey**
- ◆ **March 16- Book Fair**
- ◆ **March 18- PS 23's Little Ladies & their Queens Mad Tea Party**
- ◆ **March 21- World Down's Syndrome Day; wear your craziest socks**
- ◆ **March 23- Bread of Life Food Drive Ends**
- ◆ **March 30- No School; beginning of Spring Recess**
- ◆ **April 9- World Autism Day; wear blue**
- ◆ **April 11-12- Grades 3-5 NYS ELA Test**
- ◆ **April 13- PTA's Annual Basket Auction; doors open @ 6 PM**
- ◆ **April 20- Staten Island Yankee Assembly for students**

From the Principal's Desk

By Paul Proscia, Principal

Happy President's Week. February is always a special month as we pay homage to two of our most influential Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on their birthdays. They both stood for freedom, were visionary's whose contributions to society are still felt today, had noble and incorruptible character, and were excellent examples of leadership in their day. February is also Black History month. During this time we learn about and celebrate the greatness of African American leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Rosa Parks to name a few. It is a great time to strike up a conversation with your child about what virtues, actions, and character traits great leaders show. Remind your child that leadership is a choice, not a position. Leadership at an early age can be developed through small acts; acts of kindness, acts of consideration, acts of acceptance, acts of giving back to others.

Leadership Day at PS 23

In years past we have hosted a school tour for the Leader In Me Symposium. This year we are going to host our own school tour, which will be open to all parents/guardians and community members. Our Little Lighthouse Student Leadership Team will greet guests, give speeches on what leadership means to them, talk about the leadership environment here at PS 23, what they have learned during their time at PS 23, and student tour guides will take guests on a school tour. We are expecting a large crowd and we need to plan our school tour groups accordingly, so for planning and security purposes please register by using the below barcode scanner or link.



<https://goo.gl/forms/4Bx7XSQMGuV0wA7r2>

7 Habits Workshop for Parents

On March 19 and 26, I will be facilitating a two part workshop on the 7 Habits of Highly Successful Families. The goals of the sessions are for the participants to walk away with an understanding of what the 7 Habits are, how they can be used in family situations to better create a balanced life for you and your family, learn to pause before reacting, develop a family mission statement, and set family priorities. All are welcome, even if you can only commit to one of the dates. Please keep in mind it is most beneficial to attend both sessions because different content is covered on each day, but it is understood if you can only attend one. Please keep in mind to present the material with the fidelity it deserves. Each session is about 2 1/2 hours in length; therefore, it would be extremely difficult to host and present evening sessions.

Student Leadership & Empowerment

Our Change for Change Roundtable Committee led by Chairperson Ms. Oglio, Ms. L. Grassullo, & Ms. Saldi (as well as Ms. Wasson who helped with the collection of money), led a group of 22 students in 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade to organize and collect spare change school-wide to donate to charity organizations around the RichmondTown community. This year our Change for Change Roundtable raised over \$4,000 in spare change this year; a school-wide record! In talking to our committee, I have learned that this success is due to an increase in student empowerment as the children themselves went around every Friday from November 1st to February 1st to each class to collect the spare change. This created excitement and a positive competition as to which class or grade would raise the most money. To quote Ms. L. Grassullo, "The children truly gave from their hearts!" When children (or any human for that matter) are excited to give back it's truly a win-win for the entire world. Preparing students to be value driven, self motivated human beings that give back to others is at the center of PS 23's mission & vision as a **LEARNER**, a **LEADER**, & a **RICHMONDTOWN EAGLE**. I am always marveled at how beautiful children can be if we the adults just give them the opportunity to do so.



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

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



Jan./February/March

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

Books of the Month

Month	Book
Sept.	7 Habits of Happy Kids By Sean Covey
Oct.	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud
Nov.	What Do You Do With An Idea? By Kobi Yamada
Dec.	Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed By Emily Pearson
Jan.	The Invisible Boy By Patrice Barton
Feb.	Each Kindness By Jacqueline Woodson
March	The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge By Hildegard H. Swift
April	Elmer By David McKee
May	Tough By Erin Frankel & Paula Heaphy
June	The Paper bag Princess By Robert Munsch & Michael Martchenko

From the Principal's Desk

Superhero Bowling

It was a privilege to see so many families come to our PTA sponsored Superhero Bowling event. The looks on the children's faces as they bowled and ate pizza was priceless. It reminds me that, as a parent, it is so important to take your children out for a "date" and loosen up and have fun. Besides spending time with one of my super heroes (my son Vincent), I really enjoyed interacting with the children of PS 23 in an informal environment, I learned so much from the experience. This wouldn't be possible without the work of the best PTA, led by Kathy MacDonald, Nicole Serrano, Diana Boland, Donna Luci, Abigail Olmedo, and Fawn Quadrino. On behalf of our entire Eagle community, we are so lucky to have a PTA that is committed to bringing our families together to create one big **Eagle Family**.

DOE/DOH Guidance to Help Prevent the Flu

The fall and winter seasons coincide with an increase in viruses that can cause fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and breathing problems. These viruses include noroviruses (commonly known as the stomach flu), influenza (commonly known as the flu), and the common cold and enteroviruses (mild to severe respiratory illness). Please note the following guidance to help prevent the spread of the flu virus at schools:

✦ Students and staff should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. In general, students and staff should wash their hands after arriving at school, before touching food, after using the bathroom, and after coughing or sneezing. Please ensure that soap and paper towels are available and note that alcohol-based sanitizers are not as effective against spreading viruses as soap and water. Students and staff should cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or use their shirt sleeve, not their hands. Students and staff members who are sick, especially with fever, vomiting or diarrhea, should stay home to reduce the risk of spreading the illness to others. Children with fever, vomit-

ing, or diarrhea should stay home until their symptoms are gone and they are free of fever without taking fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours.

✦ Students and staff members should get vaccinated against the flu. In addition to administering flu vaccines to adults, licensed pharmacists can now use an appropriate non-patient-specific standing order to administer flu vaccines to children between the ages of 2 and 17 years of age, on a temporary basis.

Academic Celebrations

Many grades have hosted academic celebration and there has been great family participation at each event. I have seen students presenting self made Google Slide presentations, students informing parents about what they learning about, parents conferring with their children and discussing their learning, and parents giving their own child and other children in the class both warm and cool feedback to help encourage the kids and help them continue to learn. Our students love having their parents at these events, so I appreciate the strong support and look forward to continuing such events in years to come.

In Closing

I wish you and your family the happiest and healthiest of mid-winter breaks. I love this quote about appreciation by the Dalai Lama:

"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness"

On this cold February evening as I sit and reflect alone in my office, I am full of admiration and appreciation for you, the children of PS 23, our PTA, and of course my staff and "home family". I truly appreciate all the people in my life for all that they do for me and the children of PS 23.