



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

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



September/October 2018

CONNECT WITH US...

@23Richmondtown



Twitter



Instagram



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **September 14– PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 8:30AM**
- ◆ **September 17–Back to School Night; 4:30-7:30PM; NO AFTER-NOON LATCHKEY**
- ◆ **September 19– Yom Kipper– SCHOOL CLOSED**
- ◆ **September 27– PTA Conference @ 7PM**
- ◆ **September 27– Student Picture Day**
- ◆ **September 28 – PTA Welcome Breakfast @ 9AM**
- ◆ **October 5 – Open Town Hall Safety Meeting @ 9AM**
- ◆ **October 12– Harvest Fair & Pediatric Cancer Awareness Day (wear orange)**
- ◆ **October 26– PTA sponsored event Trunk or Treat @6:15 PM**
- ◆ **October 31– Halloween March of Dimes Walk**
- ◆ **November 1– Book Fair @6PM**
- ◆ **November 6– Election Day; SCHOOL CLOSED for STUDENTS**
- ◆ **November 9– Superhero Day; Support the men & women of the Armed Forces by wearing a superhero shirt**
- ◆ **November 15– Elementary Parent Teacher Conference; Afternoon & Evening; NO AFTER-NOON LATCHKEY**
- ◆ **November 16– PTA Sponsored FUN RUN**
- ◆ **November 28– PTA Meeting @8:30AM**
- ◆ **November 30– JDRF Awareness Day (wear blue)**

From the Principal's Desk

By Paul Proscia, Principal

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a wonderful Summer. As I blinked my eyes, we ended up here, the 2nd week of school. Time seems to go by faster and faster as you get older. On behalf of Mrs. Mazza and the rest of the PS 23 staff, I would like to thank you for a very smooth opening of the school year. Students have adjusted well thus far and as I have gone from classroom to classroom, they are collaborating with their teachers to craft their classroom mission statements and are engaged in learning activities. A heart felt welcome to our new families and a sincere welcome back to our returning families.

Family Handbook & Traffic Safety

Students have brought home a copy of our Family Handbook, which was created to provide clarity on our policies, expectations, and to act as a guide in helping you be actively involved in our school and your child's education in a positive manner. We have consolidated all necessary school opening parent sign offs onto 2 pages found at the end of the handbook. Please complete the last page sign-off form (front to back) and return it to your child's teacher ASAP. With rules in mind, if you park illegally or don't follow the traffic regulations around our school the NYPD will issue tickets **without warning**. For the safety of our students and families please be patient, kind, don't park illegally, follow traffic laws, and don't cut off other cars on the Morning Stop & Drop Lane.

School Vision & Mission

Consistent with our school's mission and vision, we are a school that is committed to inspire, guide, assist, and support our school community to work together to develop independent and life ready learners. We do so by developing and providing students, staff, and families with high quality educational opportunities. Our goal continues to develop life-long learners in an effort to help all students maximize their potential. This can all be summarized by our school mantra; **We are Learners, We are Leaders, We are the Richmondtown Eagles!** Our whole educational program is designed around providing our students with learning and leadership opportunities that help them learn what their natural gifts and talents are, as well as provide all students access to structures and systems that help them practice using their skills in both academic subject areas and in terms of developing into highly effective leaders.

With that in mind, we will continue along on our Leader In Me journey by infusing the 7 Habits of Happy Kids leadership habits and life lessons into our curricula and further build reflection and feedback (our instructional focus this year) into activities. Teachers will carry on with implementing Student Leadership Notebooks, which are key in motivating and empowering students to take charge of their own learning, instill a growth oriented mindset, serve as a visual score tracker for each student's progression, and understand the importance of the tracking of goals. Depending on the grade level, students will be taught to set and monitor goals, record information about what makes them special as an individual, track their learning and celebrations, and journal their reflections. We have a Classified Board in our student cafeteria where students can apply for grade specific school-wide leadership jobs such as Morning Broadcaster, Tech. Team, Science Buddy, Lunch Accountant, Grade 1 Leaders, Kinder Lunch Buddies, and Attendance Associates. We are preparing our students to function independently, so we want students to apply for roles they are interested in and take responsibility to carry out the duties during their term of service.

7 Habits Refresher Booster Shot

Habit 1- Be Proactive (foundational habit); Basic Definition- "You're in charge"; Highly Effective Practices- Pause and respond based on values of mutual benefit and integrity, focus on what you have influence over (not only on concerns).

Habit 2- Begin With the End in Mind; Basic Definition- "Have a Plan"; Highly Effective Practices- Define what the outcomes and desired results are before acting, develop a personal purpose or mission statements.

Habit 3- Put First things First; Basic Definition- "Work First, Then Play"; Highly Effective Practices - Focus on your highest priorities (school work and relationships), block out the unimportant, plan activities accordingly.

Habit 4- Think Win-Win; Basic Definition- "Everyone Can Win"; Highly Effective Practices- Build the emotional bank account with others, have a balance of courage and consideration, consider what is a win for others as well what a win is for you. Remember competition is good



PUBLIC SCHOOL 23

"We are Learners, We are Leaders, We are the Richmond County Eagles"



September/October 2018

Month	Monthly Virtue
Oct.	Growth Mindset
Nov.	Zest
Dec.	Pay It Forward
Jan.	Courage
Feb.	Teamwork
March	Fortitude
April	Empowerment
May	Empathy
June	Self-Worth

Book of the Month

Month	Book
Sept.	7 Habits of Happy Kids
Oct.	Bubble Gum Brain
Nov.	We're all Wonders
Dec.	The Spiffiest Giant in Town
Jan.	What to Do with a Chance
Feb.	The Day the Crayons Came Home
March	How to Heal a Broken Wing
April	Simon's Hook
May	The Jelly Donut Difference
June	A Bad Case of Stripes

From the Principal's Desk

doesn't compromise values of sportsmanship and a "win at all cost" attitude doesn't develop, where getting your way is the only way.

Habit 5- Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood; Basic Definition- "Listen Before You Talk"; Highly Effective Practices- Value others input. Look to truly understand another person and listen with empathy and understanding. Express your point of view respectfully.

Habit 6- Synergize; Basic Definition- "Together is Better"; Highly Effective Practices- Value differences and seek to find new and improved solutions that are spirited in mutual benefit.

Habit 7- Sharpen; Basic Definition- "Together is Better"; Highly Effective Practices- Value differences and seek to find new and improved solutions that are spirited in mutual benefit.

Power in Having a Bubble Gum Brain

We are entering year 7 of the Leader in Me initiative. Like in past years, we will use school-wide books of the month linked to monthly leadership virtues and the 7 Habits. We will continue our monthly PTA sponsored Leader and Humanitarian Breakfast to honor our chosen class leaders and humanitarians of the month. Students are chosen based on their ability to apply the 7 Habits in their actions, lead by example, take charge, help and give back to others, use a win-win mindset to solve problems, set expectations and goals and do what it takes to achieve the goal, make progress to learn and grow socially as well as academically, and synergize by working well with others to achieve that goal. We don't just reward students who perform well academically. It is much different than the traditional "student of the month", where only the highest academically performing students receive an award. We strongly believe that part of learning and growing is learning how to "fail forward" and learn from mistakes. In order to learn, all people (especially children) need to make mistakes. Sometimes the mistake happens on a class assignment, on a test, in a relationship, and even behaviorally. So, we don't only reward the "highest achieving" academic student, we also look to also encourage students who have made mistakes but have

shown an ability to learn and grow from their errors. We reward good leadership and humanitarian behavior. It's about learning how to be better human beings and PS 23 community members each day. In other words, we are preparing our students for life by educating them to have a "growth mindset" or "bubble gum brain". Like bubble gum, our brains stretch and grow as we are exposed to various life and learning experiences, both good and bad. Please reinforce this mindset at home by looking for the big picture life lesson in all that you do and discuss the lessons learned with your child.

2018 Instructional Focus

Our school curriculum continues to evolve. With the help of District 31 & city-wide professional learning sessions, we are looking to Mathematics instruction by deepening students conceptual understanding of key Mathematical principles, such as number sense. Our instructional focus this year reads:

"If we teach students multiple strategies for mathematical inquiry, problem solving, and reasoning; Then we will foster the development of more mathematically sound thinkers who have a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics."

Our instructional team led by Ms. Mazza, continues to update and perfect our ELA and Math curriculum maps to better align with the newly implemented [NYS Next Generation Standards](#), as well as continue to include assessments for learning. In the Spring of 2018 the percentage of students in grades 3-5 performing at or above grade level on the 2018 NYS ELA and Math exam increased by 2% in both subject areas. With a bubble gum brain mindset we strive daily to build off of previous successes and continuously look to improve each and every day.

New School Year Hope & Excitement

I know this year will be rewarding and filled with many opportunities to learn. In closing, I would like to share a quote from Julia Cook's children's book **Bubble Gum Brain**, our October book of the month.

"Get rid of that fixed mindset of yours, and the possibilities will never end! Now that you've peeled off your wrapper, your HOPE can start to GROW. And what you are learning becomes a lot more important than what you already know!"

Let's work together to grow and stretch our brains to be the best learners, leaders, and humanitarians the world has ever seen! Your support and dedication is welcomed!