



February 2017

After School Programming

Orchestra of St. Luke's continues to operate on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please see Ms. Berghahn to inquire about any open spots in the classes. This is a free music program running from 3:00 to 5:00. Returning students are practicing violin, and new students are learning wind instruments. OSL will be presenting some mini-concerts, so keep an eye out for notices.

Impact Coaching network just started their winter/spring classes. They continue to run on Thursday afternoons from 2:40 to

5:45 p.m. They're doing an amazing job with our students, and there is a definite sense of excitement around chess in the school! (As a side note, five of our chess after-school students—Joel, Kyle, Deangelo, Ryan, and Gavin—all participated in a recent citywide chess tournament. Way to go for all of you!)

Finally, we want to congratulate our very own Mark Dunn for taking the helm of Roads to Success! Mark is a dynamic and energetic of our school staff, and we're confident that he will bring that excitement

to the after school program. If you didn't know, another energetic and creative staff member also works with RTS: Yessenia Gutierrez. We know that they, with their RTS colleagues will bring a fresh new feel to the program! Please see Mark for information about enrolling, and look out for a notice coming home this week with pricing and program information.

Parent/Family Spotlight for the Month

We would like to thank the following parents/guardians for their support.

Todd Miller for helping to fix our computer lab by updating software and replacing some broken equipment

Bethsaida Jimenez for generously donating a bicycle to our December Winter Wonderland

Dolores Moore for her continued work on our teacher professional development room and library

Lucitania Gonzalez for her generous donation of books to our school

And, finally, to all of our parents and families who generously donated coats to our winter coat drive!

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☺ **A note about the upcoming 3-5 state assessments:**

We know that many families become anxious about the state assessments. I am asking you to please NOT talk too much about them to your children. We don't want to create anxiety for the students.

We will be doing some "test prep" units in the few weeks before each assessment, and we'll do additional work with the third grade to teach them the format of the assessments. However, daily instruction that covers the mandated standards is the best preparation!

If you have any questions, please see the teachers, Clara, or me.

Spirit Week

The week after winter break was Spirit Week. We had a fun time being silly. Here are some pictures from throughout the school. Thanks to Yessenia for taking them for us!



Twins Day! And Wanda :)

Actual Twins on Twins Day



Pa-
jama
Day

Reading in pajamas!



We think everyone had a fun time, and we're looking forward to the next Spirit Week.

Perfect Attendance

We had 77 students with perfect attendance in January. Way to go!

We also have a new bulletin board, based on an SLT decision, to prominently highlight students each month who attain perfect attendance. Please check it out starting on Tuesday..

Reminder: perfect attendance means being in school every day AND arriv-

ing to class on-time. We would like all students to be in school by 8:15 a.m., so they can get to class by 8:20 a.m.. Anything after 8:20 a.m. is considered late.

Children who take the school bus and are affected by traffic or other delays are **not** considered late.

5th grade students who attend middle school tours are **not** considered

be late for school, but we do need documentation of the school visit.

Children who attend doctors, or are out ill, are considered absent or late. We mark the reason for the absence or lateness, but it is still counted for attendance purposes.

PTA and SLT

We need all the family support and participation we can get! Remember—PTA meetings are held monthly in the school, and they alternate between morning and evening meetings. Dates for upcoming PTA meetings are:

February (evening), March (morning), April (evening), May (morning), and June (evening).

You can also stay involved through SLT meetings. The two major issues being discussed at SLT this year are the school's homework policy & philosophy, and ways to address lateness across the entire school. Upcoming SLT dates are: February 7, March 7, April 4, May 16, and June 7

Remember, only SLT members may

engage in an SLT meeting, but SLT meetings are considered "open meetings" for anyone who wishes to watch and listen. Our current SLT members are: Trevor Richardson (Maria Ortiz alternate), Elizabeth Streat, Sarah Noda, Trevor Peterson, Fania Washington, Ron Neumann, Melissa Connerly, Courtney Berghahn, Anne Marie Skillins, and Edward Gilligan

P.S. 111 Family Day at the Museum with Cool Culture

Our teacher Joanne Ramirez, and one of our amazing parents, Sarah Noda, set up a day at the Met Museum on Sunday, February 5th. About 30 family members took advantage of the Cool Culture Pass.

If you are a Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten family with a Cool Culture card, please reach out to a family in grades 1-5 to offer them a trip to a museum with you :)

For those of you who don't know, the Cool Culture pass (school sponsored last year, but generously paid for by the PTA this year) provides PK and K students and four of their

friends and family members free admission to about 90 cultural institutions throughout NYC. While large groups are not allowed, there are periodic days throughout the year where schools are encouraged to get

large groups together. Sunday was one such day, and I think all who participated had a great time. Thanks, everyone!



Studio in a School

Our PK students and staff have been working with a teaching artist to



learn about collage and painting. We



would like to thank Studio in a School, and Council Member Corey Johnson's office, for funding this.



PK and Kindergarten Lunar New Year

We had our 2nd annual Kindergarten Lunar New Year parade. The students were joined this year by the PK students in Ms. Suri's, Mr. Neumann's, and Ms. Greene's classes.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the school to support this cultural event!



Winter Wonderland

We had a great time just before Winter break at our Winter Wonderland! Thank you to all of our staff members who participated in organizing and running the ticket counters and activities, as well as to the PTA and parent volunteers who made it a huge success! Despite an evening temperature of 21 degrees with a wicked wind, we had close to 200 P.S. 111 stu-

dents and families come out to enjoy some time together.

Thank you to everyone who donated, including local Hell's Kitchen businesses



Upcoming Dates

February 9th: Friendship and Love Party 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. snacks, activities, and mingling!

February 14th: Roads to Success Valentine's Day Party

February 17th: Family Friday, 100th Day of School activities, and Ms.

Berghahn's concert for grades 3-5

February 18th to February 26th: mid-winter vacation (School resumes on February 27th)

March 2nd: Read Across America Day

March 9th: After and Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

March 28, 29, 30th: State ELA assessments for grades 3, 4, and 5

Misc. Classroom Pictures

Mr. Neumann's exercise space (it is shared among all three PK classes)



Ms. Jurawanichkul's class completing social studies projects



Class 301 wrote informational books

