



Help Needy Children and Families During the Holiday Season

Our school will once again be sponsoring both a **Toy Drive** for needy homeless children in our community as well as a **Food Drive**



homeroom class with the greatest amount of food for the Food Drive and the class with the most toys and gifts for the Toy Drive will each receive a pizza party!.



for hungry children and families in our city.

We will be participating in a **Food Drive** sponsored by **City Harvest** to collect food for hungry children throughout our city. This drive will take place from **December 3rd to December 17th**. During this week, we will be collecting food such as cereal, macaroni and cheese and other packaged goods, peanut butter, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, juice boxes, and other **non-perishable food items**.

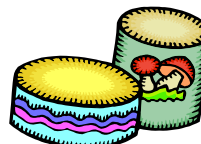
You can help hungry families in need by bringing your donation to our school during these two weeks.

For the **Toy Drive**, donations of **NEW** toys, books, games, puzzles, or **new** winter clothing are being requested. Donations may be brought in beginning on December 7th. It is not necessary to wrap these items, but they **must be new**, as they are being given as gifts to children living in a shelter in our neighborhood. All donations for the Toy Drive should be brought to the school by **December 15th**.

Donations for both the Toy Drive and the Food Drive should be taken by students to their home room classes. There, members of the Student Government will tally the number of donations for each home room class on a daily basis. At the end of the drives, the

Any staff members, parents, or community members who wish to make a donation to the Toy or Food Drive may also bring items to the school. Food items may be left in the donation box in the main lobby. Toys and gifts should be brought to the Parent Coordinator in room 414.

Join us in supporting our holiday food and toy drives and get involved in your community!



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**Questions?
Need More Information??**
Contact the Parent
Coordinator at
718 937-0320 , extension
4143
347 563-4217
HStrafer@schools.nyc.gov

Check out our website too
at
www.IS125Q.net



Winter Festival At I.S. 125

The multi-talented youngsters of our school will be featured in a wonderful show this month. This year's *Winter Performance Festival* will take place on **December 16th from 6 PM to 8 PM.**

We will be treated to the incredible vocal and musical talents of the students in our Orchestra and Chorus classes, and be amazed by the performances of the children in our Dance Department.



In addition, the dazzling art work of the students in our Art Department will adorn the walls and be displayed in the auditorium for everyone's enjoyment.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to enjoy the accomplishments of our students during this special event. Friends and family are invited to share in the excitement on December 16th at 6 PM. There will be a brief PTA meeting immediately preceding the show. Please join us!

Scholastic School Book Fair

Our Book Fair will be taking place in the school library from **Tuesday December 15th to Wednesday December 23rd.** All students will have an opportunity to visit the Fair with their classes to purchase books, posters, gift items, and novelties during this week.

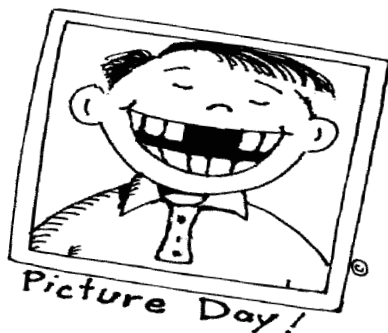
Parents are also invited to the

Fair, and are welcome to visit during regular school hours. This is the perfect opportunity to buy holiday gifts for friends and family.

Help to support our school and develop and enhance your child's love of reading by purchasing materials at the Book Fair.



Picture Re-Take Day



On Monday December 7th, the photographers will again be at our school to take student pictures. Any student who was absent or did not take an individual picture on the regularly scheduled picture days, or was dissatisfied with his or her picture, may have a picture taken on that day.

If you are having your child's picture re-taken, you must send him or her to school with the original picture you are returning.

If you are having your child take a picture for the first time, be sure to send in the picture order envelope with the correct amount of money to cover the cost of the package ordered. Payment may be made in cash, or by a check or money order made payable to Davis studios.

Photos will also be taken of all school clubs and groups on this day.



Trip to Pennsylvania

I.S. 125 is planning a trip to Pennsylvania from **Thursday March 25th to Saturday March 27th, 2010** for eligible eighth grade students. This three-day, two-night trip will include visits to various places of interest in Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Space is limited to a maximum of 88 students. The cost for each student is expected to be \$ 300. This price includes round trip bus transportation to and from I.S. 125, hotel accommodations (including gratuities), admission to all attractions, several meals, and transportation throughout the Philadelphia and Lancaster areas. Students will also receive I.S. 125 T-shirts which will be worn on all trip excursions.

Many children have returned the required parental permission forms, as well as the deposit needed to reserve a place for them on the trip. In addition, all

participants must turn in recommendation forms signed by all their teachers as well as their house Assistant Principals and Deans.

A meeting to discuss details of this proposed trip will be held for all interested students and family members on **Thursday December 10th at 6:00 PM.** At this meeting, you will learn more about the activities planned, safety procedures, room assignments, meals, schedules, and chaperones. A proposed trip itinerary will be distributed to parents as well.

You will also have an opportunity to have all of your questions answered in order to assist you with your final decision as to whether or not you wish your child to participate in the trip. If you do, and your child's participation is approved by all of his or her teachers and supervisors, the **balance due for the trip must be paid by Monday December 18th.**

If you or your child decide to decline participation in the trip after attending

this meeting, your deposit will be fully refunded. All such requests for a refund must be in writing and signed by a parent or guardian.

No requests for refunds will be honored after December 15th. After that time, unless a child is barred from participation in the trip by Ms. Mittler, no refunds will be made.

Please attend this important and informative meeting on Thursday **December 10th at 6:00 PM** in the school auditorium.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Quintana, the Assistant Principal in charge of the



trip, or the Parent Coordinator.



Change in Dates for New York State ELA & Math Tests

There has been a change in the testing schedule for the upcoming New York State ELA and Math examinations. In the past, these tests were administered in January and March respectively. This year, however, the new test dates are as follows:

ELA Test: April 26th & 27th for students in grades 3, 5,7 and 8

April 26th, 27th, & 28th for students in grades 4 and 6

Math Test: May 5th & 6th for

students in grades 3, 5,6,7, and 8
May 5th, 6th, & 7th for students in grade 4

Other than the change in dates, both tests will be similar in format to those administered in previous years. The tests will still assess the knowledge your child should know at the time the test is given. The academic standards for these tests have not changed. As in the past, students who do not meet the promotional

requirements during the school year will attend summer school, and may need to take another state exam in August if a grade of at least 2 was not achieved in either or both tests.

The exam scores will be available to parents in the summer of 2010 on the **ARIS Parent Link.** If you have not yet logged in to ARIS and need assistance, or if need your child's ID number or temporary password, contact the Parent Coordinator.

PTA Meeting & Raffle

The next meeting of the PTA of IS 125 will be held on **Wednesday December 16th at 6:00 PM**. At this meeting, there will be a special gift basket which will be raffled to one lucky parent. Tickets will cost only \$2 and be sold only during the first 15 minutes of the PTA meeting. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at its conclusion.

The contents of the basket were donated by neighborhood merchants and collected and assembled by some of the PTA Executive Board members including Angelica Castillo, Juanita Faulkner, Eulogia Garcia, Juana Gutierrez, Pasang Keyray, and Angelica Perdomo.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication!

Please patronize and thank the following merchants for their generous donations for this basket, and for their sponsorship of our school:

Natural Tofu Restaurant: 40-06 Queens Blvd., Sunnyside

Old Castle Fresh Farm: 39-50 Queens Blvd., Sunnyside

Superior Supermarket: 40-08 Queens Blvd., Sunnyside

Pioneer Supermarket: 45-60 46th Street, Sunnyside

Carniceria Las Americas: 45-22 46th Street, Woodside

Trade Fair Supermarket: 99-10 Astoria Blvd. East Elmhurst

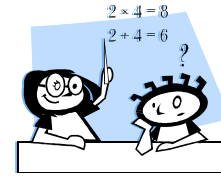
The PTA also raffled a gift basket during evening Parent Teacher Conferences on November 17th. The lucky winner of that basket was the family of Stephanie Geier of class 741.

Special thanks to the following parents for their donations and preparation of the beautiful basket:

Eulogia Garcia, mother of Guadalupe Nahuacatl class 610

Flor Ibarra, mother of Lizet Mialma class 505

Areli Solano, mother of Lizet Mialma class 505



Early Morning Tutoring for Students

Free early morning tutoring is still available every day from 8 to 8:30 AM to provide additional academic support and assistance to students. Academic focus is on ELA on Mondays and Tuesdays and on math on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fridays are "students' choice subject" days.

If your child is not yet enrolled in this early morning program, simply send a note requesting that he or she be programmed for a class, or request a form from the Parent Coordinator. Once the application or note requesting morning tutoring is received at the school, your child will be assigned to a class within three days. Students should ask their homeroom teachers for their room assignment. This morning program takes place every school day, and will continue through the end of June.

Important Events & Dates to Remember

Picture Re-Take Day/Team & Group Photos: Monday December 7th in the school auditorium

School Book Fair: Tuesday December 15th to Wednesday December 23rd in the school library

I.S. 125 Toy Drive for Homeless Children: December 7th through December 15th- ***Please bring all donations to school no later than Tuesday December 15th!***

City Harvest Food Drive: December 7th to December 17th- Please donate any canned or boxed non-perishable foods

Unified Arts Winter Performance Festival: Wednesday December 16th 6:00-8:00 PM

PTA Meeting & Raffle Drawing: Wednesday December 16th at 6 PM

Winter Break: December 24, 2009 to January 3, 2009 School Closed

2010

School Re-Opens: Monday January 4, 2010

Winter Dances: Friday January 15th — For grades 5 & 6: 4 PM to 6 PM / For grades 7 & 8: 7 to 9 PM

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences: Thursday February 2th in the afternoon and in the evening

Spring Recess: March 29th through April 6th

NYS ELA Exam: April 26th-28th

NYS Math Exam: May 5th -7th