



THOMAS J. MCCANN WOODSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 125

Parent Coordinator Noteworthy News

November—
December 2011

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for I.S. 125 will be held on **Thursday November 17, 2011** in both the afternoon and the evening. **Afternoon conferences will take place from 12:50 PM to 2:50PM, and evening hours will be from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.**

Parents wishing to visit their children's teachers in the afternoon or in the evening may do so without an appointment. Parents will be seen on a first come-first served basis during this time. Generally, the afternoon is the best time to attend the conferences, as it is far less busy than in the evening.

While evening conferences do not begin until 6:00 PM, the school doors will be opened at 5:45 PM to allow parents into the cafeteria to pick up the teacher and room directory and to visit the **PTA Bake Sale**, where they may purchase both hot and cold drinks, cakes, cookies, candy, chips and other snacks to give them strength for the evening ahead. Tickets for a gift basket raffle will also be available for only \$3.00 each at the PTA table.

When visiting the school during the confer-

ences, you will need to have either your child's report card, or a list of his or her teachers. If you do not know your child's subject teachers, you may obtain a list of them from the Parent Coordinator in the cafeteria .

All parents must sign in at each teacher's room when they arrive, and will be called in the order in which they signed in. If any parents leave to visit other teachers, and their names are called when they are not there, they will have missed their turn. They will then be asked to re-sign the waiting list and must wait until their names are called again in the order of their new sign-in time.

Although parents have many things to discuss with each teacher, it is requested that each conference be kept to five minutes or less, as there are a large number of parents waiting to see each teacher. In order to optimize your time with each teacher, plan ahead the questions you will need to ask of each one. (See page 2 of this

newsletter for some suggested questions).

If you require translation services during the conferences, volunteer student interpreters will be available throughout the evening. If you need interpretation services, please see Ms. Masiello or Ms. Strafer in the cafeteria during the evening conferences, or request an interpreter from the teacher you are visiting.

If you are unable to see a particular teacher, or need additional time, a **Request for Parent/Teacher Conference** form may be submitted. These forms will be available from the Parent Coordinator in the cafeteria. When you have completed the form, return it to the Parent Coordinator who will ensure that the form will be given to each teacher with whom you are requesting a conference or additional time. Those teachers will then contact you later in the week, to set up an appointment or speak with you over the phone. **Please make every effort to attend these very important conferences .**

I.S. 125 Fall Festival

Due to the success of last year's venture, I.S. 125 will once again be holding a **Fall Festival for students and their families**. This year the Festival will be held on **Friday November 18th from 4 PM to 6 PM**. The Festival will be held in the school cafeteria, and will feature a variety of games of chance and skill. The PTA will also be selling refreshments, and will have juice, soda, chips, cake, granola bars, and other snacks for sale.

In order to attend the Festival, students must return a signed permission form to school authorizing them to purchase admission tickets to the event. **These tickets will be sold during all student lunch hours on Wednesday and Friday, November 16th and 18th and will cost only \$1.00 each. No tickets will be sold on Thursday November 17th as students have only a half day of school because of Parent Teacher Conferences.**

Parents and family members are welcome and invited to attend as well. Students may also purchase tickets for their families during these lunch time sales.

Tickets to play the various games will be sold at the Festival and will cost only \$.25 each. Every game will require between 3 and 5 tickets to play. Prizes will be given to game winners.

Join us on November 18th for some fun and games at our annual Fall Festival!

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Contact the
Parent Coordinator at
718 937-0230 ext. 4143 or
347 563-4217 or email her
at
HStrafer@school.nyc.gov
www.IS125Q.net



Donations Needed for PTA Bake Sale

During the evening Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday November 17th, the Parents and Teachers Association of I.S. 125 will host a bake sale.

Coffee, cakes, cookies, doughnuts, soda, water, and assorted snacks will be available for sale between 5:30 PM and 8:15 PM in the cafeteria.

The PTA is asking for the support of all parents and staff members for this sale. Donations of baked goods, homemade or ready made, are needed for the sale.

If you are interested in donating refreshments to be sold, please have your child bring them to room 414E on the morning of November 17th. You may also bring donations to the school during the afternoon conferences.

All money raised through this sale will be used to fund upcoming student activities, and to purchase supplies and materials for the school throughout the year,



Art & Books

Our Annual **Book Fair** will take place in the school library from **Monday December 12th to Monday December 20th.** All students will have an opportunity to visit the Fair with their classes to purchase books, posters, gift items, and novelties during this time.

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.

For the first time, I.S. 125 will be hosting an exhibit of the work of all of the talented youngsters in our Art Program. Student work in watercolor, pastel, clay, collage, oil, and sculpture will be exhibited throughout the

ground floor of the school for parents, family, and friends to view and enjoy. **This art show will be held in conjunction with the Book Fair on Monday December 19th, and both will be open to families from 5 to 7 PM on that day. You may visit any time during those hours.**

Don't miss the opportunity to see for yourself the incredible talents of the children in our art classes, and at the same time, help support our school and develop and enhance your child's love of reading by purchasing materials at the Book Fair. **Please join us on Monday December 19th between 5 and 7 PM for both The Art Show and The Book Fair!**

Getting Ready for Parent Teacher Conferences: *Questions to Consider Asking Your Child's Teacher*

1. What is my child expected to learn, know and do at this grade level? How will it be assessed?
2. What are the big projects my child will be doing in your class this year? Throughout the year, how will I know if my child is meeting grade level expectations?
3. What does my child do well and what does he or she struggle with? Can you give me examples?
4. If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom? Can you give me examples?
5. How will you be introducing the Common Core standards to students this year?
6. Does my child turn in homework on time?
7. Is my child happy at school? How does my child get along with classmates and adults?
8. Does my child participate in class discussions and activities? What would make my child more effective in doing his/her work?
9. What can I do at home to reinforce what my child is learning at school?
10. Are there ways that I can help you in the classroom or the school?

* These questions are available in nine additional languages at the Department of Education page for parents and families at: schools.nyc.gov/parentsfamilies under the "Get More Info: Parent Teacher Conferences" section of the page.

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** for hungry children and families in our city.



We are 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 5th to December 9th**.

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 this week. All donations should be dropped off in the morning in the designated boxes in the cafeteria or in the main lobby of the school, or brought to room 414E.



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 5th**. 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. Please do not bring in any used clothing, toys, or books at this time.

All donations for the Toy Drive should be brought to the school by **December 15th** and taken to room 414E. Join us in supporting our holiday food and toy drives and get involved in your community!

Be BRAVE Against Bullying

The United Federation of Teachers (UFT) has recently launched a new campaign against bullying named **BRAVE**, which stands for **B**uilding **R**espect, **A**cceptance, and **V**oice through **E**ducation. It is aimed at providing students, parents, and educators with the tools and support needed to help stop bullying. BRAVE offers support to parents and teachers through workshops, movies and documentaries, and helpful resources and information provided through their website:

www.uft.org/BRAVE.

BRAVE also provides a confidential hotline for students who may be victims of intimidation and harassment. It is staffed by professionals from the Mental Health Association of New York City, who will provide students with supportive listening, crisis intervention, and suicide risk assessments. The free hotline is open Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 PM to 9:30 PM, and services are available in Eng-

lish, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and some other languages.



Legal Information For Families Today (LIFT)

The mission of Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) is to enhance access to justice for children and families by providing legal information, community education, and compassionate guidance, while promoting system-wide reform of the courts and public agencies. LIFT does not provide legal representation, but instead helps families without legal representation to advocate for themselves in court.. LIFT'S free programs, which are provided in English and Spanish include:

* One-on-one legal information * Assistance in preparing court documents * Accompaniment to Court * Referrals
*Workshops & Support Groups involving child support, custody, and visitation cases *Expert Family Court/Family Law Information *Legal information about Family Court proceedings & resources.

To learn more about their free services, call them at 212 343-1122 or find out more on their website at :

www.LIFTonline.org

Eighth Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

I.S. 125 is planning a trip to **Washington, D.C. from Wednesday April 4th to Friday April 6, 2012** for all eligible eighth grade students. This three-day, two-night trip may include visits to various museums in The National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery, Union Station, the monuments, the Capitol, and the White House.

Space is limited to a maximum of 88 students. The cost for each student will be \$ 300. This price includes round trip bus transportation to and from I.S. 125, hotel accommodations (including gratuities), admission to all attractions, most meals, and transportation throughout the D.C. area. In addition, students will receive I.S. 125 T-shirts which must be worn on all excursions. An advance deposit (\$150) is necessary to secure your child's place on this excursion.

Letters about the trip have been sent home with all eighth grade students for their parents. If you are interested in having your child participate in this exciting and educational event, you must complete the reservation form which was attached to the letter, and return it to the school with a **\$150 deposit by Friday December 2nd.** The deposit may be paid in cash or by money order, but no personal checks will be accepted. This \$150 deposit

will be fully refundable up until February 17, 2012, which is the final date for the balance of the money to be paid.

In order to provide more detailed information, and to answer any questions you may have about this trip, we will be holding a **Parent Information Meeting** for all interested students and their families on **Wednesday November 30th at 6 PM** in the school auditorium. Attendance at this meeting will help you to make a more informed decision as to whether or not you would like your child to participate in this trip.

This is the fifth year that I.S. 125 has offered eighth grade students the opportunity to participate in an overnight trip to other states, and each year has proven to be a great success. We hope that you will allow your child to be a part of this exciting experience this year.

If you did not receive a letter about the trip, or have any questions, please contact the Parent Coordinator or Mr. Robert Quintana, the Assistant Principal in charge of this trip.

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday November 16th : Report Cards Distributed to Students

Thursday November 17th: Parent Teacher conferences 12:50 PM to 2:50 PM and 6 PM to 8:30 PM and PTA Bake Sale

Friday November 18th: IS 125 Fall Festival 4PM to 6 PM

Thursday and Friday November 24 & 25th: School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday November 29th: Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce Holiday Tree Lighting at Joe Sabba Park at 50th Street And Queens Boulevard at 6:30 PM

Monday November 30th: Parent Information Meeting for 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C. at 6 PM

Saturday December 3rd: Woodside On The Move Annual Holiday Tree Lighting at Sohncke Square Park at 58th Street and Woodside/Roosevelt Avenues at 6 PM

Monday December 19th: IS 125 Student Art Show and Book Fair—5 to 7 PM

Monday December 26th to Monday January 2nd : School Closed for Winter Recess

School Resumes on Tuesday January 3, 2012

Thursday January 5th: IS 125 Winter Festival: Chorus & Orchestra Performances & PTA Meeting at 6 PM

Thursday January 12th: IS 125 Winter Festival: Dance & Drama Performances at 6 PM

Monday January 16th: School Closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day