

THOMAS J MCCANN WOODSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 125

JUDY LYNN MITTLER, PRINCIPAL

I. S. 125 Students Now Eligible for Supplemental Educational Services

As a result of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, our school has become eligible for the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Program. Through this program, your child can be given free tutoring and academic assistance in the areas of math, reading, and English Language Arts.

Your child may receive this tutoring at our school during after school hours, in your home, or at an outside location. These tutoring services will begin in early March, and for varying amounts of time depending upon the provider selected.

In order to enroll your child in a free SES tutoring program, you must complete the application that was sent home with your child, selecting one of the providers listed in the Parent Guide as the organization to provide the tutoring services.

If you are interested in having your child receive the SES tutoring services here at our school, the provider we have selected is Supreme Evaluation

Services. They will use members of our teaching staff to work with your children. The information about their program is on page 36 of the Parent Guide. If this is the provider you would like to select, you must enter their name in Section 2 of the SES Enrollment Form. Their ID number is 028 and the service code is 07.

Only Supreme Evaluation will be offering the SES tutoring in our school building.

If you do not wish to have your child participate in the Supreme Evaluation program here at our school, you may select any other provider from the Parent Guide and enter their name, ID number, and service code in the appropriate areas in Section 2 of the Enrollment Form.

If you are not selecting Supreme as a

provider, make sure you know where the provider you do select will offer the tutoring services and that the location is convenient for you to reach. If you select a home provider, make sure that they can accommodate your home schedule. You should call these providers for their specific information. Remember, only Supreme Evaluation Services will be offering the free tutoring in our school building.

To answer any questions you have about this process, and to assist you in completing your Enrollment Forms, we will be holding **parent information sessions on Thursday February 2nd at 1 PM and 4 PM.** Please remember, **all completed Enrollment Forms must be returned to the school by February 13th for your child to be enrolled in any SES program.** If you have any questions, please call the Parent Coordinator.

January- February 2012

Inside this issue:

NYS ELA & Math Exams	2
Annual Parent Survey	2
IS 125 Valentine's Dance	3
Donations Needed: PTA Refreshment Sale	3
Notify NYC	3

Free Drama & Dance Program	4
Free World Book Online Available	4
Calendar of Upcoming Events	4

Contact the Parent Coordinator;

718 937-0320 ext. 4143
347 563-417
HStrafer@schools.nyc.gov

IS 125 Website:
www.IS125Q.net

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on **Tuesday February 28th** in the afternoon and in the evening. **Afternoon hours will be from 12:50 to 2:50 PM, and evening conferences will take place from 6 to 8:30 PM.**

Appointments are not necessary for either the afternoon or the evening conferences. Parents will be seen at either conference on a first-come, first-served basis. They will report directly to the various teachers' rooms and sign-in on a waiting list to see each teacher. Parents will be seen in the order in which they signed in. If after signing in, any parents' names are called and they are not in attendance, they will miss their

turn and must re-sign at the bottom of the list in order to see that teacher. **There may be no exceptions to this rule.**

Remember however, that even though you do not need to make appointments, you will still need to allow yourself sufficient time to wait your turn to see each teacher. A separate sign-in sheet will be available outside every teacher's room.

Please also remember to bring your child's report card or a list of his or her teacher's names with you in order to know which ones you will need to visit. Directories

will be provided with all teachers listed by room number.

Each teacher will still only be available to speak with you for a **maximum of five minutes**, so conferences must be brief. If additional time is needed to speak with a teacher, or you do not have enough time to see all of the teachers you wish, a request may be made for a meeting at another time. Request forms are available from the Parent Coordinator. **Important Reminder!** Do not leave the Parent Teacher Conferences without completing your School Parent Survey! Details about this can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Get Ready for the New York State Tests!

This year, both the New York State English Language Assessment (ELA) and Math Exams for students in grades 3 through 8, will be administered in April 2012. **The ELA examination dates are Tuesday April 17 through Thursday April 19th. The mathematics exam will be given the following week from Wednesday April 25th to Friday April 27th.**

Please note; the ELA exam will begin the day after school re-opens from the spring break. School will

be closed for spring break from Friday April 6th to Friday April 13, and will re-open on Monday April 16th. **The first day of the ELA test will be on Tuesday April 17th.**

To help both you and your children prepare for these tests, the New York State Education Department has developed a Parent Website. This public website will provide information about the state assessments, give sample math and ELA questions, offer resources for parents, and suggest activities that parents can do at home with their children to reinforce skills tested on the ELA and

Math Tests. Information on this site is available in English and Spanish. To access this website, go to

www.nysparents.com



Parents: It's Time for the Annual School Survey

For the fifth year, the Department of Education is conducting a complete survey of all New York City public schools. In separate surveys, teachers, students, parents, and paraprofessionals are asked to provide information on how well they think their school is performing in areas of academics, safety and respect, communication, and engagement. After all of this information is compiled, a school receives a grade of A through F on an annual Progress Report, similar to your child's report card.

We were very pleased that last year, our school received an "A" on our annual Progress Report. The fact that 65% of the parents in our school responded to the survey last year, compared to only 35% in 2009-10 certainly made a great deal of difference. For those parents who completed our survey last year, thank you all so much for your involvement in and commitment to our school. You did a great job! For all of you, and for all of our new parents, we hope that

you will be even more responsive this year; we are aiming for 100% participation for 2011-12!

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and although each one is designated for the parents of a particular student by a name label, once completed, the name label is removed, and the survey is returned anonymously. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Urdu, Bengali, Arabic, Russian, and Haitian Creole.

The surveys will be available in our school beginning on Tuesday February 28th at the afternoon and evening Parent Teacher Conferences, and may be obtained from the Parent Coordinator.

Any parents who complete the surveys while at the conferences on Tuesday will receive a coupon redeemable for a free ice cream for their child, courtesy of the PTA of IS 125. These coupons which may be redeemed during the students' lunch periods on any Friday ice cream sale day.

Students of the parents who complete their surveys and return them to the school **at any time before the April deadline**

will be entered in a contest. The first three classes with 100% of their surveys handed in will win a pizza party, also courtesy of the PTA. Parents who are unable to pick-up and complete their surveys during the Parent Teacher Conferences will have other opportunities to do so before the April deadline for submission. However, in order for a family's survey to be counted, it must be returned to the school with the student, rather than put in the mail. If a family completes the survey on line, a confirmation print-out of that submission will be needed in order to qualify the student for the contest.

Additional details and information about the surveys, their completion, and submission will be available in February, and notices explaining the details of the process will be sent home with the students. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the Parent Coordinator.

Please, help us to meet our goal of 100% parent participation, and be sure to complete and return your survey to the school as soon as you receive it!



I.S. 125 Hosts its First Dance for Valentine's Day

For the first time, I.S.125 will be holding a *Valentine's Day Dance* for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students of our school, on Friday February 10, 2012. The dance will begin at 4 PM, and end promptly at 6 PM. Dance tickets will cost \$5.00 per student, and sales will be limited to 400 students. **Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday February 8th in the cafeteria during all student lunch hours, and will continue until Friday February 10th.** With the purchase of each dance ticket, students will automatically be entered in a drawing for a special door prize, provided courtesy of the PTA. They will also receive a coupon from the PTA

for a free drink and snack, to be redeemed at the dance. **In addition, the PTA will be selling pizza, soda, candy, and other special Valentines items and snacks.**

The PTA will also be selling flowers for the dance. Any students who would like to buy carnations for themselves or someone special, **must order them by Thursday February 9th**. The cost will be \$1.25 for each flower ordered. Students may order and pay for the flowers when they purchase dance tickets during their lunch periods. Students will receive the flowers they ordered when they arrive at the dance on February 10th. **Although dance tickets will be sold on Friday February 10th, flowers cannot**

be ordered on that day. Flower orders must be made and paid for by Thursday February 9th.

In order to purchase a dance ticket, a student must have a signed parental permission form. These permission forms and parent letters will be sent home at the beginning of February.

For additional information about the dance, please see or call the Parent Coordinator



Refreshment Sale & Gift Basket Raffle at Parent Teacher Conferences

The PTA of IS 125 will be hosting a refreshment sale at the evening Parent Teacher Conferences on Tuesday February 28th. They will be selling baked goods, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soda, juice, chips, and candy in the cafeteria from **5:30 to 8:15 PM**. Additionally, student volunteers will be walking throughout the school selling some of these refreshments for the PTA.

Donations of baked goods (homemade or store purchased) are needed for the sale. Donations may be brought to the school with your child, and taken to room 414E during AM homeroom. Or, if you prefer, you may bring them to the school during the afternoon conferences.

Please donate, and please stop at the PTA table in the cafeteria between 5:30 and 8:15 PM to purchase some goodies to keep you on your feet during the long evening of conferences! **Help support the school through your support of our PTA.**

The PTA will also be holding a raffle drawing for another great gift basket. The basket will be available to view in the main lobby, and raffle tickets will also be sold there. Tickets will be \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00. All sale proceeds from both the refreshments and the gift basket raffle are used to benefit the students and the school throughout the year

Notify NYC

Notify NYC is a free service from the City of New York that is designed to deliver timely emergency information to the public. These messages can be delivered via email, text message, or telephone. You may also register to receive these upgrades through Twitter. All the information included in these alerts is received through the NYC Office of Emergency Management.

When you subscribe to this service, you can indicate a certain zip code area for which you would like to receive information. All participants are automatically registered to receive any emergency alerts that may require them to take action, but you can also receive notification about significant events that do not require public action. These notifications include those concerning public health, public schools, parking and trans-

portation.

When registering for Notify NYC, you may select specific schools for which you would like to receive notifications which may include school opening delays, closings, or early dismissals.

To take advantage of this free alert system, register online at **www.nyc.gov**, and click on the "Notify NYC" link. You may also register by calling 311.

Dance & Drama Queens (and Kings) Wanted!



The Boys & Girls Club of Sunnyside/Woodside is sponsoring a new **free** program for young people between the ages of 11 and 14 called **Teen Seen**.

Teen Scene is a new drama & dance program in which young people will have the opportunity to cast, and produce their own play, design costumes, and create sets. Drama activities will

include theater games, improvisation, monologue, scene writing, and tips on audition do's & don'ts. Instructors will be from the Unity Stage Company.

Dance routines will include salsa and meringue, with instruction provided by Nairovis Sanchez, a professional dancer.

It will take place at the Sunny-

side Reformed Church on 48th Street and Skillman Avenue every Saturday from 1 to 3 PM beginning on February 4th and continuing for 20 Saturdays.

To register for **Teen Seen**, or to obtain more information about the program, please call the Unity Stage Company's Artistic Director, Sophia Landon Geier at 917 548-1086.

World Book Online Now Available for I.S. 125

Our school now has access to **World Book Online**. Students and their families may use this **free** service either in school or at home. World Book is a wonderful resource for all kinds of information, whether for school reports, general knowledge, or for help with specific questions.

The **World Book Online** package includes a comprehensive variety of encyclopedias ranging from ones suitable for young students right through to encyclopedias for college-age and adult students. Reference materials also include dictionaries, atlases, photos, audio, video, and periodicals, as well as interactive materials, and activities. Two of the encyclopedias are available in Spanish,

and most of the information in any of the encyclopedias can be translated into other languages by clicking on a translation button.

Your child may access the World Book site at school, or the whole family can use it at home. The web address for World Book Online is: <http://tinyurl.com/worldbook-IS125>

If your child is using this site at school, the username and password are both is125q. If you are using the site from home, the username and password are both is125qhome. Be sure to take advantage of this wonderful **free** educational opportunity and use **World Book Online** often!

Important Dates To Remember

January 25 to February 8th: Creative Essay Contest (poems, short stories, or artwork) for Respect for All Week. entries may be submitted. **Deadline for all entries is Wednesday February 8th.**

February 2nd: Parent information sessions for the Supplemental Educational Services program at 1 PM and at 4 PM

February 10th: I.S. 125 Valentine's Dance for students 4 to 6 PM

February 13th to 17th: Respect for All Week

February 20th to 24th: School closed for mid-winter recess. School resumes Monday February 27th.

February 27th: Third marking period report cards distributed to all students

February 28th: Parent Teacher Conferences-Afternoon: 12:50 to 2:50 PM and Evening: 6 to 8:30 PM

February 29th (Tentative Date): High school Round I results given to students

March 19th to 30th: Collection of Senior Dues (\$65) in all 8th grade homeroom classes

April 4th to 6th: 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

April 6th to April 13th: School closed for spring recess School resumes on Monday April 16th

April 17th to 19th: New York State ELA test

April 25th to 27th: New York State Math test

May 3rd: I.S. 125's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*

May 17th: I.S. 125's third annual Multi-Cultural Festival