



Parent Update E- Newsletter

February 9, 2016

Remaining Instructional Days of the month: **9**

Theory of Action:

If we **plan** strategically to intellectually **engage** our students via use of varied data-based **strategies**, along with promoting **student ownership** of the learning process, then we can tailor instruction to meet the **individual needs** of students to demonstrate **mastery of standards**.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”
— Malcom X

We, as a community, impact our student’s lives. Let’s work together to make every moment count. We have the data, we have the tools, we have the home-school connection...we **CAN** do this....together.

~Michelle

Celebrations!!

Our fourth **Parents as Learning Partners** event was a success. Over 30 families participated. Overall, our parents commented on how they were able to note the connection of instruction to the homework assignments in both ELA and Math. Here are some of their observations:

- Parent(s) noted that students were playing math games independent of the teacher. They were allowed choice and

independence with selecting math games. (Grade 1)

- Parent(s) noticed how the student’s number fluency has evolved. (Grade 1)
- Parent(s) made connections with the language/vocabulary used in association with writing a literary essay. (Grade 3).
- Our “Second Step” social emotional learning curriculum will be introduced to our students upon the return from our mid-winter recess. We will be sending home literature to explain the program and strengthen our home-school connection.
- Please join me in congratulating Ms. Kaminsky on an adventure that awaits her. Ms. Kaminsky accepted a wonderful opportunity to build capacity in many schools as a Borough Field Specialized Student Support Lead. She will be continuing her journey within the NYCDOE to continue to impact special education district-wide.

Ms. Kaminsky’s Message:

It has been a pleasure being part of the TCCS community. I truly appreciate having the privilege of working with your incredible children! I am so grateful for all of the ways that we were able to collaborate together. Thank you for your support and I will miss you all!

Announcements

Instruction:

SETSS Teacher- Please welcome, Ms. Johnson to our community. She will be working alongside Ms. Kaminsky this week to become better acquainted with our students and community.

Ms. Johnson will be our mandated Special Education Teacher Supports Services (SETSS) provider for the remainder of the school year.

NYS ELA and Math Test Parent Information Session:

Please join us on **February 23rd at 5:45** to discuss the upcoming NY State ELA and Math Tests. This workshop will enable parents to become familiar with NYS testing for students in grades 3 and 4. Parents will receive information about:

- The format of the test
- Tips for assisting students at home
- Resources on common core standards

Grade 3 & 4 Math Coaching Program-

We will be offering a six-week intensive Math Skill program for grades 3 & 4 beginning **February 22nd**. This program will be standards based and differentiated to meet all our student's needs (Below, On, Approaching, and Exceeding grade level). It is open to all Grade 3 & 4 students three times a week, regardless if students are enrolled in RTS or TC enrichment clubs. A more detailed letter, with permission slips, will be back packed by tomorrow.

Art Teacher Status:

We are very disappointed to announce that we were unable to secure the prospective new Art Teacher. Please be assured that we are working together with TC to provide alternative enrichment experiences for our students during those time blocks.

Other Items:

Performance:

The PA sponsored the Kotchegna Dance Performance in support of African American History Month. Our

students had a musical experience and practiced some cool dance moves to the rhythmic beat of drums. Thank you for the cultural experience PA!

100th Day of School: In the spirit of Respect for All and our Caring Month- we are having a "100 Acts of Kindness Challenge". Starting this week, each grade will work together to begin to record 100 Acts of Kindness. We will be working towards celebrating our 100 Acts of Kindness on our 100th day of School (February 26th).

Attendance:

Our school wide attendance goal is **98%**. Our attendance ***declined*** from December to January. Our overall attendance was **94.1%** for the month of January. Please make every effort to have your child(ren) here on time and ready to learn. *Showing up counts!*

Please stop by to see our class attendance bulletin board in the main lobby and celebrate our students who have **100%** attendance.

Coming Up Soon!

P.A. General Meeting – **Thursday, February 25th at 5:45 p.m.**

Our fifth **Parents as Learning Partners** event will be Friday, February 26th from 8:45-9:30 a.m. We ask that parents wait until classes have gone up and have had a chance to unpack and settle before going to classrooms. An announcement will be made when it is time to go to classrooms. *(This is also the 100th day of school!)*

Respect for All Week – Tuesday, February 9th – Friday, February 12th.

Mid-Winter Break – *no school*. Monday, February 15th - Friday, February 19th.

**NYS ELA & Math Information
Session for Parents**

Tuesday, February 23rd @ 5:45

Clothing Drive – begins Monday,
February 22nd.

Spring Student Led Conferences will
be held Wednesday, **March 2nd** in the
evening and Thursday, **March 3rd** in
the afternoon.