



Winter 2009-2010

DISTRICT UPDATE

*Edward Placke, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Bill Federice, Assistant Superintendent
Jennifer Herrera, District Clerk*

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is behind us and spring is not far off. The recently held staff development day (January 15, 2010) was dedicated to addressing District objectives that include literacy, social skills and parent communication. State mandated workshops were also provided to all District staff. The mandated topics were blood borne pathogens, sexual harassment and child protective guidelines. In all, the staff development day offered staff tools to better educate your children and prepare them for the rigors of the curriculum, high stakes exams, post secondary education and ultimately the world of work. As we begin the second semester our emphasis will continue to be on all three District objectives.

College Courses:

I am pleased to announce that the Greenburgh Academy is currently offering a three credit college business course to ten of our students. The course is provided in conjunction with Mercy College. Kenneth Clark Academy will be offering a three credit course leading to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate which will begin in February. The three credits for this course will be awarded by the Westchester County Community College. Additional college courses are planned for both schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

New Staff:

Mr. Jay Posephney, Assistant Principal - Greenburgh Academy
Tara Peters, Art Teacher – REACH
William Prattella, Teacher Assistant – REACH

Parent Communication:

We are in the process of developing a District website that will feature each of our three schools. The website will contain a variety of resources that include but not limited to emergency announcements, school calendars, special events and communication with teachers. The website will be launched by the summer. Please contact your child's principal if you have suggested content for the website.

Open House:

The spring Open House at each of the three schools is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2010. The Open Houses are an opportunity to become acquainted with your child's teachers and other staff. I look forward to seeing you.

Parent Support:

In light of the recent natural disaster in Haiti and the potential impact it may have on our students, I am sharing a list of "suggestions" you may want to utilize with your child.

10 Suggestions to Help Children Cope With Natural Disasters

While hundreds of thousands of children will be directly affected by the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti, children everywhere will experience distress as they hear of people who have suffered and watch displaced people on TV. Parents and other adults can take steps to help cope with their fears and live with hope.

Here are 10 suggestions.

1. Allow children to express their concerns through art work and play.
2. Provide a moment of silence to reflect on those affected by the earthquake.
3. Limit the amount of television coverage of the disaster children watch.
4. Give children something concrete to do, for example let children help purchase and assemble health kits, layette, or flood buckets. See <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies> for information on how to assemble kits.
5. Develop a family disaster plan for the types of natural disasters that may happen in your area. Role play some possible situations. Knowing that you are prepared will help children cope with fears that they may find themselves separated from family in the event of a disaster.
6. Talk with children about what has happened, helping them to identify their feelings. Ask them what they have heard about the disaster from other children. Sometimes children have heard wildly inaccurate information from their peers that needs to be corrected to alleviate fears that have no basis in reality.
7. Discuss openly with children what family, school and other organizations are doing to help those who have been hurt by the disaster.
8. Older children may find it helpful to write what they are feeling. Suggest keeping a journal on paper or computer.
9. Let children use puppets to express feelings.
10. Do a low-key activity together such as assembling a puzzle, playing a board game, or baking cookies that creates spaces for children to talk. Children often find it easier to talk about important things while they are engaged in other activities.

Next Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Donate your old instrument!

Have an instrument collecting dust in your home? Consider donating it to the District. The music department will accept donations of playing-condition band and orchestra instruments. These instruments are often used to supplement the district inventory and might be played by students whose families cannot afford to provide an instrument for them. Please contact Jennifer Herrera at 914-693-

Athletic Schedule

| Boys Basketball Game Schedule 2009-2010 | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Date | Status | Time | School |
| Tue, January 19th | HOME | 4:30 PM | Martin Luther King Jr. High School |
| Tue, January 26th | AWAY | 4:30 PM | Solomon Schechter School |
| Thu, January 28th | AWAY | 6:15 PM | Putnam Valley High School |
| Tue, February 2nd | AWAY | 6:00 PM | Children's Village |
| Thu, February 4th | HOME | 4:30 PM | Greenburgh Academy |
| Tue, February 8th | HOME | 4:30 PM | Leake & Watts |
| Bowling Schedule 2009-2010 | | | |
| Date | Location | | |
| January 20th | Paradise | | |
| January 25th | Homefield Bowl | | |
| January 27th | Paradise | | |
| February 1st | Homefield Bowl | | |
| February 3rd | Paradise | | |
| ALL BOWLING DATES START AT 3:30 PM | | | |

Administrative Contacts

Edward Placke, Superintendent of Schools (914) 693-3030 ext. 2248 - Cell (914)357-1334
 Bill Federice, Asst. Superintendent (914) 693-3030 ext. 2360 – Cell (914) 790-1670
 Jennifer Herrera, Secretary to Supt/District Clerk (914) 693-3030 ext. 2248 – Cell 914-618-0298
 Veronica Howell, Greenburgh Academy Principal (914) 964-5496
 Jay Posephney, Greenburgh Academy Assistant Principal (914) 964-5496
 Donna Pasini, REACH Principal (914) 949-0665 ext. 220
 David Gualtiere, Kenneth Clark Academy Principal (914) 798-7200 ext. 2711
 Walter Chadwick, Kenneth Clark Academy Asst. Principal (914) 798-7200 ext. 2718
 Jason Gerald, Kenneth Clark Academy Dean of Students (914) 798-7200 ext. 2769