



Prospect Heights School District 23

January 10, 2020

New Years Resolutions

10 frogs are sitting on a log. 7 of them decide to jump into the water. How many frogs are left on the log?

The answer might seem to be 3, but the correct answer is 10 frogs because there is a very important difference between DECIDING to do something and ACTUALLY doing it. As I tell my doctor at my annual physical, I set a goal each year to exercise 4 times a week and to lose weight. Each year, however, there are a number of reasonable and rational explanations for why I was too busy to get to the gym and many examples of "cheat" days from my dieting. (Although to be fair, I am 1/2 Polish and 1/2 Italian, so CARBS are a food group in my family!)

As we return to the daily schedule of our kids going to school and the start of the New Year, many of us set goals for improvements to ourselves, our work, or our families. When I reflect on the start of each new year, I am optimistic about the possibility of enhancements and positive change. I am also reminded of the lesson of the frogs and the importance of moving from setting goals to attaining them.

In our work with students, we discuss the powerful concept of Growth Mindset. Kids LOVE this idea, and we as adults should take a lesson from their openness and willingness to learn. We help our students understand that achieving their goals is not an overnight success story and that it is only through small daily practice that we get better. Our teachers help students understand that YET is the best word in our vocabulary. We also discuss the reality that true change and growth requires hard work and determination, often defined as "grit".

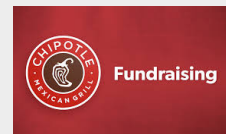
As parents, we model this mindset too. Teaching each of my four kids to ride a bicycle was a different experience for each. My oldest took to it right away. My second was afraid and uncertain for months. My boys preferred the training wheels. None of them, however, learned to ride without falling at least a few times. As parents we protect and nurture our children because it pains us to witness their pain. When it comes to learning though, we must also help our children to see the benefit in the struggle, the importance of learning from mistakes, and the power of picking yourself back up and getting back on the bike.

We thank all of our families for your continued partnership in supporting the growth of children and know that we will share in the work of making school and home a safe place for our children to learn. I hope that you have success in attaining whatever goals or resolutions you set for yourself, but also hope that you stay focused on the daily decisions and actions required to attain those goals. Lastly, I hope you persevere through the challenges and falls with grit and determination. Whether we are successful in attaining every goal we set or not, it is in modeling a growth mindset that we have the most powerful impact!

Upcoming Events



No School
January 20 & 21



January 30
D23 Chipotle
Fundraiser Night



February 6
6:00pm
BPAC
Night

at Prospect Heights
Library



Board of
Education
Meeting

February 12, 2020
7:00 pm
@ Grodsky Admin Bldg.



Parent Teacher
Conferences

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Dr. Angelaccio

District 23 Parent Satisfaction Survey



Feedback on performance is one of the most important components of growth. Without feedback, we are missing significant amounts of data that enable us to reflect and improve. As a part of our District 23 Strategic Plan, we have identified key data points that help us to measure our performance and inform our decision making. **That's where you come in...**

In order for us to receive meaningful data, we must have at least 10% of each school's parents respond to the 5Essentials Survey. If you have already completed the survey, we thank you very much for your time and input.

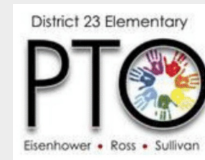
[If you have not yet done so, we invite you to complete the 5Essentials survey by following this link and selecting the school serving your child or children.](#)



Quick Links



[Visit the D23 website](#)



[Link to: Board of Education Agendas and Meeting Highlights
January 8, 2020](#)

District 23 Seeks Responsible Bids

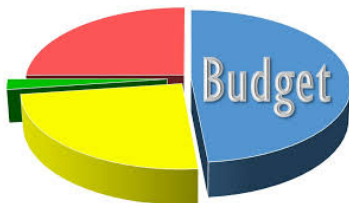
As responsible stewards of community resources, Administration and the Board of Education have reviewed a number of service contracts and will be seeking competitive bids and proposals. The board will review and deliberate over these this Spring.

At this time, the District is seeking bids and proposals for:

- Custodial Services
- Legal Services
- Food Services
- Landscaping Services



Financial Reports - No Increase to Student Fees!



The board approved received a report from Chief School Business Official, Mrs. Amy McPartlin that provided 5 year projections for revenue and expenses. This data is used to guide budget planning for the next fiscal year.

The Board discussed Student Fees and have decided to hold fees this year with NO INCREASE. Lunch fees and other specific items will be reviewed later in the summer. Registration will begin in February for Kindergartners and in April for all returning students.

Construction Grant

District 23 has applied for a State Construction Grant and hope to receive \$50,000 in matching State funds to support our planned Summer Construction projects.



Congrats to our RAFFLE Winners - \$10 Starbucks Gift Card

Dawn Scheuerman: Sullivan, MacArthur

Christine Czernecki: Eisenhower

Chris Scheidhauer: MacArthur

Anna Picuch: Sullivan

Maybe you'll be the next winner...

[Click here if you're still READING this Newsletter to be entered into a raffle!](#)

Building Briefs

Registration for Kindergarten in February



We know...it's only January, but in the Education World, that means we're starting on the next school year! If you know of any families who have a student ready for Kindergarten in the Fall, please [share this link](#) with more info about our timeline and process.



Save the Date - The LIKE Movie

As a component of our Parent Engagement strategies and to support our community, we invite you to save the date to view the LIKE Movie at MacArthur Middle School on March 19, 2020.

This is a documentary film about the impact of social media on our lives.

More importantly, it will help us think about how we monitor and support student use and responsible digital citizenship. As adults, we must set an example for a healthy balance.



Ever Wonder about your child's Lunch Account Balance?

Happy New Year! Over the winter break, the Business Office has been working behind the scenes to enhance the features of the MealTime Lunch Program. Current student photos have been uploaded to the service terminals, providing an added layer of student identification for PIN lunch purchases and beginning January 15th, the District will be sending low balance reminders home via email!



Through the MealTime POS (Point of Sale software), we now have the capability to push low and negative balance notifications out directly to families on a weekly basis. This automated feature will allow us to communicate with all families proactively and will replace the paper slips that have been sent home from some of the buildings. Low balance reminders will be sent once a student's lunch account falls below \$5. Parents will be reminded that it is time to make a deposit into their child's account.

We encourage all families to sign up for the MyMealTime account management tool. The link is available on the District website or by clicking: <https://www.mymealtime.com/>. The program allows parents the opportunity to check their student's balances, make online lunch deposits and track account activity and food purchases on a daily basis.

As always, please contact the Business Office if you should have any questions regarding your student's account!

Connect With Us



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