December’s… Fun Friday!

On a Friday of every month, you are invited into your child’s classroom to participate in an interactive, curriculum-based activity. Throughout the year, we will explore different subject areas.

December’s Fun Friday will focus on Family Traditions.

Come share with us!!

When: Friday, December 4, 2015
Time: 8:15am—9:00am
Where: Your child’s classroom

We can’t wait to see you!

The remaining dates for this school year are:
Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 11, April 1, May 13, June 3

Chancellor Fariña Launches
NYC Reads 365

You might have seen this poster and the reading lists (by grade) in our entry way; or you might have heard in the news about Chancellor Fariña’s new initiative….New York City students are being challenged to read EVERY day, at home and in school.

NYC Reads 365 is an important literacy initiative of the NYC Department of Education, Division of Teaching & Learning/ Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, to encourage and nurture a city of readers. The initiative is supported by collections of high-interest reading lists for students in Grades PK–12 that include nonfiction, graphic novels, fantasy, humor, nonstop action, poignant realism, and much more!

If you would like your own poster (or any of the reading lists, Pre-K through 12), you can download them at: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/NYCRends365

There is a wealth of research supporting daily reading. Reading purely for oneself, to encounter new words, to learn new information, to be inspired—this is the path to success in school, as it is in life.
Looking for Just-Right Books for Your Child?

The Find-a-Book website can help you identify books that your child is interested in and is able to read. It uses a Lexile reading measure to determine appropriate books. A Lexile measure reflects a student’s reading ability and a book’s text difficulty. Go to www.lexile.com/findabook. Choose your child’s current grade, check the box that describes your child as a reader, and select an area of interest. You can view and refine search results. If you want to see a comparison of Lexile measures and the A to Z levels we use, go to www.blakeeducationalresources.com/uploads/BooksourceLeveledTextChart.pdf.

There are also two apps that can help you. Scholastic’s Book Wizard (http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizardmobile/) and Level It Books (http://levelitbooks.com/). Both apps allow you to scan books to find their level; and both work with iOS and Android smartphones. Scholastic’s Book Wizard is free and Level It Books costs $3.99.

Kindergarten Curriculum—Parent Workshops

Kindergarten parents/guardians, please join us on Wednesday mornings in December from 8:00—8:45 a.m. for workshops covering the kindergarten curriculum. The kindergarten teachers will be facilitating these workshops that will offer a more in-depth look at what your children are learning and will offer strategies you can utilize at home. The workshops will take place in our library.

December 2nd—Reading and Fundations (Phonics)
December 9th—Writing
December 16th—Math
December 23rd—Social Studies & Science

A Garden Will Grow at PS 196

Our garden project is gaining momentum. Come spring, a garden will grow at PS 196. We would like to thank all those involved in the design, planning and implementation of our new garden. Our garden will be located on the 72nd Avenue side of our front playground. On Wednesday, October 11th, parent volunteers with the support of teachers and our custodial staff, did some major manual labor!! The land was cleared, trees were uprooted and replanted, soil was raked, rows were dug to fit garden boxes, and wood was cut to start building the planters. Just think how great it will be to watch the flowers and vegetables grow!!

GIFTED & TALENTED TESTING - GRADES K, 1 & 2

Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade who signed up for the Gifted and Talented assessment, will be tested on either Saturday, January 9th or Sunday, January 10th. If your child was confirmed as a participant, you will be receiving a notice as to which day he or she will be tested.

PROJECT ARTS SHOWCASES—
LATIN DANCE, HIP HOP AND ROCK-N-ROLL REVIEW

Each year our students take part in arts residencies thanks to the generosity of our Parents Association. Our 2nd, 4th and 5th grade students have been working with teaching artists from Marquis Studios. We hope you will join us and bring your cameras, as your children impress you with the dances they have learned.

♦ 5th Grade—Wednesday, December 16, 9:15 a.m.—Rock-n-Roll Review Culminating Event
♦ 4th Grade—Thursday, December 17, 9:15 a.m.—Hip Hop Culminating Event
♦ 2nd Grade—Monday, December 21, 9:15 a.m.—Latin Dance Culminating Event.
Help City Harvest feed New York City’s hungry men, women and children. Please help feed the hungry this month by bringing in canned food for our annual City Harvest Food Drive. From December 7th—11th please bring in nonperishable food, plastic jars, cans and boxed foods. The food drive helps City Harvest stock shelves at food pantries and soup kitchens for the holidays.

Great teachers change lives. They unlock their students’ potential and put them on paths to success. The New York City Department of Education has launched its fourth annual Big Apple Awards: Recognizing Teacher Excellence in New York City to celebrate excellent teaching by acknowledging the great work of some of our best and brightest teachers. Teachers who inspire students, model great teaching, and enrich their school community. You can nominate a teacher by going to: http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/BigAppleAwards/default.htm

The deadline to nominate a teacher is January 17, 2016

Author Iza Trapani and Rachelle Burk Come to PS196Q

Thanks to the generosity of our Parents Association, we have scheduled two additional author visits for December. Iza Trapani will be visiting our school on Monday, December 7th. Ms. Trapani will be speaking with students in grades K & 1 about, Rufus and Friends School Days. Ms. Trapani always wanted to be an author, and her dream came true as she is currently writing her own verses and publishing books for children.

On December 14th, author Rachelle Burk will be meeting with our students in Pre-K and 2nd grade. Ms. Burk the author of Don’t Turn the Page and The Tooth Fairy Trap, is a gifted story teller and children’s author who captures the attention and imagination of children with her engaging stories.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES & OPEN SCHOOL WEEK

We were delighted to see so many of you for Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 5th. Almost 95% of you came during afternoon or evening conferences. Our best turn out, ever! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to speak with your children’s teachers. Many of you also sat in on your children’s classes during Open School Week. This gave you the opportunity to witness first-hand the teaching that makes PS 196 such a terrific school.

Success Through Organization and Study Skills—December 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.—Evening Workshop

You are invited to join Ellen Maurer, parent coordinator, on Thursday, December 22nd @ 7:00 p.m. for a workshop entitled “Success through Organization and Study Skills”. Helping students develop strong organization and study skills is extremely important. These skills will benefit your children throughout their lives, and prepare them for college and careers.

Data-Tech Workshop—Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30 a.m.—Morning Workshop

Please join Ms. Phillips, our technology teacher, for ________________ on December 16th at 7:30 in the morning. She will ________________

PARENT WORKSHOPS......

Winter Concert

Please join us for our ANNUAL “WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT” Thurs., December 17, 2015 @ 6:30 pm

Our Senior Chorus will perform a wonderful selection of seasonal and holiday songs.

Children in Grades K—2 will perform instrumental solos

Mrs. Migliano’s Newsletter
PS196Q—The School with a Heart
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Ms. Ellen Maurer, Parent Coordinator
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We're on the web!
ps196q.edublogs.org

Dates to Remember...

December 1—MIDDLE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS DUE TO CLASSROOM TEACHER
December 1—Kindergarten Trip—Classes 014 & 016—Kids in Shape
December 2—Kindergarten Parent Workshop—Reading & Fundations (Phonics) @ 8:00 a.m.
December 2—Kindergarten Trip—Class 031 & K Students from 291—Kids in Shape
December 2—4th Grade Trip to Old Bethpage Restoration Village
December 3—Kindergarten Trip—Classes 011 & 012—Kids in Shape
December 3—NO SCHOOL for PRE-K ONLY
December 4—Fun Friday—Celebrate Family Traditions—8:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
December 4—Kindergarten Trip—Classes 013 & 015—Kids in Shape
December 7—Author Visit—Ms. Iza Trapani—Grades K & 1
December 9—Kindergarten Parent Workshops—Writing @ 8:00 a.m.
December 9—3rd Grade Trip to Paper Bag Players
December 14—Author Visit—Ms. Rachelle Burk—Grades Pre-K & 2
December 15—Star Student Award Ceremony—7:00 p.m.
December 15—Parents Association Meeting—7:30 p.m.
December 16—Data-Tech Meeting @ 7:30 a.m.
December 16—2nd Grade to the Nutcracker
December 16—Kindergarten Parent Workshop—Math @ 8:00 a.m.
December 16—5th Grade Culminating Event for Rock & Roll Revue @ 9:15 a.m.
December 17—Coffee & Conversation @ 8:15 a.m.
December 17—4th Grade Culminating Event for Hip Hop @ 9:15 a.m.
December 17—“Winter Solstice Concert” @ 6:30 p.m.
December 18—SLT Meeting @ 7:00 a.m.
December 21—2nd Grade Culminating Event for Latin Dance @ 9:15 a.m.
December 22—Parent Workshop—Success Through Organization and Study Skills—7:00 p.m.
December 23—Kindergarten Parent Workshop—Social Studies & Science @ 8:00 a.m.
December 24—January 3rd—SCHOOL CLOSED—WINTER RECESS

PS196Q—2015-2016 Goal Highlights

- Our teachers will continue to create differentiated, rigorous lessons with multiple entry points in order to engage high-achieving students in all grades in cognitively challenging work.
- We will focus on the progress of our students with disabilities, English as a New Language (ENL) students and at-risk students, with regard to their writing. Teachers will use the concepts of Universal Design for Learning and differentiation to embed multiple entry points into instruction, and we will measure their progress by analyzing their performance on writing tasks.
- We will renew our commitment to making sure that each individual child is supported both socially and emotionally, by using our resources to ensure that all staff are properly trained on how to support students and improve their relationships with their peers.
- We will work toward building capacity within our building, by increasing the number of teachers taking on leadership roles across grade levels and interest areas, including a data specialist, vertical team leaders, conflict resolution specialist, and more.
- We will create new opportunities for parents and guardians to become involved in school-related activities, such as Family Fridays, Science Fun Day, Family Math Night and additional classroom celebrations.