



Oceanside

School # 4 PTA NEWS

Fall 2015

Patricia Abela, PTA Co-president
Frances Gallin, PTA Co-president
www.oceansideschools.org/4south

President's Corner

Dear School #4 Families,

It is hard to believe that the Holiday season is arriving! Seems like yesterday that summer was ending and we started the school year.

We hope that both new and returning families have settled in nicely here at School #4. We are honored to be your PTA Co-Presidents for the 2015-2016 school year.

Our PTA is made up of parents, teachers, grandparents, guardians, school staff, and others in the community working together to improve the educational lives of our children. As you can see we are a very busy and productive PTA. The PTA provides many activities, fundraisers, and services throughout the year. It is our hope that every family can participate, so we can better serve our children and their needs.

We would like to thank all of our outstanding committee co-chairs and our many volunteers. Your dedication has made this year a great success. We look forward to getting to know your family. We hope you will join us for our PTA meetings to learn about the events the PTA has planned and much more.

On behalf of the PTA Executive Board and all the volunteers, we wish everyone a very productive year ahead and look forward to your continued support. Should you have any questions feel free to contact us. All of our information is in the calendar. Questions and Suggestions are always welcomed!

Thank You,

Your PTA Co-Presidents

Patricia Abela and Frances Gallin



NYSPTA went digital this year. All member cards were sent out via emails. We have 224 paid members, which includes our Principal and faculty. We are about 45 families short of our goal of 100%. Its never to late to join! The membership dues for the 2015-2016 school year are \$11.00 for a single membership and \$6.00 for each additional adult member. Please make checks payable to School #4PTA .Please return your payment to Gina Ricottone, VP Membership. Gricottonepta@gmail.com

There is great strength in numbers and each parent and staff member who joins makes our PTA stronger, so please take the time to join and support our mission of every child, one voice®.

From
the
Principal



Dear Parents,

I am so grateful to the PTA and all of the volunteers who contribute to making our school such a wonderful place. Creating a newsletter is no easy task, but the information you read will provide you with details to add to the picture you have of our school. Within each edition of the PTA Newsletter various grades and content areas will be highlighted. In this edition, you will see a submission from the Child Study Team. You might be asking yourself, who are the members of the Child Study Team (CST)?

CST includes:

Principal - Mrs. Kletter, 678-7581

School Psychologist - Dr. Borelli, 594-2355

School Social Worker - Mrs. Horcher, 678-2726

Nurse - Mrs. Randell, 678-7574

Special Education - Mrs. Dinolfo, 678-7581

Speech/Language Teacher - Mrs. Prieston, 678-7581

Reading - Mrs. Comerford and Mrs. Ginsburg, 678-7581

English as New Language (ENL) - Mrs. Guerra, 678-7581

Classroom Teacher, 678-7581

The members of the CST meet regularly to review the progress of our students. We work as a team to identify strategies to assist students who are struggling academically, emotionally, or socially. We communicate with the parents of children we believe are in need of greater assistance, but it is important for all parents to know that this essential resource exists. When looking for answers, always start with the classroom teacher. Within the school day, she spends the most time with your child and can assist with strategies or point you in the right direction for further support.

As the holidays approach, we are thankful to all of you for the support you provide your children and our school. School #4 is our home and we work to ensure that the feeling of family resonates with all of our students, parents, teachers, and staff.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kletter
Principal

First Grade

The children have settled in nicely to their "new" surroundings at School 4. We shared first day feelings - excited, happy, nervous, and scared. They saw "old" friends, and have made "new" ones. First grade is a happy place.

What a beautifully warm day the first graders had for their first field trip in October to Atlantic Nursery. They fed the animals, happily and

excitedly slid down the slide, and were brave enough to venture into the haunted house! They all left with a pumpkin, which they chose. In keeping with the theme of fall and pumpkins, and our science curriculum of Properties, the first graders gathered in the cafeteria to observe whether pumpkins sink or float. All were very amazed!! Can you guess what happened?

What fun we had on our school-wide trip to The Long Island Children's Museum. The children explored many areas, observing,

discovering, and having lots of FUN!

As Thanksgiving approaches, the first graders will gather together for a Thanksgiving Feast to give thanks for our family and friends.

Please read with your child every day to help them become more proficient and confident readers. See the joy on their face when they discover, "I can read!"



Fourth Grade Happenings

The fourth grade is off to a fabulous start! We are immersed in literature as well as readings in all content areas. The students enjoyed reading Fourth Grade Rats and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. They studied character traits and story elements which they are applying to their nightly reading responses. Please continue to monitor their reading notebooks where you will see their growth and progress as readers and writers.

Our children are emerging authors! They've chosen their subjects and are in the drafting/ revising stage of their Biography projects. They are enjoying learning that good writing is a process and is comprised of many stages along the

way to a final published piece. The support you provide at home is an invaluable part of their success.

We were all impressed with the culminating projects for our study of Native Americans comparing and contrasting the Iroquois and Algonquian nations. Their extensive knowledge and ability to discuss in detail their projects was wonderful and they shared them with the third grade. Our trip to the Fire Island Lighthouse was an extension of this unit and the children connected New York and the Native Americans to the history of Long Island.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Please continue to monitor their Agendas and Reading Notebooks regularly and to reinforce knowledge of multiplication facts. This is integral to their ability to succeed with the forthcoming Math concepts.



Physical Education

School #4 will be participating in the American Heart Associations "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser again this year. Information on how to contribute will be sent home with your child before our Thanksgiving break and all monies will be due prior to our winter Holiday vacation in December. Please consider contributing to this worthy cause and discussing the value of charitable giving with your child.



On another note, students must wear sneakers in order to participate in any Physical Education class. Students who are "unprepared" on any given day are unable to play in that day's activity. Please review with your child on which day they have Physical Education and help them to be dressed appropriately for class.

Child Study Team

Select members of the School #4 Child Study Team are participating in the Educational Technology Initiative this year in Oceanside. Specific grades will be "targeted" to use IPADS during their group times. The CST members, with the support of the Technology department, will explore several apps to determine the effectiveness of using this technology in the small group support setting.

For example, Mrs. Dinolfo will be using Raz-Kids with her sixth grade group in the Resource Room. We are excited about this new initiative and look forward to watching the children learn and grow in response to this technology.

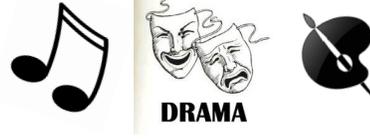
Sixth Grade Updates



TEAM 2016 is finishing up our fundraising efforts! We have held pretzel sales, 2 car washes, the Halloween party and the Thanksgiving pie sale! We cannot thank the School #4 community enough for your support! The money raised goes toward the Frost Valley trip, 6th Grade Day, Yearbooks, the Moving Up Ceremony, and a few graduation gifts. It is a very busy and exciting year! A special note of thanks to the 6th grade parent volunteers who dedicate their time to making this year extra special. Not only are your children lucky to have you - but you are priceless to us! Happy Holidays everyone!

If you have any questions about 6th Grade, please contact Teri Mallozzi, School #4 Sixth Grade Advisor at 516-457-4350 cell

MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE ARTS



*On October 26th the children enjoyed an assembly where they learned about different cultures, languages and traditions from countries all over the world. Photographer and World Traveler, Michael Harrold, took the kids on an “Adventure around the world”, through his stories and breathtaking photographs.

**Upcoming events:

Fifth grade circus on January 8th, 2016

Petra Puppets-Reading Rampage (Kickoff PARP) on February 29th, 2016

PTA Council Delegate Update:

We have attended three Council meetings so far this school year. Assemblyman Brian Curran and Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky attended our Council Meeting on November 18th and spoke on crucial issues within public education.

Such topics included:

- diplomas for special needs students
- drugs and alcohol
- common core/APPR/education standards/testing

Please attend the following meetings to support their efforts:

- Drugs and Alcohol, 12/3 at East Rockaway HS at 7 pm/ open to ALL
- Diplomas for special needs students, 12/8 at Oceanside Library at 7 pm/ open to ALL

In addition, the Council Advocacy Committee asks that parents utilize the following two important surveys to advocate for your child and voice your concerns regarding common core and the New York State Standards. The deadline for these surveys is November 30th.

Commissioner MaryEllen Elia has created a comprehensive, user friendly survey where teachers and parents can comment on individual standards. The link for commissioner MaryEllen Elia Survey: <https://www.aim-high-ny.statestandards.org>

Governor Cuomo has also created the Common Core Task Force Survey. This survey is more open-ended and asks for written response in regards to the common core. Please take Governor Cuomo's Common Core Task Force Survey: <https://www.ny.gov/content/common-core-task-force-input>

The next PTA Council meeting is scheduled for January 25th at 8 pm. Please contact GiGi Perez (917) 627-4527 or Pearl Pollac 632-9971, School # 4 Council Delegates with any question.



*The Winter Concert will be
on December 16th, 2015
at 9:30 am*



Join us on the
“Oceanside School 4
Parents Association”
Facebook Group.



12/4 – Holiday Boutique
12/8 - DAWC Mtg. 11:30 am
12/23 – Staff Breakfast
12/29 – Movie – Merrick Cinemas, Alvin & Chipmunks
1/7/16 – PTA Mtg. 7:30 pm, 529 Plan Speaker
1/12/16 – DAWC Mtg., 11:30 am