



The William T. Harris School

PTA NEWSLETTER

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May, 2005

Broadway Debuts

Please join us for staged readings of one-act plays by our 3rd and 4th grade playwrights performed by actors on May 10th and 12th from 9-11 am (3rd Grade); and May 16th and 18th, also from 9-11 am (4th grade). The readings will take place on the Broadway stage at Circle in the Square, 1633 Broadway. (Enter on West 50th Street, between Broadway and Eighth Avenue).

These Broadway debuts mark the completion of the seventh productive year of Circle in the Square Theatre School's residency program at P.S. 11. Four 3rd and 4th grade classes attended workshops last fall. Since February, the other half of these grades have been learning to write their own unique, personal, and often funny short plays, during 15 workshops planned and developed with school staff, teachers, and PTA representation.

Students are learning the basic structure and content of plays from award-winning teaching artist Daniel Judah Sklar and a group of four teaching assistants who are graduates of Circle in the Square Theatre School's Professional Training Program for Actors. These young professional actors guide a small group of students and demonstrate concepts through improvisation that enable our young writers to go further. These concepts include: details and status of character, descriptive use of language, sequence of story, conflict, transitions and resolutions. Our teachers and arts specialists work collaboratively with this program, ensuring a seamless connection to areas of the curriculum.

This project is made possible with funding from the NYC Departments of Education and Cultural Affairs, State Assemblyman Gottfried, City Councilwoman Quinn, The New York Times Foundation and The Jewels of Charity.

Jonathan Mann

A note to parents with students in this program: Letters from parents describing observations/what your child has learned are very welcome and helpful in our assessment of this program. Please send your letter to Colin O'Leary, Circle in the Square Theatre School, 1633 Broadway NY, NY 10019.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 11th -- General PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

May 19th -- Multicultural Night, 6:30pm

May 30th -- Memorial Day (School Closed)

On the Big Screen

One film you and your family absolutely cannot miss this year is Mad Hot Ballroom. Partially shot on location at P.S. 11 by Claudia Raschke-Robinson, Director of Photography and P.S. 11 parent, this documentary is "an inspiring look inside the lives of New York City school kids on a journey into the world of ballroom dancing, an unexpected arena where they discover new frontiers about attitude, movement, style and commitment. Read more about the movie on its official Website:

<http://www.paramountclassics.com/madhot/>

Mad Hot Ballroom premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 24th. It is rated PG and will be in theaters in New York beginning on May 13th.

Congratulations Claudia, Ms. Garrick (who has worked so hard on this program), and P.S. 11!

Computer Whizzes

On Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:30 pm, The Apple Computer Store in Soho is giving our students an opportunity to present their school computer work. As part of computer class work, many children have created presentations on a topic either relating to their classroom studies or of their own life and interests.

I hope you and your children can come and share their educational- technology achievements. There will also be a short media presentation of movies and photos done at the school over the last few years. Please email me at nrubinf@nycboe.net or see me in the computer lab any day before 9 am or after 3 pm if you have any questions. Nick Rubinfier

WORK HARD. PLAY FAIR. BE KIND.

From Your PTA Co-President

With only two months left in the school year, now is the time for everyone to focus on end-of-the-year activities, as well as getting ready for next year.

Coming up this month is Multicultural Night on May 19th at 6:30p.m., one of P.S. 11's most important events of the year. This event celebrates one of our school's greatest assets—the diversity of our community. It also acknowledges the importance of people from many different backgrounds working together to create a strong community that our children can learn and benefit from.

Also coming up this month are the PTA Executive Board nominations, which will be held at this month's General PTA Meeting on May 11th. It's critical to any school or organization that new voices with fresh perspectives are consistently heard to ensure that a great future lies ahead for all P.S. 11 students. If you haven't already, please consider running for the 2005-2006 Board.

And on a final note, if you haven't had time to support P.S. 11 this school year, please make an effort to do so before the year is over. Whether it's volunteering your time for a school event or project, or donating to the Annual Fund, it doesn't really matter how you give to your child's school, it's just important that you do whatever you can to help.

Linda Osborne

Street Smarts Workshop

Pre-K Social Worker Don Duerr will be leading workshops for families of Pre-K children—and other interested families—on Tuesday, May 10, starting around 8:40am and 12:25pm in the cafeteria.

Get tips for safeguarding your children plus get the information you need to teach them to keep themselves safe.

Girl Scout News

Meetings will be held on:
Thursday, May 12
Thursday, May 26

**Thanks to Kinko's at 24th St. and 7th Ave. for donating the printing of our newsletter.
212.929.0623**

SLT News: Upgraded!

Announcing the grand re-opening of the computer lab!

Thanks to a generous grant from Councilmember Christine Quinn's office and the hard work of Nick Rubinfier, P.S. 11 has purchased 30 new computers and software for the computer lab.

The lab's old computers will be moved to the classrooms and the kids of P.S. 11 will have wonderful state-of-the-art equipment. The upgrade should be completed before the end of the year.

Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to send P.S. 11's 2005 5th Grade graduates off in style.

We need someone to volunteer to chair this event. Plus volunteers are needed to help out on the day of the graduation ceremony, Friday, June 24th (Exact time to be announced later.). Please volunteer your time on this special day if you can by leaving a note with your contact information in the PTA mailbox in the Main Office.

PTA Executive Board

Matthew Mallinson	Co-President	212.675.3462
Linda Osborne	Co-President	212.924.1797
Kathy Ellman	First VP	646.336.8649
Kim Reagan	Second VP	212.736.3814
Pam Winberry	Recording Sec.	212.977.9857
Sarah Cassidy	Corres. Sec.	212.727.7102
Jill Kern	Treasurer	212.675.3939
Gil Santiago	Chair, Facilities Comm.,	212.691.6058
Wini Schiff	Chair, Grantwriting Comm.,	212.539.0106
Lucia Santiago	Chair, Science Comm.,	212.691.6058
Martha Gallo	Chair, Community Outreach Comm.,	212.736.3974
Bernadette Drayton	Member-at-Large	212.736.0611
Vivian Rivera	Member-at-Large	212.989.8247