

P.S. 133

The Bellerose School of Excellence
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April 2026 - Principal Community Newsletter

April begins with a much-anticipated Spring Recess! We look forward to returning on April 13th, ideally accompanied by warmer weather.

Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) initiative continues to thrive, guided by our dedicated SEL TEAM. We are extremely proud of how this work is being implemented in diverse ways across all classrooms. By leveraging the CASEL Framework and the MindUp curriculum—including the impactful "Power of the Brain Break"—we are positively influencing student behavior, focus, and engagement. This ensures we meet individual student needs while consistently upholding our SEL/Equity Vision.

At P.S. 133, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is a core component of our daily school life. Our dedicated staff and teachers regularly involve students in discussions and activities focused on how they and others want to feel each day. We integrate SEL deeply into our building and classrooms, utilizing resources like our Zen Den, Buddy Benches, and Movement Spaces to meet all student needs. Our MindUp program continues to be instrumental in addressing the diverse social and emotional needs of our students.

This April, we are excited to observe Autism Acceptance Month, with a special emphasis on the theme "Embracing Differences." We will actively demonstrate this acceptance through our annual Autism Acceptance Walk on Friday, April 17th.

The New York State (NYS) Assessments for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics will be administered to students in Grades 3-5 on the following dates: April 21st, April 22nd, April 28th, and April 29th. These computer-based assessments are aligned with the Next Generation Learning Standards and offer valuable data on student progress and performance against those standards. Additionally, our 5th Grade students will take the NYS Science Assessment on Tuesday, May 12th. Consistent with last year, all NYS Assessments will be given via computer. At P.S. 133, these assessments are one of several important tools we use to analyze data, which ultimately helps us support daily teaching and learning and ensure your child receives the best possible educational opportunities.

Safety remains a top priority at P.S. 133 and traffic/parking during arrival and dismissal continue to be a main area of concern. Please be patient, kind, and think of our kids when you are operating your vehicle on a daily basis. Safety remains a paramount concern at P.S. 133, and we want to take this opportunity to emphasize the critical nature of traffic and parking procedures, particularly during the busy morning arrival and afternoon dismissal periods. The congestion we experience is not merely an inconvenience; it poses a direct risk to the safety of our students. We implore all parents, guardians, and caregivers operating vehicles around the school to exercise the utmost patience, kindness, and vigilance.

For the safety of our children, please strictly follow all traffic and parking regulations during drop-off and pick-up. Use designated zones efficiently; do not double-park or block crosswalks/driveways. Your cooperation ensures smooth, predictable traffic flow. We are working with the local precinct and may implement further measures if safety rules are repeatedly ignored.

Please calendar some of the wonderful experiences taking place throughout the month of April at P.S. 133:

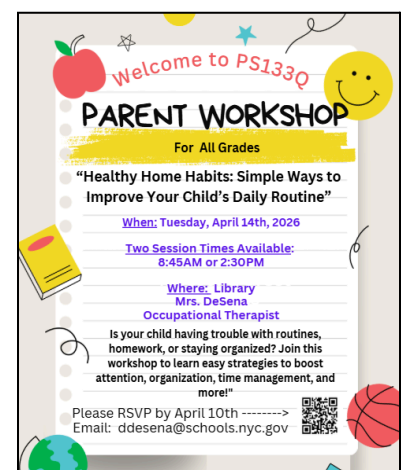
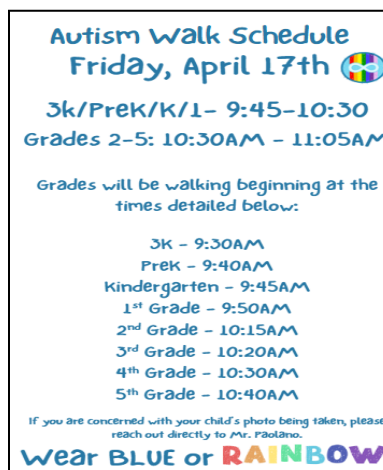
- 4/1 - No After School Activities/Clubs
- 4/1 - District 26 Basketball Allstar Game
- 4/2 - 4/12 - Spring Recess (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- 4/13 - 4/17 - NYSELAT Speaking
- 4/14 - Ms. DeSena Family Workshop (Student Routines) - 8:45am and/or 2:30pm
- 4/15 - Middle School Offers Released
- 4/16 - 5th Grade Big Picture "26"
- 4/16 - Grade 1 Trip to Queens College (Rescheduled Date)
- 4/16 - Elevate - Test Preparation/Mindset Workshop (6:00PM)
- 4/17 - Autism Acceptance Walk
- 4/20 - SEL Assembly (Grades 3-5)
- 4/21 - 133rd Day of School Celebration!
- 4/21, 4/22 - NYS ELA Assessment (Grades 3-5)
- 4/22 - Climate Action Day: Health, Wellness and Green Space - Earth Day
- 4/24 - PreK Family Engagement - 10:00AM
- 4/27 - 3K Family Engagement - 9:00AM
- 4/28, 4/29 - NYS Mathematics Assessment (Grades 3-5)
- 4/30 - CARES Assembly

As ongoing communication and feedback continues to be a priority for all of us at P.S. 133, you are all invited to attend our in-person **SLT** meeting each month, being held on **Monday, April 20th in our Library at 5:30pm**. Additionally, our monthly **PTA Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00PM** via Zoom.

Lastly, Ms. Salazar and I will be having our **April Coffee and Conversation** in person, as we meet and greet families in the Reading Garden on **Friday, April 24th, at 1:30PM**, to listen to any questions, thoughts, or ideas you may have.

Thank you for your continued support of our entire school community.

Sincerely,
Matthew Paolano, Principal



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