

# THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CHANCELLOR, DAVID BANKS ~ SUPERINTENDENT, KETLER LOUISSAINT



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## *Principal's Corner...*

January 9, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of P.S. 596X Students,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. I am confident that 2023 will be a bright year, filled with continued student success and positive experiences for our school community. It is with great pleasure that I announce that our school has received a very generous donation of sensory items from Magnify Autism and the NY Yankees. This generous donation will allow for a variety of sensory items to be given to all classrooms at 596X.

Below is an update on what's been happening in and around PS 596X:

**Curriculum** – We implement curriculum in our classrooms which we find most meaningful to our students. Some classes are participating in the Unique Curriculum. The curricula are interactive, engaging and provide rigorous outcomes for students. Each student has a reading, math, social studies, writing, science, as well as a social skills program. These rich programs offer a variety of skills to our students. Please join us at one of our Parent Workshops where we explain our curriculum and instructional programs.

**Assessment** – One of the keys to good instruction is knowing what level a student is on. Instruction that is too high or too low a level can be frustrating for a child, so we try to target our instruction at the correct instructional level. We continuously monitor our students' progress during the year so that we are making sure our students are learning and growing. Ask your child's teacher about the assessments we have conducted throughout the year, specifically the mid-year student review, which is currently taking place for each student.

## **The Arts**

1. **596X Spring Show!!** Students have begun practicing for the spring show. The theme is a surprise! Mark your calendars – May 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am, Truman HS Auditorium
2. **MOMA!** Select 596X classes have been collaborating with the MOMA (The Museum of Modern Art) to complete collaborative murals using stickers, different paints, print making materials, collage pieces, 3-dimensional art projects, items to promote art rubbings, and much more to come. Through this relationship we have been able to provide families with museum pass access and for students to engage in class trips for art making at the museum.

## **Parent Activities**

1. Parent activities abound at 596X. Over 274 families attended our holiday show! This involvement is incredible. As you know, we have monthly meetings on a variety of topics through our Family Learning League (meets on Tuesdays) and Parent Engagement classroom activities. These workshops are always geared to address the needs of the different age levels and ability levels of our students, as well as other resources for families. From our Parents Resource Club to our Father's Club, you are sure to receive valuable information and tools. If you look on your child's IEP, you will see a section called: Parent Counseling. In this area, through the IEP process, you have indicated an area in which you would like information. At the Parent Resource Club, we have staff available to give you this information. Information is available during each Parent Resource Club on the following topics: Academics, inclusion, behavior, communication and social skills.
2. **Parent Support Group** – meets to share, vent and cry!
3. **Fathers Club** – meets monthly, look for flyers and information on our website/app.

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## Upcoming Family Activities

- **Monthly Cultural Assembly Program** – join us for;  
Ling-Tang Traditional Chinese Dance – Lunar New Year Celebration, January 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am  
– THS Auditorium
- **Wellness Series** – January 23<sup>rd</sup> @ . Event information is posted on our website.
- **Parent Engagement Activity** - January 20<sup>th</sup> in your child’s classroom.
- **“Parent of the Month” Celebration – January 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am** – honoring family members who have made positive contributions to 596X.
- **“Respect for All” Week – February 13<sup>th</sup> -17th;**  
**Monday, 2/13/23: P596X Spirit Day!** Wear your favorite P596X shirt to show we are all in this together.  
**Tuesday, 2/14/23: “Super Me, Super You Day”**, wear your favorite superhero shirt to show off your inner hero, illustrating to everyone the power of good  
**Wednesday, 2/15/23:** Wear red or pink to show love for your families, friends, animals and school community.  
**Thursday, 2/16/23: “Pajama Day”** – to show you are putting hate to bed.  
**Friday, 2/17/23: “No One Eats Alone Day!”**

There are other activities happening around our school which are super interesting for our students. They include:

1. **MEG Languages** – Students are learning Spanish and Mandarin, where they are connected to either their China or Latin American based teaching team who provides interactive live lessons for children.
2. **NY Park Rangers/STEM** – Parker Rangers from NY City Parks come to 596x to provide lessons on the parks in the Bronx. Each park discussed is then visited for an inside tour. Students are building lego robots and exploring coding, hydroponics, drones and circuits. Our STEM labs have been upgraded with state-of-the-art interactive furniture that maximizes student potential.
3. **Student of the Month** – Students are identified each month and celebrated with a pizza lunch in Principal John Siracuse’s office. Students are given a special picture frame and award.
4. **Bronx Children's Museum** – 596X has partnered with the Bronx Children’s Museum, for the Little Friends of Orchard Beach program. With the STEAM based innovative lessons created by the Museum Artists our students have opportunities to learn about the history of their very own Bronx community. Activities include; pottery, jewelry making, animals and their habitats, a water exhibit and even a scavenger hunt in Orchard Beach.
5. **Student Government** – Student representatives from each site meet monthly to discuss a variety of topics, as they work on their leadership, communication and organization skills.

As you can see, much is happening in and around 596X and it is with great pride I share them with you.

We hope to see you at any one of our school activities. Check out our Instagram page for photos of our student’s hard at work and if your schedule allows, pop by to say hello during my weekly, “Parent Principal Office hours” each Thursday from 9- 10 am.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2023.

Sincerely,

John Siracuse  
Principal

[www.p596x.org](http://www.p596x.org)

**Please consider downloading the free P596X App for up to date information/notifications:**

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.pxexucz>

App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/p596x/id1347822365?ls=1&mt=8>