

It's Elementary

A Putnam Valley Elementary School Newsletter
May 2009

A Note to Parents from Jamie Edelman

In the upcoming months we will begin to think about and plan student placement for the 2009-2010 school year. This is a very involved process. One piece of the process is to solicit information from parents about their child. We encourage parents to draft a letter to the administration describing their child's learning style and the best classroom environment for their child. Please also include any issues or concerns you feel we should keep in mind when we place your child. While we value your input as a parent, requests for specific teachers will not be honored.

Beginning in mid May, teachers will provide the administration with information about each of their students by completing an articulation card. The articulation card includes an assessment of the child's performance in math, reading and behavior. It also lists any special or related services that the student received this school year. Finally there is a place for the teacher to provide any additional information necessary when placing the student. Historically this is where a teacher might indicate children that should not be placed in the same class or any special talents or interests that a student might have.

Once we have letters from parents and articulation cards from teachers, we begin the reorganization process. Mrs. Murray and I consider learning style, academic ability, social development and gender. We also try very hard to have at least one other child he/she knows in the class. This is an extremely difficult process and we do our best to create classes that have an equal number of boys and girls and reflect our philosophy of heterogeneity.

Class lists are developed and are shared with teachers from previous years, special area teachers, our school psychologists and speech therapists. These staff members work with many of our students and provide valuable input.

Please take a few minutes over the next few weeks to write a letter about your child's learning style and the learning environment that would nurture his/her growth. I ask that you have this letter to me no later than May 22nd. Final notification of placement will be made in our August mailing.

Happenings

PVES 3rd Annual Spelling Bee

On April 16th, eight third and fourth graders competed in the final round of our 3rd Annual Spelling Bee. After several very tense rounds where the children spelled some difficult words the winner was Claire Cassidy and the first runner-up was Satoshi Abe. The other competitors were Olivia Schmidt, Peter Leo, Michael Gaitan, Taylor Simpson, Justin Acosta and Jared Guski. Congratulations to all of the students who participated.

In addition, we extend our gratitude to all of the parents and teachers who made this wonderful event possible.

Elementary/Middle School Physical Education Awards

At Carmel High School on May 9th the following students will receive the Elementary/Middle School Physical Education Award given by the South Eastern Zone of the NYSAHPERD:

Kaitlin Millicker	Satoshi Abe
Wyatt Beatini	Jared Eliopoulos
Marc Zadrima	Kotoe Abe
Christopher Costello	Robert Velichko
Conner Cronin	Kyle Diaz

Congratulations!

Diabetes Walk

On May 21st, PVES's Character Education Committee will be holding a "Diabetes Walk" to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The students, kindergarten through fourth grade, will participate in this half hour walk. We will begin with a kick-off assembly in which a representative from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will present information to the students and staff about diabetes. This event offers many benefits. The money our school raises will help fund the research into the causes, treatment, prevention and cure for diabetes. Our Diabetes Walk will benefit your child too. Besides having fun, the event will teach our children about diabetes and the importance of giving back to the community. Please remember to send your child to school with SNEAKERS on Thursday, May 21st, and have your child hand in his or her completed envelope and donations by the due date. Thank you in advance for your support.

PVES Calendar of Events for April/May

May 5	Read Aloud Day Student Achievement Fair/Open House Kindergarten, First Grade & Childside
May 6	Student Achievement Fair/Open House Second, Third & Fourth Grades
May 19	Budget Vote
May 21	Diabetes Walk
May 22	SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
May 25	School Closed - Memorial Day

