

# The Parent Connection!

## District 20 Pre-K Centers



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*Where great beginnings never end!*

Mid-Year Newsletter



Richard A. Carranza, *Chancellor*  
Karina Costantino, *District 20 Superintendent*  
Dianne Gounardes, *Director of Early Childhood Education*

### A Message From Dianne Gounardes, Director of Early Childhood Education

Greetings to all our Pre K Families

They say time passes quickly when you are having fun. Well, we must be having a lot of fun because here it is January already. It seems as though our students just walked through the doors of their Pre K center for the first time, and now we can actually see how much they have grown and matured in to little independent personalities. Their curiosity takes them to discovering everything around them and encourages them to ask deep questions about all types of topics.

We have much to be proud of in our Pre K centers. Our program is now in its 5th year and continues to grow and get better and better each year. Our dual language classes in Spanish and Chinese are thriving and will be joined with additional sections of these language classes along with Arabic and Bengali (Bangla) this coming September. Our children are immersed in STEAM initiatives, which delve into science, technology, engineering, arts, technology and mathematics in all their activities. Our focus on the Reggio Emilia philosophy in our classrooms continue to enrich the experiences for all.

The bottom line goals for our Pre K Center program continue to be twofold: to provide our children with a strong foundation in their social and emotional growth; and to emphasize their language acquisition so that they are all ready for the academic rigor of Kindergarten. Our work is aligned to the Early Childhood Framework for Quality (EFQ) which guides our practice in a way that advances positive outcomes for all children and families.

Kindergarten applications have been submitted and soon you will be notified which school your child will be attending in September. We hope that you will always look back on your time in our Pre K Center program with wonderful memories of the experiences you and your child have had with us. We know that we will remember you all as a vital part of our Pre K family.

Please feel free to reach out to our staff at any time with any concerns or questions you may have. Our Parent Coordinator, Camille Loccisano, is at each of our sites at least twice a month and can address any concerns you may have. Our Assistant Principals (Danielle Bennett; Maria Genao Duran; Kelly Mazzariello and Lauren Napolitano) and our Site Coordinators, along with our teachers and paras and other staff are available as well.

Wishing you continued enjoyment of this school year. We hope to see you at all the celebrations from now until June.

Best wishes,  
Dianne Gounardes

#### **Z011**

1258 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

#### **Z013**

1668 46th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234

#### **Z067**

1355 84th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z072**

8501 5th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

#### **Z073**

7415 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z074**

140 58th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

#### **Z075**

21 Bay 11th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z094**

2165 71st Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11204

#### **Z099**

550A 59th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

#### **Z111**

369 93rd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

#### **Z112**

1423 62<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

[www.District20Prek.org](http://www.District20Prek.org)

We happily recognize that our 11 centers each have their own unique set of qualities that make them special places for our students to thrive. We are also proud to be a single program under one dedicated administration and comprised of so many talented educators working in our 11 locations throughout District 20.

It is in this spirit that we take the opportunity to host program-wide events that bring us together in unity as we teach and as we learn. In the first half of the year our centers came together to raise awareness for important causes- gold for childhood cancer, pink for breast cancer and blue for juvenile diabetes. We also hosted a program-wide toy drive for the Olivia Boccuzzi Foundation. This resulted in hundreds of children in New York hospitals gifted with a toy during the holiday season.

There is more to come in the second part of the school year! We will host our annual Spring Fling in support of Pietro's Fight! Pietro's Fight is a local organization founded by the Scarso Family in honor of their son Pietro. Their mission is to raise awareness and to fund research for DMD. All students are invited to wear pajamas and families may offer a non-mandatory donation. In addition to Spring Fling, we also host special breakfast events for our moms on Mother's Day week and for our dads on Father's Day week.

Finally, we are proud participants in Relay for Life. As members of Karina's Team, an initiative from our Superintendent, we host a mini-relay during the month of May in support of the American Cancer Society.

To learn more about our future events or to volunteer, please reach out to your center's Pre-K office or our parent coordinator- [Cloccisano@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Cloccisano@schools.nyc.gov)

## Our Program-Wide Events



## KINDERGARTEN Here We Come!

Congratulations! As kindergarten applications are now closed, you have completed the first step toward your child's future education. You will receive your child's kindergarten offer in early spring informing where your child has a seat in September. You will also receive information on where your child is possibly waitlisted.

If you are on a waiting list for a school that has more applications than kindergarten seats available, you will be contacted directly by the school if they are eventually able to offer your child a seat.

Please bring your child when you pre-register. You must also bring the needed documentation. For a list of documentation options, go to: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/kindergarten>

## Learn about the District 20 Community Education Council !

Go to [www.CEC20.org](http://www.CEC20.org)

and

<https://www.nycparentleaders.org/>



## Follow us on Social Media!

**Facebook**

@PreKCentersDistrict20

**Twitter**

@District20PreK

**Instagram**

@District20PreK



As the school year continues, we are glad to have so many of our parents attend our monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. While our 11 Pre-K centers have a one year parent involvement in a lighter capacity, the road ahead for parents greatly expands! The opportunity to get involved and be a productive part of your child's school community is an exciting one as your child enters kindergarten.

All parents in District 20 are invited to be active in their school's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) or PA (Parent Association). These organizations are a strong communication line between families and educators. In addition, they plan and run activities, workshops, fundraisers and volunteer events.

A parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the NYC Department of Education is automatically a member of their school's PTA/PA. Parents do not have to "sign up" or pay a membership dues. Annually, every PTA/PA will elect officers- president, recording secretary and treasurer. A set of rules labeled as By-laws will govern the day-to-day affairs. Parents will be invited to monthly meetings where they will hear more about opportunities to be involved and stay connected. New parents may eventually want to consider taking on a leadership role and running for election as a PTA/PA officer. For more information, please go to <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/get-involved/parent-associations>

## Reading for Kids!

**"Don't Blink!"** By Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by David Roberts. This interactive book is specially designed for little readers who have trouble falling asleep at night. Each time you blink, you must turn a page!



## Reading for Parents!

**"Fun on the Run!"** This is a great book filled with creative ideas for parents to do with their children anywhere! Whether waiting at the doctor's office, restaurants, car rides, air flights-it's an essential!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 11th- Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 18th- No School for Pre-K students
- April 9th to April 17th- Spring Recess
- May 25th- Memorial Day
- May 27th- Parent Teacher Conferences
- June 4th- Anniversary Day/No school for Pre-K students
- June 9th- No school for Pre-K students
- June 26th- Last day of school