

RACHEL CARSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 237
Academic Excellence and the Arts
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Judith Friedman, Principal

Carla Brathwaite, Assistant Principal
Stephen Galizia, Assistant Principal
Jeannine Strong, Assistant Principal
Susan Braverman, Special Ed. Supervisor

March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I was delighted to see you at our February PTA meeting, at which time we discussed the upcoming New York State standardized assessments and enjoyed a special presentation on *Self-Care*. We also were thrilled to see so many family members join us for a special *Parents as Artists* art-making event on February 27th. Everyone had a chance to demonstrate their artistic talent while engaging in fun learning activities.

NYS ASSESSMENTS: It is extremely important that you continue to monitor your youngster's attendance and schoolwork so that he/she will be assured of promotion to the next grade. Although multiple criteria are used for promotion decisions, your child's performance on standardized tests – dates listed below - do factor into the decision-making process.

NYS English Language Arts Assessment	April 11&12
NYS Mathematics Assessment	May 1&2

Making sure that your child comes to school prepared, on time and ready to learn every day is the best possible way to help him/her perform well on these important exams. We will be administering practice exercises and exams this month and next month to further prepare students.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES, both afternoon and evening sessions, will be held on **Tuesday, March 6th**. The afternoon session will be from **12:20 PM to 2:20 PM** and the evening session will be from **4:30 PM to 7:30 PM** (note change of day and date from NYCDOE schedule). Please note that on Tuesday, March 6th, students will be dismissed at 11:30 AM.

It is extremely important for you to attend Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress, especially if you received a *Promotion in Doubt* letter. As you meet your child's teachers, please keep in mind that they have many parents to see and will try to accommodate all of them during the scheduled conference hours. Individual conferences will therefore, be necessarily brief. If you have concerns that require a more extended conversation, please make a separate appointment to meet with the teacher(s). In addition to the Parent Teacher Conferences on March 6th, remember that Tuesdays from 2:20 PM to 3:00 PM is set aside for parent engagement. Please notify your child's teachers in advance if you would like to schedule a Tuesday afternoon appointment.

PARENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT SURVEYS will be distributed this month. The survey will be given to your child for you to complete at home. It is extremely **important that you complete the survey** and have your child return it the next day to his/her **homeroom teacher**. We will be sending a list of *Frequently Asked Questions* about our school for you to review before filling out the survey. We need 100% participation from our parents to help our school remain in good standing! Please contact Ms. Shirley Bryant, our Parent Coordinator, if you have any questions about the survey (718) 353-6464 ext.1231 or email SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov.

IMPORTANT & SPECIAL MARCH DATES AND EVENTS

March 6 - Parent Teacher Conferences – 12:20 PM to 2:20PM AND 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM

March 7 - 9:00 AM - PTA Meeting & Special Presentation on *Mindfulness and Stress*

10:00 AM - 7th Grade Parents: High School Articulation Information

Guest Speaker: Specialized High School Prep Courses

9:45 AM & 10:30 AM –Assemblies: Celebrating Black History Month - PARENTS

WELCOME!

March 11 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14 - Pi Day!

6:00 PM Meeting for 7th Grade Parents

March 15 - 6:00 PM Meeting for 8th Grade Parents

March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 29 - Report Cards Distributed this Week

March 30 - Spring Recess Begins No School (School will be closed March 30th through April 6th)

As always, we are here to help you and your child have a successful middle school experience. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

Judith Friedman
Principal

