

PS 971 School of Math, Science and Healthy Living / VISION

Our Mission at PS971, School of Math, Science and Healthy Living is to ensure that all our children achieve to fulfill their academic, social and emotional potential through a rigorously structured, well planned effective instruction. This mission will be accomplished through a concise collaboration of community of Families, students, our surrounding community and all staff members in a unified plan. This plan includes a focus of learning through the study of mathematics, the sciences and the centered study of emotional, social and physical health for children. As we continue to strive towards this goal, we have built a foundation of partnering with many community organizational supports that include The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, The Cool School Foods Project, The New York Historical Society, The LeAp Program and Math in the City. In partnering with these organizations, along with the work we do each and everyday, we teach our children the value of what true community means. In addition, we have developed a clear road in aligning our community development with our academic Common Core Standards, progressive teacher growth, connection of parents and continuous assessments in all areas of learning. With all areas connected we know ALL our children will ultimately become life long learners, solution finders, empowered as future leaders for us all.

SCHOOL OF MATH, SCIENCE AND HEALTHY LIVING – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To develop students who are academically independent, who value learning
- To ensure that successful learning takes place for all our children in an environment of positive mutual respect.
- To support all children academically, socially, physically and emotionally.
- To design daily curriculum that focuses on Common Core learning, assessments, authentic and critical thinking learning experiences.

- To support the staff within our learning community as progressive educators who strive to cultivate their own learning and professional growth each and everyday.
- To continue building our network of support through parent involvement and diverse community partnerships.

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

As a learning community here at PS 971, we strive each day to be completely committed through being dedicated as stakeholders. This entails providing a positive learning environment with high expectations of all students academically, socially, physically and emotionally. We know that our mission is to serve our families to the fullest capacity. We do this each and everyday with the support of consistently learning and growing as educators.

SCHOOL HISTORY / BACKGROUND

PS971, School of Math, Science and Healthy Living began as an idea of its founder and principal Ruth Stanislaus in 2009. After taking a year to complete the New School proposal, it was submitted and accepted by the New York City Department of Education and confirmed as a new New York City Public Elementary School. The location was decided in its current space in district 20 in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The school began with grades PreK and Kindergarten and has grown one grade each year. At full capacity we will house grades Prek to Five with approximately 370 students.

SCHOOL CONTACT LIST

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

- Principal – Ruth Stanislaus - 718-765-2200
- Parent Coordinator – Yusef Abdullah – 718-765-2244
- Payroll Secretary – Maria Lavista –718-765-2242
- Pupil Secretary – Stephanie DeRosa – 718-765-2241
- Translations – Michelle Chu / Jennifer Cordero – 718- 765- 2243
- Guidance Office – Albert Shao – 718-765-2200 ext 4092
- Nurse –

· Security – Tiffany Cassidy –

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Office:

Karina Costantino, Community Superintendent

Bill Chin, District Family Advocate 718 759 3944

Doreen Daly, Presidents Council DDaly4@schools.nyc.gov

Community Education Council: CEC20@schools.nyc.gov or CEC20@cec20.org Fax 718-759-3920

Officers-2015-2016:

Robert Yee

Zi Yi Pan

Christoper Sichler

Amany Naseif

Evie Rabeck

Robert HuDock

Borough Appointees:

Mark Bramante & Eileen McKenna

Randi Lazarus, Administrative Assistant

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

· ALL VISITORS/ PARENTS INCLUDED MUST SHOW IDENTIFICATION UPON ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING –NO EXCEPTIONS WITH THIS POLICY

Upon arrival at any public school, parents/guardians must produce specific documents when pre-registering OR registering any child.

- FORMS TO COMPLETE:

- BIRTH CERTIFICATE

- IMMUNIZATION RECORDS FROM DOCTORS

- PARENT IDENTIFICATION

- TWO PROOFS OF ADDRESS – UTILITY BILL / TAX BILL / (cell phone/telephone or bank statements are unacceptable)

The New York City Department of Education determines specific registration dates each year for all Kindergarten students.

All K-5 students are assigned to their zoned school, which is based on proof of address.

ATTENDANCE / ABSENCES / LATENESS

§ School begins at 8:10 am with breakfast beginning at 7:45 am.

§ Students are expected to be lined up in the lunchroom K – 2 and multipurpose room 3 – 5 by 8:10 am in order to not be marked late.

§ If your child is going to be absent please call the main office to let us know at 718-6765-2243.

§ If a student's attendance is at 90% OR LESS days that is the same as 20 days ABSENT for the year which is equal to being absent for a MONTH of school.

§ PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING:

o 5 DAYS ABSENT / LATE – a letter will be sent home

o 10 DAYS ABSENT / LATE – a letter home, a meeting with the guidance counselor to develop an attendance plan

o 15 DAYS ABSENT / LATE – Attendance deemed excessive and results in a home visit

o 20 DAYS ABSENT / LATE – meet with the guidance counselor and principal to discuss a plan and solution and possible outside agency contacts.

o 25 DAYS ABSENT / LATE – After preventative measures have been taken school will place a call to ACS in regards to Chancellors regulation A-750 for attendance

§ We urge parents to consider the loss of academic school time when planning vacations and deciding to take their children out of school for doctors appointments and other. If students are leaving early, they are required to bring in a note for the teacher along with parents signing them out in the main office.

§ Students are only permitted to leave with parents or designated names listed on the BLUE CARD (PLEASE DO NOT SEND OTHER ADULTS TO PICK YOUR CHILD UP UNLESS THEY ARE ON THE BLUE CARD - no exceptions)

§ Students that are late must sign in to the main office, receive a late slip and present it to their teacher upon entering the classroom. Late slips are then entered into the attendance folder daily and applied to student's attendance record.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE (CFL) AT PS 971: 718.788.3500

§ Our free of charge after-school programs for elementary, middle and high school students include academic enrichment, homework assistance and weekly instruction in creative/visual arts, performing arts, literacy, and recreation. Weekly “club” discussion groups provide team-building, conflict resolution, and social learning activities.

§ The program runs from Monday to Friday 2:45 pm – 5:45 pm

§ Applications are given each August for the September session and May for the summer session.

§ Please inquire with the CFL director for applications and the admissions process.

§ All Kindergarten students MUST TURN 5 BY SEPTEMBER 1ST OF THE K ADMINTENCE YEAR.

PS 971 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

§ Although types of after school programs change throughout the year, we have a variety of programs that range from:

- o Grade 3, 4 & 5 State ELA and Math

- o Grade 2 early test preparations State ELA and Math

- o NYSESLAT preparation

- o The Wilson Reading Program

- o Boys & Girls Club

- o Math Clubs

- o Cooking

- o Science in the Kitchen

- o Music Chorus / Band

§ PS 971 After School programs are based on a first come first serve intake. Although our goal is to serve all students whenever we can, keeping classes small with a focus on individual learning is priority. We do, however, have multiple sessions throughout the year for all students to apply.

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that ALL students come to school ready to learn, do their best and be productive. In following our mission statement, which is to develop students who are academically independent and who value learning.

It is also an expectation for all students to represent their families and who they are as young people growing in our world. Mutual respect to everyone is given by all along with the choice to find positive solutions to all disagreements through words and discussions.

Here at 971, a typical class flow of the day may consist of the following:

- Morning Meeting

- Readers workshop

- Word Study

- Writer's workshop

- PREP (science, P.E. art or music)

- Lunch

- Math

- Social Studies / Science (integrating all other content areas)

Our staff has developed rigorous yearlong curriculum plans and units in all content areas to challenge our students intellectually, academically and socially. In addition, productive study habits and independence is developed on all grade levels.

As a New York City public school we align ALL curriculum to the COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS

Curriculum programs being used K to grade 5 include the following:

- Readers workshop – The Mondo Bookshop program
- Readers workshop – Teachers College Writing curriculum (integrated into the MONDO reading)
- Writers workshop – Teachers College Writing curriculum
- Word Study – The Mondo Bookshop program / Foundations word study
- Mathematics – TERC Investigations
- Social Studies – NYS social studies scope and sequence / Comprehension Toolkit
- Science – NYS science scope and sequence

READING RECOVERY PROGRAM

This is an early intervention program to assist children in the FIRST GRADE ONLY who are experiencing difficulty learning to read. This program provides literacy support for at-risk children. Children meet individually with a specially trained teacher daily, for 30-minute lessons tailored to meet the needs of each child.

AT-RISK SERVICES / PUPIL PARTNERSHIP TEAM

At-risk academic services are given to students in need of reading, mathematics and writing support. Through formal and informal assessments, classroom teachers determine student's academic levels. Based on assessments, students may be recommended for extra support in specific content areas to the Pupil Partnership Team (PPT) Out of classroom teachers are also assigned to specific students and groups for additional support on a daily basis.

AFTER SCHOOL TEST PREP

After school test prep usually begins in October throughout April for grades 3, 4 & 5, two days per week and two Saturdays per month. Weekday's consists of ALL students participating in a balanced workshop test prep format in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

Here at PS 971, we know that homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and life-long learning habits in our students. Time spent on homework directly influences students' ability to meet state and district subject area content standards. We expect students, parents/guardians and staff to view homework as a routine and important part of students' daily lives. The classroom teacher directs completion of all homework assignments.

Suggested Guidelines for Parents to Support Student Success:

Provide a quiet, well-lighted study area with a desk or table and chair.

Keep a supply of "study tools" available: pencils, pen, paper, ruler, and dictionary.

Establish a regular time for homework during which the child can work with a minimum of interruptions.

Provide a healthy balance between homework, extra and co-curricular activities, and family commitments

Encourage student responsibility and independence

Contact the teacher if a child is not consistently able to do the homework within the time guidelines, or if challenges or questions arise

Suggested Guidelines for Students to be Successful

Make sure you are aware of assignments and corresponding due dates

Make sure you understand the homework assignment before leaving school

Ask for clarification from your teacher if you have questions

Bring home all necessary materials

Do your best to stay focused and manage your time

Put forth your best effort to produce quality work

Homework During Illness:

If you wish to request homework for a child who is ill, please contact the school office by 9:00am on the day you wish homework to be ready. This will give the teacher sufficient time to prepare your child's assignments, which may be picked up in the office after 3:15 pm on the day that you phone and every day thereafter throughout the duration of the illness.

SUGGESTED STUDENT HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Grade Level

Amount of Time Per School Day*

Involvement

Average % of Parental support

K

10 - 20 minutes

Parent involvement is necessary to complete all activities.

100%

1st

20 – 30 minutes

Parents are expected to help their child, as needed, complete the homework and to check it for accuracy and assist in correcting mistakes.

80%

2nd

25 – 40 minutes

Parents provide assistance (clarifying directions, getting started, etc.) for students to complete homework as independently as possible. Parents should check the accuracy of the completed homework.

60%

3rd

25 – 45 minutes

Parents provide encouragement and guidance, as needed, for their child to complete homework independently and verify that it was completed.

40%

4th

30 – 55 minutes

Parents are aware of homework assignment and support its completion by providing guidance as needed and initialing the homework log.

20%

5th

35 – 60 minutes

Parents are aware of homework assignment and initial the homework log. Students take full responsibility to record, get assistance as needed, and turn-in homework assignments on time.

10%

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE:

§ Parent Teachers Conferences are given FOUR times every year in the months of SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER, MARCH and MAY. Conference times are usually 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm & 5:00 – 7:30 pm (Notice will be given if any changes occur)

§ Parents are offered three time choices to choose from the week before conferences.

TUESDAY INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES

- Tuesday's have now been designated PARENT CONNECTION DAY citywide for all schools.
- Your child's teacher may make an appointment to speak with you or check in with you on these days.
- Please feel free to contact the school to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher if needed.

REPORT CARDS

§ The STARS reporting system is used for academic reports. Please see the following schedule:

- o GRADES K -5 given November, March and June

- o Student progress reports are given throughout the year along with conferences and report cards.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

All students at PS 971 no matter what grade level are encouraged to carry through specific academic responsibilities listed below. Parents are also expected to reinforce these expectations on a daily basis.

- Try your 100% at all times.

- Ask lots of questions.

- Work with others in a positive way.

- Tell what areas you may be struggling with.

- Understand that struggling is a good thing and causes growth in everyone.

- Understand that the brain is a muscle that needs to be worked out everyday to stay strong.

- Think about ways to relate to the work you do everyday, think about questions.
- If you do not know, then ask for help.

ASSESSMENTS

FORMAL Standardized Assessments are given each spring to all New York City public school students that measure their learning compared to other students. These assessments are also used to measure what students know and have learned.

New York State STANDARDIZED assessments consist of:

- New York State English Language Assessment (ELA) & Math Assessment – GRADES 3 – 8
- New York State Science Test – GRADES 4 & 8

Students are also assessed during the year using many forms of informal assessments. Informal assessments measure student's individual growth, class growth, grade growth and school wide growth. Informal assessments are also used to inform instructional decisions for future learning. Teachers can also create informal assessments. Teachers as a grade as well as the school via the Data Specialist analyze all informal assessments.

Informal Assessments may include:

- Running Records
- Checklist
- Performance Tasks
- One on One Conferences
- Assessments
- Projects
- Portfolio

Assessments are scored on a 1 -4 level rubric

BELL SCHEDULE /ARIVAL / DISMISSAL

PERIOD

TIME

OVERVIEW

0

7:45 am

DOORS OPEN FOR BREAKFAST. All students are welcomed.

(PARENTS- please do not leave children unattended outside)

1

8:10 am -9:00 am

Teachers pick up classes

(K – 2 in lunchroom / 3 -4 in multi-purpose room)

2

9:05 am – 9:55 am

3

10:00 am – 10:50 am

4

10:55 am – 11:45 am

LUNCH –K /1

5

11:50 am – 12: 40 pm

LUNCH – 2 /3

6

12:45 pm – 1:35 pm

LUNCH – 4 /5

7

1:40 pm – 2:30 pm

DISMISSAL

GRADES K – 2 will be dismissed through the 4th ave. entrance.

GRADES 3 – 5 will be dismissed through the 63rd st. side door

§ HALF DAY LUNCH-

o K/1-10:00

o 2/3 – 10:30

o 4/5 – 11:00

§ We ask that ALL students are picked up PROMPTLY at 2:30 pm. Late students will need to be signed out and picked up from the multi-purpose room.

§ WHEN WAITING OUTSIDE AM / PM PLEASE STAND AWAY FROM DOORS TO ALLOW SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO PASS AROUND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS.

Thank you! Ms. Ruth

§ School doors will be opened at 7:45 am- all students K – 5 are welcomed

§ Breakfast for ALL students will be served in the classroom at 8:10 am by the classroom teacher.

§ School officially begins at 8:10 am. All students enter through the main entrance.

§ We are asking that parents wait outside keeping the entrance clear for staff to enter. (All strollers must stay outside the building)

§ PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING

§ ALL STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 2:30 PM MONDAY – FRIDAY (Unless students are participating in after school)

§ GRADES K, 1 & 2 will be dismissed through the main entrance (4th avenue)

§ GRADES 3, 4 & 5 will be dismissed through the 63rd street door

§ PLEASE STAND AWAY FROM THE DOORS AND ALLOW TEACHERS TO DISMISS STUDENTS SAFELY.

§ Students staying for any AFTER SCHOOL sessions will stay in the building.

HALF-DAY DISMISSAL

§ Dismissal for all students (unless posted) will be at 11:30 am during our half days.

§ Dismissal locations are the same during full days.

§ THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS DURING HALF DAYS

EARLY BIRDS READING

§ In place of our previous breakfast time (7:45 am) we now have “Early Birds Reading” for ALL students.

§ Gr. 3 and K will read together in the multi-purpose room

§ Gr. 4 and gr. 1 will read in the cafeteria

§ Gr. 5 and gr. 2 will read on the 3rd floor

§ Students will go to their assigned space to read until teacher pick-up time at 8:10 am

BUS EXPECTATIONS

§ All students are expected to make good choices and represent their parents and the 971 community when riding on the school bus. Please see the following expectations:

Students must remain in seat while bus is in motion

Students must be respectful to the bus driver and other students on the bus.

Students must remain calm with no scuffling or horseplay.

Keep head and limbs inside the bus (not out the windows).

Do not throw objects in or out of the bus.

Please use inside voices and stay respectful to others.

Please empty all garbage into a trashcan when leaving the bus.

Be sure to cross the street in front of the bus with an adult chaperone at all times.

CALENDAR

§ Please visit our school website for updates on the school calendar www.ps971.com

CELL PHONES

- Due to the newly instituted regulation by our Chancellor, students may bring cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems to school, but they may not be turned on or used at school at anytime.

- Although this is a new Chancellor's regulation, please be advised that PS 971 is not responsible for any loss, damages or theft of any cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems your child brings in. Please speak with your child in regards to this policy.

CLASS PLACEMENT

§ All classes are re-organized during the month of August after student assessments are completed. Parents will be notified of their child's class number in late August during assessment week.

CLOTHING

§ We ask that you use good judgment when choosing appropriate clothing for your child to wear to school.

§ We recommend that children wear comfortable loose clothing and sneakers for gym and outside play.

§ For Kindergarten students, please send a change of clothes in case of accidents.

COMMUNICATIONS- PARENT CONCERNS / SCHOOL WEB SITE

Communication between parents and school is a core initiative here at 971. Any time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. A by visiting the school, calling 718.765.2200 or emailing him at pcmrabdullah@gmail.com.

Parents may also visit our school website at www.ps971.com to leave a message on any specific page. As a school we also use many other methods of communication, please see below:

- Monthly Parent newsletter and curriculum summaries

Report cards and parent conferences (4 times yearly)

Tuesday individual teacher appointments. (Please call to schedule)

Class newsletters and/or e-communications from teachers to parents

Sending home samples of student work and classroom progress

Back-to-School Night and Open House

Monthly PTA meetings

Backpacked notes and flyers regards special events

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO'S)

As a school community it is important to not only provide our students with academics but also enrichment for them to learn and grow as young citizens. Our yearly programs consists of the following:

- The New York Historical Society
- Seeds to Trees
- LeAp
- Common Threads
- Brooklyn Conservatory of Music Therapy
- Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
-

CURRICULUM – core standards

DRESS CODE

- Although there is no official dress code, we ask parents to dress your child appropriately for school.
- During cold weather all students are required to wear hats, scarves, gloves and warm shoes.
- During warm weather all students should wear appropriate shoes for outside play (no flip-flops)

DISCIPLINE CODE

- PS 971 School of Math, Science and Healthy Living follows the New York City Department of Education's Blue Book Code of Discipline. The book outlines the Chancellor's regulations on public school behavior. Chancellors regulations can be found on the department's website: schools.nyc.gov

EMERGENCY CARDS

- IT IS VITAL THAT BLUE CARDS ARE ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE. Our Blue Cards are often the only form of communication the school has to parents in case of emergencies.
- Please be sure to write clearly
- CHILDREN WILL ONLY BE RELEASED TO PERSONS ON THE BLUE CARDS. Parents are asked to CLEARLY write all names on Blue Card as well as contact numbers.

- Identification must be presented at the security desk in the lobby before children will be released.
STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANYONE IF THEY ARE NOT ON THE BLUE CARD.

- Blue cards may be sent out for completion at least two times per year.

EMERGENCY PLAN

- Our school community performs several fire drills, soft lockdowns, bus drills and shelter drills throughout the year. A parent's copy of the safety plan is available for parents to view in the main office.

ELECTRONICS / TOYS

- Although according to our Chancellor's regulations, cell phones and electronic devices are allowed in school, we ask students not to bring electronic toys to play in school.

- Electronic toys will be kept in the principal's office until a parent can retrieve it.

FACILITIES USE

FIELD TRIPS

- All classes participate in field trips throughout the school year. Transportation for field trips includes school buses and NYC subway. We ask parents to sign up to be chaperones for class trips.
- Chaperones – Please remember chaperones are responsible for a group of students (not just your child) from the time students leave the building until the time they arrive back into the building
- Please notify your child's teacher if you would like to be a chaperone for the class.

FOOD ALLERGIES

- Please notify the office and the school's nurse immediately if your child has any food allergies.
- Although the NYCDOE has no official regulation for peanut free schools, PS 971 will promote a peanut free environment.

ILLNESS

Unfortunately, we know that children will be affected by illness from time-to-time. There are common illnesses such as colds and the flu. There are also communicable diseases that may affect children at school such as:

- Measles

- Chicken Pox

- Hand, foot, and mouth disease

- Mumps

- Scabies

- Slap Cheek

- Streptococcal (scarlet fever and strep throat)

- Whooping Cough

- Head Lice

- Pink Eye

- Shingles

- Ringworm
- Pinworm

First and foremost, please use good judgment when making a decision about your child's attendance at school relative to any illness. Children should not attend school if:

They have a fever.

They are vomiting.

They have a communicable disease (see list under Communicable Disease heading).

Parents are responsible to keep their child home until the child is no longer contagious. All students are expected to return with a doctor's note. Parents must also notify the school if their child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease.

LICE / BEDBUGS PREVENTION

- The NYCDOE has a head lice policy which states students with nits (lice eggs) are allowed to attend school.
- Our office school aide may check students for lice.

- Students who possess live lice will be asked to stay home.
- In either case, when students have nits or lice, parents will be notified immediately and instructed on appropriate remedies for the issue.
- The source of bed bugs often cannot be determined, as they may be found in many places, including hotels, airplanes, buses, hospitals, department stores and movie theaters. Finding a bed bug does not mean that our school building is infested. Bed bugs are often unknowingly brought into the school by building occupants and as a result we may have future sightings. Even though it is unlikely for bed bugs to reproduce and spread in schools, the Department of Education will continue to work to identify pests, provide thorough inspections of schools and have licensed pest control specialists treat rooms as appropriate.
- When bed bugs are found in school in classrooms or on students, they are sent away to a specialist to determine their identity.
- Parents are notified in the class when a bed bug is identified and asked to examine homes for evidence.
- PS 971 appreciates the cooperation from all parents.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

- Medication can only be administered by our school nurse through the consent of a 504 form co-signed by the student's pediatrician.
- If your child needs medication, please make an appointment to see the nurse with a completed 504 form and medication that will be kept in the nurses office.

LUNCH TIME PROCEDURES

Due to our space limitations, it is necessary to have our lunch times divided into three sections. Please see grid below:

TIME

PERIOD

GROUP A-

EATS FIRST THEN RECESS

GROUP B

RECESS FIRST THEN EATS

10:55 am – 11:45 am

4

GR. K

GR. 1

11:50 am – 12: 40 pm

5

GR. 2

GR. 3

12:45 pm – 1:35 pm

6

GR. 4

GR. 5

HALF-DAY LUNCH TIMES

§ K – Grade 1 will EAT at 10 am

§ Grade 2-3 will EAT at 10:30 am

§ Grade 4-5 will EAT at 11:00 am

PARENT INVOLVMENT –CLASS PARENT- FIELD TRIPS

Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's school life:

- CLASS PARENT – Oversees the needs of the class such as organizing class volunteers, class snacks, class events and collaborating with the classroom teacher.

- FIELD TRIPS – Organizes parent chaperones for trips.

PARENT TEACHERS CONFERENCE

- Parent Teacher's Conferences (PTC) are held FOUR times per year –
 - o September- Curriculum Night for families to find out about our school as a whole and the yearlong curriculum. This is also a time for parents to ask questions about instruction, teaching and learning.

 - o November- One on one conference with child's teachers.

 - o March- One on one conference with child's teachers.

 - o May – Stepping Up week where families are invited in to visit the next year's grade of their children. This is also a time to ask questions of next years teachers.

PARKING PROCEDURES

- Parents are asked to NOT park any cars in front of the school on 4th avenue during arrival and dismissal. The space in front is designated to the school buses.

PARTIES

- All birthday parties (upon parent request) for students must consist of HEALTHY FOOD such as fruit and healthy snacks, sugar free juice or water. Classroom birthday celebrations will be comprised of a “Birthday Circle” where class members sit in a circle and say one great thing about the birthday person.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY / RECESS

- During lunch recess, students are able to play in the schoolyard with adult supervision. Play equipment is provided as well as organized games for student to participate in. During rainy, snowing or extreme cold weather, students will have recess time in our multi-purpose room. Parents are asked to remind their children about playing safely with each other along with the play equipment at all times.

PTA - COMMITTEES NAMES

- ALL PARENTS are encouraged to attend PTA meetings as a support for our school
- PTA meeting times and dates are posted on our schools website
- Officers of a PTA are responsible for the PTA budget, events and activities. PTAs can support schools by raising funds, hosting parent workshops or meetings, organizing festivals, dances or social events for families, and can help schools connect with parents through updates and volunteer opportunities.
- Please see one of our PTA executive board members about committees you can join or ideas and suggestions you have that can support our parents and school community.

PTA – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS -2019-2020

Co-President – PEI LIM

Co-Secretary –

PUPIL PARTNERSHIP TEAM (PPT)

- Our PPT is held once per week with a focus on our At-Risk students.
- As a team of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, Literacy Coach, Math Coach, Speech teacher, Psychologist, Social Worker, ESL teachers and Occupational Therapist, classroom teachers present student work and assessments on specific students. Team discusses next steps and strategies for student improvement through the Response Through Intervention (RTI) method. Case studies are six-eight weeks long ending with reviews to determine the student's status.
- Parents are invited to partnership and participate in this process.

RULES SCHOOL/CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Every fall, classroom teachers and students develop class expectations for all to follow.
- Parents should contact their child's teacher in September for class expectations for their child.
- Here at PS 971 School of Math, Science and Healthy Living, we are a "Problem Solving – Solution Finding" Community. This idea is held true through KINDNESS AND RESPECT of all who enter our doors.

SAFETY PLAN

- There is a PARENT copy of our schools safety plan in the main office for parents to view
- Please feel free to ask someone in the main office.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

- The New York City Department of Education implements School Leadership Teams (SLT) in each school.
- SLT's ensure educational polices, the alignment of resources to match the schools comprehensive educational plan (CEP) and the schools assessment and evaluation process for student achievement.
- Our School Leadership Team (SLT) is made up of EQUAL parts of PARENTS & PS 971 Staff
- Mandatory positions include the principal, the PTA president (or designee) the school UFT chapter chair (or designee)
- Meetings are held once a month.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

- Gr. K – 3 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18 or older- no exceptions) at all times before and after school.
- Parents of GRADES 4 & 5 ONLY may sign a “Walk Home Alone” permission slip if you wish your child to walk home unescorted.
- Gr. K-3 students are NOT permitted to walk home alone with anyone 18 years or younger.
- Doors open each morning at 7:45 am. We are not responsible for students left alone outside BEFORE 7:45 am.
- In extreme cases, students who are not picked up after school may need to be brought to our local precinct.
- PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHILD ON TIME AFTER SCHOOL.
- Please notify all after school organizations to be prompt when picking up your child.

SCHOOL WIDE TRIPS

- It is the expectation that ALL students attend school wide trips. As a school, we consistently align our school community and city with our curriculum and studies.
- It is the regulation of the Chancellor that no student is held back from attending school trips due to behavior or any form of discipline.

- We may, however, ask parents or an adult to accompany students with behavior issues in order to support the safety of all students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- PS 971 has a clear understanding that all our students have special needs. Whether their needs encompass a disability or challenging area or the ability to show extreme strength in any other area – our children all possess many different gifts and talents.
- There are general education classes (non-IEP students) and Integrated Co-Teaching classes (certain % of IEP students placed)
- Our ICT classes hold two teachers, one general education teacher and one special needs teacher who collaboratively teach the class and support instruction through a small groups and individual setting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, special events are held at PS 971 for students and families. Events may include:

- Curriculum Night

- Student Crazy Days
- Parents as Learning Partners (PLP)
- Holiday Concerts
- Talent Shows
- Basketball Tournaments
- Fundraising Events
- Cultural Month
- Parent Workshops
- Spring Concerts
- Field Day
- Stepping Up Celebrations
- Graduation Celebrations
- Learning Expo (New this year)

STANDARDIZE TESTING

Elementary and middle school students in New York State take yearly State tests in core academic subjects to assess their mastery of the Common Core Learning Standards. Students' test results are ONE of the factors that schools use to decide whether to promote a student to the next grade. Educators also analyze students' test results to help determine which instructional standards to focus on, and to evaluate their programs.

New York City and New York State use test results to evaluate how well schools are serving students.

Students participate in the following assessments:

- For a more in depth description of the Department's yearly testing please visit the NYCDOE website schools.nyc.gov

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

- PS 971's crucial goal is to develop students who are future leaders whose voices will be heard in our community, city, state and ultimately world.

- In grade four and five we have student led organizations such as the “Green Team” (school wide recycling program) the “Social Justice Club” (finds social issues in our school and community to focus on) and the “AV Club” (students who create mini film projects.)

STUDENTS RIGHTS / RESPONSIBILITIES

- Student’s rights and responsibilities are located in the NYCDOE City Wide Behavioral Expectations Handbook. This can be found on the NYCDOE website - schools.nyc.gov

TRANSPORTATION

- As a New York City public school, we are provided the use of school buses as our form of transportation.
- We also encourage all teachers to utilize our great New York City subway system as a means of transportation when necessary.

TRIPS

- Parents are encouraged to attend field trips with their children.
- Please contact your child's teacher in regards to planned trips.
- As chaperones, parents are expected to chaperone "groups" of students as support for the classroom teachers. Please see teachers for the list of your small group before trip departure.

VISITORS GUIDELINES

- ALL visitors are asked to sign in at our front desk in the lobby. Picture identification must also be shown.
- Visitors must also check in to the main office.
- We encourage parents to make appointments with staff on Tuesday's 2:30pm – 3:00 pm during our "Parent Connect" time.

VOLUNTEERS GUIDELINES

- Parents may be official volunteers in any public school. This may be possible through visiting 65 Court St. downtown Brooklyn to complete the necessary forms.

WEATHER PROCEDURES

- During inclement weather (rain, snow, sleet or temperature below 32 degrees) all students will have recess indoors.
- Due to our space limitations, parents and anyone picking students up will be expected to wait outside at dismissal locations.

As Parents, please know that we are an open door school. Any issues, concerns, ideas or suggestions, please come in and see us or drop a line to our Parent Coordinator on our website www.ps971.com

Additionally, as all Parents and Families know, PS 971 School of Math, Science and Healthy Living is a school committed to serving all children who enters our doors with respect, dignity and fortitude. We are a problem solving community who finds no problems without positive and creative solutions. We know that as a community, together we can change the world and make it a better place for us all.

Thank you for joining our Learning Community!