

THE WEEKLY TANGRAM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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1695 SEWARD AVENUE, RM 228 BX, NY 10473



A message from Rupert G. F. Pearson, Boys Prep Bronx Community Council President: (bpccpres@gmail.com)

Dear Families,

The members of the Boys Prep Community Council wish all of you a very Merry Holiday Season and a New Year filled with joy and wonderful beginnings. We also would like to thank all the families for your stellar participation in the book fair, the massive support for the Thanksgiving Feast, the family workshop and all the events at the school. You are our stars of the first half of our school year.

Our goal as parents is simple and that is to ensure that we provide our scholars with the best quality education, guidance and the will to achieve. It will be our goal as the Community Council to assist families along the way. So please feel free to reach out to us via **Facebook at Boys Prep Bronx Community Council, on BP Community Council (@bp_council)** or on **Instagram at our Instagram page at #boysprep_communitycouncil**. We will be sending home very soon a letter that explain in greater detail the Community Council and the School's agreement on social media behavior, policies and procedures. Help us welcome our newest Council member **Melissanne Darrell** who is our **new Vice President of Communications**; she can be reached at bpessvpc@gmail.com.

In the new year, look out for information on our plans for a **Mother & Son Dance (March 6)**, a **bring your Father To School Day (TBA)**, **Chucky Cheese Friends and Family Day on (January 16)**. We will also initiate family workshops that will be both helpful and informative. As we face the challenges of raising young boys in this society, we as your Community Council leaders want to help and support families navigate challenges and rejoice in the successes.

Some reading for thought, we as a Council would also like to recommend a list of titles we learned about in our first Family Workshop. We believe these books will be beneficial in how we raise our young scholars.

1: **Hip-Hop vs. MAAT**

2: **Developing Self-Esteem and Discipline in Black boys.**

3: **Keeping Black Boys Out of Special Education**

4: **Understanding Black Male Learning Styles**

All books are written by Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu for the Scholars of our Black and Brown Communities

We want all families to be extended members of the Boys Prep Community Council. We need all families to help out, lend support, offer suggestions and provide insight as to what your families' need from your Community Council. Please join Community Council meetings, the family workshops, support the Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education Programs. We need our families involved and present to help us as your Community Council do great work on behalf of our families and our scholars. **Please don't forget our Holiday Toy Drive! Contact our Vice President, Denise Beaulieu at bpccvp@gmail.com. The deadline to donate an unwrapped toy is December 19, 2014.**

Thank You &



Some Advice from Ms. Diaz, BPBXE's Director of Student and Family Affairs

Transition from School to Home for the Holidays

In my 15 years of teaching young children, I have often seen that some student's behavior can change in school and / or at home right before a long vacation. Normally, young scholars cannot articulate this behavior or the reason behind it; but usually is it caused by the student's sense that routines will change for a period of time. We at school are keeping this in mind this week and if there is anything you notice at home, please do not hesitate to contact your scholar's teacher or any of us here in the school.

Lets try to make the holidays simple with these few stress-free suggestions.

- **Less is more.** *Settle on one or two holiday traditions that everyone enjoys and drop the others.* TIP: *Exercise is a known stress-reducer, so include outdoor play, a family hike or go out and throw a ball around.*
- **Try to stick to your scholar's routine as much as possible.** *Especially as we near the start of school, reinforce wake up and sleep times days before Monday, January 5, 2015. If you are going on a long ride to visit family for the holidays, let your scholar ride in his pajamas. He can listen to an audio-book and fall asleep in the car at his usual bedtime.*



Do you have any other suggestions? Feel free to share them with us and others. Our school is our community and it takes all of us to support our scholar's growth academically, socially and emotionally.

I wish each and one of you a peaceful, safe and healthy Holiday.



REMINDERS

1. **NEW SCHOOL SCHEDULE** begins today as described by Mr. Herzberg in the last Weekly Tangram issue. (See attached schedule).
2. **Last day of school before the Holiday Break** is Fri. Dec. 19th. Dismissal is at 1:30pm and school buses are available.
3. **Special Winter UNITY Meeting:** Friday, Dec. 19th 8:45—9:15 am, Auditorium. Come sing, listen to a winter story, celebrate our Star Scholars of the Week and hear all about our final Holiday TOY DRIVE COLLECTION from FES.
4. **Parent Teacher Conferences:** We must complete these by Tues. Dec. 16th. Please contact your child's teacher ASAP! It is important for you to receive your son's report card.