

THE WEEKLY TANGRAM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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1695 SEWARD AVENUE, RM 228 BX, NY 10473



A letter from Mr. Herzberg, BPBXE's Principal

Dear Boys Prep Families:

Thanks largely to the efforts of Cynthia Diaz, our Director of Student and Family Affairs, and your Community Council, the connection between school and families has developed impressively in the last month **anchored by four events**: the first family workshop on Educating Young Boys, our amazing Thanksgiving Feast, our wonderful Book Fair, and parent-teacher conferences with an 81% attendance rate. The chance to see so many of you, particularly in a school where bussing makes daily connections less frequent, has been important to us. ***Our mutual commitment to each other must be continually reinforced.*** What we have begun to cultivate is a close-knit warmth that better serves all our children. **We are in the middle of some vital changes at Boys Prep. I want to highlight these for you:**

Next week we will adopt ***a new daily schedule***—a cleaner, more focused structure that reinforces smaller groups for guided reading, ***a program on behaviors and ethics***, called Second Step, and ***more dedicated time to math problem-solving***. There will be no change in drop off or pick up times. A dedicated ***Science teacher*** will train to take over our science classes, giving this core subject more attention.

By mid-January, we will have also implemented Integrated Co-teaching Classes, one at each grade level, to better serve students whose IEPs currently do, or will, specify work with a trained learning specialist at the classroom level. We are therefore adding to staff as we build program capacity. We are also exploring ***the addition of 4-day-long exploratory blocks twice a year***, the first in February—a special curriculum that gives boys greater chance to explore in depth a particular project of choice in a small group with an adult mentor. These days will culminate in a series of exhibits to which all of you will be invited.

Finally, our partnership with the Buckley School, an all-boys school in Manhattan, will kick off in January. Their ninth grade boys and our 1st grade boys will form an exchange and mentoring partnership. You will hear more about this very soon. All these changes move us forward from the new kid on the block to the more mature institution we are becoming. ***Please keep in touch with us in all ways. Support your Community Council; the Family Office; the work of your boys' teachers; and of course support the core values that we ask your boys to bring back and forth from school to home.***

We have much to be grateful for in this season of giving.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Javier Guzman, 12/3, (PF)

Jaleel Kassim, 12/5, (PF)

Luke Smith, 12/14 (PP)

Henry Hernandez, 12/15, (FF)

Alpha Bah, 12/17 (DJ)

Brian Fields, 12/23, (LMTK)

Jaden Nurse, 12/23 (DJ)

Jayden Peguero, 12/26 (FF)

Geovanny Almonte, 12/31 (FF)



Unity Meeting

Join us tomorrow

Tuesday, Dec. 9th

Auditorium, 8:45am -

9:15am

- Featuring the Paul Farmer class and the Core Value of MERIT.

Followed by the

1st Community Council Meeting for Boys Prep Families

from 9:20am-

9:50am *Come meet BPBXE's*

Community Council Executive

Board Members

SCHOOL PICTURES RETAKE:

Last time FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

A member of the Community Council will reach out to you if :

- The photo company is asking for your scholar to retake the photo.
- Your son was absent on November 20th. Expect an ordering envelope in your son's homework folder today.
- You indicate to us that you did not receive a photo package.
- You can contact Denise Beaulieu, CC VP via email: bpeccvp@gmail.com or Danisha Bogle, CC Treasurer via email: bpecctreas@gmail.com

Parent Teacher

Conferences Update

Thank you for joining us and fostering a stronger partnership with the scholars' teachers and our school. We had about 81% attendance rate!

If you missed your appointment or could not schedule a conference time with your scholar's teacher, ***expect him/her to phone you in an attempt to arrange a conference*** before 12/15/14. We will not be mailing your scholar's report card until we are able to reach you.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

COLLECTION

See attached flyer.



Meet BPBXE's LEARNING SPECIALIST

Hi! I want to introduce myself to you. I am Mrs. Wendy Blidner, the learning specialist. My job at Boys Prep is to support the scholars along with their teachers in all areas of academics. One way of doing this is to help, you, their caretakers. If you feel your child is not doing the best they can do in school, your child's teacher can reach out to me or you can too. I will help you navigate the Department of Education and get services to help your child improve. If you feel that your child would benefit from additional related services, such as, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Services, or benefit from some small group instruction to get

BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Greetings,

I am very pleased to announce that our 1st Book Fair exceeded our expectations. I look forward to hosting another one in the Spring. Thank you students, families and staff for your support.

Sincerely,

Kenia Rivera

Book Fair Chairperson

LAST DAY OS SCHOOL BEFORE THE HOLIDAY BREAK is Friday, December 19th

Come to a **Special Unity Meeting** from 8:45—9:15 am in the Auditorium. Dismissal will be at 1:30pm