

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

Carla Brathwaite, Assistant Principal
Stephen Galizia, Assistant Principal
Jeannine Strong, Assistant Principal

December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The holiday season is upon us! With all the hustle and bustle that occurs at this busy time of year, it is sometimes difficult for youngsters to remain focused on schoolwork as they anticipate the many joys and festivities the holidays bring. We want your youngster to maintain his/her academic progress and to keep you informed. Toward that end, we anticipate that we will be distributing **Interim Progress Reports** for the second marking period early in January. Be sure to review the report with your youngster and contact his/her teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Contact Ms. Shirley Bryant, our Parent Coordinator, (718-353-6464 ext. 1231 or email SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov) if you need email information for your child's teachers. Second quarter report cards will be distributed in February. Contact Assistant Principal Ms. Martin (ext. 1091) or Assistant Principal Ms. Strong (ext. 3291) if you want your child to attend our Academic Intervention Support after-school sessions

PARENT MEETINGS

It was wonderful to have so many parents participate in the virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 9th. If you did not get a chance to attend the Parent Teacher Conferences, please reach out to your child's teachers to make an appointment.

Our next **PTA meeting** will be held (virtually) on Thursday morning, December 15, at 10:00 AM. Ms. Buffamante, our Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialist (SAPIS) will give a special presentation about current trends in substance abuse among pre-teens and teens. Our December Parent Chat will take place on Tuesday, December 20th, at 9:45 AM. The topic will focus on middle school parent stress – a timely subject especially during the holiday season. Parent coordinator Ms. Shirley Bryant will send meeting links.

READ + W.A.V.E. – Perfect Together!

Improving literacy skills is always a top priority in our school because success in all subjects is directly related to students' ability to read and understand text, and their ability to express what they have learned both in speaking and writing. I.S. 237 students know that **W.A.V.E.**, an acronym that stands for **Written And/or Verbal Evidence**, will help them communicate successfully in many aspects of their present and future lives. This year we are focusing even more rigorously on the connections among reading, speaking and writing to promote literacy and effective communication. In addition to content area learning, in every subject class students will engage in a fun and informative **Words Matter** activity designed to increase their vocabulary and their ability to construct meaning from text. Ask your child about **Words Matter** and you may learn something new about words too!

Our annual **Winter Arts Festival** will take place in-person, on Thursday, December 15th. Guests will be allowed entry starting at 5:30 PM to view art work on display in the lobby. The concert in the auditorium will begin at 6:00 PM. **As per Department of Education policy, guests/audience members MUST show proof of vaccination upon entering.** Admission is free. Children must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.

Please note the following important dates and events:

December 5	High School applications due (Deadline extended from Dec. 1 st)
December 15	PTA meeting (virtual) 10:00 AM: Current Trends in Pre-teen/Teen Substance Abuse)
	Winter Arts Festival
December 20	Parent Chat: Middle School Parent Stress (virtual) 9:45 AM SLT meeting (virtual) 3:15 PM
December 19-23	Spirit Week
December 23	Last school day of 2022
December 24 -January 1	Winter Break

School reopens Monday, January 2, 2023. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season and for good health, happiness and success in the New Year!

Very truly yours,
Judith Friedman
Principal

