RACHEL CARSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 237

Academic Excellence and the Arts

46-21 Colden Street, Flushing, New York 11355

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Judith Friedman, Principal Carla Brathwaite, Assistant Principal

Karen Martin, Assistant Principal

Jeannine Strong, Assistant Principal

February 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the official start of the second half of school year 2022-23! February has arrived and with it Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day and Mid-Winter Recess. The second term also marks a crucial juncture as we begin to identify students who are succeeding academically as well as those whose promotion may be in doubt. We will continue to work very hard to ensure that all students will have the necessary skills to be successful in their subject classes and will perform at or above proficiency level on the upcoming NYS assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

**Report cards** will be distributed the week of February 6th. Parents of students who currently are not meeting promotion criteria and are at-risk of being held over will receive a Promotion in Doubt letter very shortly. If you receive the letter, please make sure to contact your child’s teachers and/or assistant principal and make every effort to attend **Parent Teacher Conferences** **(PTC)** on March 10th. Afternoon conferences will take place from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, evening conferences from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. At this time, we expect PTC will be virtual. Additional information about scheduling conference time will be forthcoming.

Please remember that we have an extensive after school **Academic Intervention Services** **(AIS)** program for students who need additional academic support. Currently, we offer ELA and math AIS for all grades and are planning to provide science and social studies AIS for 8th graders beginning the week of February 13th. We also have a Saturday **English as a New Language (ENL)** program for English language learners and a variety of before and after-school enrichment programs. Please review the following:

* **Academic Intervention Services (AIS)** for students needing support in core subjects. All AIS instruction is 2:45 to 4:15 PM.

Tuesdays: 6th Grade ELA and math

Wednesdays: 7th Grade ELA and math; 8th Grade science and social studies

Thursdays: 8th Grade ELA and math

Space is still available. Parents who wish to have their child participate in the AIS program should contact assistant principal Ms. Strong ([Jstrong@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Jstrong@schools.nyc.gov) ) or assistant principal Ms. Martin ([Kmartin24@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Kmartin24@schools.nyc.gov) ) for additional information.

* **ENL Classes for English Language Learners**. Contact Ms. Strong ([jstrong@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jstrong@schools.nyc.gov)) for additional information.

Saturdays: 8:30 to 11:30 AM

Tuesdays: 7:30 to 8:10 AM

* **Other Extracurricular Activities and Clubs:** Visual Arts, Instrumental Music, 3D printing, STEM & Coding, Debate Team, CHAMPS, Early Morning Gym, Regents Tutoring, Chess Club. Students should speak to their teachers for more information about these activities and others that may be starting in the near future.

Our students are making their voices heard through our 6th, 7th and 8th grade **Student Councils and Student Chats,** which meet at least once a month. **Student Council** members and **Student Chat** participants surface concerns of their classmates and grade level peers and discuss ways to address them. They also suggest meaningful and fun school-wide activities designed to increase school spirit. Students really love the meetings and our staff are learning a lot from our wonderful students.

During February and March, our 7th grade students will have the opportunity get a taste of the college experience as they visit college campuses in and around New York City. The date and location of each college visit will be announced in advance of the event.

**REMINDERS**

* Please be sure that your child follows the **I.S. 237 Dress Code**, which helps ensure the safety of our students. The school shirt is color-coded by grade: Grade 6- maroon; Grade 7-green; Grade 8-grey. Students may wear bottoms consisting of jeans without extensive rips or holes, pants or skirts of an appropriate length. Sneakers and closed shoes are permitted; open-toe sandals, slides and slippers are not because of safety concerns.

* Please join DOJO and activate your **NYCSA** as soon as possible if you have not yet done so. (Link is on our I.S. 237 website or contact our parent coordinator, Ms. Shirley Bryant for assistance ([SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov) )

**Important February Dates (All parent meetings, chats and workshops are virtual. Parent coordinator will send link prior to the day and time of the event.)**

**February 2:** Ground Hog Day

**Week of February 6:** Report Cards distributed

**February 6: Parent Workshop** – Stress Management 9:00 to 10:00 AM (virtual and in-person)

**February 13-17: SPIRIT WEEK!**

**February 14: Happy Valentine’s Day! Parent & Student Treat Event**

**February 15: Parent Chat -** Parents of English Language Learners: Adapting to New Environment

**February PTA Meeting (Date TBD):** How does iReady help assess and promote student learning?

Presentation by iReady representative

**February 20 – 24:** Mid-Winter Break – School closed

Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe.

Very truly yours,

Judith Friedman

Judith Friedman

| [◄ January](https://www.wincalendar.com/Holiday-Calendar/January-2023" \o "January 2023) | **February 2023** | | | | | [March ►](https://www.wincalendar.com/Holiday-Calendar/March-2023) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2  **Ground Hog Day** | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6  **Report Cards Distributed**  **PARENT WORKSHOP**  **9:00 – 10:00 AM** | 7  **Report Cards Distributed** | 8  **Report Cards Distributed** | 9  **Report Cards Distributed** | 10  **Report Cards Distributed** | 11 |
| 12 | 13  **SPIRIT WEEK** | 14  **VALENTINES**  **DAY**  **SPIRIT WEEK** | 15  **Parent Chat**  **SPIRIT WEEK** | 16  **SPIRIT WEEK** | 17  **SPIRIT WEEK** | 18 |
| 19 | 20  **MID WINTER RECESS**  **NO SCHOOL** | 21  **MID WINTER RECESS**  **NO SCHOOL** | 22  **MID WINTER RECESS**  **NO SCHOOL** | 23  **MID WINTER RECESS**  **NO SCHOOL** | 24  **MID WINTER RECESS**  **NO SCHOOL** | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  [WWW.RCIS237.ORG](http://WWW.RCIS237.ORG) FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION | | | |