



Wonderful 163!

News and Information from the PTA of **The Alfred E. Smith School**

FEBRUARY 2010

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, 2/5, 6:30–8:30pm
**Noche de Amor
Valentine's Day Party**
All are welcome!

Monday, 2/8, 6:30pm
PTA Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, 2/11, 6pm
SLT Meeting

Thursday, 2/11, 6:30pm
**5th Grade Graduation
Committee Meeting**
*All 5th grade parents welcome to attend
in the cafeteria*

Monday, 2/15–Friday, 2/19
Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Friday, 2/26, 8:45am
PTA General Meeting
All are welcome!

Tuesday, 3/2, 6:30pm
PTA Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, 3/11, 6:00pm
SLT Meeting

Saturday, 3/13, 6–9pm
**International Fiesta
& Live Auction for Class Arts**

Tuesday, 3/16
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Noon Dismissal
Scholastic Bookfair in Gymnasium

Thursday, 3/18, 6:30pm
PTA General Meeting
All are welcome!

Friday, 3/19, 6:30–8pm
Chess Night

Thursday, 3/26, 6:30pm
PTA General Meeting
All are welcome!

Monday, 3/29–Tuesday, 4/6
Spring Break
NO SCHOOL

A Valentine Date with Your Family

Dress your best on Friday, February 5, for PS163's 6th annual Noche de Amor: Happy Valentine's Day Party!

School memories are priceless, yet easily made with a little help from moms and dads. Let's all come together to make this party an evening to remember.

You'd be surprised at what we can do with just a little of your time.

Dancers—Love to dance? We need you to help keep the dance floor moving. Set up and line control—Dads, this is right up your alley! We also need volunteers for: presale of tickets—cashiers—food court—dessert station—raffle sellers and callers—vendors (balloons, popcorn, goody bags, etc.)

There is something fun for everyone to do! Please contact Wilma Wilma Otero-Lopez at Wilmarosa@aol.com or ps163funraisers@aol.com to volunteer.

Recycling at PS163

Does PS163 Recycle? *Yes!* Do you?

Current recycling efforts at PS163:

Custodial Staff:

- Cafeteria/Kitchen: food cans and cardboard
- Teachers Lounge: water bottles, aluminum cans and foil

5th Grade Recycling Committee:

- Paper from all classroom and administrative offices
 - Juice boxes and milk cartons from cafeteria
- As of November 30th!*

163 PTA:

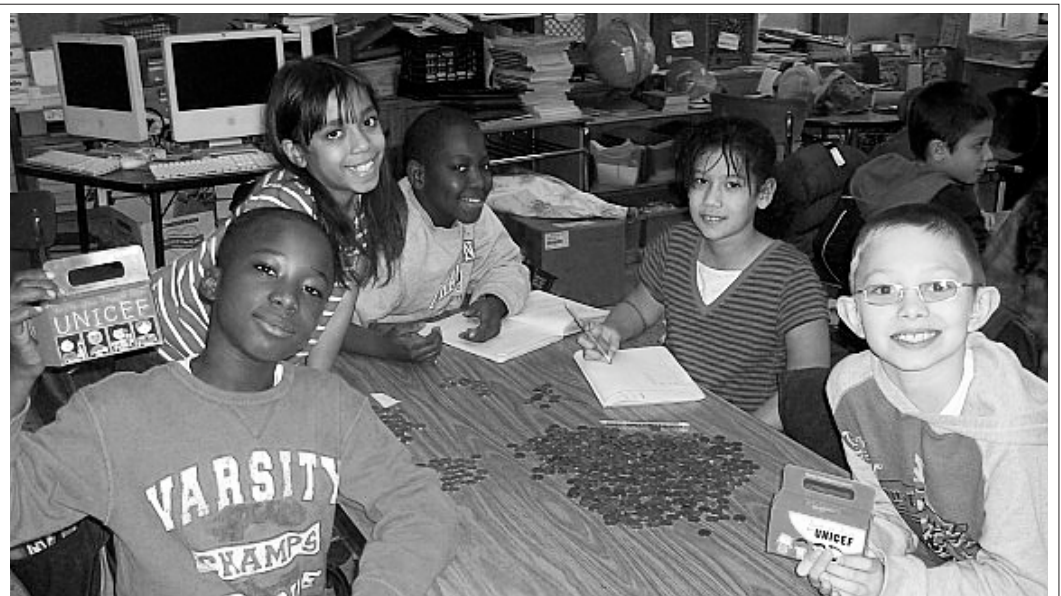
- Cans, juice boxes and waterbottles from fundraisers
- Used books at Friday booksales
- Used clothing & toys at rummage sales
- Save a Tree — Receive e-flyers via listserve instead of paper flyers, less \$ on paper = more \$ for school budget

Environmental Awareness:

- Wednesday Morning Conservation Club, Ms. Ling
- Leap Afterschool Conservation Club
- 5th Grade Recycling Club, Ms. Peterson
- Membership in Green Schools NYC to share challenges & solutions
- Eco activities at our Spring Fair: trash toss, recycled paper pin wheel craft

Why recycle:

At the Café 163 on Recycling in November, par-



Tricked and Treated for Unicef...

Fourth graders raised \$300 for Unicef (and they did a lot of math at the same time too!) Read all about it on page 2.

LOST & FOUND

Please make an effort to check the lost & found area located in the cafeteria. Your child may not tell you when something is lost.

VERY USEFUL NUMBERS

Main School Number
212-678-2854

Nurse
212-865-6859

Parent Coordinator
Andi Velasquez
347-563-5230
ps163pc@yahoo.com

Guidance Counselor
212-678-2789

PTA Co-Presidents
Julia Heath
212-666-4563
jheath@medialink.com
Carrie Reynolds
212-222-8008
carriechase@earthlink.net



Thanks to our neighbor for its support of the PS163 Chess Program!

How to Join the PS163 ListServ

Stay connected with other PS163 parents! Join the PS163 internet community on Yahoo Groups, where you'll be able to receive email announcements and send messages to other parents.

To sign up:

1. Go to www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/PS163NYC
2. Click on 'Sign Up'
3. Create Yahoo ID if necessary
4. YOU HAVE JOINED!

Any problems, contact the PTA Co-Presidents Julia Heath (jheath@medialink.com) or Carrie Reynolds (carriechase@earthlink.net)

ents took part in a "Timeline of Trash" activity led by Sylvie Schlein, the Conservation Club coordinator from our LEAP afterschool program. Participants were asked to guess decomposition rates. We were surprised (and horrified) by the facts: paper – 2.5 months, milk carton – 5 years; plastic bag – 10-20 years, tin can – 100 years, plastic soda bottle – 450+ years. Hermetically sealed trash in plastic garbage bags extends these lifespans even further: A compelling argument for why we should recycle and reuse our planet's dwindling resources!

Thankfully, we had several experts on hand to clarify ways to dispose and recycle waste such as:

Kids recycle: Ms. Yvonne Peterson, sustainability coordinator & her 5th Grade Recycling Club individually introduced themselves and why they recycle. Her members learn leadership, communication and team skills as they instruct students in the classroom about the importance of recycling, what paper can and cannot be recycled, and organize collection of paper from all the classrooms and offices. Thank you, Recycling Club! We appreciate your community service!

What can/cannot be recycled: Mr. Bruno Iciano from the Department of Sanitation Community Affairs NYC clarified what can and cannot be recycled, distributed recycling flyers and receptacle decals, and fielded questions about such things as the enormous taxpayer burden of transporting and outsourcing NYC's trash.

Composting in your NYC Apartment: Carol Fox, from Lower East Side Ecology Center, demonstrated composting, utilizing food scraps and junk mail to create compost for use on house plants, community gardens or city tree beds. Composting reduces landfill, recycles unwanted junk mail and confidential receipts, provides plant nutrition, and removes smelly garbage from our sidewalks & landfills!

Ways to help:

Go to greenraising.com for your gift purchases & green school supplies. We receive 25% of your purchase if you designate PS163 as your affiliate. Your dollars support green initiatives like this Cafe163 Recycling Talk.

—Sharon Bahus,
It's So Easy Being Green, co-chair
sharon.bahus@gmail.com

Dr. Mom's Advice on Strep Throat

Many children get sore throats this time of year. How do you know if it is strep throat? Get a throat culture. Most doctors have a "rapid strep" culture (a painless Q-tip swab in the

back of the throat) that gives you an answer immediately. If it is positive for strep, your child will need to take antibiotics for 10 days, or a shot that releases the medicine slowly over time. Kids should stay home until they have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours. Why is it so important to finish the medicine? A rare complication of strep throat, rheumatic fever, can occur in untreated cases. Rheumatic fever can affect the heart and cause problems that can last a lifetime. Does every sore throat need to be treated with antibiotics? Definitely not. Most sore throats are caused by viruses or bacteria that do not have long-term effects.

Some symptoms that point to strep are fever, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, and white plaques in the the throat. Younger children may vomit or complain of a stomachache. About 10% will get a rash, called "scarlet fever," often accompanied by peeling skin on the hands.

Any sore throat will go away without treatment if given time. The reason it is important to check a strep culture is to prevent rare but significant heart complications and to prevent close contacts (i.e. classmates and friends) it!

And remember, let your Class Parent know if your child has strep so that other families can be on the lookout for this highly contagious illness.

—M. Richman, M.D.,
mom of Maya (4th grade)

Trick-or-Treat for Unicef

Once again, PS163 participated in the annual "Trick-or-Treat for Unicef" fundraiser. Unicef is an organization that helps needy children all over the world. The fourth grade classes raised a total of \$300. In some of these classes, this fundraiser was connected to our math curriculum. Students sorted the change that was collected and estimated what the total would be.

Mr. Alvarez's class and Mr. Montserrate walked over to TD Bank and the students took turns depositing all the change in the bank's coin counter. A check for the total amount of money was mailed to Unicef.

Mr. Alvarez would like to thank all the classes and teachers who participated in this endeavor. A special shout-out goes to Esme Bleecker-Adams, a fifth grader who helped us raise money. Thank you also to Ms. Berrios and Ms. Abrams for accompanying Mr. Alvarez's class to the bank.

Live Auction for Class Arts Projects, March 12!
The Class Arts Project is a wonderful, school-

wide creative fundraiser we do once a year. Each class creates a piece of art that we auction off—this year, for the first time, we will have a *live auction* for the projects on Saturday, March 13, at the International Fiesta Night. Be prepared to come and bid on your child's class art project! The children really enjoy making something together in their class with their teacher. It is absolutely amazing to see the gorgeous pieces of art each class creates. The proceeds from selling these projects also help raise much-needed funds for the school. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email me at *michellesaacks@gmail.com*. You could have a wonderful idea for the art your child's class creates this year, you could be an artist who would like to become involved in the project, or a brilliantly organized person who would love to help with the organizational bits (this can be done from your office). Your reward will be the look on your child's face when she sees her classroom's project hanging in the foyer during the Class Arts Exhibition at the beginning of March. It's a lovely fundraiser and it benefits our school!

—Michelle Saacks,
Class Arts Project for Auction
organizer
michellesaacks@gmail.com

**International Fiesta Night
on Saturday, March 13**

You won't want to miss this exciting evening of culture food, music, crafts and games from around the world! More information will be forthcoming. For now please save the date to attend this fun-filled event and sample food from many cultures, homemade by PS163 families. Volunteers will be needed!

If you'd like to contribute a dish or help run an activity representative of your culture, please contact: Wilma Lopez, *wilmarosa@aol.com* or 646-671-7492 or Cynthia Carris Alonso, *carris27@aol.com*

If you'd like to perform a short song or dance, please contact Franziska Castillo, *fbcastillo@gmail.com*

**5th GRADE GRADUATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Thursday, February 11, 6:30pm
in the Cafeteria
All 5th-grade parents
are welcome!*



NOCHE DE AMOR

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

FEBRUARY 5, 6:30PM

