

# Parent Connections

Official Newsletter of the PTA of EWSIS  
Vol. 2, Issue #2, November 2010

## East-West School of International Studies

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Seung Oh, *Assistant Principal*  
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Gjemile Pervizaj, *Dean of Student Affairs*  
Jeannie Park, *Guidance Counselor*  
Carlos Diaz, *Guidance Counselor*

## PTA Executive Board

Darcy Hector, *Co-President*  
Rosalba Arroyo, *Co-President*  
Esmilce Escobar, *Vice-President*  
Donna Forde, *Treasurer*  
Minerva Sabas, *Secretary*  
Denise Eng, *Communications Chairperson*  
Rita Lopez, *Fundraising Chairperson*



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We welcome any feedback for future issues of our parent newsletter. Please send any suggestions to the PTA at [pta@ewsis.org](mailto:pta@ewsis.org)

## **PTA News**

Dear East-West Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the November 2010 issue of *Parent Connections*! With the first report cards having been issued and our first parent-teacher conferences having taken place on October 28 and 29, we are now well on our way in the 2010-2011 academic year. The first marking period also saw the introduction of the East-West School Honor Roll for students earning an 85% grade or higher in every class they are taking, including Physical

Education, Advisory, and Extended Day. Parents, along with teachers and staff, hope that the Honor Roll will be an incentive for our students to work diligently at their studies and enjoy the recognition of a job well done.

In November, as we look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, it is a good time to stop and remind ourselves of all we have to be thankful for – our family, our friends, our homes and our communities. We on the PTA Executive Board are very grateful for the support of parents like you, who make the time to attend meetings and contribute to our efforts. Please do attend our monthly meetings, generally held on the first Saturday of each month. Your active involvement with the PTA not only strengthens our school, but can also help you navigate the treacherous “teen years” and give you the support you need to help make your child’s school year fruitful and fulfilling.

On the subject of gratitude, we are very grateful to Ms. Denise Eng, the PTA Communications Committee Chair, who works hard to put this publication together for us each month. *Parent Connections* not only provides information to parents about what is happening at the school and with the education of their children, it also offers a forum for the administrators and teachers of East-West School to share news and events happening inside and outside of their classrooms. It is our hope that as the newsletter grows in scope, more and more teachers will take advantage of this vehicle to convey information to parents. And parents, please send your comments and story ideas to [pta@ewsis.org](mailto:pta@ewsis.org). We would love to get your feedback and look forward to seeing you at our next PTA meeting.

Sincerely,

PTA Executive Board  
East-West School of International Studies

## *A Word from Our Principal...*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. There are some changes that I would like to discuss here. The most visible are our two new Assistant Principals, Ms. Seung Oh (High School) and Ms. Mala Panday (Middle School). Ms. Oh was a math teacher, school programmer, technology coordinator, and teacher coach, and she was selected among the many candidates interviewed at our C-30 Committee meeting last May. Ms. Panday was a science teacher at East-West and was recently promoted at the end of August when the position was suddenly available. Both were raised here in Queens and have been working very hard for our school since the beginning of the school year.

We have refocused our period 8 classes so that each targets students who are struggling in reading or math, or who need to recover credits at the high school level. These classes are extremely small, often having only one to five students per teacher. These classes meet for 37.5 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday only. Our goal is to concentrate on our weakest students.

There are some important changes to our school day:

On Thursday and Friday, all students are released at 2:10 pm.

On Monday to Thursday, school begins at 7:50 am, and on Friday at 8 am.

We have several new teachers: Mr. Bernor (Earth Science); Ms. Binaso (English); Ms. Gordon (History); Ms. Hartong (Drama); Ms. Jones (Reading); Ms. Lee (Special Ed/Math); Ms. Reichert (ESL); Mr. Shibata (Physics); and Ms. Yang (Math). Ms. Hartong, will be directing a school play which will be open to any student in any grade. In our high school, instead of Chemistry, we are now offering Regents Physics. Ms. Prout is

teaching English while our Ms. Abraham is out on maternity leave.

Our budget is tighter this year than ever before. This will mean reductions in our after school program as well as a reduction in overtime hours allotted to our staff. As such, I am looking for several parents to be regular scheduled volunteers at our school office. Let me know if you have free time to help us during this difficult year.

On a positive note, we graduated sixty five students this past June. One graduate joined the US Navy and the other sixty-four continued on to university. One of them, Sam Cheng, just placed into the highest level Japanese class at SUNY New Paltz.

I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you at our monthly PTA meetings and welcome you to visit our school often.

Warm Regards,

Ben Sherman  
Principal

### ***Important Reminder:***

Parents & Guardians,

Please complete & return updated blue cards and your school lunch forms to the Main Office, Room 428, as soon as possible. The lunch forms help determine the Title 1 funds that the school receives. Your assistance and cooperation is much appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Arroyo.



## Calendar of Events

11/13 ..... PTA General Membership Mtg.  
@ 10 AM  
11/11 ..... Veterans Day  
School Closed  
11/16 ..... 802 Trip to the Opera  
11/18 ..... Middle School Open House  
11/19 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends  
HS Cap & Gown Fitting  
11/23 ..... SLT Meeting  
@ 6:30 PM  
11/25 & 26 ..... Thanksgiving Holiday  
School Closed

12/4 ..... PTA General Membership Mtg.  
@ 10 AM  
12/15 ..... School Talent Show  
12/21 ..... SLT Meeting  
@ 6:30 PM  
12/24 – 01/02/2011 ..... Winter Recess  
School Closed



If any parents would like to volunteer to be a part of the Newsletter or Fundraising committees, please see any PTA Executive Board Member.

## Teachers' Corner

### Help Wanted:

2-3 parent volunteers needed to help with the Senior Luncheon on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Luncheon will begin at 4:30 PM. All 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend, but need to RSVP with Mrs. Park at [jpark@ewsis.org](mailto:jpark@ewsis.org)

Please contact Mrs. Park or let a PTA Board member know if you can assist.

### **Schedule of PTA General Membership Meetings for 2010-2011**

October 2, 2010  
November 6, 2010  
December 4, 2010  
January 8, 2011  
February 5, 2011  
March 5, 2011  
April 2, 2011  
May 7, 2011  
June 4, 2011

All Meetings are held on Saturdays at 10 AM