Parent Connections

Official Newsletter of the PTA of EWSIS
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First Fridays

You are invited to visit your child's class on the first Friday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Come see our morning Muster and attend your child's period 0 and 1 classes.

Please bring your photo ID and sign in at the Main Office.

PTA News

Dear East-West Families,

We wish all of you a very happy & productive New Year!

As we begin 2014, we want to give a special thank you to all our parent volunteers. We appreciate all your assistance as trip chaperones and as volunteers for various school events. We are always in need of more volunteers. If you have the time and would like to get more involved with the school, consider joining the PTA as a parent volunteer. We would gladly welcome your involvement and support. Please see any Board member or Ms. Janine Esposito, our Community Assistant/Parent Liaison for more information.

One reminder for this month is that the school will be contacting some Middle School parents to set up Extended Parent conferences to assist our Middle School students who may need extra resources. If your child scored a Level 1 or 2 on last year's State Exams (ELA or Math), you may receive a call from Ms. Mandel this month.

We encourage all parents to take an active interest in their child's academic life. You are a crucial part of your child's life and their academic success. We want to remind you to take advantage of **First Fridays** to get a glimpse into your child's school day.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will do our best to assist you.

Sincerely,

PTA Executive Board

Teachers' Corner

Interview with our ESL/Korean language teacher, Ms. Jounghye Rhi by student, Myeong Keun Kim:

How have you affected change in society?

"I can't say that I have had a major impact on society, but as a Korean-American first generation immigrant and public school educator, I would say that I have affected change in small ways.

I immigrated from Korea in 1982, and I began my career as an ELLs and Korean language teacher in the public school system in 1994. Starting in 2004, I served as the president of the Korean-American Teachers Association of New York (KATANY). As part of KATANY initiatives, I promoted Korean language programs in NYC public schools. At one point, I convinced the principal of IS 25 to establish Korean programs in her school. Through my recommendation, she went on an educational trip to Korea and was exposed to the Korean culture and language. I also mobilized parents for students in PS 32 to request a Korean language program in IS 25. By September 2012, the school established Korean classes, which continue to run well.

Finally, I have a strong sense of responsibility for the parents of the Korean-American Community. I work on providing parents workshops to address various educational issues and participate in the NYC Pubic Forum for education policies to advocate for the rights of English Language Learners and their Korean American parents. I believe that my efforts did help bring awareness to the NYC Department of Education on the needs of immigrant students and parents, which ultimately affected some of their policies. To further bridge the gap caused by language barriers, I was part of the translation efforts for many import documents and served as a translator for several parents workshops."

Calendar of Events

1/11 .....PTA General Membership Mtg. @ 10 AM

1/16 ..... EWSIS Annual Math Competition: **Can you 24?** @ 6:00 PM

1/20 ..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day School Closed

1/21 .....SLT Meeting @ 6:00 PM

2/01 .....PTA General Membership Mtg. @ 10 AM

2/07 ..... First Fridays @ 8:00 AM

2/11 .....SLT Meeting @ 6:00 PM

2/13 ..... Talent Show @ 6:00 PM

2/17 – 2/21 .....Mid-Winter Recess School Closed

Announcing...

EWSIS First All School Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee will be designing the 2014 yearbook and will feature all students from grades 6 to 12.

Parents can visit our school website and click on the "School Yearbook" icon link to purchase the yearbook for $45.

After January 20th, 2014, the price will increase. Credit cards only.

If you have any questions, please email our High School guidance counselor, Mrs. Park at jpark@ewsis.org