



CENTRAL CALLING

January 15, 2010

Our Focus is the Child

Visit our website at—<http://www.mamkschools.org>



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday we launched our Astronomy Residency with an assembly for students in grades 3-5. Alan Alterman, an elementary math/science teacher, shared an overview of the unit he will be doing with students later this month. In preparation for his work, he assigned two homework tasks — to locate and sketch the constellation, Orion the Hunter, and, beginning on Sunday, he asked that we observe and sketch the moon. We are to observe the moon's shape and location each morning or night for one month.

Mr. Alterman will work with each class during the week of January 25th, introducing the children to moon phases, day/night, seasons and eclipses. In February he will return with a portable planetarium to introduce students to seasonal constellations, latitudinal differences and navigation by the sun and stars. Mark your calendars for our "Family Star Gazing Evening" to be held on March 17th. Mr. Alterman, along with the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, will set up telescopes on the playing field to observe the night sky.

This week Central's Building-Level Safety Team met to review security procedures we have in place. Please be reminded:

- The school doors will be locked at 9am each morning.
- The main entrance (located by the main office) is the only entrance open after 9am. *Students and staff have been directed not to open doors, even for those people we know well. Please do not bang on doors to be let into the building.*
- All visitors, including parents, must obtain a Visitor's Pass at the front desk.
- Children leaving school before regular dismissal must be signed out in the main office. Students will be called to the office to meet a parent or caregiver. Do not pick up a child at his/her classroom.
- Parents/caregivers must deliver forgotten items (instruments, lunches, library books, etc.) to the greeter seated in the lobby.

Although procedures such as these may cause inconvenience for some, we rely on our community members to observe our rules so that we may support the children by maintaining a caring and safe school environment. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Have a wonderful three-day weekend!

FROM THE PTA:

Parents Night Out!

Central School 2010 International Dinner
"A Celebration of the Olympic Spirit"

Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7:30pm (note new date)

Save the date for this fun-filled evening featuring food from around the world, wine tasting and a silent auction. Look for your invitation in your child's backpack today. If you are interested in cooking or helping on the night, please contact Ainslie Simmonds at: asimmonds@mba1997.hbs.edu or Kimi Quinn at quinnk@optonline.net.

Central Perks

Please mark your calendars and don't miss our next Central Perks on Jan 26th at 9:15am, to discuss: "WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHILD FEELS ANXIOUS".

This topic will be presented by local psychologists Marian Presberg, PhD and Suad Noah, PhD.

January Sign Up Parties!

ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO CENTRAL SCHOOL

Parent Survival Night at Little Gym of Stamford:

Drop the kids off for pizza, drinks, movies and, of course, lots of fun and games in the gym! Parents get a few precious hours to shop or eat at one of the many restaurants in Greenwich, CT (only about 15 minutes from Larchmont!). Fri, Jan 29th, 6:30-9:00pm (date rescheduled from Feb 5th). Location: Little Gym of Stamford, CT: <http://www.tlgstamfordct.com>

Cost: \$30 for first child/\$20 for each additional child

Paella Night at Espana!:

Come with your friends/spouse/partner and learn hands-on how to make delicious, fresh paella from the experts and then eat it for dinner! Mon, Jan 25th, 7:30pm
Location: Espana on Larchmont Ave.

Cost: \$40 per person

Contact Laura Wechsler (trentben97@gmail.com) to sign up.

Nominating Committee

If you are interested in being on the PTA nominating committee to help organize our slate of volunteers for the 2010-11 school year, please contact Jennifer Malherbe jmalherbe@hotmail.com.

Haiti Earthquake

In light of the devastation in Haiti you can help immediately by donating to the Red Cross to assist the relief effort. Contribute online, or donate \$10 to be charged to your cell phone bill by texting "HAITI" to 90999.

Co-Leader Wanted for 1st Grade Girl Scout Troop

A new 1st Grade Daisy Girl Scout troop is seeking an adult to be a co-leader! The troop currently has 1 trained leader but needs a co-leader in order to start. Do you want to have fun and make a difference in your community and in the lives of young girls? If so, please contact Lori Barger at 815-3042, LABPT@aol.com or Pat Allen at 833-0547, pattyall@optonline.net.

Stay Connected!!

One of Central School's key methods of keeping in contact with parents is via **C-Mail**, which are email messages sent about specific events or issues. If you are already registered there is no need to sign up again. If you are not registered, please follow these instructions: send an email to csmamaronneck@aol.com with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

TRADUCTION FRANCAISE: CONTACTER MARIE-JOSEE LAFONTAINE 833-9450

SI USTED NECESITA AYUDA PARA TRADUCIR ESTA INFORMACION O ALGUNA OTRA EN ESPANOL PUEDE LLAMAR A LAS SIGUIENTES PERSONAS: MONICA MELO 834-5741

- **School is closed Monday, January 18, for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday.**
- **La escuela estará cerrada el día lunes 18 de enero para conmemorar el cumpleaños del Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSIFICATION

The Ins and Outs of Annual Reviews and IEPs, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7-9pm in the Tiered Classroom at Mamaroneck High School. Presented by Roni Kramer, Director of Elementary Special Ed, and Karen Gatto, Director of Secondary Special Education. This is a workshop for parents in response to the SEPTA Survey completed last year.

Also, on **Tuesday, Feb. 9, 9-10:30 am** in Room N101 at MHS, join members of the District's Speech/Language Department for an informative presentation on **language-based learning disabilities**....What are they? What can we do? Why was my child's classification changed?

"READ TO ME, POR FAVOR"

Students in 1V have been making a very surprising – and exciting – discovery when they go to the library...a mobile shelf full of brand new bilingual books, in Spanish and English. Mrs. Ventarola said the original purpose of the books, which were funded through a grant from Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, was to allow bilingual families to borrow books so parents could read to their children in their native language, as well as in English. "From the beginning," Mrs. Ventarola stated, "students have been very eager to check out the books, which include many popular and classic titles, both in the fiction and non-fiction genres." She says students come up to her every day, talking about the books. One student commented, "I like it when my mom can read my books!" Another student mentioned how he loved the way his daddy 'reads in funny voices to me'.

Mrs. Ventarola described how one parent approached reading a book with her child. "First, I read the book in Spanish to my son. Then I try to read it in English." She admitted this approach did have a slight drawback, though: her son would correct his mother's English! But that only proved how reading together helped give parents confidence to improve their English. "And it also showed how confident the student was with his English!" Mrs. Ventarola stated. Based upon all these examples, it is obvious that when either a child or parent asks, "Read to me, por favor," there's always a family member rushing to get a book and finding a comfortable place to share it. To which Mrs. Ventarola added, "It's precisely this bond that I was hoping would be created within families. The rewards will be tremendous...and far-reaching."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Children's Corner has space in our Kindergarten programs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:45 until 3pm, 6pm or 6:30pm. Let us be your "play date" OR your coverage when the sitter is sick! Register in January and receive discounted enrollment fee! Please call 834-0022 or go into our website: www.childrenscornerlm.org.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Mamaroneck Schools Budget and More..... Answers to more than 200 community questions surrounding the Mamaroneck Schools budget have been incorporated into a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) document now posted on the District website – www.mamkschools.org. To access this information, select BUDGET COMMUNICATIONS on the homepage; then select *Frequently Asked Questions* on the right.

For the Budget Meeting Timetable, [Click Here](#)

MAMARONECK AVENUE PRE-K

Mamaroneck Avenue Pre-Kindergarten Center is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year from 1/19-2/12. To be eligible for the Universal Pre-K program, students need to reside in the Mamaroneck School District **and** be age 4 by 12/31/10. Applications are available in the main office of the Mamaroneck Avenue School or on the district website. **All applications must be submitted by February 12, 2010.** A public lottery will be held on March 5, 2010 at 1:00pm in the MAS All Purpose Room. Selection by lottery guarantees a seat at the Mamaroneck Avenue Pre-K or a collaborating Nursery School. Please note that busing is not available to students in the Universal Pre-K program. For further information or assistance in completing the application, please contact Meryl Schaffer, Pre-K Social Worker at 220-3624. If you need assistance completing the form in Spanish, please contact Olga Ochoa at 220-3625.

El Centro Prekindergarten de Mamaroneck Avenue estará aceptando aplicaciones para el año escolar 2010-2011 del 19 de Enero hasta el 12 de Febrero. Para ser elegible para el programa de Pre-K Universal, los estudiantes necesitan vivir en el Distrito Escolar de Mamaroneck **y** tener 4 para 12/31/10. Las aplicaciones están a la disposición en la oficina principal de la Escuela de Mamaroneck Avenue o en la página cibernética del distrito. **Todas las aplicaciones deben de someterse para el 12 de Febrero, 2010.** Una lotería pública se tendrá el 5 de Marzo 2010 a la 1:00 p.m. en el Salón de Todos los Propósitos de MAS. Selección por lotería garantiza un asiento en Pre-k de Mamaroneck o una de las escuelas de párvulos que están colaborando. Por favor tome note que el bus no estará disponible para los estudiantes de Programa de Pre-k Universal. Para más información o asistencia en completar la aplicación por favor comuníquese con Meryl Schaffer, trabajadora social de Pre-K al 220-3625. Si usted necesita asistencia en completar la forma en español, por favor comuníquese con Olga Ochoa al 220-3625.

CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

If you have friends or neighbors with children entering Kindergarten next fall, please advise them that **February is Kindergarten Registration Month.** They will need to pick up a registration packet at their neighborhood school (the school for which their child is zoned) during the month of February and complete the necessary forms, which include providing proof of residency and immunizations, among other documents. It's important that the District gets the best possible estimate on the number of children that will be entering our schools.