



Our World Neighborhood Charter School
Elementary School
Kindergarten to Grade 5
36-12 35th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11106

Middle School
Grade 6 to Grade 8
31-20 37th Street
Astoria, NY 11103

January 25, 2010

Dear OWN Families:

In recent weeks, there has been so much going at our school, but just as importantly in the rest of the world. The tragic events in Haiti, brings home for many of us the suffering and fragility of life. We are a very fortunate community; we have some degree of security in which we are sure that we will have water and food. Today, hundreds of thousands of our fellow men cannot say the same. Both the students and staff have been discussing and figuring out how best to assist and to show our compassion. At both the elementary and the middle school, students and staff will be involved in several fundraising events. We will then send these funds to *Doctors Without Borders* to help them in their efforts to provide assistance to all our brethren in Haiti and around the world.

Let me remind you of a very important date. All families who intend for their child to return to OWN as a student in September 2010, must complete a **re-enrollment form** and submit it by **Friday, February 5, 2010**. If you have not yet done so, please take the time to do this immediately.

I would also like to keep you in the loop around activities that are and are not happening in the New York State Legislature and in the New York City Council that have an immediate bearing on the funding of our school programs. As you may have heard in the news New York State will not be eligible to received education funding of about \$700 million from the federal government due to inaction of the NY State Legislature. The January 20, 2010 of the NY Post website (<http://www.nypost.com/>) for the article on that date.

As we move forward toward Spring, I will keep you informed about how each of you can support the school's efforts to secure appropriate and fair funding for our programs. I believe this is simply an issue of equity for our children. It is just the right thing to do. We must fight for our children.

Respectfully,

Brian Ferguson
Executive Director & Principal

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