



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

October 22, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

By this time, each family should have received a school calendar and staff directory. The calendar is for the entire school year and will be updated regularly. So, the question is, how do you get current and additional information about what is happening at the school? First, you can call either school, see numbers below, and use ext. 750 to access the announcement hotline. Second, you will continue to get a monthly letter which has a monthly calendar attached. Third, you can visit the school's website at www.owncs.org and go to the school calendar to see what changes and/or additions have been made. Fourth, you can also visit the Parent Teacher Organization's website at www.ownpto.org to get information. There are so many ways to access information and to communicate with the school. We hope you will utilize them well.

As we begin this school year, I am asking all parents to commit themselves to the ideals of the school, which include respect for each person. I ask that we continue to think about what it means to participate in a community effort, because that is what a school of over 700 people is, a community. Your participation in the Parent Teacher Organization, at Back-to-School and Curriculum Nights, and other special events allow us to learn from each other and to acknowledge the richness and diversity of experiences that we all bring to the table. Our children are growing up in a world that is much different from the one in which we grew up. Besides the positive and negative pull of technology, they will enter high schools, college or university, and the worksite with people from every corner of the world, holding different worldviews and religious beliefs. Their success as individuals and our success as a democratic nation will be determined by how well they are able to use this diverse population to enhance and enrich their lives. They will, together, man and woman, black, white, Asian, Arab, Moslem, Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, gay, straight, or disabled, determine how to coexist and prosper. As the adults in their lives, we must model for them how to find common ground and relate to each other in an inclusive and respectful manner. As we gather, in common spaces such as at arrival and dismissal time, reach out and say hello to someone who you have not spoken to before. Come to a PTO meeting and invite someone else, so that we can build this school using the rich mosaic it is blessed with.

The school is committed to continue strengthening each teacher's ability to assist children to excel academically and socially. To that end, teachers are engaged in a year-long series of professional development activities that include grade level and afterschool meetings targeting math, reading, writing, science, social studies, special education, technology and English as a Second language instruction. I am honored to be working with such a talented, determined, and committed group of educators.

Respectfully,

Executive Director

K-5	Tel: (718) 392-3405	Fax: (718) 392-2840
Grade 6-8	Tel: (718) 274-2902	Fax: (718) 274-7146

www.owncs.org

November 2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 3	Election Day—Noon Dismissal
Tuesday, November 3 to 5	K-5 Book Fair
Wednesday, November 4	PTO Night Meeting @ 7pm in MS Cafeteria
Thursday, November 5	K-5 Curriculum Night @ 6pm
Friday, November 6	PTO Morning Meeting @ 8am in ES Cafeteria H1N1 Flu and Vaccination Information Session
Tuesday, November 10	Gr. 6 Field Trip to Central Park
Wednesday, November 11	No School—Veterans' Day
Thursday, November 12	NYSED 3 rd Year Comprehensive School Inspection
Monday, November 16	Kindergarten Field Trip Gr. 5 NYS Social Studies Exam—Part I
Tuesday, November 17	Gr. 5 NYS Social Studies Exam—Part II Gr. 7 Field Trip to Central Part
Wednesday, November 18	Gr. 6-8 Awards Assembly @ 8:15am Gr. 6-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-7:30pm
Thursday, November 19	K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8pm Gr. 6-8 Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 1-5 pm
Friday, November 20	K-8 School Photo Re-take day December Parents' letter sent home
Saturday, November 21	<i>OWN's Got Talent Show @ LaGuardia Community College</i>
Tuesday, November 24	Gr. 8 Field Trip to Central Park
Thursday, November 26 to 27	No School—Thanksgiving Break
Monday, November 30	Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7pm
Tuesday, December 1	Admissions 2010 Applications Available
Wednesday, December 2	PTO Night Meeting @ 7pm MS Cafeteria
Friday, December 4	PTO Morning Meeting @ 8:15am ES Cafeteria Gr. 6-8 Fall Harvest Dance 7-10pm Gr. 8 High School Applications due to Guidance Dept
Thursday, December 10	Gr. 6-8 Curriculum Night @ 6pm