



Q300 and Global Kids Promote Care for the Global & Local Community with their First Ever Campus Link Walk

On Wednesday September 30th, Sixth and Seventh Graders (led by Global Kids Director Carlos Quintata and organized by seventh grade parent Yan Zheng) walked from the Middle School Campus in Long Island City to our Lower School campus in Astoria to raise awareness of the Syrian refugee crisis and the upcoming PEEC program. Proceeds went to UNICEF Syrian Refugee Crisis and the 7th grade overnight trip. The event offered a great opportunity to walk between our two campuses while helping our community. Thanks for all who donated and supported the event. ☺



7th Graders take to the Boroughs for Specialized High School Open House Tours

It takes more than just being well-prepared to negotiate the high school application process in NYC these days, and a good place to start is developing a strategy around admissions, exams, and when to do open house tours. Typically, eighth graders take high school entrance exams in October, however the DOE also offers Open Houses at the same time. Knowing to get an early start on reviewing schools in 7th grade can make the 8th grade year significantly less stressful. This year 7th grade families from Q300 are traveling to all five boroughs for an early start to touring some of NYC's most prestigious public high schools including legendary institutions like Bronx Science with the most Nobel laureate winners in the entire country, and Stuyvesant High School located downtown in the shadow of Freedom tower. Active parents know that admission to these schools is extremely competitive and based solely on their child's performance on the rigorous SHSAT entrance exam. The specialized exam tests verbal and math problem solving skills covering logical reasoning, comprehension, probability, statistics, geometry, algebra and so much more. Beyond the nine Specialized High Schools, NYC is home to many notable programs that are both rigorous and progressive including Bard, Townsend Harris, Nest+M to name a few. Thank you to Tech Instructor Scott Waldman for integrating a fantastic High School selection discovery process into the upper grade curriculum. ☺

First Day of School

For many Q300 parents and students it was sad to see the end to summer, with trips to beaches, parks, zoos, museums and spending time with family and friends in our recent memories. At the same time, we were excited to think about and then actually begin the new (second) year at Q300. Parents delighted in their children thinking and talking about their excitement to see old friends, meet new ones, find out who their teacher was, use new backpacks, wear new sneakers and clothes, and put fresh school supplies to good use. One second grader shared his feelings about the first day of school: "I was happy and excited and in the middle". When asked to clarify what "in the middle" meant, he explained that he was "nervous to meet his new teacher and anxious to see which friends would be in his class." After he got through the first day, the "in the middle" part disappeared and only happiness and excitement remained! All Q300 students seem pleased getting to know their new teachers and friends, enjoying music and other enrichments, choosing new books, and becoming more of a big kid every day. 🍌





PTA Elections!

Are you interested in making a difference at Q300? The PTA has open seats for Vice-President(s) of Community Affairs, Co-Vice-President of Membership (joining Ellie Rabinovich), kindergarten representative, and sixth grade representative. For more info, please go to the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/qd4qjtk>. Elections will be held at the PTA October 29th meeting. We need you—as an upstart PTA we are very much in need of additional members on the board . . . if you do not run a position may go unfilled, if you do run there will definitely be a place for you to contribute. Please email nominations@q300pta.org to express your interest in one or more of the positions.



Seventh Graders Make a Big Splash at Pocono's Environment Education Center

Traveling 150 miles, Seventh Graders performed on-site science research at the Pocono's Environment Education Center (PEEC.org). The hands-on field studies focused on Pond Ecology as a unique habitat where creatures have adapted to living in a lentic water system and how these living creatures can be used as biotic indicators in determining the health and quality of the water. Amongst the sprawling acres, the students learned how to observe concepts of forest succession, structure and growth dynamics. Throughout their time in nature, PEEC guides discussed what sustainability means for individuals, communities and how it's practiced. Students learned about and selected an action they can take to reduce their impact on the environment by participating in PEEC's unique Environmental 'Promise Tree'. Each child wrote a promise on a leaf that is attached to a tree mural to be brought back to Q300 for display. The day began with team building, cooperation and decision making and ended with the children spending the night outside under the stars for an evening campfire and roasted s'mores treats.

Ask a seventh grader about their experience—they have a lot to share and we hope this paves the way for all rising middle school students' future participation. It's a great opportunity for the students, even the 6th graders couldn't stop talking about it—the excitement was all around!

Parents, please make a special effort to personally thank Karen Bischoff-Babich, as the trip would never have happened without her! Also give a big shout out to our amazing chaperones: Shek Leung, Farhana Osmani, Principal Matt and especially Betty Eck for inspiring the students through science. ☺

Donors Choose Improves Math & Science Classrooms

Through the help of DonorsChoose.org and the Con Edison Company, Q300's Math and Science classrooms were able to raise enough financial support to acquire 15 new Chromebook computers and 3 Microscopes for our talented students to study using matching grants. While we still need so much more equipment to make the teaching process more personalized, we are off to a great start this year as our Middle School grows. Thanks goes out to all those individuals, families and students who gave to the fundraising events ☺

Upcoming News & Events

October 14th 8:30 am: **First grade math celebration**

October 15th at 8:35 am: **PTA Board Meeting** will be held at the PS 17 campus. All are welcome.

October 16th 9:00 am: **PS 17 Campus Safety Meeting** in the auditorium

October 29th at 6:00 pm: **PTA General Meeting** will be held at the PS 17 campus with a costume event for the kids during the PTA meeting. Stay tuned for more info.

Help us show the face of Q300.

Please sign your child's photo release form – there were many photos we couldn't publish because one or more kids did not have releases! Ask your child's classroom teacher for the form.

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We welcome your contributions, if you have article ideas or photos for the next newsletter contact Jamie Trish at Q300ptanewsletter@gmail.com.