



Newsletter

October 2016

30th Avenue School - Q300 Parent-Teacher Association

Read-a-Thon A Huge Success!

This summer the Q300 PTA organized the first summer read-a-thon. One of the organizers, Maria Hantzopoulos goal was to encourage the students to continue reading throughout the summer, while also creating a fun way for families and friends to raise money for the school. In order to support the school curriculum the teachers created suggested reading lists. And to encourage the students to participate a pizza party was promised to the class that had the most number of students participate.

Samuel, a sixth grader said that it was motivating to have the read-a-thon even though he usually reads a lot of books during the summer. The last time he had read as many books as he did this summer was when he discovered the Harry Potter series, and read it entirely. He knew that the read-a-thon money was for the music program—not his favorite, but he was excited to raise money for his new school. Samuel mostly reached out to his extended family for sponsors, but also had his parents link to it on Facebook and said it was pretty easy to get people interested in supporting him. Throughout the summer he kept his sponsors informed about what he was reading by posting on the fundraiser website. “It was mostly fun raising money and reading and I was really happy when it turned out that I became the student that had made the most money, at least on the online site.” His favorite summer read was Hotel Valhalla’s Guide To The Norse Worlds by Rick Riordan.

After tallying the student participation, the 6th graders won the middle school pizza party, and there was a tie in the elementary school between kindergarten and 3rd grade. Very impressive school participation from the incoming students!

Maria had set a goal of \$5,000, within days of announcing the read-a-thon the goal was reached — a new goal of \$10,000 was quickly set. The school got just a couple of dollars shy of the goal, and the students had fun and read a ton of books. The read-a-thon was an all around success! 🍕



Families Celebrates Diwali

On Sunday October 23, 2016, over 20 families and school staff came (Jill) together for an informal yet delicious lunch at Jackson Diner on the occasion of Diwali. Organized by a few Q300 families, it was good times with good people over good food – in line with the essence of Diwali.

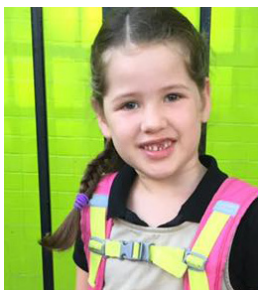
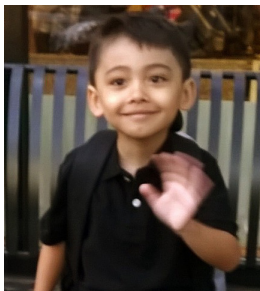
Deepāvali or Diwali, is called the “Festival of Lights” since many lamps and fireworks illuminate the darkness of the New Moon occurring during October – November. This is one of the few festivals observed by people of multiple faiths in India and other parts of the world making this a truly unifying festival. At its core, Diwali is a celebration of shared values such as an appreciation of all that we value in life (not just material wealth), a commitment to welcoming love, light and knowledge (over hatred), and a renewed focus to nurture and cultivate existing and new relationships and friendships. For some the day after Diwali also marks the start of the New Year .

Growing up in India my family and I, like other families, celebrated Diwali by wearing new clothes, eating and distributing dried fruit, sweets, nuts and presents and setting off fireworks for a few nights to convey our happiness. Our home displayed earthen oil lamps that were lit every night starting a few days leading up to Diwali, to not only decorate but to also create a warm welcoming space visitors. We also created Rangoli designs at the entrance to our home. Rangoli is an art form from India in which patterns are created on the floor in living rooms or courtyards using materials such as colored rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals. It is usually made during Diwali and other Indian festivals. Designs are passed from one generation to the next, keeping both the art form and the tradition alive .

I am fortunate that I am raising my children in New York City, where it has been heart warming to see Diwali related activities being lead by cultural institutions such as Rubin Museum, Asia Society, Queens Museum etc. But it was particularly touching to see so many Q300 families come together for lunch – the school’s value of inclusion was clearly front and center. 🍕

—Pooja Joshi Ohanlon

First Day of School



Upcoming News & Events

During Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences, November 3rd the **8th graders are planning a bake sale** to raise funds for their graduation activities. That same day is also a **Pizzeria UNO Fundraiser**, take a flyer with you to the LIC Pizzeria Uno at 37-11 35th Avenue and 20you're your purchase will be donated to Q300. The offer will be honored throughout lunch and dinner and for takeout!

No school **Election Day** November 8th and **Veterans' Day** November 11th

Q300 Night at the Gallery is coming up on Friday, November 18th. Enjoy food, wine, and art with fellow Q300 parents at a downtown contemporary art gallery. Buy tickets in advance at the PTA website, www.q300pta.org

PTA Update: All parents and guardians of Q300 students as well as all teachers are automatically members of the Q300 PTA. PTA meetings are held monthly. Our goal is to work together to create and maintain a welcoming community for all Q300 families and to support the administration and faculty in building a school that provides outstanding education to our students based on the values of inclusion, inquiry, and responsibility. See the PTA website www.q300pta.org for complete list of PTA officers. We look forward to seeing you at a PTA meeting sometime soon! **PTA Executive Board Meeting** on November 4th at 8:30AM, location TBD. **PTA General Meeting** November 17th 6:30PM – 7:30PM at PS17 in the cafeteria.

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