



# Newsletter

October 2014

30th Avenue School - Q300 Parent Teacher Association

## Q300 PTA Update

We are pleased to bring you the inaugural edition of the Q300 PTA newsletter. All parents and guardians of Q300 students as well as all teachers are automatically members of the Q300 PTA. PTA meetings will be held monthly, with the first one on October 28th. Please join us as we 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.

We are a newly formed group; on September 30th the PTA bylaws were approved and the inaugural Executive Board was elected.

PRESIDENT: **David Wang**

VICE PRESIDENT: **Serena Reisner**

CO-TREASURERS: **Maria Duda & Jasmine Rosner**

RECORDING SECRETARY: **Abrielle Rosenthal**

CO-VP OF FUNDRAISING: **Sarah Chang & Sonal Ross**

VP OF MEMBERSHIP: **Eleonora Rabinovich**

CO-VP OF COMMUNICATIONS: **Jamie Trish & Ellen Berger**

CO-VP OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: **Melissa Cruz & Maria Hantzopoulos**

CO-KINDERGARTEN REPS: **Tom Murphy & Atsuko Watanabe (Murphy)**

FIRST GRADE REP: **Catherine Leopando**

6TH GRADE REP: **Yan Zheng**

Work is underway in many areas through the Executive Board and committees of parent volunteers. The PTA budget is being developed after soliciting your input on your priorities for budgeting (and of course, fundraising!) for our children. A PTA website, PTA email list (opt-in), fundraising events, and more are coming soon... stay tuned!

## Staff Profile



## Matt Willard IA Principal matt@Q300.org

**Inclusion** Matt Willard has a degree in Russian Studies from Carnegie Mellon University. He completed MS Ed degrees at Queens College and Teachers College-Columbia University. He became an educator because he believes that we do not learn alone. He feels we need others for

support, to challenge our ideas, and to inspire us. In school environments, Matt is motivated and excited by these interpersonal exchanges.

**Inquiry** Matt is a comic book enthusiast. He feels that comic books are the perfect marriage of words and images. He can take a trip to any place through the eyes of another. In college, he performed several independent studies to research comic book history; and he created comics in the style of different eras. He wanted to know more about how world events influenced these inexpensive stories. Did you know that Superman was never allowed to fight in Europe during World War II because he could have ended the war in one day? If he ended the war in comics, he would no longer have been an inspiration to the millions of American troops abroad who read his books.

**Responsibility** Matt went to school at P.S. 150 in Sunnyside and I.S. 125 in Woodside. At school, his favorite subject was mathematics. He loved finding multiple ways to solve problems. He still does. At P.S. 150, Matt enjoyed participating in many dance and multicultural festivals. These events allowed him to better learn about the home cultures of his friends. Learning about his friends' customs and families helped him to build stronger friendships; many that still exist today.

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## Calendar/Upcoming Events

The **Gifted and Talented Request for Testing** period began Wednesday, October 8th, 2014. Please visit the NYCDOE Gifted and Talented web page for details.

**PTA General Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 pm

**Kindergarten Field Trip** to Queens Botanical Garden: Thursday, October 30th

# Class News

## Sixth Grade

In the classroom, the 6th grade students have gotten used to their schedule with three PE sessions a week and love the projects they are doing. A project “why was the wheel invented so late?” was much talked about by the kids. They are getting to know each other and enjoy the after school free play in the Athens Square Park.

Fifteen children will participate in the Model UN after school enrichment program initiated by Ms. Annette, starting on Oct. 8, 2014. The first meeting will feature a guest speaker, Ms. Siping Wang, Chief of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation Section of UNICEF Afghanistan.

Parents have volunteered to promote Q300 during the Middle School Fairs in District 25 (Karen Bischoff-Babich), 28 (Serena Reisner and Shirley Moy) and 30 (Serena Reisner and Yan Zheng). Principal Willard was at D30 fair. We hope to get the word out to the community that seats are available at Q300 for Grade 6 in the Fall of 2015 to encourage more applications.

The math and science teacher Betty has fully embraced interactive information technology in her teaching. Content, including assignments, links, articles and other resources are posted using Google Classroom and Khan

Academy. Students submit completed assignments to Betty’s google drive for grading.

Sixth grade parents had an informal get together on Sept. 21 to get to know each other.

## First Grade

The first graders will be culminating their Small Moments Unit at the end of October so we will have a publishing party. We will send out definite dates but it will be after Halloween and in the beginning of November.

We also will have a Math Celebration with students sharing the math games soon. Details will be sent home in a letter soon. . . . It may happen before Halloween.

Also we started explorations! Students have been building with blocks, big blocks and Legos. They’ve built racetracks, playgrounds and even rocket ships!

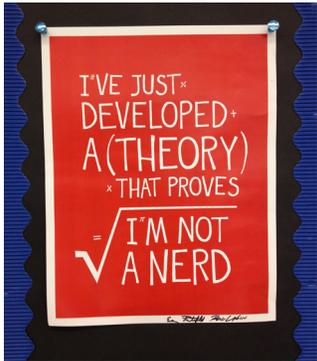
## Kindergarten

The kindergarteners are settling into their routines in K1 and K2 with Eileen and Jackie. There is lots of excitement about explorations, mindfulness, Spanish, technology and much more—ask your child what their turtle is up to these days!

The classes have come together for a variety of activities. They do PE together on Mondays and recently went outside to see and touch the trees as part of their new science unit.

The students are all looking forward to the field trip to the Queens Botanical Garden on October 30th. Teacher forms and payment should have already been submitted and school permission slips are due October 17th.

## First Day of School Pics



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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.