



BURNSIDE BEATS

Issue #23, September 2022



Our Learning Community

I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful summer and have returned this September relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you and your children are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to your family, and I look forward to working with you and your children in the months ahead.

Our skilled and devoted staff have been busy planning, preparing and establishing routines for your children. They will be working hard to improve our students overall English Language Arts and Mathematics skills, while also supporting their social and emotional well-being which we know is equally important, to set our students up for success. Remember parents that you are also very important members of our school community. We ask you all to make sure that your child's homework is completed



every night, that you read with your child each day and that you make sure they are getting at least 8 hours of sleep a night so they can come to school ready to learn. We have registered many new families and have had



some staffing changes as well. Perhaps our biggest change is the retirement of *Marilyn Morales*, who served as our Parent Coordinator and worked in our school for over 35 years. While we are sad to see her go, we are also happy and excited for her to begin this new chapter of her life and wish her all the best.

We also have some new staff joining our community this year including three new teachers- Yamilka Restituyo in class 103, Zane Valachovic in class 303 and Sellynette Garcia, a bilingual speech teacher. Please welcome them to our community and support them in their first year teaching here at PS 396.

In addition to staffing, we also have some updates to our school building, including a new outdoor mural, completed at the end of June 2022 by our art teacher Zoe Rosenberg, our students and the artists at Thrive Collective. The mural showcases our school's core values- **RESPECT, OWNERSHIP, CURIOSITY, KINDNESS, INTEGRITY, & NEVER GIVING UP** and along

with making our main entrance look good, will be used as a teaching tool in the months ahead.



We will continue to send class and school-wide updates via the ClassDOJO app, so please connect and check messages daily.



After 13 years, it remains an honor to be the Principal here at PS 396. I am looking forward to another great year with all of you. Please feel free to contact me at 718-294-1134 or ntine@schools.nyc.gov.



From September 15 to October 15, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States each year. This tradition began in 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson first issued a proclamation to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Week. Later, Congress passed a bill to extend the celebration to last an entire month, which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, and National Hispanic Heritage Month has been

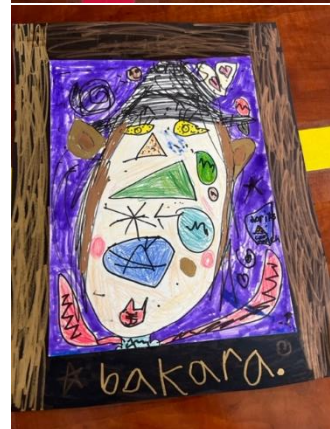
celebrated every year since 1989. The theme for 2022 is “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation,” which recognizes the diversity within the Hispanic community and encourages all voices to be recognized.

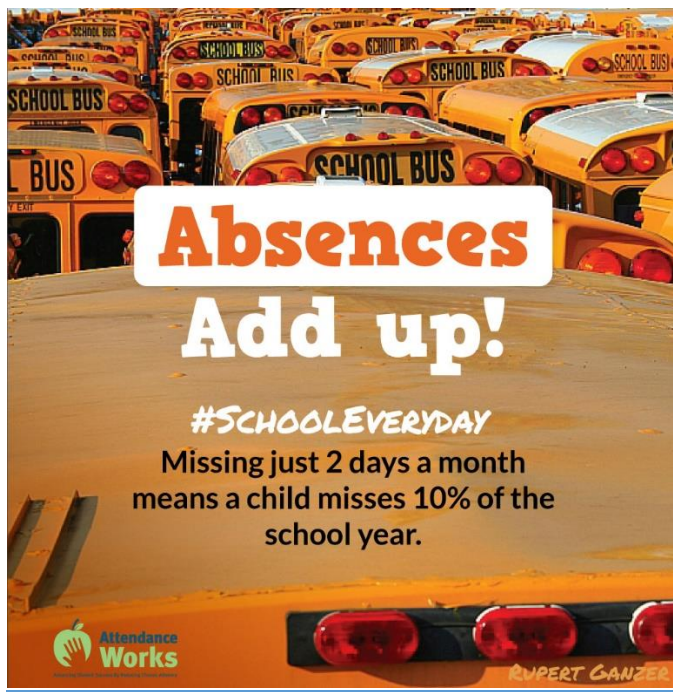
The dates for Hispanic Heritage Month were chosen to coincide with the Independence Day celebrations of many Latin American nations — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua — that declared their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. Chile, Mexico, and Belize also each have their own Independence Day celebrations on days throughout the month as well.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the countless contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our nation, and especially to New York City, over the years. We will also take this time to recognize the trailblazing individuals who fought for progress and equity for their communities.



Celebrating September Student Artwork





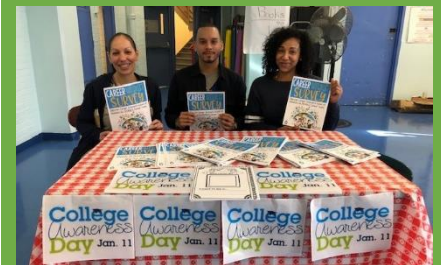
Last year we saw a decline in our daily student attendance to 90% overall. Over 40% of our students were “Chronically Absent.” This means they were absent over **20 days** in one school year. This represents missing **one month** of daily instruction, special services, guidance, etc. We know that attendance has a direct effect on student performance in school. Simply put, kids who do not come to school, do not have the opportunity to learn and struggle to meet State Standards. Students with poor attendance are therefore at risk for retention.

One of our schoolwide goals this year is to reduce the number of chronically absent students to less than 25%. In order to achieve this goal we need ALL of our families, from Prekindergarten to Fifth Grade working with us. Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance because you have the bottom-line responsibility for making sure your children get to school every day. Just as parents should focus on how their children are performing academically, you also have a responsibility to set expectations for good attendance and to monitor your children’s absences, so that missed days don’t add up to academic trouble.

If you need our help to address any barriers that may be causing your child to miss too much school, please let us know. We are here to support you and your children!



Left to right: Douglas Sheeran, Assistant Principal, Nicole A. Tiné, Principal, Theresa Costello, Assistant Principal



Left to right: Guidance Counselors, Ana Martinez-Hollinger, Adriano Casimiro, Angela Cherry

REMINDERS

- Complete the Emergency Blue Card
- Register at our school Health Clinic
- Download and connect to ClassDojo for school and class information
- Create your NYC Schools Account for each child
- Arrival begins at 7:55AM
- Dismissal for Prek – 2nd grade is at 2:15PM, 3rd – 5th grade is at 2:20PM