

PAULO NEWSLETTER

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**Our duty as men and women of Paulo
is to proceed as if limits
to our ability do not exist.**

George Santayana's message, which emblazons the front entrance, is a personal challenge for each citizen at Paulo. In it he exhorts us to face every task with the full confidence that we will prevail.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF PAULO

As our Paulo team eagerly await the arrival of its students in September, we pause to reflect on some of the programs that are planned for them this coming year.

1. PROGRAMMING

Each Paulo student is programmed for core subjects (English, Reading, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science) in keeping with his ability and scholastic achievement. Moreover, each student has the opportunity to explore a non-academic area including music, the arts, technology and physical education. Our school will be implementing the chancellor's mandate of a literacy and a math block for all students.

2. CURRICULUM CULMINATIONS

Each year our academic departments display culminating works from their displays. Our school year is also embellished by our musical concerts and dramatics shows.

3. CONTESTS AND COMPETITIONS

Spelling Bees, Storytelling Contests, Art and Literary Competitions are among the many opportunities that will be made available to Paulo students to challenge their considerable talents and abilities.

4. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Students with perfect attendance will be rewarded a special event in the Spring.
- Students who earn an average of 80 percent or higher and achieve satisfactory citizenship (all academic subjects plus the avocational concentration) are awarded a place on the Scholastic Honor Roll. Names are posted on appropriate bulletin boards each marking period and certificates of award are made in January and June.

- Students with exemplary citizenship likewise earn a place on the Citizenship Honor Roll and are recognized in a manner similar to those on the Scholastic Honor Roll.
- Students who distinguish themselves by virtue of humanitarian acts, scholastic achievement, athletic prowess, award winning or school service are named as a "Paulo Student in Focus." These awards are made on a monthly basis to students in each of our grades 6, 7, and 8 and take the form of a certificate presented at an assembly.

Certainly, with these programs and activities as a base we can look forward to another exciting and productive year - and one that will bring our Paulo Family closer together in the pursuit of excellence for all our students.

The items included in this newsletter (one of ten that you will receive courtesy of your PTA) are intended to provide you with that information that will insure a knowledgeable and relaxed start on the part of your children. Accordingly, it is recommended that these articles be read by students as well as parents and be discussed in a family setting.

We look forward to meeting you in the very near future, and, in the meantime, keep in mind that Paulo's doors are open for your visits and inquiries.

Good luck for a successful year.

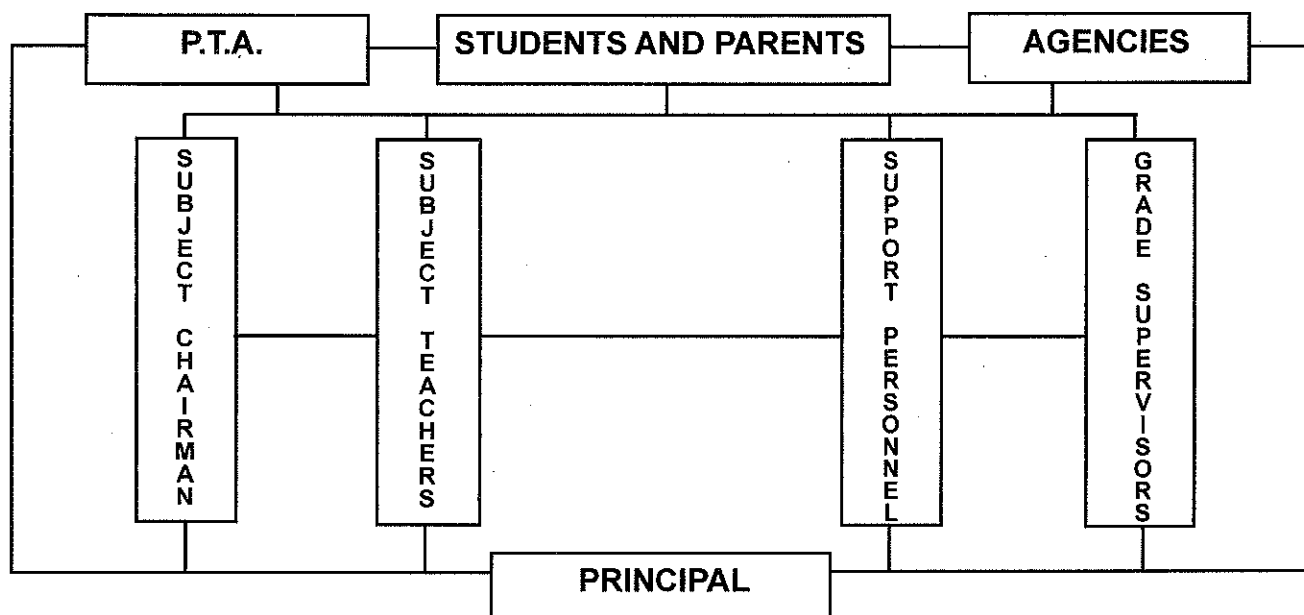
**Please visit our school website for
a wealth of information and resources
at www.is75.org.**

THE PAULO SCHOOL -- FAMILY COMMUNICATION NETWORK

It is our belief that a high degree of home-school cooperation and coordination is needed if the task of providing effective and efficient education is to be realized. In the delivery thereof and in an effort to assist each student in achieving his/her optimum education and social potential, the lines of communication must be clearly defined and finely honored.

Students, parents, teachers, support personnel, administrators and supervisors all working together from the Paulo School -- Family Network. If one of our school-wide goals is to establish as our highest priority the dignity, worth and uniqueness of the individual student, then the Network serves as a forceful interactive mechanism for achieving this goal. Note in the diagram how each part of the network interacts, and how all parts working together can generate the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and civic excellence we all seek.

Support personnel, including grade supervisors and assistant grade supervisors, subject supervisor and chairperson, guidance counselors, deans, attendance and transportation coordinators, secretaries, and, of course, the principal, are readily available to interpret the full scope of our school program and courteously resolve any administrative problem. The Paulo School Family Network is a community



ORIENTATION MEETING

In an effort to keep our parents fully informed on matters of student activities and grade curriculum, students and parents are invited to attend a sixth grade orientation on Wednesday, August 31 or Thursday, September 1 at 10:00 a.m. A special Nest and ACES Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m. Additional information can be obtained on our school website, www.is75.org.

HELPING YOUR CHILDREN DO THEIR BEST

Reading begins in the home. Parents help lay the foundation upon which reading is built and continue to influence how much and how well children read by their help and encouragement.

As much as the school prepares students for lifetime reading and standardized reading tests through general instruction and specific reading lessons, it is in the home that habits are reinforced, nurtured, and extended.

In preparation for the upcoming tests (and for a lifetime of reading), consider helping your children become good readers in the following ways:

Set a positive example for your child. A child will imitate a parent and their reading habits. Teach your child the importance of reading through actions and by serving as a role model.

Read aloud to your child. Reading aloud to a child from an early age is the best way to help your child become a successful reader. Make this activity one of participation to enjoy and talk about books.

Involve your child in writing. Children can improve their ability to read by learning to express themselves on paper. Writing activities can include family messages, writing stories, writing letters, and keeping journals.

Provide a good reading atmosphere in the home. Establish a quiet area where books are available and reading can be enjoyed. Help your child establish a reading library with books of interest.

Monitor how much TV your child watches. Watching some quality programs can be beneficial, but more is not necessarily better. Children who watch too much TV tend to have more problems with school work.

Visit the library regularly. Allow your child to take the time to make personal book choices. Encourage various types of books and reading activities.

Encourage independent reading. Make sure your child has sufficient free time to be able to read books not connected with school.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

At Paulo, our goal is to foster pride in student appearance. We believe that one's apparel can enhance or detract from any situation, especially in a school setting. In order to prepare students for higher education and the world of work, we would like to enlist the cooperation and assistance of parents in discussing with their children what is appropriate and inappropriate for school.

The following items are considered inappropriate:

- Halter, tank or mesh tops are not permitted. Students wearing oversized basketball jerseys must wear a t-shirt underneath.
- Spray can hair color/dye is not permitted.
- Pants must not be worn so low as to expose undergarments.
- Shirts must cover the torso area at all times. Low-cut shirts and shirts that expose the midriff are not permitted.
- Shorts and skirts must be of a minimum length of mid-thigh or longer length. "Cut-off" style shorts, short shorts and short skirts are prohibited.
- Clothing with writing or pictures which are suggestive, distasteful, or worn in a distracting manner is prohibited.
- Clothing with holes or cuts made into them are prohibited.
- Students may not wear hats, caps, kerchiefs, bandannas or other headgear in school. Pajamas are not permitted.
- **For safety reasons, students may not wear flip-flops, slippers, or any footwear that may be hazardous in a large group atmosphere. Sandals that are secured with a strap around the ankle are permissible.**
- Oversized earrings and/or piercing(s) that present a safety or injury risk are also prohibited. Any other clothing items and/or accessories that may be deemed as distracting to the educational process are prohibited. For safety reasons, all piercings must be removed during the physical education classes.

During cold weather, students are required to hang up outer jackets in their lockers.

MEAL TIME

The food preparation, kitchen and cafeteria facilities at Paulo are among the finest available in the Public Schools of the City of New York. Our staff is prepared to serve breakfast and lunch from September on.

Breakfast and lunch were provided for student free of charge this year. This will remain in place until further notice. All families are still required to fill out a lunch form to maintain on file.

Breakfast - Free

Lunch - Free (milk included)

Help Us Help You

After reviewing biographical information, please write a note or contact the General Office (Mrs. Fink) if you need to change your address, telephone number, or if we need to be aware of any medical problems concerning your child.

Please Note:

Our Parent-Student Handbook is online at www.IS75.org. Please review our handbook with your child and please contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding our policies and/or procedures.

ATTENDANCE

The Sine Qua Non of Education

To put it simply, students who are absent or late cannot derive the full benefits of the school's academic and social curriculum. It is important for parents to understand our school policy on attendance and our incentives to encourage positive attendance habits.

Attendance Policies

Daily Procedures

Any student who arrives after 8:00 A.M. will be marked late. Attendance is recorded in the roll book in the morning and afternoon. A telephone call will be made to the home on the first day of absence. If the call cannot be completed, an absentee post card will be mailed. It is the policy of I.S. 75 to have a parent notify the school when their child is absent. Call the school after 8:00 A.M. (356-0130, Ext. 1310). Give your name, child's name and class and a brief explanation. This system is for your child's protection.

A student returning to school after an absence must present a note from his parents explaining the reason for the absence. Absentee post cards **MUST** be returned. The Attendance Office will keep notes and post cards on file for the entire year.

Please Note Well:

If a student is absent three consecutive days, a truant slip is sent, unless the school has received prior notification of the absence. Notify the Attendance Office of extended periods of absence. An attendance officer is sent to the home to investigate frequent or unexplained absences.

Awards for perfect attendance are made at the end of the second and fourth marking periods, and at graduation.

Lateness

Lateness to school can almost always be avoided by allowing enough time to get to school. If a student reports to school after the 8:00 a.m. bell, he/she should report to the Attendance Office for a late pass which must be given to that period subject class teacher. If the lateness is unavoidable, parents should give the child an explanatory note. Excessive lateness to school with or without a note will impact negatively on a child's citizenship grade.

Early Excuse

A student should avoid requesting permission to leave school before the end of the school day. Medical, dental, and other appointments should be arranged after school hours.

A parent request for early dismissal must be approved by the grade supervisor. The parent is to come to the Attendance Office where the student is to be dismissed. No student will be dismissed before the end of the day unless escorted by his parents or an adult appointed by his parents. All adults must present photo identification.

Absences for Religious Observances

The Board of Education, as authorized in State law, publishes a list of dates on which students may be released from school for religious observances. These dates will be published in our monthly parents' newsletter. It is

noted and emphasized that absence for religious observance is not authorized during any other school day in the year. Students who attend their church or synagogue on holy days should arrive at school no later than 10:00 A.M. Students whose parents want their children to stay away from school all day must present a written request in advance.

Attendance in the Subject Class

Each day, the Attendance Office distributes an attendance sheet to each of the teachers listing all the absentees for the day. If a student is absent from a class and his name does not appear on the daily attendance sheet, a "cut slip" is sent immediately to the grade supervisor.

Lateness to Class

A student is late to class if he/she is not in the room by the time the "late bell" sounds. Latenesses are recorded by the subject teacher. There is ample time between periods to go from one class to another without being late. Walking at a slow pace or stopping to "visit" with friends in the hall will result in inexcusable lateness. If a teacher detains a student, a pass will be given to explain the lateness.

Leaving the Room

Any student requesting to leave the room to go to the lavatory must have the permission of the teacher. A lavatory pass will be given, and a record will be entered in the "Out of the Room Book". No student is to walk through the halls during class periods without a pass issued by a teacher.

Use of the Elevator

The school was designed to accommodate the physically handicapped. The elevator is reserved for those individuals only. If a child should need to use the elevator, permission will be given only after a physician's note is supplied, indicating the type of disability and a specified duration for the use of the elevator. There is no exception to this rule. An elevator pass will be issued after such documentation is presented to the designated person in the General Office. Please be aware that if a child is to attend school on crutches, the physician's note should indicate that the child can attend school and the limitations placed on activities for the child.

Emergency Contact

Parents are required to supply emergency contact information when their child enters Paulo. This information is kept on file in the General Office and provides the school with the address and telephone number of the parents at home and work, as well as a neighbor or relative, so that they can be notified in the event of an emergency. If any of this information changes, please notify the school immediately.

Telephone Use

Students may not use school telephones for personal calls or forgotten items. In the event of an emergency, students may use the telephone only after obtaining permission from the General Office staff.

Incentives

In an effort to develop good habits of attendance and punctuality on the part of our students, we have taken the following actions:

1. Worked to develop meaningful academic, avocational, courses of study.
2. Established an extensive program of curriculum culminations designed to generate maximum interest.
3. Created a broad program of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities not only to extend the range of our curriculum but also to attempt to give each child an opportunity to find his/her place in our school community. Satisfactory school citizenship is a prerequisite for participation in extra and co-curricular activities.
4. Made available a wide array of incentives to motivate good attendance on the part of students including:
 - a. Weekly class attendance awards.
 - b. Attendance Honor Roll Certificate.
 - c. Semi-annual Attendance Awards.
 - d. Special events for all students with perfect attendance.
 - e. Awards for perfect attendance at graduation awards ceremony.
5. Published state, city and school regulations regarding the Compulsory Education Law delineating the fact that students may be absent from school only for illness and family emergency unless approved in advance by school official.
6. Communicated with parents for every student's absence, requesting certification of the cause.
7. Made good attendance and punctuality a component of the school citizenship grade.

At this final point, we appeal to all parents to join with us in our efforts to establish life-long habits of responsibility as generated by good attendance and punctuality. Habits that are sure to benefit our students both in high school and in the world of work. In this regard we ask that parental cooperation take the following form:

1. Allow students to remain home only when the illness will prevent meaningful participation in school activities.
2. Discourage students from coming home during the day for minor ailments such as headaches.
3. Make appointments with dentists, doctors, etc. for non-school hours so as to avoid early excuse from class.
4. Phone the school on the morning of an absence.
5. Forward a note to the Attendance Office, on the child's return to school, giving the reasons for absence.
6. Check the entry on the report card regarding attendance and punctuality.

Good attendance on the part of students encourages our staff to provide a challenging and sequential instructional program. Likewise, sporadic attendance, including decisions on the part of students as to which school days they choose to attend, has a negative and discouraging effect on the professional staff. In the interest of our children - let us continue to be Number 1.

Strictly for Parents Good Habits are Important

Success in school is largely a matter of habit, and one of the best ways parents can help their children do well in school is to encourage them in the development of good academic habits. Many of the things human beings do are controlled by habit - brushing teeth, having a cup of coffee with the morning paper, walking, using a knife and fork. Children and adults learn countless skills and patterns of behavior which become automatic. Although everyone probably has a few bad habits, many habits are helpful because they allow us to do important things without really having to think about them. Just imagine how much time we'd waste if we had to think about how to use a fork every time we sit down to eat.

Many of the skills or behaviors associated with academic success in school can become habits also. This means parents and students CAN contribute to school success by consciously practicing good habits. Some habits which parents and students should emphasize include:

Regular school attendance - Parents must convey the attitude that going to school is important and necessary - as important to youngsters as going to work is for adults.

Meet deadlines for school assignments - Students should make every efforts to complete all school assignments by the assigned deadline or before. This prevents work from "stacking up," and it encourages students to plan their time and activities around their school work. Completing work on time is also an essential job skill and a good habit. Summer reading assignments are due the first week of September.

Develop good study habits - These include: keeping up with assigned reading, taking good class notes, learning to use reference material, having a quiet place for study at home, and being willing to do more than the minimum assignment. Parents can play a crucial role in the development of study habits by emphasizing these ideas with students as soon as they begin school.

Reading - Students can practice the reading skills needed for school work by reading other materials independently. Reading newspapers, magazines and other non-academic materials stimulates new interests and helps create desire and enthusiasm for reading.

Active participation in learning - Parents should emphasize the attitude that learning is work, and that students must be willing to work hard to take advantage of the opportunities provided by school. Students will not learn as much or as quickly if they have the attitude that learning is passive.

Positive attitudes toward teachers and school - This is a habit learned at home and which parents and students share. Hopefully, the teacher and the school will always deserve a positive attitude. When questions or concerns do arise, feel free to call the school for clarification.