

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

**Greetings CPCS Community!**

Dear CPCS Families,

It is no secret that the situation in Ferguson and the death of Eric Garner, among countless other incidents, have created a tension throughout our city, which has trickled down into our communities. Their impacts have created high emotions and feelings of unjust treatment. In light of these intense current events we wanted to share some tips as how to address these events with your child(ren).

**Wait until they are at least 7-years-old to talk about the “hard stuff”**

* Children may hear or see things that are not age appropriate for them to intellectually manage. It can also be hard for them to emotionally process tragic or scary situations, which may end up causing more stress.

**Keep the information you provide to them factual whenever possible**

* We can confuse children when we share our opinions and feelings about difficult situations. It is appropriate to ask them questions about what they think/know first and then explain how you feel if they seem ready to process the information. Here are some prompting questions:
  + What did you hear?
  + Where did you hear that?
  + How does that make you feel?

**Use current events as a teachable moment**

* Try and take the high road and change a negative into a positive! Use these situations to highlight the opportunities for communities to come together and stand up for injustice and wrongdoing. You can model compassion for your child by planning family participation in an activity that supports positive change for our world.

**Acknowledge your child’s feelings and make sure they know they are safe**

* At times we may think that children are overreacting or being dramatic about their feelings. We must remember that outside influences can affect the way children react to situations. It is important to honor their feelings/emotions and let them know that it is acceptable to experience fear, stress or anxiety for the unknown. Use their reactions as a conversation starter. This will help you to be clear about what they actually understand.

At CPCS we believe it is our responsibility to make sure that students are allowed to verbally express themselves appropriately when they have a concern. We have not spoken directly about the above-mentioned situations unless students have brought them up. We encourage you to reach out to Ms. Scott or classroom teachers if you have questions or concerns about discussing these current events. We would like your support and input to ensure that our scholars are thoughtful and knowledgeable when expressing their ideas about sensitive issues.

In partnership,

CPCS Staff

**Friendly reminders/important information:**

* **CPCS’s Annual Winter Sing will take place on Thursday, December 18th at 5:30 PM in the auditorium (please see the attached flier). Here are a few details to keep in mind:**
* All CPCS students will perform in the Winter Sing. Drop off for all CPCS students not enrolled in the afterschool program will be at 5:00 PM in the gymnasium. **If your child(ren) is not enrolled in the CPCS afterschool program, they must be picked up at 4 PM.** There will be signs in the gym which will make it easy for you to find their class. Please be sure to sign your children in when you drop them off. After school children will be taken to the gym from after school.
* Pick up will happen in the gym immediately after the performance. Please be sure to sign your child out. Teachers assigned to your child's class will have the sign in/sign out sheets.
* Please make sure your child is wearing their school uniform.
* Be sure to sing along if you know the words!
* **Letter from CPCS’s PTCC (Parent Teacher Community Cooperative) is attached.**
* At CPCS, one of our goals is to ensure that families stay informed of all of the opportunities and resources available throughout New York City. Attached, please find a copy of a housing lottery that is available to NYC residents to apply for in Brooklyn. **Please also note that all current city housing lotteries can be found at :**

**http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/apartment/lotteries.shtml**

* **Letter Campaign in Support of Charter Schools to NYC Elected** **Officials** – If you have not already completed and returned a sign copy, please see the attached letter and return a signed copy to the Main Office. Thank you in advance as a Charter School parent for continuing to support the Charter School Movement!
* The first day of **Rally Assessments for 3rd and 4th Grade students** was on Monday, December 15th. Students will continue their assessments on Wednesday, December, 17th and Thursday, December 18th. Please make sure that they arrive to school by 8 AM on both days, well rested and have eaten a healthy breakfast.
* **Vision and Hearing Screenings for Kindergarten and 1st Grade** – Screenings will take place on Wednesday, December 17th and be conducted by the New York City Department of Health. Please contact Ms. Norton with any questions.
* **Make Up Picture Day** will be on Monday, January 26, 2015.
* **Community Partnership Charter School Applications for the 2015-16 School Year** are now available. Paper applications can be picked up in the Main Office and online applications can be completed at [**https://app.jumpro.pe/charterapply#school=50**](https://app.jumpro.pe/charterapply#school=50) **.**
* **Free Basketball games at LIU and Free Hoops Clinic** – Free tickets are available for the Sunday, December 21st( 1PM) and Saturday, January, 3(double-header 2 and 4:30 PM). Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis from the CPCS Main Office. Games will take place at The Steinberg Wellness Center, 161 Dekalb Avenue.

**Important dates:**

* CPCS will be closed for Winter Break Wednesday, December 24 – Monday, January 5th. **Students will return on Tuesday, January 6th.**
* Next CPCS Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 7th at 6 PM at CPCS MS, 114 Kosciuszko Street.
* Next CPCS Admissions Open House – Saturday, January 10th at 10:00 AM.

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**Pictures from 12-5-14 CPCS Assembly:**