

Volume 9, Issue 1

March 2013



THE POWER OF PARENTS NEWSLETTER

Thirteenth Avenue School PTA Newsletter 359 13th Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103



The Thirteenth Avenue School PTA objectives are:

- 1) To enhance the learning opportunities for our children.
- 2) To ensure that our children have access to learning.
- 3) To eradicate any challenges that impede our children's academic progress.

PTA Meetings

2013

March 21, 2013

April 20, 2013

May 16, 2013

June 13, 2013

2012-2014 PTA Officers

President-Mr. Lyndon Brown

1st Vice-President-Ms. Jenise Reedus

2nd Vice-President-Ms. Sameerah Mosley

Recording Secretary-Ms. Shahidah Graves

Corresponding Secretary-Ms. Wilhelmina Holder

Treasurer-Mr. Samad Harvell

Congratulations to the Thirteenth Avenue School PTA on being selected 2013 recipients of the NJPTA's 2013

Award for Advocacy, 2013 Emerging Minority Leaders Award and the 2013 Three For Me Volunteer Award for having the most parents volunteer three (3) hours or more during the school year.

Congratulations to our students who completed tryouts and made the 2013 Panther Boys Basketball Team

Darnell Jackson (Captain)

Quayon Williams-King (Co-Captain)

Tyquan Meadows

Javonne Jones

Timothy Mason

Sandou Cisse

Damon Nelson

Don Brown

D'Ante Jones

Tarahji Bingham

JuJuan Reddick

Abdul McAuley

Jeremiah Downing

Syodd Hester

Dashawn King-Myers

Corey Covington

Qua'mayne Woodard

Xavier Woodard

High School Fair for 8th Graders and their parents: March 9th-8:30 a.m. at Central High School



Kudos to the Thirteenth Avenue Parent Academy on raising \$157 for its recent "Pennies for Leukemia" Coin Drive.

Family Night Dinner-2/21/13

NJASK Testing Dates

NJASK 8-April 29, 30/May 1, 2

NJASK 7-April 29, 30/May 1, 2

NJASK 6-May 6,7,8,9

NJASK 5-May 6, 7,8,9

NJASK 3 & 4-May 13th-16th

The 13th Avenue School PTA will be creating a clothing bank for needy families at 13th Avenue School. If your child has outgrown his/her school uniform, coat, shoes, etc. Please consider donating these items to our school.

Thirteenth Avenue PTA will be hosting

"Meet The Leaders Night"

On

Thursday, March 21, 2013

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Come out and meet our elected Officials and Community Leaders

Dinner served!!!

We will be wearing matching T-Shirts

Door Prizes

Voter Registration & PTA Drive

To keep up with 13th Avenue PTA Meetings and Events visit: 13thAvePTA.ning.com Post a blog or view blogs or photos of various events and keep track of PTA Meetings and Activities.

The National PTA is encouraging staff to enhance their professional development by taking the E-Learning Cultural Competency Course at PTA.org parents and administrators are also urged to take advantage of this awesome opportunity. After completing the course please download your completion certificate and forward your name to our PTA President.

Families who have been displaced and have children in the Newark Public Schools or need to enroll children due to displacement, can now seek assistance from the Special Services Unit at 321 Bergen Street, Newark

Thirteenth Avenue School PTA Membership Drive

2012-2013

President Barack Obama

First Lady Michelle Obama

Senator Ronald Rice

Councilwoman Mildred Crump

Assemblywoman Grace Spencer

Mr. Bobby Akbar

Mr. Elijah Akinunmi

Ms. Gertrude Amaefum

Ms. Laura Baker

Ms. Jennifer Bahomda

Ms. Annie Brown

Mr. Lyndon Brown

Mr. Donald Chester

Ms. Denise Crawford

Ms. Angela Davis

Ms. Carol Dunnell

Ms. Carolyn Evans

Ms. Renata Ford

Mr. Maliq Foxworth

Ms. Vivian Fraser

Ms. Eleanor Giles

Ms. Danielle Hamilton

Ms. Marion Hardy

Mr. As-Samad Harvell

Mr. Willie Harvey

Ms. Doris Holloway

Ms. Wilhelmina Holder

Ms. Cheryl Howard

Mr. Waymon Huggins

Ms. Monica Hunter

Ms. Sharlene Jackson

Ms. Qamarah Johnson

Ms. Dannevan Jones

Ms. Doreen Jones

Ms. Betsy Landers

Ms. Brenda Lee

Ms. Joan Lowther

Ms. Ruth Majette

Mr. Shawn Malbon

Ms. DeNiqua Matias

Ms. Iris Matthews

Ms. Tamar Mitchell

Ms. Omayra Molina

Ms. Lynn Morris

Ms. Reva Mosley

Ms. Sameerah Mosley

Ms. Barbara Norman

Ms. Madeline Orengo

Ms. Jenise Reedus

Ms. Kim Rivers

Mr. Kyle Rivers

Ms. Simone Rose

Ms. Willie Rowe

Mr. Keith Sadler

Ms. Kevin Small

Ms. Florence Swan

Mr. Kevin Street

Ms. Barbara Waddell

Ms. Debra Walsh

Ms. Angela Watson

Ms. Rachel Wheeler

Mr. Jasmine White (Mr. J)

Ms. Renita Williams

Ms. Viveca Williams

Mr. Sean Williamson

PTA Membership is \$5.00. Cash or checks made out to the 13th Avenue School PTA are accepted.

INTRUSIVE INTERVENTION

Intrusive Intervention

Being an intrusive presence is not intended to be annoying or obtrusive, but a reliable, supportive, and caring presence in all areas of young people's lives. As an intrusive presence, though, we cannot limit ourselves to only the academic aspects of their lives.

Being an intrusive presence is the

objective that we are promoting this school year. These kind of influences can help

prevent later problems in young people such as depression, eating disorders, and

*substance abuse. **Who is qualified to be an intrusive presence in the lives of teenagers?***

Any adult who has integrity, a genuine

respect for young people can be qualified for this great responsibility. Integrity in a

*person as we understand it, is the quality of having the same values in private and public life. Integrity is important in all of our lives and it happens to be one of the qualities that our youth pick up on very quickly. If you lack integrity, young people will find you out and then shut you out. **Sharing experiences is also key...***

When young people hear the stories about the obstacles that we had to overcome, They will be encouraged to persevere.

***An intrusive adult must also have respect for youth.** This respect should not be limited to those with whom we have a direct relationship. We need to respect their friends as well. We mustn't walk through the mall and stereotype our youth based on their appearances or which concert shirt they are wearing.*

Otherwise our youth will realize that they are only worthy of our respect if they look or act a certain way.

Free Income Tax Services

January 22nd-April 15th

Newark City Hall-920 Broad Street, Newark

M,W,F-3-8pm./Sat., 10 am-2 pm

103 Bloomfield Avenue-M-F (12 noon-8 pm)

And Saturdays, 10 am-2 p.m.

990 Broad Street, Tues & Thurs, 10 am-2 pm

Must bring SS Card, W-2 forms, 2011 Tax returns if possible.

GRANDPARENTS ASSISTANCE

Are you a grandparent raising your grandchild?

If you have legal guardianship of your grandchild and his/her parent doesn't reside with you then you are eligible for **Free** assistance.

The Kinship Program provides utility assistance, Free Bedroom set, Free Kitchen set, a computer, Washer/Dryer, Store vouchers for school clothes & linen. For further information please call Ms. Erica Lewis at 973-623-5959. A grandparents support group is also located at 45 Central Avenue.

Words have meaning: Take a moment to remember the saying, Words have meaning, so watch what you say". Meaning involves feeling as well as thought. Consider your thoughts about words referring to mischievous children as little devils, wicked rascals, or delinquents. Children who learn these such words from adults are usually young to realize that such terms degrade them. Most adults know that offensive language is hurtful to others. Besides, some parents and teachers will not tolerate behavior in which a child uses speech in a disrespectful manner. Matter of respect and obedience, they see the use of decent language as good personal behavior.

An ongoing struggle, it takes a great deal of effort to combat indecent language, Especially when adults maintain an attitude that using abusive language when you scold a child makes a child less likely to misbehave.

There's another struggle with words, the ones used on TV and radio.

For example, a prison word such as "lockdown" is used when a school has all doors locked. This one term makes it possible to envision school as jail,

principal as warden, teachers as corrections officers, classmates as inmates, and security guards as the swat team. It's possible to imagine being stripped searched, subdued in handcuffs, and interrogated.

*Let's not forget foul words pollute the minds of our children, teenagers, and young adults. **VERBAL POLLUTION is out of control, and we have to***

*restrain it because punishing words cause dejection. In watching your words, take charge in deciding between language that is demeaning and language that is meaningful. Whatever is decided, **YOU have control over words.***

Upcoming Events

Newark Public Schools' Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 6 p.m. at West Side High School. Come out and see what decisions are being made about your child's education.



Order your T-Shirt for our Meet the Leaders Night by March 15, 2013

Special Needs Parents Workshops

3/6th-Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
3/20th-IEP: Individualized Education Plan
To register call: 1-800-654-7726 ext. 116
Parents or guardians of special needs children are welcome and urged to attend!!

Parent Leaders Expo
April 23, 2013
Somerset, New Jersey
9 .a.m.-2 p.m.

13th Avenue PTA's
Executive Board Meeting
March 5th-6 p.m.

Thirteenth Avenue School PTA's
Father's Club Meeting
On
March 11, 2013-5:30 p.m.

The Newark Public Schools' Advisory Board Candidate Forum will be held on March 28th from 6-8 p.m. at Essex County College in Smith Lecture Hall, 303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ.

PTA Fundraising
Committee Meeting
March 18, 2013
5:00-6:00 p.m.

Special Needs
Parents Meeting
March 14, 2013
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thirteenth Avenue PTA hosts Class of 2013 Parent Dinner: February 7, 2013

On Thursday, February 7, 2013, The Thirteenth Avenue PTA hosted a Class of 2013 Parent Dinner in our school cafeteria.

Eighth Grade students and parents had the opportunity to obtain vital information. Presenters included: Ms. Siliato, School Guidance Counselor spoke to parents about the High School Admissions process. A Common Application for high schools will be available online for students to apply beginning February 22nd. A High School Fair will be held on March 9th at Central High School for all Eighth graders and their parents. The Admission criteria will include: ACT Explorer Test results, 1st two marking period grades for grade 8, and seventh grade report cards. Ms. Siliato also stated that auditions have already been held for Arts High School

Ms. Colin, Class Advisor introduced herself and distributed a Class of 2013 Activity Schedule. Parents were informed that Eighth Grade Graduation Photos would be taken on February 22nd. Each eighth grade is expected to pay graduation dues. Parents were informed that graduation rings were optional and students will pay their graduation dues in Three(3) installments. A Graduation Trip to Washington, DC is also being planned. In addition, A Graduation Social will be held at the Galloping Hills. Students will also enter a behavioral contract to determine what graduation activities they can participate in.

Ms. Waddell, 8th Grade Resource Teacher gave an overview of the NJ ASK 8 Test that eighth graders will take in May 2013. Ms. Waddell stated that the NJASK was a proficiency test that is given in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Waddell stated that a student needed a score of 200 or higher to pass the Language Arts Portion and a 200 or higher to pass the Math Section. In addition, Fourth and Eighth graders are required to take the Science portion. Students will be expected to write two(2) persuasive essays and scientific notation will also be on the test. Some parents stated they felt their children were unprepared to take the test since they have had various substitute teachers teaching Science and other core subjects the entire school year. Several parents stated their children should have the opportunity to opt out of the NJASK Testing and request the ACT Explorers test not be factored into their child's admission criteria for high school.

Ms. Waddell stated that an NJASK Academy is being coordinated to help students prepare for the NJASK. A Saturday Academy was also being considered. Ms. Williams, Interim Principal interjected that Extended learning time is available for students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Cheryl Howard, Community Organizer for Urban League of Essex County also spoke about the Safe Corridors Partnership Initiative that was launched this school year to ensure students had safe passage to/from school daily.

Mr. Donald Chester, parent spoke to parents and students about the importance of staying in school and staying out of trouble. Mr. Chester shared his personal story of being involved in gang activity and the pain of being separated from his children during his period of incarceration. What was more moving was having Mr. Chester's son speak about the effect his Dad's incarceration had on him and how supportive his dad has been since his release and the impact his Dad's incarceration had on him.

Mr. Brown, PTA President requested parents and students to sign a mutual contract to use cell phones during inappropriate times. Parents signed the written agreement not to text and drive and students signed not to use cell phones during classroom instruction. The Program is a National PTA Initiative. Mr. Brown also encouraged parents to join PTA and invited families to return on February 21st for our 2013 Family Night Celebration. Mr. Brown also stated that students seeking summer employment must be 14 years old by February 14th. Working papers can be obtained at 321 Bergen Street or the Board of Education-2 Cedar Street. Student Behavior in 8th Grade was also discussed and Newark Public School Discipline Policy Handbooks, Grading Policy and 13th Avenue P-Reports were also distributed.

Parents and students enjoyed a delicious dinner which included a Shrimp Salad, Fried Chicken and Tossed Salad.

On Friday, February 15, 2013, Newark Public Schools' held **Parent/Teacher Conference Day** from 1-7 p.m. Parents and guardians had the opportunity to conference with staff, teachers and administrators, obtain student report cards, join PTA, register for Free Public Library cards, Join PTA Committees/Clubs, receive Healthy Lifestyle Snack packs and enjoy a delicious cheesecake social. The next **Report Card Day** is May 2, 2013 and Progress Reports will be issued on March 13, 2013.



The Thirteenth Avenue School PTA is seeking committee members to join our various PTA Committees & Clubs: Father's Club, Education Committee, Family Engagement Committee, Blue Moon Club (for parents who can only volunteer, "Once in a Blue Moon, Special Needs Parents, Political Advocacy Committee, Fundraising , Publicity, Membership and Grandparents Club.

We will be hosting registration night at our Family Night Event on March 21st in our School Cafeteria.

FAMILY NIGHT: February 21, 2013

The Thirteenth Avenue School PTA hosted its **2013 Family Night Dinner** on **February 21, 2013** in the School Cafeteria. The Theme for the Evening was "We Are Survivors". Thanks to a generous grant from the National PTA, our Family Engagement Committee was able to successfully engage new families, strengthen parental involvement and grow PTA at the school.

Each Family received an Emergency Preparedness Kit from the Thirteenth Avenue PTA which included: personal care items, flashlights, bottled water and hand sanitizer. Our PTA Families also enjoyed a delicious meal which include: Fish, Chicken, seafood rice, Tossed Salad, cake, punch and string beans. The Evening concluded with door prizes, family emergency information, PTA Membership Drive and group photos. Special Thanks to our Family Engagement Committee: Ms. Renata Ford, Ms. Jenise Reedus, Ms. Doris Holloway, Mr. As-Samad Harvell, Ms. Joan Lowther, Ms. Carol Dunnell. We also extend sincere thanks to our middle school students who helped decorate, our art teachers: Ms. McCloud & Mr. Mein for the wonderful banners they created, Ms. Farrell, computer teacher for creating our flyers. Our Caterer: FAJR's, Inc and CityPlex 12 for donating Movie Tickets for our door prizes. Our next Family Night Dinner will be held on March 21st.

