



District 20 Pre-K Centers  
*Where great beginnings never end!*



# The Parent Connection!

## District 20 Pre-K Centers

Midyear Edition

Richard A. Carranza, *Chancellor*  
Karina Costantino, *District 20 Superintendent*  
Dianne Gounardes, *Early Childhood Director of Education*

### A Message from Dianne Gounardes, *Director of Early Childhood Education*

#### Greeting Pre K Families:

This year seems to be flying by so quickly. I cannot believe we are approaching our 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School already. Each and every day brings a new experience for our children. We began the year with children who came to us with little or no prior school experience. Look at our children now! They have become very independent people who are curious about the world around them and have had incredible experiences in their classrooms. They have explored and made discoveries about their homes, their diverse communities, the different modes of transportation, and are now moving on to learning more about light, water, plants, and getting ready to make the transition to kindergarten.

Our children have delved into STEAM activities, which include studies in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, all centered around purposeful play. Our STEAM program was recently featured on NEWS 12, which highlighted our study of igloos in the habitat unit and how creative our children are in their discoveries. Our dual language classrooms are thriving and our adoption of the Reggio Emilia philosophy in our program is enriching the overall Pre K experience.

Our goals for our Pre K Center program continue to be twofold: to provide our children with a strong foundation in their social and emotional growth; and to emphasize their language acquisition so that they are all ready for the academic rigor of Kindergarten. We do this using the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core and our Pre K Quality Standards.

By this time, all of our families should have applied for kindergarten and will be notified shortly which school their child will attend. We hope that you have enjoyed your time with us and that you will have fond memories of the time your children spent with us.

Please feel free to reach out to our staff at any time with any concerns or questions you may have. Our Parent Coordinator, Camille Loccisano is at each of our sites at least twice a month and can address any concerns you may have. Our Assistant Principals (Danielle Bennett; Maria Genao Duran; Kelly Mazzariello and Lauren Napolitano) and our Site Coordinators, along with our teachers and para professionals, are available as well.

Enjoy the rest of the school year and feel free to join us as we celebrate our children and the progress they make.

#### **Z011**

1258 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

#### **Z013**

1668 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234

#### **Z067**

1355 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z072**

8501 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

#### **Z073**

7415 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z074**

140 58<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

#### **Z075**

21 Bay 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11228

#### **Z094**

2165 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11204

#### **Z099**

550A 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

#### **Z111**

369 93<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

#### **Z112**

1423 62<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

# Learn about the District 20 Community Education Council

Every district in the NYC Department of Education has a Community Education Council (CEC). The CEC works as a team and has a major voice in helping to shape and promote positive policies for our schools. In addition, the CEC works closely with the superintendent of their district and impacts educational programs and needs in their own community.

All parents are invited to run for election in order to hold a seat on their district's CEC. Elections are held every 2 years. Every CEC includes 11 voting members: Two parents are appointed by the Borough President and 9 parents, including one of a child with an IEP and one of an English Language Learner, are elected by vote. A high school student also participates as a non-voting

member.

In addition to Community Education Councils, the DOE also offers the opportunity to participate in a Citywide Education Council. A citywide council serves specific populations of students. They are:  
Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS)  
Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)  
Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)  
Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75)

For more information on the councils and their elections, go to <https://www.nycparentleaders.org/>

## Next Stop, PTA!

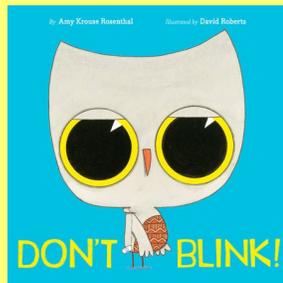
As the school year continues, we are glad to have so many of our parents attend our monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. While our 11 Pre-K centers have a one year parent involvement in a lighter capacity, the road ahead for parents wishing to be involved greatly expands!

All parents of a child entering kindergarten in District 20 will have the opportunity to be part of their school's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) or PA (Parent Association). These organizations are a strong communication line between families and educators. In addition, they plan and run activities, workshops, fundraisers and volunteer events.

A parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the NYC Department of Education is automatically a member of their school's PTA/PA. Parents do not have to "sign up" or pay a membership dues. Annually, every PTA/PA will elect officers- president, recording secretary and treasurer. A set of rules labeled as By-laws will govern the day-to-day affairs. Parents will be invited to monthly meetings where they will hear more about opportunities to be involved in various ways. New parents may eventually want to consider taking on a leadership role and running for election as a PTA/PA officer.

For more information, please go to

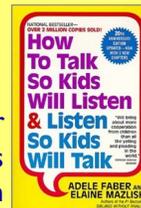
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/get-involved/parent-associations>



## Reading for Kids!

“Don't Blink!” By Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by David Roberts. This interactive book is specially designed for little readers who have trouble falling asleep at night. Each time you blink, you must turn a page!

## Reading for Parents!



“How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk” by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, is our special book pick for parents. Hailed as the “parent and child bible,” this book is a great tool for both parents and educators on how to effectively communicate with pre-school youngsters.

### Kindergarten Applications Update

Congratulations to all parents! As kindergarten applications are now closed, you have completed the first step toward your child's future education. You will now receive your child's kindergarten offer in early spring. The information you receive will inform where your child has a kindergarten seat in September.

You will also receive information on where your child is possibly waitlisted.

If you are on a waiting list for a school that has more applications than kindergarten seats available, you will be contacted directly by the school if they are eventually able to offer your child a seat.

For parents that submitted an application for a G&T seat, you will receive results in late spring and possibly an offer for your child

to attend a G&T program. If you should get a G&T offer, your family will then have to choose between that placement or kindergarten placement.

Please bring your child when you pre-register. You must also bring the needed documentation. For a list of documentation options, go to: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/kindergarten>

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Session One: 12:40 P.M. to 2:40 P.M.

Session Two: 4:30P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

More information will be sent home.

### No School!

### Dates to Remember!

Pre-K students will have additional days off during the school year. We will keep parents and caregivers informed of all schedule changes!

- ◆ Midwinter Recess :February 18–22, 2019
- ◆ Spring Recess:April 19–26, 2019
- ◆ Memorial Day:May 27, 2019
- ◆ Eid al-Fitr:June 4, 2019
- ◆ Brooklyn/Queens Day : June 6, 2019
- ◆ Last Day of School for Students: June 26,2019

### Follow us on Social Media!



@PreKCentersDistrict20 @District20PreK @District20PreK

### Be our guest blogger!

<https://www.district20prek.org/blog-1>

To participate on our blog,  
please contact

[Cloccisano@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Cloccisano@schools.nyc.gov)