



SOUTH BRONX CLASSICAL
CHARTER SCHOOL

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

December 2011

Executive Director's Report

Lester Long, Executive Director

Welcome to South Bronx Classical! After last year's re-chartering, this year promises to be our best ever. As always, our staff and scholars (all 320 of them) are working hard to create the best elementary school in the city. Our Family Advisory Council relentlessly supports our college-preparatory mission through holding uniform drives, Community/Family Day, and Parent Academy workshops. Parents on the Family Advisory Council were helpful (and ultimately successful!) in supporting our re-chartering at our public hearing last year.

Although we were re-chartered, there was one goal we didn't achieve: our attendance rate. Our teachers spend their time planning world-class lessons for their scholars, and that time is wasted when the scholar is absent. We have a Montefiore Health Clinic in the building, which provides many services, including helping your scholar if they have asthma or are feeling ill, so please don't let anything minor keep your scholar from school. As you know, we have a policy where we retain scholars who accumulate 15 or more unexcused absences.

A lot of work remains, and we're still working on ways to improve our school and its effectiveness in developing "liberated scholars and citizens of impeccable character". In addition, the State has "raised the bar" in ensuring that scholars are college-ready.

Again, as always, thank you to all South Bronx Classical parents for your hard work in supporting our community and mission.

PAGE 4 ANSWERS

1. Snow 2. Glove 3. Icicle 4. Snowman

The Power of Respect

Ms. Jackson, Dean of Students

Respectful words build positive relationships. Respect inspires and motivates scholars. It helps us to grow together as a community. Respect means *to treat others the way you would like to be treated*. This means to identify and recognize the highest good in all people. It means having good intentions for all people, even though they may not always have the same intentions for you.

As you get older, respect means understanding that others may have different opinions and views, yet you never stop caring and valuing their inner power and strength. Respect also means to consciously think the best and hope the best for all people, regardless of their behavior. I believe that this is the highest, conscious level of respect and it would require a lot of practice and self-reflection to attain this understanding.

As educators, leaders, parents and a community we all play a huge part in shaping scholars' understanding of respect. It starts in how we preserve the beauty of integrity, honor, dignity and truth in ourselves. Once we are able to see these jewels within ourselves, we can shine this beacon of light [integrity, honor, dignity and truth] in our homes, schools and community.

FUN FACT!

*The average classroom in
South Bronx Classical has
over 1,000 books!*

Important Dates

December 21 st	Parent Academy at 4:45 PM
December 23 rd	Last day of school for 2011! Winter Recess begins.
January 3 rd	Scholars return from Winter Recess.
January 6 th	Half Day – Scholars are dismissed at 1:00 PM
January 9 th	Applications for the 2012 – 2013 school year will be available at the school and on our website.
January 16 th	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18 th	Parent Academy at 4:45 PM
January 25 th	Information Session for incoming applicants
January 27 th	Community Gathering

Do you have old uniforms that no longer fit your scholar? If so, bring them to Ms. Jackson! We always need uniforms for emergencies!

Parenting

Fausto Rosado, Family Advisory Council President

As parents and grandparents, we endeavor for our children to be better off than us and prior generations. We wake up early, head to work or school ourselves, rush and make arrangements to be able to squeeze a few moments with our scholars after long school days that resemble jobs more than classrooms sometimes. But we're left rewarded knowing that our scholars are learning at an accelerated pace. We're in awe seeing our scholars develop into young men and women before our eyes. Despite sometimes having misgivings on how regimented the school approach is, we're assured by the results.

As President of the Family Advisory Council, I'm struck by how much in common I share with many parents and grandparents. I was proud to see many new parents at our first Parent Academy, especially Kindergarten parents. I think it was a good primer for them. Our Community Gatherings do well in showcasing scholar talents and gives them something to work hard for in the classroom. I do hope the FAC becomes effective in reaching out to all parents.

Tutoring

Leena Konda, Director of Business & Operations

On January 17th, we begin our After School Tutoring program for 3rd - 5th grade scholars in need of additional focused skills-based ELA and Math preparation for the New York State tests in April. Tutoring is mandatory for scholars who are not scoring proficient (Level 3) or advanced (Level 4) on practice exams. The program will be held from 4:30pm-6:00pm from Tuesdays to Thursdays until Thursday, April 19, 2012.

Our mission includes preparing scholars to achieve proficiency in and advanced mastery of New York State Performance Standards. We are driven by this mission and believe all scholars can achieve success on the state tests if they work hard! Can you help us? Yes! Please ensure that: your scholar is completing their homework each night in a quiet place, is reading at least 3 hours per week, and gets a good night's sleep. Studies find that children from 7-11 years of age need 9-11 hours of sleep per night.

CORNELL



Class Profile

Cornell, First Grade

Cornell is the first grade class led by Ms. March!

WHAT IS CORNELL LEARNING RIGHT NOW?

Cornell is learning about story elements, capitalization, matter, comparing numbers, and writing about me books.

WHICH LESSON IS CORNELL MOST EXCITED ABOUT LEARNING?

Cornell loves doing science so we are very excited to learn more about matter.

WHAT IS CORNELL'S FAVORITE SPECIALS CLASS?

Cornell loves fitness! They love to exercise.

Faculty Profile

Ms. March

Ms. March is a first grade teacher. Before teaching first grade, she was the third grade learning specialist.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A TEACHER?

I love working with my amazing scholars who always make me smile.

WHAT DID YOU WANT BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I wanted to be a doctor just like my mom.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

My favorite color is pink.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO BESIDES TEACH?

I love to play sports, try different foods, and go hiking. I also love nature.

VISIT OUR LOST & FOUND TO FIND YOUR SCHOLAR'S BELONGINGS! WE HAVE AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF ITEMS.



REMINDER

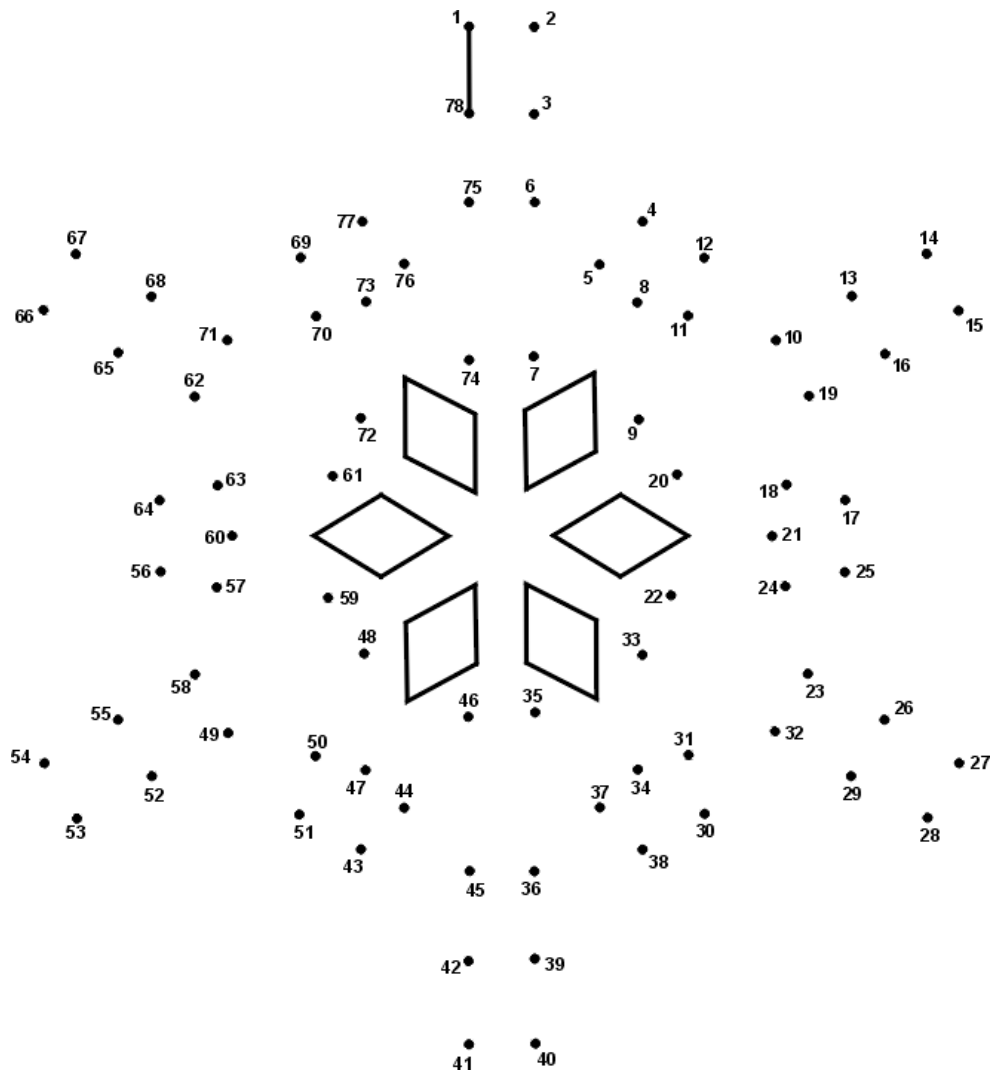
Scholars who accumulate fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences in one academic year are subject to automatic retention. Absences are ***only*** considered excused upon receipt of a doctor's note that contains the specific dates and mentions that it is medically preferred that the scholar does not attend school for those stated dates.

If your scholar has been absent due to illness, make sure to send in the doctor's note to the main office.

STUDENT CORNER

THE ANSWER KEY FOR THIS PAGE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 1.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Thanksgiving Unscramble

1. NWSO _____
2. OLGVE _____
3. IICCLE _____
4. WONSNAM _____