

Principal: Dana Gerendasi  
Assistant Principal: Katie McGillicuddy  
Parent Coordinator: Zoraida Quiles



## Principal's News

A letter from Dana

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year 2019!! We are excited to ring in the New Year with our WCSS students. We hope that you had a wonderful Winter Break and we missed all of our WCSS students tremendously!

During the month of January, we will be holding our annual WCSS Student Led Conferences. During this time, your child(ren) will be leading a conference with their families on a specific learning goal and showcasing the work that they did to achieve that learning goal. Our teachers will not be leading the conference, our students will be. Teacher role is that of a coach and mentor. Please look in your child's folder and/or BLOOMZ to check for classroom specific times for your child's conference. Remember, this is not a traditional parent/teacher conference. The next parent teacher conference will be on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kindergarten registration closes on January 14<sup>th</sup>. All families MUST apply for Kindergarten online to be guaranteed a spot. Even if you are currently in a Pre-K program, you still MUST apply. You can apply for Kindergarten the following ways:

- Online - <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/>
- Over the phone - 718-935-2400

- Visiting a Family Welcome Center at 90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, 11435

Please note that the 2018 Pre-K registration opens up on February 5<sup>th</sup> and closes March 30<sup>th</sup>. We will send out more information about Open House dates in January.

### 2018 Testing Schedule

**NYS ELA** - Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**NYS Math** - Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**WCSS REMINDER:** If you need to pick your child up early from school, please either let your child's teacher know ahead of time or please call the school. If we know ahead of time, we can have your child ready for when you come. If you come without notifying early and your child is at lunch, you will have to wait until after our lunch period is over since this is also lunchtime for the teachers and their classrooms are locked. Additionally, our school aides are out with our kids so getting your child during recess/lunch is not the best time. If you notify us ahead of time, we can avoid your wait if your child is at recess/lunch. Thanks for your cooperation.

Just a reminder, school begins promptly at 8:00AM. School ends at 2:20PM. Pre-K dismisses from their classrooms. Grades K-2 dismiss from the small yard and grades 3-5 dismiss from the big yard.

With warmest regards,

Dana

Contents	Page
Principal's Letter	1
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
Fourth Grade News	3
Fifth Grade News	3
Pre-K News	3
PTA Corner	4
Upcoming Events	4

All WCSS lessons are Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) aligned moving into Next Generation Learning Standards. For more information, please visit:

[www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

<http://www.nysed.gov/next-generation-learning-standards>

<http://www.engageny.org>  
Great site to prepare for the NYS CCLS ELA and Math Exams

<http://www.pta.org/commoncore>

## Kindergarten News

**Reading:** Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles

**Writing:** Continue Writing for Readers. Begin How To Books - Writing to Teach Others

**Go Math:** Addition

**Amplify Science:** Pushes and Pulls

**Social Studies:** Self and Others: Individual Development and Cultural Identity

**Ongoing Centers** in phonics, word study, reading, writing, math and science.



## First Grade News

**Reading:** Non Fiction - Learning About the World

**Writing:** Non Fiction Chapter Books

**Go Math:** Addition and Subtraction Relationships

**Amplify Science:** Air and Weather

**Social Studies:** Families

**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."**

**~William Butler Yeats**

## Second Grade News

**Reading:** Studying Characters and Their Stories

**Writing:** Writing Gripping Fictional Stories

**Go Math:** Time and Money and then 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction

**Amplify Science:** Plant and Animal Relationships

**Social Studies:** New York City Over Time

**Residency:** Guggenheim Museum Art Project

**Ongoing Centers** in phonics, word study, reading, writing, math and science.

## Third Grade News

**Reading:** Grasping Main Idea

**Writing:** Information

**Go Math:** Understanding Division and moving into Fractions

**Amplify Science:** Magnetic Forces

**Social Studies:** Culture Study

## Fourth Grade News

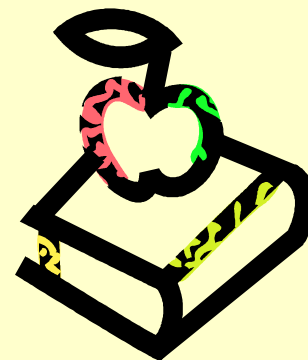
**Reading:** Historical Fiction moving into Interpretation

**Writing:** Literary Essay

**Go Math:** Multiplying Fractions by Whole Numbers

**Amplify Science:** Electricity

**Social Studies:** Colonial Life in America leading up to The Revolutionary War



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

**Reading:** Raising the Level of Interpretation

**Writing:** The Literary Essay

**Go Math:** Dividing Decimals

**Amplify Science:** Earth Systems

**Social Studies:** Western Hemisphere

## Pre-K News

**Reading:** How do readers tell the story with pictures?

**Author of the month is Lucy Cousins**

- *Maisy Goes to the DR*
- *Maisy Goes to the Museum*
- *Maisy's Rainbow Dream*

**Writing:** How do writers include who what and where?

**Building Blocks Math:** Counting, sorting, 1:1 correspondence, number recognition, fun with numbers, and patterns.

**Science:** Predicting, Our 5 senses, Freezing and Melting, and Winter Animals

**Social Studies:** What does being respectful mean? Who was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Self help skills.

**Continuous center time based on students learning needs.**

**Families: WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** Please don't forget to collect Box Tops for our school and send it in with your child. Box Tops are an easy way for us to raise money for our school community. See the complete listing of products that have Box Tops on their packaging attached to this newsletter.



Don't forget to connect with us on BLOOMZ! If you need help with logging on, please email [watersidesteam@gmail.com](mailto:watersidesteam@gmail.com)



## PTA Corner

Greetings WCSS Families,

Happy New Year! Thank you very much for all of your continued support! It was great to see so many of you at our Winter Wonderland in December. Thank you to all the families that donated money and snacks to our Winter Arts Festival. It was greatly appreciated and helped to make that night even more magical. Please note our next PTA meeting is on **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.**

We have several wonderful events coming up. Please look in your child's red homework folder for our notices that come home. Our notices will come on yellow paper. Looking forward to seeing all our wonderful WCSS families in all of our upcoming events!

With warm regards,  
WCSS PTA

## Upcoming Events



- ◆ **STUDENT LED CONFERENCE MONTH - JANUARY**
- ◆ **1/2** - Students Return Back to School
- ◆ **1/4** - Family Friday 8:35 -9:20
- ◆ **1/7**- Kindergarten Open House - 8:45AM
- ◆ **1/9** - Academic After School for Select Students Begins
- ◆ **1/10**- Kindergarten Bowling Trip
- ◆ **1/15** - SLT Meeting - 2:30PM
- ◆ **1/15** - PTA Meeting 5:30PM
- ◆ **1/18** - Picture Retakes and Graduation Pictures for K and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- ◆ **1/21** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
- ◆ **1/31**- Last Day for Student Led Conferences

# Waterside Children's Studio School

P.S. 317

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Rockaway Park, NY 11694

(718) 634-1344

(718) 634-3884 (Fax)

Have questions or need more information?

Check us out on BLOOMZ



Email: [watersidecss@gmail.com](mailto:watersidecss@gmail.com)

We're also on the Web!  
[www.watersidecss.org](http://www.watersidecss.org)



### WCSS Grading Policy

Classwork - 40%  
Assessments/Quizzes/Tests - 40%  
Class Participation - 15%  
Projects - 5%

65% or below = Level 1 (significantly below grade level standards)  
66% - 79% = Level 2 (below grade level standards)  
80% - 89% = Level 3 (on grade level standards)  
90% - 100% = Level 4 (above grade level standards)

