



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



## Principal's News

A letter from Dana

Dear Parents,

Happy May! The NYS ELA and Math are now behind us. I am so proud of our WCSS kids for working really hard and trying their best. I also want to thank our teachers for teaching our kids the skills and strategies they need to tackle the exams.

Since it is Teacher Appreciation Week from May 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. I want to acknowledge the best teachers in the world. Every day, our WCSS teachers and staff give 110% to our kids. They are the smartest and most dedicated colleagues I have ever had the pleasure of working with and I am humbled by them each and every day. Thank you thank you thank you for ALL that you do!!!!

Thank you to all the families who completed the school survey. Congratulations to our survey raffle winners who won a Scholastic book basket.

Our annual Spring Arts Festival/Open School Night will take place on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. On this evening we celebrate our WCSS student's artistic talent through the artist's gallery and on stage performances. Our WCSS band will also be performing as well as our Dance Team and Company, so encourage all families to stay to hear how amazing they are.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will begin the NYS Science Performance exam for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students only. This part of the exam has students working in groups doing science experiments. On Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the written part of the exam will take place for all students.

On Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our annual WCSS Mother's Day Plant sale. Every year we get beautiful plants for this event and all proceeds go towards future WCSS events for students.

Attendance is a very important part in your child's academics. Every day your child misses school, they miss a big piece of their learning. **Please have your children in school every day and on time at 8:00AM.**

Just a reminder, if you change your phone number or address, you must notify the school immediately so that we can update your information and be able to contact you should we need to reach you.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please email me directly at [watersidecss@gmail.com](mailto:watersidecss@gmail.com) or on Bloomz!

Looking forward to seeing you ALL at future WCSS events!

With warmest regards,

Dana

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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.parenttoolkit.com/>

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



"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul."  
- Joseph Addison  
(Poet and Playwright)

## Kindergarten News

**Reading:** Readers Get to Know Characters by Performing their Books

**Writing:** Opinion Writing/All About

**Go Math:** 3D Shapes and Measurement

**Amplify Science:** Animals - Chicks

**Social Studies:** Community Helpers and Careers and Garden Planting

**Residency** - Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy - Native Gardening

### Trips

**Queens Zoo** - May 16th

**Green Meadows Farm @ Aviator** May 29<sup>th</sup>

## First Grade News

**Reading:** Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons

**Writing:** Realistic Fiction

**Go Math:** 3D Geometry

**Amplify Science:** Spinning Earth

**Social Studies:** A Working Community

### Trips

\***Festival of Cultures** - May 8<sup>th</sup>

\***Rockaway Alliance (Classes 101/102)**  
May 29<sup>th</sup>

\***Rockaway Alliance (Class 103)**  
May 31<sup>st</sup>

## Second Grade News

**Reading:** Non Fiction Book Clubs/Series Book Clubs

**Writing:** Science Writing/Book Reviews

**Go Math:** Geometry

**Amplify Science:** Properties and Materials

**Social Studies:** Rights, Rules and Responsibilities

**Guggenheim Family Festival** - May 7th at 8:30AM - Cafeteria

**Career Day Fair**- May 8<sup>th</sup>

## Third Grade News

**Reading:** Research Clubs: Elephants, Penguins, and Frogs, Oh My!

**Writing:** Writing about Research

**Go Math:** Two Dimensional Shapes and Stepping Up to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Amplify Science:** Inheritance and Traits

**Social Studies:** World Cultures moving into Egypt

**Career Day Fair**- May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Field Day**- May 28<sup>th</sup>

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Residency** - Bridges with The Center for Architecture

## Fourth Grade News

**Reading:** Nonfiction

**Writing:** Graphic Novels

**Go Math:** Stepping Up to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Amplify Science:** Test Sophistication

**Social Studies:** The Path towards the American Revolution

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> - June 3<sup>rd</sup> - NYS Science Performance Window**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> - NYS Science Written Exam**

**Residency - Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy - Native Gardening**

**Career Day Fair- May 8<sup>th</sup>**

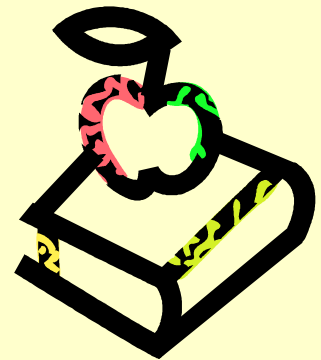
**Field Day- May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Workshops - Anti Defamation League - Becoming an Ally Responding to Name-Calling and Bullying Behaviors**

**401 - May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**402 - May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**403 - May 13<sup>th</sup>**



## Pre-K News

**Reading:** How do good readers look for initial sounds in words? How do good readers practice partner reading?

Author of The Month: Laura Numeroff  
Books include:

- If you Give a Mouse a Cookie
- If you Give a Pig a Pancake
- If you Take a Mouse to School

**Writing:** How do good writers plan their stories?

**Building Blocks Math:** Money, Counting, 1:1 Correspondence

**Science:** Butterflies, Planting Seeds and Flowers,

**Social Studies:** Community Helpers, Mothers and Babies

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

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

**Reading:** Fantasy

**Writing:** Research Based Argument Essay

**Go Math:** Understanding Percent's and Ratios and Stepping Up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Amplify Science:** Ecosystems

**Social Studies:** History Through the Decades - Back to the Future

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show - Xanadu**

### IMPORTANT 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE DATES

**Career Day Fair- 6/8**

**Field Day- 6/28**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Club Getaway - 6/5**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show - 6/12**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance- 6/13**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation - 6/18**

**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



## PTA Corner

Hello WCSS Families,

Happy May! Please come to our meeting on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. PTA Elections will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with followed by the 5th grade performance of Xanadu (6:00PM start time). **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families** - Please make sure that your senior dues are completely paid ASAP. Just a reminder, senior dues pay for the senior trip/bus, dance, and graduation cap and gown. For those who participated in our last fundraiser - Meadows Farm Fundraiser - Thanks for your support!!

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the next WCSS event.

With warm regards,  
WCSS PTA

## Upcoming Events



- ◆ **5/6 - 5/11 Teacher Appreciation Week**
- ◆ **5/7-5/10 - Mother's Day Plant Sale**
- ◆ **5/1 - 5/2 - NYS Math Exam (Grades 3-5)**
- ◆ **5/3 - Family Friday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cultural Festival - 8:30AM**
- ◆ **5/4- WCSS Earth Day Celebration - Big Yard 11:00 - 2:00**
- ◆ **5/6 - ADL Workshop - Class 401**
- ◆ **5/7 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Guggenheim Celebration in Classrooms - 8:30**
- ◆ **5/8 - Career Day Fair for Students Only (Grades 2-5)**
- ◆ **5/8 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Trip to Festival of Cultures**
- ◆ **5/9 - ADL Workshop - Class 402**
- ◆ **5/13- ADL Workshop - Class 403**
- ◆ **5/14- SLT - 2:30PM**
- ◆ **5/14 - PTA Meeting - 6:00PM**
- ◆ **5/16- SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL - DOORS OPEN AT 5:00**
- ◆ **5/16 - Kindergarten Trip to the Queens Zoo**
- ◆ **5/22-5/31 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment Window**
- ◆ **5/27 - Memorial Day - No School**
- ◆ **5/28 - Grades 3-5 Field Day**
- ◆ **5/29- Kindergarten Trip to Green Meadows Farm @ Aviator**
- ◆ **5/30 - Class 101 and 102 Trip to Rockaway Alliance**
- ◆ **5/31 - Class 103 Trip to Rockaway Alliance**
- ◆ **6/3 - Grades K-2 Field Day**
- ◆ **6/3 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Exam - Written**

## Waterside Children's Studio School

P.S. 317

190 Beach 110<sup>th</sup> Street  
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 are 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)