

PA MONTHLY

ARE CLASS TRIPS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

Last month we brought you information on some fabulous class trips for our students. These trips are meant to be both educational, and important community builders for our children, and are sure to enrich their school experiences. However, due to a lack of response from the parent body, several of these trips may have to be canceled. In jeopardy are the 6th and 7th grade overnight trips to Floyd Bennett Field.

What will it take to save these trips? **90% of all families must pay for the trips no later than Friday, March 5**, a deadline that has already been extended in hopes that people will submit their payment. As of February 25, approximately 20% of families had paid for their trips. The PA has people to collect trip payment at morning meeting every day this week except Wednesday. Checks should be made out to: The PA of UAAAL. If you are experiencing significant financial hardship, and cannot make the payment, please notify Tanya Williams, Parent Coordinator at TWiilliams18@schools.nyc.gov.

So what happens if we do not meet our goal of 90% payment received by Friday? 6th and 7th grade parents who have paid, will be contacted about returning their checks. The 7th grade trip to Philadelphia that was rescheduled for March 1 will be funded regardless. The 8th grade trip will be handled separately, and is not in jeopardy at this time.

UPCOMING DATES

GENERAL PA MEETING

March 4, 6 PM
Cafeteria

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 22, 5:30 PM
Room 322

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 11
April 7

All committee meetings are at 6 PM in Room 307. The Following committees will be meeting on these dates: Advisory Class Parent, Count Me In, Fundraising, Hospitality, 8th Grade, SummerFest

TOWN HALL MEETING ON EDUCATION with Public Advocate Bill de Blasio

March 3, 7-9 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall,
2nd Floor Courtroom

*All meetings are open to the public.
Please join us.*

The Loss of Student MetroCards: Are You Ready To Pay?

Many of NYC's students rely on student MetroCards to get to school. Their loss would be significant to NYC's students and families.

The MTA will be holding public hearings on the proposed cuts to student MetroCards and services this week, March 2nd -4th. Each hearing will be at 6 p.m.. For more information on these hearings visit: <http://bit.ly/MTAhearinginfo>.

NYPIRG's Straphangers Campaign offers information as well as many ways that you can fight for this much-needed service to our students. Visit their website for more information or to find out how you can get involved.

<http://www.straphangers.org/studentpasses/>

We can save student MetroCards if we all do our part!

A Message From The Presidents

Dear Arts & Letters Parent,

Spring is just around the corner and we are well on our way through the second half of the 2009/2010 school year! We, in the PA are beginning to take stock of what we have been able to accomplish thus far as we already make plans for elections and the next big event SUMMERFEST !

The Parent Association has grown to a new level and we are rediscovering how much fun it is to be to be part of our growing organization. Everyone agrees that when you jump into the PA of Arts & Letters whether with a big splash or just getting your feet wet, you will discover a whole new world of opportunities for you and your family. You will meet new friends, share great food and activities as well as get more information about our school and the challenges of helping our children succeed in Middle School.

Considering the current and future planned budget cuts one could say that every step we take, large or small, is a step in the right direction to defend the rights of our children to get the best education possible NOW! After all our children

can't wait for the economy to improve.

We invite you to join us in any way you can; have some fun, get the right info and help our children! "Healthy, Fit, and Fabulous" is the theme of our next General Meeting Thursday March 4th @ 6 PM. Bring your favorite healthy dish! The Dodge YMCA will be giving out free passes to their world class fitness center and provide information on keeping ourselves and our children "fit and fabulous"! If you can't make the meeting you can stay in touch and active through this Monthly PA Monthly Newsletter (available via backpacks, in the main office, in Student Life Office RM322 and online in the uaaal.org website

We look forward to seeing you soon,
David Goldsmith & Derick Holiday

Contact us at uaaalpta@gmail.com

ELECTIONS

PA & SLT ELECTION TIMETABLE

March: Nomination Committee Selected

April 12: Nominations Open

May 4: Elections

Note: All PA positions are open. All PA positions are one-year positions. 3 Parent positions are open on the SLT. SLT positions are two-year positions.

HEALTHY, FIT & FABULOUS!

Join us on March 4 at 6 PM

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE HEALTHY DISH
&
LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

Get Your Free Passes to the Dodge YMCA

If you plan to bring a dish or wish to volunteer,
please contact:

Vasilla Caldeira: 347-651-9331
or Deidre Ferrell: 347-248-6319

Save the Date:

Next month's General PA Meeting
APRIL 12

Town Hall Meeting On Education with Public Advocate Bill de Blasio

Wednesday, March 3, 7-9 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall, Courtroom, 2nd Floor
Expected agenda item: Student MetroCards

SUMMERFEST!!!

Save the date: JUNE 19

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

First planning meeting: March 11th

To volunteer contact Derick Holliday at
hollidayderick@yahoo.com