

Dear Families of Muscota,

While it is still a calendar summer, we at Muscota are getting ready for the academic school year 2008-09. A group of teachers and Denise Rodriguez, our Parent Coordinator, have gotten together with me to plan opening the doors of Muscota for the new year, and my colleagues caught me by surprise by insisting to return to work three days earlier and on a purely voluntary basis. I am very proud of the staff that takes initiative and shows dedication to the work that they have committed themselves to do. Our custodial staff, headed by Octavio Perez, has worked hard on---if not polishing---then painting every corner around Muscota. The classrooms are sparkling clean, safe and ready to receive your children. All of us take pride in what we do to make Muscota a unique learning experience for our students.

This is a transition year at Muscota. The leadership has changed and we are reflecting on our past rating. Also, the recent budget allocation was affected by a decrease in our student population, consequently impacting Muscota's plans for this upcoming year. We may have to be more selective with distribution of our funds. The good news is that we have talented staff who will now have the opportunity to coordinate various programs.

The three phrases that will define our year are: collaboration, progressive education and student achievement. Collaboration thrives when our teachers meet to discuss students' work to plan their next instructional goals, when our teachers confer with their students to make them aware of their progress, and first and foremost when you, the parents and guardians, inquire about your child's growth. We count on your active involvement. Please visit our classrooms. Volunteer on our Parent Association and the School Leadership Team. Your collaboration with Muscota extends to your homes too. When you read to your child, when you ask them how their day went in school, or when you do homework together it is all collaboration. Instilling good learning habits, setting rigorous academic expectations help your child to take ownership of their learning, and ultimately it result in their academic success. Our work does not bare the same meaning without your active participation.

Every child's talent is our guide in the classrooms at Muscota. Projects in science and social studies with opportunities to venture into the city, as our bigger playground, comprise our core curriculum. Yet we cannot achieve our academic goals without the arts. In other words our students have plenty of opportunities to express themselves through various learning modalities.

We hope to see you soon at our Town Meetings on Wednesday mornings. Please stop by my office to grab a cup of coffee and a conversation beforehand. In case you have any questions please contact Denise Rodriguez, our Parent Coordinator at 917-751-8346.

Yours,

Tomasz Grabski, Principal