



Waverly's Parent University

2010-2011

EST. 2009 Eastchester, NY

Introduction

It is my great pleasure to welcome you and your family to Waverly School. Whether your child is just starting his or her journey with us in kindergarten or is returning as a first grade student, it is my goal to equally support your efforts as a parent or guardian.

Just like many other professions, the field of education has changed significantly since we attended elementary school. Given this reality, it is imperative that parents become familiar with the evolution in curriculum and teaching. What Parent University endeavors to provide are opportunities that will relate directly to your child's experiences at Waverly. In fact, research by the US Department of Education indicates that,

“The amount and degree of parent involvement is the most influential factor in determining students' success in school.”

Other statistics show that 63% of parents are less involved in their child's education than they were 10 years ago, and this percentage actually increases as students move through the school system. Although Eastchester is a community that values education, and I believe stays well ahead of the curve, I hope that you will agree that we need to be proactive and strive to maintain a solid commitment and partnership between home and school.

As you review the Parent University offerings, I hope that you will carefully consider the impact that your decision to participate will have on your child's education. My purpose is not to pressure you, but rather to inspire you to invest, with me, in your child's learning.



Jeff Melendez, *Principal*

2010

SYLLABUS

Core Events / Required

Open House	Wednesday, 9/15/10, 7:00 PM
Math Night	Thursday, 10/14/10, 7:00 PM
Parent Visitation	Friday, 11/12/10, 9:15 AM (<i>Approx.</i>)
Tri-School PTA meeting	Tuesday, 11/16/10, 7:30 PM
Parent/Teacher Conference #1	11/17/10 or 11/22/10
Bullying in Schools	Thursday, 1/20/11, 7:00 PM
Parent/Teacher Conference #2	2/1/11, 2/3/11 (<i>evening</i>) or 2/9/11
ELA Night	Thursday, 3/3/11, 7:00 PM
Guiding Children to Positive Behavior	Thursday, 5/5/11, 7:00 PM
Budget Vote and Trustee Election	Tuesday, 5/17/11, 6 AM to 9 PM

Electives / Recommended

Newcomers' Picnic	Monday, 9/13/10, 5:00 PM
Harvest Festival	Saturday, 10/23/10, 10:30 AM
Halloween Parade	Friday, 10/29/10, K: 9:30 AM / 1st: 10:30 AM
Winter Concert	12/15/10 or 12/16/10, 10:00 AM / 11:15 AM
Waverly Girls' Event	Saturday, 2/12/11, 10:30 AM
Kindergarten Pajama Story Time	Friday, 3/4/11, 7:00 PM
First Grade Campout Event	Friday, 3/18/11, 7:00 PM
Waverly Boys' Event	Saturday, 3/26/11, 10:30 AM
Moving Up / Waverly Day	Friday, 6/17/11 (<i>First Grade only</i>)

Extracurricular / Optional

Principal's Coffees	Monthly – various times
Board of Education Meetings	Monthly – 8:00 PM in the HS Library
Lead or Join a Subcommittee!	Sign up with the PTA

Core Event Descriptions

Open House — 9/15/10, 7:00 PM

Meet your child's teachers, the principal and the PTA executive board members. Learn about our school and our educational program.

Math Night — 10/14/10, 7:00 PM

Learn how we teach math using our Think Math program and get hands-on experience with some of the games and activities your children encounter every day.

Parent Visitation — 11/12/10, 9:15 AM (Approx.)

Ever wonder what your children do all day in school? On this day, all parents are invited to visit their child's classroom and shadow their learning for an hour.

Tri-School PTA Meeting — 11/16/10, 7:30 PM, HS Library

Our annual tri-school PTA meeting gives parents the opportunity to connect with other parents from Anne Hutchinson and Greenvale schools. There will be a presentation on a special topic of interest (to be confirmed at a later date).

Parent/Teacher Conference #1 — 11/17/10, or 11/22/10

Sign up for an appointment to meet your child's teacher. This brief conference will give you a sense of your child's strengths and learning needs.

Bullying in Schools — 1/20/11, 7:00 PM

A special presentation by a noted expert on the topic of bullying will give parents the tools to help their child deal with bullies in school settings.

Parent/Teacher Conference #2 — 2/1/11, 2/3/11 (evening) or 2/9/11

Sign up for an appointment to meet your child's teacher. This brief conference will give you a sense of your child's strengths and learning needs, as well as update you on your child's progress.

ELA Night — 3/3/11, 7:00 PM

Deputy Superintendent, Christie Simels and grade-level teachers will share our approach to teaching reading. You will enjoy a keynote address as well as small group, breakout sessions in classrooms.

Guiding Your Child to Positive Behaviors — 5/5/11, 7:00 PM

This workshop will address our philosophy on helping children to learn appropriate behaviors. Hopefully you will leave with a "bag of tricks" for improving your child's behavior at home too!

Budget Vote and Trustee Election — 5/17/11 (all day)

This is absolutely, 100% critical for all residents over the age of 18. Polls will be open from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Absentee ballots are available.

Elective Descriptions

Newcomers' Picnic — 9/13/10, 5:00 PM

The PTA would like to welcome all kindergarten and new first grade families to the Waverly community. This fun event for parents and their children will feature a DJ, pizza and ice cream. This is a great way to network with other new parents. Raindate 9/24/10, 5:00 PM

Harvest Festival — 10/23/10, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Our annual Harvest Festival is a great time for the whole family. Plant bulbs, participate in games and activities with a fall theme, and enjoy many other surprises.

Halloween Parade — 10/29/10, K: 9:30 AM and 1st: 10:30 AM

The cutest thing you will ever witness! Beginning at 9:30 AM for Kindergarten and at 10:30 AM for First Grade, students will parade around the perimeter of the school while parents line the route taking photographs. We will go around twice in case you miss your first photo-op!

Winter Concert — 12/15/10 or 12/16/10, 10:30 AM / 11:15 AM

One of the highlights of our school year is our annual Winter Concert. Each grade level will perform twice to enable more comfortable seating for parents, grandparents and other guests. During this special event, your children will sing favorite holiday songs. Snowdates: 12/21 or 12/22.

Waverly Girls' Event — 2/12/11, 10:30 AM

Enjoy a special brunch with your darling little girl. Venue and final details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Kindergarten Pajama Story Time — 3/4/11, 7:00 PM

In an effort to emphasize literacy, volunteers will read stories to your children in a "sleep-over" type setting.

First Grade "Campout" Event — 3/18/11, 7:00 PM

We continue to promote reading in a special event with a "campout" twist. First Grade children are invited to experience a campout themed storytelling experience right here at Waverly school.

Waverly Boys' Event — Saturday, 3/26/11, 10:30 AM

Enjoy a delicious brunch with your special little boy. Venue and final details to be determined.

Moving Up / Waverly Day — 6/17/11 (1st Grade only) Time TBD

Our annual "moving up" event and concert will recognize the hard work of our 1st graders as they prepare to depart from the Waverly school.

Extracurricular Descriptions

Principal's Coffees

One Principal's Coffee is offered each month at a different time and day of the week. This agenda-free, informal gathering is a great place to talk to the Waverly Principal in a relaxed atmosphere. Ask a question, raise a concern, or feel free to make a suggestion. There is no need for a reservation... just stop in. There is, however, one rule: Please refrain from talking about a specific child or teacher during these gatherings... your needs will best be met in a private meeting in those cases.

- o Monday, 9/20/10, 2:00 PM
- o Tuesday, 10/12/10, 7:00 PM
- o Wednesday, 11/10/10, 10:00 AM
- o Friday, 12/17/10, 2:00 PM
- o Thursday, 1/13/11, 2:00 PM
- o Friday, 2/11/11, 10:00 AM
- o Tuesday, 3/8/11, 7:00 PM
- o Wednesday, 4/6/11, 6:30 AM
- o Monday, 5/9/11, 7:30 AM
- o Thursday, 6/9/11, 10:00 AM

Board of Education Meetings

This is where the real action happens! Find out the direction the district is taking and learn about topics of interest. Most importantly, as a resident you have the right to voice your constructive opinions during Public Forum. The Superintendent and the Board are listening! Meetings take place at 8:00 PM in the High School library.

- o Tuesday, 9/14/10 – Work Session
- o Wednesday, 9/29/10 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 10/12/10 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 10/26/10 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 11/9/10 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 11/23/10 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 12/14/10 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 1/11/11 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 1/25/11 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 2/8/11 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 2/15/11 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 3/8/11 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 3/22/11 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 4/12/11 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 4/26/11 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 5/10/11 – Budget Hearing
- o Wednesday, 5/18/11 – Meeting
- o Tuesday, 6/7/11 – Work Session
- o Tuesday, 6/21/11 – Meeting

Join a Subcommittee — FLEXIBLE

The PTA depends on your help for the above activities and events to actually happen. If time allows in your schedule, please consider signing up with the PTA to help on a subcommittee.

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: What is “Parent University?”

A: Parent University is simply a structure to provide parents with opportunities to become involved in their child’s education and within the life of their school.

Q: Why should I participate? What’s in it for me and/or my child?

A: Research by the US Department of Education has indicated that parent involvement is the most influential factor in determining a student’s success in schools. Recognizing that the field of education has evolved markedly over the decades since we were in school, Parent University endeavors to equip parents with the tools they need to support their children’s learning. For example, the Math, ELA and Behavior workshops that we offer are designed to help parents understand our curriculum (what students are being taught) and pedagogy (how they are being taught). Your exposure to this knowledge will help you to better support your child’s learning at home, thus increasing their opportunities for success.

Q: How much time is involved?

A: If you were to participate in the 10 core events, your annual commitment would total less than 10 hours. Since your child will spend more than 1,000 hours in school this year, we feel that asking parents to dedicate less than 1% of this time is a reasonable expectation.

Q: Is this really “required?”

A: As a school principal there are limits to my jurisdiction. So, no, I cannot officially “require” parents to attend our Core Events. My goal, however, is to inspire you to value this work and motivate you to become involved.

Want to be more involved in your child's education?

Please feel free to contact one or more of the following:

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Vito Catania, Board of Education President
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