



PARCC & Common Core

A special thank you to Mr. Jason Bing, the JCBOE Chief Academic Officer, for bringing the Common Core & PARCC Testing Workshop to PS16 which was attended by a full house of teachers and parents.

With the ever changing requirements, our teachers work very hard to infuse their students with the necessary knowledge and confidence to achieve the best results. Parents, in turn, are always keen to stay informed about the curriculum rigors and testing standards in order to help and encourage their children to succeed.



“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

— Winston Churchill

“So be sure when you step, Step with care and great tact. And remember that life’s A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and ¾ percent guaranteed) Kid, you’ll move mountains.”

— Dr. Seuss

PS16’s CLASSICS DRIVE & THE VALUE OF A GOOD BOOK

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

— Frederick Douglass

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”

— Walt Disney



This year, during the Week of the Young Child, instead of the traditional souvenirs & nicknacks, we gave each student from Pre-K to 5th Grade, a book as a gift.

We believe that it is never too early to expose children to age appropriate sophisticated literature, if only to plant a seed for the future, when they will rediscover classic texts in higher grades and in college. Just like with classical art and music we allow our children to form their own impressions, so that later in life the writings of Shakespeare and Charles Dickens can resonate with them on a higher intellectual level. That is why we began this school year with the “Classics Drive”, asking parents to donate abridged classical literature to the classroom libraries. Since then, it has been wonderful to see all the students fill up their daily reading logs with the likes of the *Iliad*, *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein*, and *Great Expectations*, and to be able to discuss them with our children at home!



The incomparable Ms. Terry McCarthy turns reading to her students on Dr. Seuss Birthday into a performance!

However, we also understand the great importance of contemporary relatable literature, and the need of children to be able to identify with the characters in the books, their struggles and their dreams. Books and stories often help children persevere through the challenges of life in a tremendous way, which can not be underestimated. That is why we encourage all reading, be it classical or contemporary, fictional or biographic, scientific or humorous. A good book can be a comfort, a healer, an entertainer, a teacher, and a friend. Read on!

One of the wonderful literary discoveries that we made this year was a new mystery series for children, written by an Academy Award winning actress Octavia Spencer, entitled *Randi Rhodes: Ninja Detective*.

As a pilot project, a parent volunteer read this series to one of the PS16 second grade classes over a period of several weeks, and the books were an absolute hit wit the kids! We hope to make this into a lasting tradition, allowing the parents to contribute to the learning process, and to gain a deeper appreciation for the role of the teacher.

