

Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

Ms. Hardcastle's Weekly Letter Home

**La Traducción en Español sera enviada cada Lunes.*

February 7, 2014

Greetings BLCS Families,

It has been a great week, despite the challenging weather, at Bronx Lighthouse Charter School.

Reminder: February Events

- February 12 will be a professional development day for faculty. There is no school for K-7 students.
- The 5th grade will be going on their annual camping trip from 2/12 until 2/14. A family information night will be held Monday in Ms. Potts' room at 4:30.
- There will be no school the week of 2/17/2014.
- There will not be a parent night, since we commenced Report Card Conferences in February.

Sending Home Student Data

I realized in speaking to many families over report card conferences that many families never received student scores on state tests. We are coordinating a send out of student data; student reports will be sent home through your scholar's home room teacher.

Launching Afterschool Tutoring Program: Starting 2/24

In order to support struggling scholars, we will be starting up an afterschool tutoring program the week of 2/24. We are working to train tutors, coordinate with classroom teachers to share information about student needs, and will share more information next week.

While we kick off this program, we will be prioritizing students who are failing courses, or who have received low test scores. More details will be communicated on 2/14.

Progress Reports: Coordinated Send Home Effort

We will be coordinating a weekly progress report send home with students, each Monday. This will start on 2/10/2014, and continue through the end of the year. Additionally we will be sending out family log-ins to power teacher grade books, so that families can monitor the progress of their students. In our March parent night program, I will take time to show families how to log in and check student progress.

Family Conferences

Thank you to all the families who were able to make it out to Report Card Conferences. If you were unable to attend, please contact your scholar's teacher to schedule a make-up conference.

Conversation with the Board of Trustees

The BLCS Board of Trustees is committed to answering questions and hearing feedback from families. Please review the attached notice regarding a conversation scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30pm on February 13, 2013.

We prepare our students for college through a rigorous arts-infused program.

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Staffing Update

We are excited to welcome new additions to our instructional team:

- Mr. Pablo Gomez, who will be Senior Gomez to our K-4 scholars, and will be filling a role for a Spanish teacher for our lower grades scholars
- Ms. Stephanie Armstrong, who will be joining our Special Education Team, and who will be supporting our 4th and 5th grade scholars

We have received many great applications, and we will be interviewing for the Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships role next week, and are still seeking families to sit on the hiring committee.

Schedule Changes: Coming Soon

As I transitioned into my role, I realized that the schedule that had been implemented did not allow for the minimum number of minutes for reading support or a consistent approach to support of students from our special education team. We are working to revise the errors in the schedule. No changes have been made yet, but we will be finalizing a new schedule and rolling it out to staff on our training day on 2/12. Students will get two days to practice the new schedule before the winter break, and we will tune it up over the winter break.

Strategic Planning Reminder: Feedback Requested

I will be holding several feedback sessions, in our Library, to gain insight from families.

Tuesday, Feb. 11: 4:30 -530	Thursday, Feb. 13: 8:00 – 9:00am	Tuesday, Feb. 18: 12:00 – 1:00
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Uniform Reminders

The uniform guidance, from our Scholar-Family Handbook, is being included with this letter. Please note the following, and ensure that students are sent in uniform daily.

Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School-issued uniform shirts with the logo must be worn at all times. These shirts may be short or long sleeved. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lower Academy: Light blue uniform shirts○ Upper Academy: White uniform shirts• A navy blue school sweatshirt or a solid, hoodless sweater with the school logo may be worn in school when it is cold• White turtlenecks or undershirts may be worn under uniform shirts, but not alone. If the undershirts of another color are worn, scholar will be asked to remove the shirt
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower and Upper Academy: Navy blue pants (no jeans or athletic pants) worn at the waist, navy tights with navy blue skorts, skirts, or jumpers (not more than one inch above the knee), or navy blue shorts
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socks may be white, solid black, brown or blue.• Shoes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All-black shoes must be worn at all times (even for physical education); all-black gym shoes may be worn daily○ Scholars may wear winter boots when needed. Then, scholars must change into their black shoes for class

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