



# Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

## BLCS Weekly Newsletter

*\*La Traducción en Español será enviada cada martes.*

Your children need your presence more than your presents. ~Jesse Jackson



April 7, 2014

**Greetings BLCS Families,**

**Reminder!** There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Wednesday April 9, 2014; it is Staff Professional Development Day.

### **Reminder: April Events**

- **SCHOOL SURVEY DUE!** Please return your school survey to the main office. If you have completed it online please return the white slip that states you did the online survey. Thank You in advance for your cooperation.
- There will be a Blood Drive April 25, 2014, please come out and support our Scholars!
- State Math Exam will be April 30, 2014 to May 2, 2014.
- Spring Break is here! There will be **NO School** for scholars from April 14, 2012- April 18, 2014. Scholars will return to school on April 21, 2014.

### **BRONX LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL (NEW) OFFICIAL VISITOR PROCEDURES**

BLCS has revised their visiting procedures for all individuals who are entering the building. The purpose of these changes are to (1) ensure the safety of all students and school personnel within and around the immediate perimeter of the school site and (2) protect and preserve the school site as a primary location of educational instruction and learning.

You can get a copy of these new procedures from the main office. The new procedures have information on the following topics:

- Procedures for All Visitors
- Procedures for Visitors With An Appointment
- Procedures for Visitors Without An Appointment
- Procedures for Parents and Individuals Not Allowed on School Premises
- Procedures for Parents Visits on School Premises beyond the Front Desk.
- Procedures for Early- Pick Up.

Please be sure to pick up a copy of our new Visitor Procedures at the main office.

### **EMERGENCY DOORS**

The emergency exits to our building in the front and the back have been activated and will be alarmed upon exiting. Please use the main entrance upon entering and exiting the building. In addition, Parents or Scholars are not allowed to these exits for any purpose. If a scholar is caught opening the emergency doors, this will be an automatic suspension.

### **BLCS COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Here at BLCS, we appreciate family communication and feedback. If an issue arises that you would like to address, we ask that you please follow the complaint procedure. The procedure can be found in the Scholar Family Handbook, but here it is again should you need to reference it.

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1. Go to the source (for example, for a question about something that happened in the classroom, you should contact the teacher)
2. If after speaking with the source you are still not satisfied, go to the next person in the chain of command:
  - a. If you are unsure of the next person you should see, contact the Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships (CFCP), Ms. Beckles-Canton
  - b. For scholars in 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade, contact Mr. Hoard; for Specialists and Arts, contact Mr. Golden, and for K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, contact Ms. Hardcastle.
3. If that still doesn't work, you should contact the next person in command (Ms. Hardcastle)

## **SCHOLAR WORKSHOP: GOOD TOUCH VS. BAD TOUCH: YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU**

During the next couple weeks, BLCS Staff member Ms. Tanika Amicy will be visiting your scholars' classroom and facilitating a mini workshop on appropriate touching. Students will be introduced to the importance of identifying their feelings around touching. As well as distinguish the difference between the good and bad touch, as parents **there are a few things you can discuss with your children, before they participate in this workshop:**

### **1. TEACH CHILDREN THE CORRECT NAMES OF ALL THEIR DIFFERENT BODY PARTS, INCLUDING THEIR PRIVATE BODY PARTS.**

When teaching your young child the different body parts, consider using the correct words for private body parts along with words such as "tummy" and "ears." You can give older children more information because they are able to understand more. You can also explain that the parts of their bodies covered by a swimsuit are their private body parts.

### **2. TEACH CHILDREN THAT "YOU ARE THE BOSS OF YOUR BODY."**

Let your children know that they are in control of who touches their bodies and how. Model this for children: "I don't want you to jump up and down on me. Please stop." Likewise, immediately respect their wishes not to be touched in certain ways. "Looks like you don't want me to pick you up right now. Okay." As you supervise your children's interactions, make it clear that they need to stop tickling or roughhousing if a sibling says "Stop!"

### **3. EXPLAIN TO YOUR CHILD THAT THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF TOUCHES.**

**The three kinds of touches are:**

- **Safe touches:** These are touches that keep children safe and are good for them, and that make children feel cared for and important. Safe touches can include hugging, pats on the back, and an arm around the shoulder. Safe touches can also include touches that might hurt, such as removing a splinter. Explain to children that when you remove a splinter, you are doing so to keep them healthy, which makes it a safe touch.
- **Unsafe touches:** These are touches that hurt children's bodies or feelings (for example, hitting, pushing, pinching, and kicking). Teach children that these kinds of touches are not okay.
- **Unwanted touches:** These are touches that might be safe but that a child doesn't want from that person or at that moment. It is okay for a child to say "no" to an unwanted touch, even if it is from a familiar person. Help your children practice saying "no" in a strong, yet polite voice. This will help children learn to set personal boundaries.

**If you have any questions or concerns about your scholar participating in this workshop, please contact Ms. Canton or Ms. Amicy.**

SHINE on,

Ms. Canton

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