

Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

October 23, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year with Bronx Lighthouse Charter School/ College Prep Academy. We are very excited about what our scholars, parents, teachers, and leaders at BLCS/CPA can accomplish this year. Please stay connected with us by attending events, sending emails, calling, and looking at the school website.

"Unity is strength. . . when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." --*Mattie Stepanek*

School Website: We encourage everyone to log on to the school website for the most current information.

Lower Academy: <http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/bronx/>

CPA: <http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/bronx-prep/>

Back to School Night: Over 75 parents/guardians attended Back to School Night on Thursday, September 17, 2015. Principal Duggins and Principal Brown welcomed everyone and said a few words of encouragement. Parents/guardians visited with teachers, received their PowerSchool parent portal log in information, completed a parent questionnaire, and for those with scholars in grades 6 -8 they spoke to representatives from the Westhab SONYC after school program.

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 17 after the Back to School Event. They are scheduled to meet on the third (3rd) Thursday of every month. The next meeting is on October 15 at 6:30 pm. Please read their most recent letter posted on the school website at <http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/wp-content/uploads/blcs-board-newsletter-9-10-15.pdf>

PA Meeting and family meeting: The Parent Association (PA) meetings and family meetings will happen during the same meeting every month. Part of the session will be specifically for Parent Association issues and the other part will be a presentation. For each month there will be one session at 8:15 am and a second session at 6:00 pm. Please come to one or the other. The next meeting is

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scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at 8:15 am and 6:00 pm. The topic for that day is restorative justice. The school website has a schedule of upcoming meetings: <http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/wp-content/uploads/pa-meeting-schedule-2015-2016.pdf> . On Tuesday, September the 22nd, twenty-five (25) parents attended the parent association meeting. A tutorial on how to use the PowerSchool parent portal was led by Ms. DeGonzalez, a BLCS parent and board member. Future topics include how to help your child with school, communication, nutrition and well-being, college and job readiness, and the arts.

Power School Parent Portal: To stay up to date on your child's progress in school log on to <https://nwilighthouse.powerschool.com/public> . For log in information (user name and passwords) please contact the Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships, Ms. Alemany at 646.915.0025 or salemany@lhacs.org. If you are having problems logging in, please see how to access power school parent portal at <http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/bronx/#docs> . You may consider getting an app at the App Store for the iPhone®, iPad®, iPod touch® and Apple Watch, and on Google Play for Android devices. For more information see <http://www.powerschool.com/powerschool-mobile/>.

Lunch applications: Lunch applications can be completed on line at <https://www.applyforlunch.com/> . Applications must be completed each year. Applications can be picked up at the school or can be backpacked. The school code is 84X185.

Parent Survey: Please take a few minutes to complete an online parent survey by going to <http://goo.gl/forms/O9W4kSA7fq> . Copies are available at the school or contact Ms. Alemañy at salemany@lhacs.org.

Healthy Snacks: Students are also welcome to bring snack and lunch to school that meets the school's guidelines for healthy snacks. Absolutely no candy, gum, chips, or soda pop are allowed in the lunchroom/school since we are part of the Federal Lunch Program and promote healthy eating. Please do not send these types of items in your child's lunch. Here are the healthy snack guidelines:

Beverages

Milk: 1% and fat-free

Soy Milk: Not flavored

Juice drinks that are all natural *100% fruit or vegetable juice. No added

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sweeteners, No other additives
Fruit flavored water with no additives
Water/Sparkling Water

Snacks

Applesauce: Natural	Granola bars	Raisins
Original Animal crackers	Graham crackers	Rice cakes
Baked white corn tortilla chips	Peanut Butter and Jelly	Saltine crackers
Baked cheese crackers	Pita Chips	Trail Mix
Cereal bars	Pretzels	Oyster crackers
Trail Mix Bars: Fruit and Nut	Popcorn	Multigrain bars
Fruit Leathers: All natural	Fresh Vegetables	Non-Fat Yogurt
Fresh Fruit	Nuts	

Workshops for parents: **Basic english workshop** for family members who want to learn english. *Usted puede asistir a clases de inglés básico en BLCS desde las 8:30 am - 9:30 a.m. los martes 3 y 17 de noviembre, y 8 de diciembre. Puede beber un poco de café mientras aprende Inglés. Si va a asistir, por favor póngase en contacto con la Sra. Alemañy.*

Basic computer workshops for family members at BLCS on Thursdays, November 5, 12, and December 3 from 8:30 am – 9:30 am. Please rsvp with Ms. Alemañy, if you plan to attend.

Volunteers: We are seeking family members to serve as volunteers. Volunteers can serve as chaperones during trips, co-lead sessions with the Family Coordinator, help set up events, assist in fundraising activities with the Parent Association, assist with basic office duties, and much more. Please let us know if you are available and interested.

Information Specifically for the **Lower Academy (K- 8)**

Breakfast with the Principal: Coffee and conversation at BLCS with Principal Brown on Monday, October 26 from 8:15-9:00 am. Next breakfast is on November 16th.

Picture Day: Picture day for the Lower Academy is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015. Order forms were sent in your scholar's backpack on October

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15-16. By Monday, November 2nd, all order forms must be returned to the school with payment. Payment can be done online.

After school Program: The Westhab SONYC After School program wants to invite students in grades 6, 7 and 8 to join. They offer recreational activities, homework help, and trips. Please complete an application which is available at the school or can be backpacked by request.

School hours: Dismissal at BLCS is between 3:40 pm and 4:00 pm from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays dismissal is between 1:25 pm and 1:37 pm. Please make arrangements for your scholar to be picked up on time. Late scholars during the morning will need to sign in and parents will need to sign their scholars out during late pick up.

Breakfast is served	7:30-7:55 am
classes begin	8:00 am
Dismissal	3:40 pm - 4:00 pm (Monday– Thursday) 1:25 pm - 1:37 pm (Friday)

School uniform: Scholars should be in the proper school uniform. We strongly recommend that a spare set of pant and top be placed in a zip lock bag labeled with your child's name and left in your child's cubby/locker.

Gym uniform: The following schedule is for physical education (gym) days.
Monday and Thursday: 201 Ms. Wasilus and 501 Mr. Escobar;
Monday and Wednesday: 202 Ms. Edwards and 301 Ms. Laracuenté;
Tuesday and Wednesday: kindergarten, first grade, 302 Ms. Owens;
Tuesday and Friday: 502 Ms. Edwards
Thursday and Friday: fourth grade

Lost and Found: The lost and found is located in the Family Resource Center (1001 Intervale Ave., Room B08). We have a very large collection of sweaters and other random items in the found bin, which can be retrieved anytime. There are at least 60 sweaters/jackets. It's advisable that all articles of clothing be labeled with permanent marker or sewn with your child's/children's name including the inside of your child's uniform, lunch box, backpack, gloves, scarfs, etc. so that it can be readily identified.

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School Events:

For both of these events scholars can wear school appropriate costumes. Costumes should not include masks nor any accessories/props. Costumes should not portray a negative or evil character.

Middle school (grades 6-8) dance in the multipurpose room on Thursday, October 29 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Advance tickets: \$2, At the door: \$3.
Character day on Friday, October 30th during school hours.

Important Dates:

Days Closed:

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 (Veteran's Day)
Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2015 (Thanksgiving)

Parent Teacher Conference (grades K-8):

Thursday, November 19, 2015 2:00 – 7:00 pm
Friday, November 20, 2015 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Early dismissal (grades K – 8):

Thursday, November 19, 2015 1:30 pm
Friday, November 20, 2015 1:30 pm
Wednesday, November 25, 2015 1:30 pm

Picture Day (grades K-8):

Monday, November 2, 2015 order form and payment due
Monday, November 9, 2015 picture day

Book Fair (Scholastic):

Monday- Friday, November 16-20, 2015

Breakfast with Principal Brown:

Monday, October 26, 2015 8:15 -9:00 am
Monday, November 16, 2015 8:15-9:00 am
Monday, December 21, 2015 8:15- 9:00 am

Information Specifically for the College Prep Academy

Attendance: If students are late to school or absent, they are required to bring a note when they arrive/return from an absence in order for it to be excused. The school day starts promptly at 8:00 am, so students will receive detention if they are not in class by 8:00 (unless they present a note with a valid excuse). Phone calls are appreciated, but must be accompanied with written documentation in the

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form of a written note, email, or doctor's note. Students who accrue 10 or more absences or are late to school 15 or more times throughout the entire school year (excused or unexcused) will lose course credit and need to complete an attendance appeal for the opportunity to earn back the credit. For more information, contact Ms. Hammond at ahammond@lhacs.org.

Important Dates:

Days Closed:

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 (Veteran's Day)

Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2015 (Thanksgiving)

Parent Teacher Conference:

Friday, November 20, 2015 12:30 – 6:00 pm

Early Dismissal:

Friday, November 20, 2015 11:30 pm

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 1:30 pm

Respectfully,

The Team at Bronx Lighthouse Charter School/College Prep Academy

Contact the Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships, Ms. Alemañy at salemany@lhacs.org or 646 915 0025 to discuss any issues listed here.

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