

Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

April 11, 2014

Dear Bronx Lighthouse Families,

I am writing to address the recent violence that has been taking place in the community. In the past month, we have had far too many instances of violence perpetrated against our scholars by individuals in the community. Upon receiving notice of these incidents, we have contacted the police. We are working closely with our school police officers and detectives from the 41st Precinct to provide them with information that we hope will lead to finding the people who are committing these acts. We have also requested an increased police presence outside of the school at dismissal and afterschool. The presence of the police is intended to deter groups of young people from loitering and reduce the likelihood of further incidents.

While we appreciate the support from the NYPD, we are reaching out to parents to enlist your help. During a safety meeting last month, we proposed instituting a parent volunteer group to serve as a presence in the neighborhood in the afternoons. This volunteer group will promote peace and safety in the community. Here are the key roles of the volunteer:

- Be present in the area surrounding the school in the afternoons to deescalate any potential altercations.
- Keep scholars and neighborhood youth from loitering in the area.
- Notifying the school and/or police of suspicious activities taking place.
- Interact with youth in a positive, respectful manner.
- Build relationships with community members and local businesses.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to the Main Office. As is the policy with any school volunteers, we ask that you complete a background check (form attached). Once background checks are complete, volunteers will go through a brief training before working in the neighborhood.

The solution to this situation begins with us a school community. We all want our scholars to be able to focus on their academics without concern for their safety. To help inform the larger community, we ask that you attend meetings for Community Board 2. The next meeting:

***Bronx Community Board 2 Meeting
Wednesday, April 30th at 6:00 PM at 1064 Simpson St.***

Thank you for support and commitment to the Bronx Lighthouse Community.

Cheers,

Ms. Hardcastle
Principal

Yes, I am interested in becoming an Afterschool Parent Volunteer

Parent Name: _____

Scholar Name(s) & Grade(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Dates and Times Available (*check all that apply*):

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

1:15-2:15 PM (*Wed*) 2:15-3:15 PM (*Wed*) 3:30-4:30 PM 4:30-5:30 PM After 5:30 PM

T-Shirt Size: Small Medium Large X-Large XXL XXXL

(Parent Volunteers will receive a t-shirt to wear while volunteering)

Challenge + Arts Infusion = Transformative Opportunities