

January 20, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

By the time my letter reaches you, Mr. Barack Obama will have taken his oath of office to become the first African-American President of the United States of America. There has been a great deal of excitement in the air. The excitement is due in part to the profoundly historic message of hope and change proposed by President Obama.

The subliminal message of change is to foster a renewed sense of accountability and responsibility for all people. It encompasses the notion of self-discipline to promote success. As parents and educators, we understand the importance of self-discipline to promote academic success in school and the work place.

I want to take a moment to focus my newsletter on self-discipline as a key to success. Recent research indicates that students' self-discipline is a stronger predictor of their future academic success than their IQ. This finding has lead researchers to conclude that self-discipline may be the "royal road" to building academic achievement. In a compilation of data, Angela Duckworth and Martin Seligman reported that self-discipline predicted all sorts of academic measures including the children's average grade for the academic year, their spring exam results and their selection into high school and beyond.

At Queens Gateway teachers and parents have worked together to promote success for all students. We are fortunate to have teachers who care about the students' social and academic well-being. Our teaching and learning is situated to provide every student with the opportunity to experience success and prepare them for college. We have also developed some guidelines to promote good attendance and punctuality.

Recently, the School Leadership Team came to the consensus that students who arrive late to school will be permitted to attend classes during the first period. However, we will continue to keep accurate record of students' lateness and share the information with parents. Please note that students who develop a record of persistent lateness will be held accountable for their actions. We invite you to visit the website at queensgateway.com, to review the revised lateness policy.

In last month's newsletter, I shared with you some dates for early dismissal and would like to update you on some changes in the calendar. On May 14, 2009, we will have full day school and not early dismissal as previously stated. However, in consultation with our school's support organization, CEI-PEA, school will be closed at Queens Gateway on May, 29, 2008. We will keep you informed through our monthly newsletters and website.

I would like to share with you that the Learning Environment Surveys will be administered in the school on Open School Evening and Afternoon, March 26 and March 27, 2009. On March 26, 2009, our doors will be opened at 4:30 p.m. for all parents, and we will have refreshment for everyone. We are very proud that our PTA will be playing an important part in this initiative.

I would like to remind you about the Health and Wellness Club which meets every Friday. The club is led by the Queens Health Coalition. There will be several interesting programs in which your child can participate. Please encourage your child to join the club. If you need additional information, please contact me at (718) 739-8080 (Ext. 3211).

Many thanks to the members of the Queens Gateway Presidential Inauguration Committee for planning the activities for January 20, 2009; it allowed all students to witness the historic moment. The committee members included: Barbara Abioye, Wendy Alleyne, Linda Allred, Sandra Brantley, Burnett Codling, Carola Craig, Eleanor Hundley, Tyrone John, Peirrot Jonka, Juanita Kelly, Robert Martini, Shree Parsan, Isabel Quinones, Magdalena Sanders, Dona Sasko, Gloria Treadwell, and Adres Villar.

Please join me in acknowledging the support of the students in the Technology Squad: Suraj Ahmed, Trevor Bidhadar, Ryan Chabinath, Anthony Ginyard, Nazib Mondal, and Corey Recai.

Thank you for supporting the education of your children. We look forward to greater success in the spring term.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Edwards
Principal

Cc: Linda Allred
Ghandi Moussa