

Dear Families,

November 17, 2009

It has been a pleasure meeting with each of you in our conferences. There has been so much exciting growth, exploration, and learning already this year in the Fours-K! As teachers, we relish the opportunity to share specific pieces of work, and to offer our observations of your child. We also enjoy the chance to know our class parents, and deepen the lines of communication. Thank you all for your open ears, insightful questions, and thoughts about how to make this a successful year for your child.

As we reach mid-November, our social studies curriculum is in full swing. The 4Ks are currently conducting a **study of our school**. To begin the study, the children generated a list of adults that they know in our school. We have already started meeting some of these important people, and will get to know each individual as we watch him or her at work. Interviewing will also be an important part of this study, as we decide on pertinent and interesting questions to ask.

The first person we visited was Eileen, our school receptionist. Children asked questions such as: “Do you like LREI?” and “Do you have any pets?” They observed Eileen as the phones were answered, and they learned about the button that opens the front door. They also asked questions about what happens to our attendance and how the receptionists use the television monitor, which shows the Bleecker Street door. The children made drawings of their observations, which are currently hanging above the rug.

Second in our study we interviewed cafeteria staff member Luz Maria. During one of her daily visits to bring us lunch items, Luz Maria sat for an interview with the children. They asked her many questions including: “Do you like children?” and “What time do you get to school?” Each child processed their knowledge by creating a page at writing time about something they learned. Please take a moment to read through the class book entitled, Our Interview with Luz Maria.

Going forward with our study, we will interview adults that the children often see doing their jobs, such as Hector, Jorge, and Kitty. This will give the children an opportunity to better understand individuals who keep our school clean, provide our daily meals, and help keep our community healthy.

Beyond getting to know adults in the school, children are also meeting other students. For the first time last week, the 4Ks met their buddies. The 4K class is partnered with Jennifer Hubert Swan's sixth grade advisory, and each child shares a big buddy with one classmate. For our first meeting, the sixth graders shared favorite books from when they were four or five years old with their younger buddies. We will meet with our buddies throughout the year to share books together, work on art projects, and attend whole school assemblies. The experience of having an older buddy is a meaningful one for the 4Ks, and we look forward to these shared times with older students.

On another note, thanks to those of you who have joined us on our fall trips. A special thank you as well to the Stewarts for their invitation to Moomah- what an exciting and fun place! After that unique adventure, we also completed an excursion to Washington Square Park to observe and collect fall leaves. Hopefully you've had a chance to see some of the interesting collages children made from leaves they found and pressed. And this Friday we look forward to attending Deborah Damast's dance show, performed by her NYU graduate students. Children will be discussing and graphing their own favorite ways to move, in preparation for this special trip.

Sincerely Yours,  
Charles and Abby