



Central Park East I Elementary School

September 25, 2019

Dear Families,

Phew.

We have been running short-staffed in one four-five class, occupational therapy, and music. Within the last week, everything has fallen into place. It's time to introduce (and re-introduce) some staff members.

Four-Fives

Simone Gordon was once Eunice's student teacher. On Thursday, Eunice and Simone will be co-teachers. After teacher preparation here in our school, Simone left for a very different experience: teaching middle school in India. She returned to spend the past few years at PS 13 in Brooklyn. Our hiring committee reconnected with Simone at the end of summer, and when budget shortfalls meant PS 13 had to let go of a teacher in September, Simone volunteered. Within hours, her transfer to CPE1 was underway.

Simone's prior experience with our 4/5s should ease transition. Eunice has set up the classroom and established critical routines for children. Over the coming weeks, Eunice will spend lots of time in that in class alongside Simone. Soon, Eunice will return to supporting learning in both 4/5 classes and the project room. With Cecilia, Jessica, and Winnie, we're rounding out the collaboration across classes that's so important to fourth and fifth graders.

Occupational Therapy

It has been 49 days – *49 days* – since **Alisha Tubis** and I began working on a blurb to introduce her to the school. A thoroughly frustrating computing glitch kept her from being fully approved to start working as CPE1's new, fulltime occupational therapist. The glitch was solved, and Alisha began this week. In just a few days, she has met with almost every child entitled to occupational therapy. Alisha has worked with adults and children in Mt. Sinai's rehabilitation program, and more recently, as an occupational therapist at the McCarton Center for Developmental Pediatrics. While some OTs focus mostly on handwriting and fine motor skills, Alisha also supports large motor development, coordinating the eyes with the hands, and brain-body connections. Having a fulltime, five-days-per-week OT back at CPE1 means all educators will be able to collaborate with Alisha regularly.

Music

Barry Solowey, CPE1's very first arts teacher, will be coming back in a part-time role this year. Long ago, he helped create CPE1's musical standards and musical traditions. He retired after a long career here, and has come back several times to bring our choral singing up to the expectations he set long ago. Of course, if you've been around CPE1 for years, you already know that. Especially if you're new to the community, please come to our first All-School Sing with Barry this year, at 8:30 on October 7. More importantly, come back as the year goes on to hear how children are growing.

Open House – September 25 – 5:45 to 7:30

This is just another reminder that Open House, CPE1's curriculum night, happens this evening. We start in the auditorium with some formal introductions, and then you'll make your way upstairs to your child's classroom. You will get an overview of the learning to expect in the year to come.

If you plan to bring a child to the second floor for childcare, please do so starting at 5:35. We will begin in the auditorium as close to 5:45 as possible.

Middle School Meetings – October 2 and October 3

The process of applying to public middle schools continues to change, and families understandably have lots of questions. On October 2 at 6:00 P.M. and at October 3 at 8:00 A.M., families of fifth graders are invited to receive the latest information about this year's process. (Fourth grade families are welcome as well.)

For the evening meeting on October 2, former CPE1 students who currently attend different middle schools around our area will come back to talk about their experience so far. That meeting, especially, is a chance to hear from other students how a particular middle school might fit your child.

School Closed – September 30, October 1, October 9, and October 14

All public schools are closed for holidays four times over the next few weeks. Please be sure your plans include these days off from school.

We're definitely open tonight for Open House. See you there.

-Gabriel