



Central Park East I Elementary School

March 4, 2020

Dear Families,

At our community coffee last week, parents followed a time-honored CPE1 practice: reflections on a word. We sat in a circle. For four minutes, we wrote silently about the word *community*. Then, we all shared our reflections, one at a time, uninterrupted, about what the word evokes for each of us.

When each person in the circle shares reflections on a word, we don't come to one definition. Instead, many voices together add new meanings and richness. Here is some of how we defined *community*:

It is being unapologetically who I am and you who you are.

Deep connection and a deep sense of pride...

Finding a new level of freedom for yourself when you share responsibility...

It is bigger than who we are and who your kid is.

Finding silent voices.... Building on the silent voices...

How can I play my role in my community to create more harmony?

A place at the center that holds everyone...

As we shared our definitions, some shared their stories. There were some tears. We talked about what's hard about community, but how it sustains us during very difficult times. That lead us, naturally, to the conversation for our next community coffee: how should a community support its members?

We want a large discussion then, at 8:35 A.M. on March 27. Be part of the discussion. Be part of the community.

Family Conferences This Week

By now, you should have signed up for a family conference with your child's teacher. As always, CPE1 has *two* nights of evening conferences – more than the city requires – so that we can take more time for each conversation with families. On **Thursday, March 5, school ends at 12:00** so that we can have daytime conferences.

Complete Your Citywide Survey

It's time to complete [the New York City parent survey](#). Survey results are used to evaluate and rate every public school in the city. More importantly, the survey gives families voice. At CPE1, we look closely at how our families respond.

You can complete your survey when you come for your family conference this week. Outside each classroom, look for the bright green envelopes. Take the one with your child's name. You can fill it out with a pencil, or fill it out online using one of the laptops available in the hallway.

If you are not coming for a conference this week, on Friday after school, look in your child's backpack for your green envelope. You can mail back the survey, or use the personal code inside the green envelope to take the survey on line.

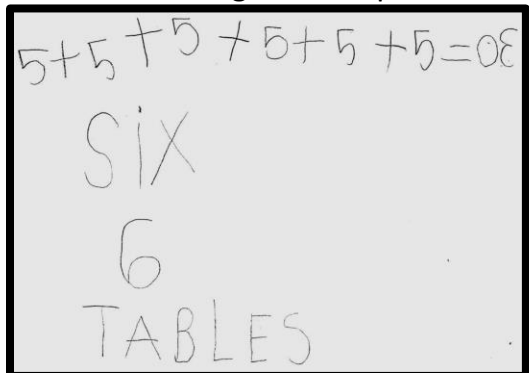
Come to CEC Meeting – March 11 – 6:00 P.M.

Every district in the city has a community education council (CEC). Parents from around the district represent families in all schools. The CEC advises on policy and contributes to the evaluation of the superintendent. CEC meetings are always open to the public, and CPE1 will be a big part of our district's next meeting.

All principals in our district have been asked to present an overview of their school to the CEC. I will be presenting CPE1 at the CEC's next meeting: **March 11, 6:00 P.M.**, at **PS 72** (131 East 104 Street, at Lexington Avenue). CEC always offers a light dinner and children are often in the audience. Please come if you can.

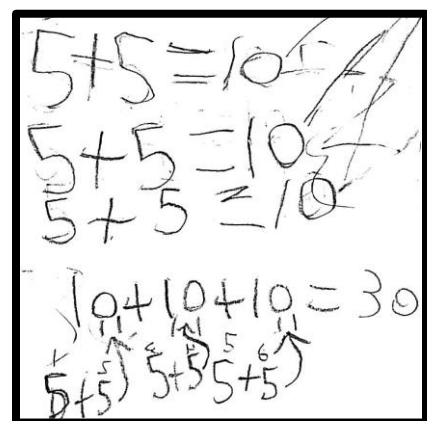
Family Workshop – March 18 – 6:00 P.M.

Our next evening workshop for families will happen on March 18. You should come,



ready for math. Most of us learned math as a series of steps: carry the one, memorize what nine times twelve equals, flip and multiply the fractions. Real math means much more thinking than that.

To the left is the work of first graders from Patricia's class. The question was, if each table holds five chairs, how many tables would be



needed? Formal division ($30 \div 5 = 6$) is not expected before third grade. So could first graders *discover* division for themselves? Just take a look. Several of Patricia's first graders used addition to 'divide.' These young children *invented* division for themselves. And their math checks out.

On March 18, we will talk together about how CPE1 children develop mathematical flexibility and creativity. Be ready to think in a community of a mathematicians.

COVID-19 Virus Planning

Attached is a letter from the chancellor. It is an update on public schools' response to the COVID-19 virus.

Here at CPE1, our custodial staff is checking before school and in the middle of the day to make sure we have enough soap for handwashing. The city is ensuring also that all schools have cleaning products recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Our own custodial staff has been disinfecting surfaces, such as doorknobs, that are touched frequently.

School is open, and we will keep everyone up to date if anything new or noteworthy arises.

-Gabriel

March 3, 2020

Dear Families,

Over the weekend, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene confirmed the first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City. While we all hoped this moment would not come, it was something the City has meticulously prepared for. At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Despite our first confirmed case, New Yorkers remain at low risk for contracting the virus.

The health and safety of all of our students continues to be our first priority. As we monitor the situation, we are enhancing certain protocols and providing additional resources, including:

- Providing CDC-approved cleaning agents to every school
- Ensuring all bathrooms are continuously stocked with soap and paper towels, and encouraging students and staff to wash hands frequently
- Ensuring principals and school nurses have the resources and guidance needed to detect and report symptoms exhibited at school, and provide help for any affected individuals

Working in close partnership with the Health Department, we will continue to update our protocols as the situation evolves, and communicate about any possible impact to parents and our school communities. We will keep all of our latest information on our website at schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus.

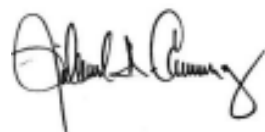
There are no plans to close schools at this time. This is an extreme measure that can be disruptive to day-to-day life, and the decision to implement will only be taken at the direction of public health experts. As a reminder, it is critical that all New Yorkers continue to practice general viral infection prevention measures including:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Get your flu shot – it's never too late
- Stay home if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and let them know your symptoms and travel history.

We are in direct and regular communication with principals to ensure they have the latest information and to answer any questions that may arise. Additionally, we remind all families that they can receive regular updates on this topic and many others by signing up for an NYC Schools Account. Please visit <https://mystudent.nyc/> to create an account and to update your emergency contact information.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) attached to this letter for more information, or visit nyc.gov/coronavirus at any time for important updates. The health and safety of our students continues to be our chief priority, and we will follow all guidance and take all appropriate measures accordingly.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education