



November 21, 2021

Dear Families,

We are re-imagining a beautiful CPE tradition. On December 16 at 6:30 P.M., please come to Festival of Lights.

At Festival of Lights, we gather to learn more about each other's families and traditions. At CPE1, families describe their traditions, teach a song, tell a story. We light up the night by sharing what makes each family special.

This will be a special Festival because we can see some of the special traditions from this time of year, in the way your family marks the in your home. If you want to share your family's traditions, send in a short movie, up to three minutes long. We will mix in these family videos with live interactions and some special contributions from each class.

By December 10, please send your video to marilyn@cpe1.nyc. Please include your children's names and classes, and the name of your family's tradition.

Videos are *not* required to participate. You can come just to be with the rest of the community. Everyone is welcome at Festival of Lights.

More Vaccinations and Information Foun

On Friday night, the city announced we would have more vaccination pop-ups in our school building. These are Pfizer vaccines are for children aged five to eleven.

We now have a *first*-dose pop-up Monday (!), November 22, from 8:00 to 4:00. We also have a *second*-dose pop-up on Friday, December 3, from 8:00 to 4:00 again. Children from any school who were vaccinated before November 12 are eligible for a second dose at CPE1 on December 3.

These pop-ups will be in the auditorium. Because the vaccination team is in the building all day, I think the lines will be short. That is especially true on Monday,

November 22, because East Harlem Scholars Academy 2 is not in the building that day.

Our district is having a forum to answer questions about these vaccines. Two doctors who work with children and adolescent, Dr. Autumn Hinds and Dr. Akeem Marsh, will answer questions and guide the conversation.

Date: Monday, November 22

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Languages: English, Spanish, Bangla

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87220639251?pwd=HWpsWU1lc2V0A1U2FjYnNWNzYUJ09>

DESSA Screener Update

This Wednesday, November 23, is the final day to opt out of the city's new social-emotional evaluation, DESSA. Children whose families do not opt out will be evaluated by their teachers.

A copy of the screening questions will be shared right after this letter. Schools are asked to use DESSA to guide social-emotional learning. Each child's DESSA results are reported to the city. They are not available to families electronically, but if you choose to have your child participate, you may ask your teacher for the results later in December.

We created a quick way to opt out of DESSA if that is your choice. [Please just click here.](#)

Visual Arts and Speech After Thanksgiving

During the week after Thanksgiving, Tim Lively and Laurie Giamella come back to CPE1.

Before retiring several years ago, Tim was CPE1's longtime visual arts teacher. This year, he will be drawing, painting, and building with children in the art studio on Tuesdays (pre-K and K-1) and Thursdays (2-3 and 4-5). Tim guides children to visually beautiful work.

Laurie will be back starting December 3. After starting the year on a child care leave, Laurie will be returning to her usual three-days-per-week at CPE1 to provide speech and language special education services. A lot of children will be very excited to work with her in person again.

We will be away this Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. This has been another complicated year for children in school, but I'm thankful for the safety and happiness we have had so far with everyone in the building. I give lots of thanks to you, too, for everything extra families have done to make this all happen.

Gabriel

