



June 11, 2022

Dear Families,

On Monday of this week, we had special visitors from the central offices of the Department of Education. Carolyn Quintana, the deputy chancellor for teaching and learning, came with a group of division and office leaders from the central headquarters. They came to see examples of how our children learn through ongoing projects at CPE1.

This team of educators observed some projects from pre-K through fifth grade, and then visited three classrooms. Our visitors remarked on the evident power of CPE1's learning routines and children's independence in project work. We also spoke about possible next steps for what they called a school with such "highly developed" foundation.

You will see some of this ambitious work soon. Families are being invited to see children's work as part of classes year-end exhibitions. There is richness in the range of styles, topics, and techniques on display. Be sure to talk to lots of children in the class.

Here are two projects that depend on you. Please check out [this letter to Mayor Eric Adams](#) about banning horse-drawn carriages in Central Park, and [this letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa](#) about enforcing South Africa's laws against poaching elephants. If you agree with the causes, you can sign [the petition about carriages](#) and [the petition about elephants](#). Then, forward to friends and family who might sign as well.

Petitions persuade with lots of signatures, often from all around the world. We don't want strangers on the internet contacting our students; the creators of these letters and petitions will stay anonymous. Keeping children's names and email addresses hidden make it safe for you to sign and forward these letters and petitions.

Not Using the School Yard, and Rec Days

Because of the pandemic, most schools (including CPE1) have scheduled outdoor graduations. With the largest school yard in the area, several nearby high schools will be using our yard.

The tents and chairs for graduation will be set up on Sunday. That means we will not be able to use the school yard for the rest of the year.

For outdoor time, CPE1 children will go to nearby playgrounds or Central Park. For morning arrival, students will gather in the auditorium.

While we are unable to access the yard, we also will not have the gym. The Board of Elections has made our building an early voting site, so until the end of the school year, the gym will be filled with tables and voting machines.

Not having the yard and the gym becomes challenging for what we call Rec Days. CPE1 Rec Days happen on the three final days of school: June 23, 24, and 27. Out-of-class teachers, such as Jazmine, join all of our paraprofessionals to organize outdoor days for children. While they are outside, classroom teachers break down their classrooms for deep summer cleaning.

At CPE1, we want children's final memories of their classrooms to look as the rooms looked throughout the year: full, attractive, active learning spaces. Many other schools have children watch movies while teachers break down classrooms around them. Our Rec Days keep children active and social while we organize and clean all of the materials that make CPE1 classrooms so powerful.

End of Pre-K Mask Mandate

On Friday after school, a letter went out from the New York City Department of Education. It reads:

Yesterday, Mayor Adams announced that, starting Monday, June 13, face coverings will be optional for students in early childhood schools or programs.

To maintain the safety of our staff and students, we will continue to practice strict COVID-19 protocols, including increased ventilation, a daily health screening, and test kit distribution. Mask-wearing will become optional indoors, outside, and on school buses. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so, and your child may request a mask from their school or program if they need one.

Masks are strongly recommended for any staff member or student who knows they have been exposed to COVID-19 within the previous 10 days. Mask wearing is still required in medical rooms and nurses' offices. Nurses will have masks on hand for anyone entering who may need one.

Starting Monday morning, we will treat the end of the pre-K mask mandate as we have in the older grades. We will not tell children to put on or take off their masks. Children will know this is a choice. If

you have a preference for your child – mask on or mask off – please let your child know.

Greetings from Mingie

Mingie has had her baby, Quincy Surim Okoshi. She writes:

Dear CPE1 Community,

How are you? I am missing everyone very much. I want to introduce everyone to the newest addition to our family. Meet Quincy! He is doing well and adjusting to life in this world.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon and hoping everyone has a wonderful end of the school year.

Attached is a picture of Quincy on the quilt Patricia's class made for him. He loves it so much.



What a beautiful baby. Welcome, Quincy.

Gabriel