

October, 2017



NYC DOE

**M.S. 129**  
**Academy for Independent Learning & Leadership**  
**2055 Mapes Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460 (718) 933-5976**  
**Raymond Granda, Principal**

# M.S. 129 Family Newsletter



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## Plan for an Awesome School Year

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Thank you family for joining us again at M. S. 129. We are happy to partner with you. As the new school year unfolds, we want to focus on one of our core values: respect. We aim to speak with each other in a manner that adds value to the ones hearing. We are also determined that our actions will benefit not just ourselves, but all the members of our community.

Students, you have completed your “All About Me” page and filled out your goals. Did you stop to consider the importance of this activity? Goal setting is important as it sets the tone for today and gives you something on which to focus for the future. Setting the right goals is important. Consider if what you wrote is what you really want. Ask yourself -

- Am I willing to do what it takes to reach my goals?
- How will I know that I am reaching my goals?
- What do I do if during the school year I am finding it challenging to meet my goals?
- Who can I speak with to ensure I meet my goals?

Parents, speak with your children about their goals. Listen to them, ask questions and find out how you can help them in reaching their goals. Share your expectations with your children and speak with them often. Communicate with your teachers. Signup for Pupil Path and follow your children’s progress.

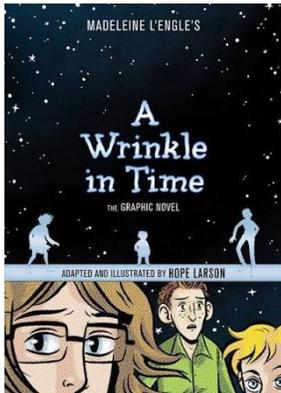
Join us as we discuss the future of our school. Represent your family in the Parent Teacher Association. Let your voice be heard as a member of the School Building Leadership Team. Also join our community meetings at various locations in District 12.



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## Suggested Reading for October

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### A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel By Madeleine L'Engle

The world already knows Meg and Charles Wallace Murry, Calvin O'Keefe, and the three Mrs.--Who, Whatsit, and Which--the memorable and wonderful characters who fight off a dark force and save our universe in the Newbery award-winning classic *A Wrinkle in Time*. But in 50 years of publication, the book has never been illustrated. Now, Hope Larson takes the classic story to a new level with her vividly imagined interpretations of tessering and favorite characters like the Happy Medium and Aunt Beast. Perfect for old fans and winning over new ones, this graphic novel adaptation is a must-read.

<https://olivesbooks.com/products/9780374386153-0374386153-a-wrinkle-in-time-the-graphic-novel>

MS 129 School Library Feature



### The Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon

Love playing detectives? Help Frank and Joe find clues, put away the bad guys and travel around the world. Will you be able to solve the mystery before they do? Find out in your school library.

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## Reminders

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- **8th Grade Parent Meeting:** October 4
- **Columbus Day:** October 9, 2017, School Closed
- **School Leadership Meeting:** October 11 and October 25, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
- **Saturday Academy:** October 14, 21 and 28, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Progress Report—distributed to students:** October 20
- **Specialized High School Admissions Test for qualified 8th Graders:** October 21 and October 22
- **Fall Dance:** October 24, 4:00 - 7:00 PM
- **Specialized High School Admissions Test for ELLs and SWD with IEPs or 504 plans:** October 29
- **Student Government Campaign Week:** October 30-November 3

# Helping Parents & Kids Connect

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## Let the Conversation Begin

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**Take the opportunity to talk about...**

### **Fall Colors**

One of the most beautiful places to watch the leaves change colors is right in the heart of NYC. Spend an afternoon just walking around Central Park, Prospect Park, New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Wave Hill getting some great new Instagram selfies.

**The Health Department Drug Free Focus week -October 21-31:** Let's all come together to keep children, families and communities safe, healthy and drug-free. DID YOU KNOW: Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations? See "Kidshealth" for tips in helping you have this conversation -<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/talk-about-drugs.html>

**Lincoln Center (LC) Kids-** Enjoy their free series which includes story time, music and live performances such as The Happy Racers (October 7), Crankenstein by Samantha Berger (October 28), and Nobuntu (November 4). <http://www.lincolncenter.org/kids/>

### **The Ocean Comes to Times Square**

Take a plunge deep under the ocean without getting wet with the new National Geographic exhibit in Time Square Encounter: Ocean Odyssey opening on October 6.

### **Big Apple Circus**

After a year off, the Big Apple Circus is making a grand reopening at Lincoln Center on October 27.

### **Halloween**

Enjoy a spooky afternoon on October 28 during the Haunted High Line—expect live performances, a creepy scavenger hunt, and, of course lots of dressed up fun. Check out the musical performances, haunted forest, hayrides, corn maze, spooky stories, face painting, magic shows, pumpkin carving, crafts, and a costume parade during The Bronx Zoo's annual Boo at the Zoo Halloween celebration. This special Halloween event is held annually on weekends in October. The zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends in October.

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## Kids Corner

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**#greatschoolyear** Kids talk with your parents about this new # (hashtag) trend.

Start fresh; leave the old things behind. The mistakes of last school year do not define you now. The past successes can motivate you but will not ensure success this year. Do your best in every area and ask for help when you need it.

Stand up straight and proud, walk tall, and let your books feel like they are in great hands! Be friendly and respectful. You will all make new friends this year. Having good friends will boost your confidence, and you will have a great time at school!

Take notes in class and pay attention. Contribute to the class discussion: ask questions and state your conclusions about the assignments.



Get homework help. You may use the Dial-A-Teacher homework help line and ask a classroom teacher for assistance.

Monday -Thursday, 4 -7 PM

212-777-3380

Take care of your body.

Eat healthily– Check out the great new menu in the cafeteria.

Exercise– Join one of the sport teams or dance groups and participate in gym class.

Rest well– Get 6 –8 hours of sleep each night.

Take care of your mind:

Think positive thoughts– “It is possible”, “I can pass my classes.”

Read positive books– look for role models and activities that challenge you to use your creative thoughts.

Read your goals everyday –What do you want to achieve?

How will your actions today help you reach your goals?

Read everyday– Read different genres and learn new words. Talk about the books you’re reading with friends and family. Ask someone to join you in exploring your next book.