



**The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning
Invited to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Peace Corps
Entering Korea**

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning (BBL) has been invited by the Consul General of the Republic of Korea to perform Korean songs at a special event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Peace Corps entering Korea. The reception and ceremony will be held at The Korea Society on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. Special guests include the Honorable Gheewhan Kim, The Counsel General of the Republic of Korea in New York.

President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps volunteer program by Executive Order on March 1, 1961. The Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals: to help the people of interested countries meet their need for trained volunteers; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

One of BBL's Professional Development Specialists, Dr. Bruce Ballard, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea from 1975-78. While there he taught English in a boys' middle school and trained prospective public school teachers at a national university. Dr. Ballard is also responsible for starting BBL's Korean language and culture program ten years ago. "I'm thrilled that our students are recognized in New York and overseas for their excellent performance of Korean folk and pop songs," he says. "We are also fortunate that every year we receive financial backing from the Korean Consulate in New York. This has allowed us to offer BBL students a wide range of cultural programming, including taekwondo lessons, field trips to museums and Korean restaurants, and performances of traditional Korean music and dance."

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning currently trains all students in Kindergarten through Third Grade in Korean language and culture. BBL students have performed Korean songs publicly in Manhattan and the Bronx, and appeared on television programs in New York and South Korea.

About The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning (BBL) is a Pre-K through 5th Grade Elementary School founded in 2003 by teachers and school administrators who had extensive experience serving in challenging communities with large populations of low-income students. Our founders sought to improve the educational experience of struggling

communities by demonstrating the value of an educational approach known as the “Subordination of Teaching to Learning.”

The “Subordination of Teaching to Learning” pedagogy was developed by Dr. Caleb Gattegno throughout the 1950s. Dr. Gattegno believed that mastering all traditional subjects begins with awakening the learner within, which means that students draw on a learning process based on the self-education that they developed since infancy. As a result, learning in school continues to be joyous, instead of the conventional drudgery students might otherwise encounter.

We are delighted that our students have performed well, and we have been repeatedly recognized for achieving academic success. The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning is listed as a Substantial Progress School by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), recognizing our students’ consistent improvement for the past three years on state assessments. Additionally, NYSED designated us as a Reward School for the 2015-2016 school year, in recognition of the school’s achievement in “leading New York State toward the accomplishment of educational excellence through an increase in student achievement and closing the gap in student performance.”

BBL currently has two elementary school locations in the Northeast Bronx, and serves nearly 700 students in the community.