



# March Newsletter

From Early Scholars Learning Center

## Welcome!

Greetings Early Scholars families! This month will welcome the spring and lead us into the final push before our scholars take their upcoming state assessments. Please be sure to note our testing date reminders, and, as always, feel free to contact us at [info@earllyscholarsny.com](mailto:info@earllyscholarsny.com) or (347) 494-1640 with any questions!

### Reminders

#### ELA Practice Test 2

- Weekday Students, Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30pm at PS 18Q, The Winchester School
- Saturday Students, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm at P.S. 188Q, The Kingsbury School

#### Math Practice Test 2

- Weekday Students, Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30pm at P.S. 18Q, The Winchester School
- Saturday Students, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm at P.S. 188Q, The Kingsbury School

**3/11/14**

**Half Day– Closed at P.S18Q**

### Looking Ahead: Summer Tutoring Registration

Our Summer Tutoring program runs July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and registration has now opened for families looking to get a jump on their summer planning.

Our summer program gives your children a competitive edge by giving them exposure and practice with the next grade's material over the summer. Don't wait until test prep season to work on ELA and Math skills!

Please view our website for information on our summer program, which runs from 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday-Friday. Registration is now open, and we're offering a 10% early bird discount for a limited time. Early Scholars offers flexible enrollment options; we simply require that your child attends a minimum of 4 of the 6 weeks to ensure consistency and great results.

# Academic Update

## ELA

We are hard at work preparing students for their state tests in April. Our ELA groups have begun using the RACES technique to write text-based responses: Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain, Summarize.

Parents of PS 188Q will find the RACES approach familiar; it's the same method taught by their classroom teachers throughout the day. However, PS 18Q parents will notice that their school uses the RADD approach: Restate, Answer, Detail and Detail. While the acronyms are different, the concept is the same and both techniques will help students write in response to text. In essence, RACE and RADD are simply different acronyms to reinforce the same skills of reading closely and using textual evidence to create a fully developed written response.

## Math

Many families wonder what they can do to help along their students' progress, and with the tests approaching quickly, we stress the importance of making sure your children are practicing math skills daily, including calculation. While problem solving is certainly a major component of the state tests, it's equally important that students increase their automaticity with operations like multiplication, simplifying fractions, and calculating decimals. It is much harder for students to employ problem solving skills when struggling with basic calculation. Daily practice will help them master calculation so their minds can be free to deal with the complex, multi-step reasoning problems they will encounter.

## “Earliest” Scholars

In March, our younger students will be focused on Cetaceans, a term which describes a group of marine mammals that includes whales, dolphins, and porpoises. This topic will serve as a means of generating interest and enthusiasm while our tutors reinforce skills of identifying sight words, using picture vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Check out the content in their weekly take home booklets and help reinforce some of their newly acquired terms by using them in conversation at home and asking students to tell you some newfound facts about Cetaceans!

## Club Notes: Art Club

In February, our younger artists at PS 18Q wrapped up a unit on Andy Warhol. This month, we will begin exposing students to the classic works of Picasso, and students will have the opportunity to recreate some of his most famous works while improving the skills we've been teaching all year long.