

## Hicksville Special Education & Pupil Personnel Department

# NEWSLETTER



Term: Winter | Issue 10 | Date: February 14, 2024

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We hope you and your families had a restful, peaceful, and happy holiday season. We are lucky to celebrate here in Hicksville because we are beautifully diverse. There are more than 40 languages spoken and a wide array of different holidays, traditions, and cultures celebrated. Did you know there are 17 different holidays celebrated between the beginning of November and end of January?! The season begins with Diwali, festival of lights and is closed out by Thai Pongal which is a Tamil harvesting festival celebrated during Thai. It welcomes the sun god after winter.

So just remember, we are all diverse and choose to celebrate different holidays and traditions based on our own culture and experiences. Embrace the Happy Holiday sentiment when given to you out of love.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION AWARENESS

This year, the Hicksville School District was excited to celebrate Special Education Awareness Day. This was on December 2nd; however, since it fell on a Saturday, Hicksville celebrated on Friday December 1st.

Special Education Awareness Day celebrated on December 2nd 2005, marked the 30th anniversary of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). President Ford signed the law on November 29, 1975. This law stipulates that children with disabilities have the same right to a free and appropriate education (FAPE). Between the ages of 3 and 21, there are 13 different areas where a child may qualify for a classification and services through special education.

Hicksville celebrated this monumental day by asking different staff members and students "how they could help someone with a disability". The responses were warm, genuine, and can be found on a video created and posted on the Special Education Instagram page. Follow the Special Education Department's Instagram page to see it!



## GETTING READING FOR ANNUALS

Not only is it holiday season but in the world of Special Education, it also means it's Annual Review season. Many of you may have already received your invitation to your child's annual review either for an IEP or a 504.

As a parent, family member, or guardian, your role at the meeting is a vital one so please make sure you can attend either in person or virtually (or on the phone). If the scheduled date/time is not conducive, please contact the special education office to reschedule the meeting as soon as possible, 516-733-2160.

Try to come with your own notes on your child's progress both at home and in school (your perspective). Additionally, make a list of questions you want to ask. Some of these questions may include "what does this annual goal really measure" or "can my child be recommended for a less restrictive environment" or "do they really require this related service".

To help organize your child's special education paperwork, the district has held a "Build a Binder" workshop for the past two years and it's an effort to help families keep special education paperwork organized for you and your records. If you were not able to attend one of these workshops, you can create your own system or simply keep a folder with all the documents.

If your child receives medical or therapeutic care and the treating physician has information that needs to be included on your child's IEP/504, please have that documentation ready by the date of their annual review.

Something to keep in mind is that the IEP or 504 is a plan to help your child in their area of need and should not provide more than what they need otherwise, we are doing a disservice to them (sometimes more is too much).

## VOCATIONAL 1 STUDENTS CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE

Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15th to October 15th. This year, High School Vocational Level 1 students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about and experiencing Hispanic Culture. Students read an article about Hispanic Heritage Month. The article talked about Hispanic theater, Mexican art and Little Havana. It also discussed famous Hispanic Americans such as Gloria Estefan. The students watched videos of her music and danced along!

Another great activity was exploring Hispanic foods. The students explored recipes of foods like Churros. The students discovered that common foods they enjoy at school such as nachos, chips and salsa, and tacos, have Hispanic origins.

The students wrapped up their celebration with an art activity. The students used common materials to make a sombrero! They enjoyed posing for pictures wearing their festive hats. It was a fun celebration all around.

By Joanie Belmonte



# OUR WINTER IN PICTURES



Our vocational students from all grade levels having fun in the winter time. Thank you Ms. Fumagalli, Ms. Zeilander, s. Belmonte, Ms. Mendoza, Ms. Gregorie, Ms. Richroath, Ms. Papageorge, Ms. Ranallo and all their support staff and students for making the holiday season shine!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 5th to 6th Transition Event (IEP)

Hicksville Middle School

April 17, 2024 at 5:00PM

Middle School Auditorium

Host: Bryan Offermann

## 8th to 9th Transition Event (IEP)

Hicksville High School

April 16, 2024 at 5:00PM

High School Kristoff Theater

Host: Vicki Montalvo

SEPTA Meeting - March 18, 2024

*Topic: To Be Determined*

Video call link: [meet.google.com/wmd-ujaa-szh](https://meet.google.com/wmd-ujaa-szh)

Or dial: (US) 1 314-666-2872 PIN: 176 452 693#

Wellness - Parenting Tips (SEAC)

February 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM

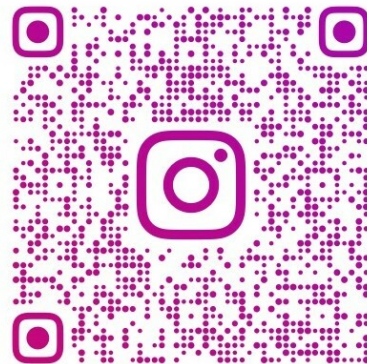
Location: Hicksville High School

Host: Kathy Rivera

## Build a Binder - Spring Session

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Woodland Elementary School Library



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**Stay Tuned for Our Spring Newsletter!**