

Welcome to Cantiague Elementary

2009-2010



Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an incredible summer filled with fun times, incredible memories and some relaxation! As the new school year begins, it is imperative that we help instill a sense of confidence and security in our children in order for them to be successful in life. We know that every child at Cantiague will be successful because they will learn and they will accomplish this goal at their own pace, by building on their own readiness levels and in their own unique way! The need for a routine, for setting goals, and for getting mentally prepared for the new school year is crucial. Together, we will help the children establish their own routines, set their own goals and build on the triumphs of last year for even more successes this year!

We are all looking forward to beginning another successful year here at Cantiague. Our theme, which is anchored in the idea of being a Bucket Filler, will build on last year and further challenge the children to consistently be responsible, respectful, safe and positive! We will continue to honor and celebrate our Bucket Fillers of the Week and we will even introduce some fun and new ideas this year! Research has consistently shown that children who feel good about themselves and those around them are more successful in life. Let's all concentrate on these important lessons, and encourage our children to become the very best that they can be!

On a personal note, I want to express how excited I am about starting year two as your principal! This is such an amazing learning environment populated by incredible children who literally bring a smile to my face each and every day. I am so proud of the strong home/school connection that we have established because the benefits of this connection are abundant as the children thrive off of this positive energy. Our goal, as a connected community, continues to be to help our children safely and successfully explore, grow and mature, whether they are doing so academically, socially or emotionally. By working closely together, we are giving our children a safer, more advantageous environment in which to experiment, attempt and learn. It truly is an honor and privilege to work closely with such a dedicated community of educators and parents! One of my goals for year two is to continue the traditions of excellence at Cantiague and nurture an educational community where children learn and grow on an academic, social, personal and emotional level!

Sincerely,

Antony Sinanis

Visiting the Classrooms Prior to School

As I am sure that you are aware, our teachers are involved in extensive planning in preparation for the new school year. Therefore, we ask that you plan school visits to drop off supplies and meet the new teacher between 1:00 and 2:00 PM on Wednesday, September 2nd. The school will be open at that time. Please remember that there will be no blacktop drop off on the first day of school for any grade. Students should come to school using their regular mode of transportation. Walkers should go directly to the Cafeteria and bus students will be taken off the bus. There will be staff available to direct students to their classrooms and assist anyone who needs help on that morning.

Play Dates

Play date arrangements will be accommodated beginning Monday, September 14th, for grades one through five so that we can ensure a safe and orderly dismissal for the first few weeks of school. When planning for after school arrangements, please remember that play date notes must be sent with the children in the morning. Verbal messages or emails will not be accommodated in the interest of student safety.

Also, kindergarten play dates will be on a pick-up basis only. Each kindergarten student will be required to have a note regarding the play date. No kindergarten play dates will be permitted to go on the bus.

School Theme

The Compact Committee has decided to continue our school theme from last year, Cantiague Elementary - Changing the World, One Bucket at a Time! Additionally, our students will continue to take part in a variety of activities to help them understand their roles in becoming students of character; to enable them to learn the skills that are necessary to work and play together peacefully; and to develop skills that help them become upstanding citizens of our community.

Meet the Teacher Nights

At Meet the Teacher Nights, parents have the opportunity to receive an overview of the goals and expectations for the school year and the routines followed in the classroom. Meet the Teacher Nights will begin on September 15th at 7:00 PM for grade 4, 7:30 PM for grade 5 and 8 PM for grade 3. The second night is September 16th at 7:00 PM for grade one, 7:30 PM for grade 2 and 8 PM for kindergarten. Please join us for these important presentations as they will give you a sense of your child's teacher and their plan for the year in terms of what the children will be learning and experiencing.

Paperless Communication

We will continue to utilize email as our primary means of communication with our parents. Accordingly, each parent has been asked to provide the district with an up-to-date email address. Notices will be sent home using this address, so our parents are asked to check email frequently to keep abreast of school events and activities. If you have not provided an email address to school, please contact our Main Office staff to have your information included in your child's records.

Report Cards and Conferences

Report cards are issued three times each year and conferences are held to review the first two reports. The first report card will be distributed on Tuesday, December 8th, and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be arranged on Thursday, December 10th or Friday, December 11th. Please make sure that you sign up for conferences during Meet the Teacher nights.

Code of Conduct

Our NEW school Code of Conduct will appear at the end of this publication as well as the back of the school folder which will be distributed to each child. This Code was developed by our Compact Committee last year and represents our expectations for students regarding being responsible, respectful, safe and positive.

Foreign Language (FLES)

The foreign language program includes students in kindergarten through grade five. The program has been modified and expanded for this year. For example, all grades, except grade 4, will have FLES two times a week at some point during the year. Additionally, the children will be exposed to Spanish in grades K - 3 and then Italian and French in grades 4 and 5. At the end of fifth grade, students will select their language of study for Middle School.

Technology Program

The Jericho Schools offer a technology-rich learning environment to prepare our students for the future. The elements of this environment include classroom computers, two computer labs, a television studio, computer data networks, video-on-demand, and additional tele-communications equipment. Our elementary schools have been equipped with Dell computers, and each classroom has received one upgraded computer during the past year. Students will be introduced to the operating system as part of their Computer Lab lessons. Classrooms will each contain computers for students' use as well as a full complement of computers in two Computer Labs. I am also thrilled to announce that our second computer lab has been completely upgraded this summer with newer and faster computers! Each classroom also contains a printer, scanner and access to a digital camera to enhance instruction and facilitate student reporting. Student use of the equipment will be discussed by each teacher during Meet the Teacher Night. Parents who wish may use the web site email system to contact teachers in lieu of using the phones. It should also be noted that the school web site contains many recommended, safe sites for student use when exploring the internet for information or enjoyment. The web site also contains regular updates about all the wonderful activities the children will experience in school during the year.

Library Program

Our school library is on-line as part of the Nassau BOCES Library Automation and Resource Sharing Service and can be accessed through the Jericho Schools web site at www.jerichoschools.org. Students have the opportunity to attend library classes and choose books on a weekly basis under the guidance and direction of our amazing School Library/Media Specialist, Ms. Tedesco.

Pupil Personnel Support Services

As part of our Pupil Personnel Services, Cantiague Elementary School offers the full time services of our school psychologist, Mrs. MaryAnn Colucci, and our special education facilitator, Mrs. Beth Weissman. In addition, Mrs. Andrea Messinger, our school social worker, is at Cantiague on a part-time basis. Mrs. Colucci and Mrs. Messinger are available for individual or group counseling or to assist students and parents with challenges throughout the school year. Mrs. Weissman works with our special education students and is available for consultation about special education services. Please do not hesitate to contact them about any questions you may have regarding your child. They can be reached at the school telephone number.

Music Program

All children in grades four and five will participate in a chorus program as part of their weekly music classes. In addition, students in these grades may choose to play a musical instrument in the band or orchestra. While both programs are offered as optional programs during the school day for interested students, we urge you to encourage your child to elect only one. Fifth grade students in the instrumental programs and chorus will delight us at our annual Winter and Spring Concerts. All third and fourth grade students will perform in the spring. Our third grade students gain experience with electronic piano keyboarding and recorders for part of their music classes as an introduction to instrumentation.

Emergency Drill

The Jericho School District will conduct the mandated Emergency Evacuation Drill on Friday, September 18th. On that date, students will be dismissed at 2:40 PM, fifteen minutes earlier than our regularly-scheduled dismissal. Parents of children who walk to school should be at school 15 minutes earlier as well. A letter further explaining the drill and its purpose will be sent home with the children.

Children's Responsibilities

One of the primary objectives of elementary school is to help children develop independence as they acquire worthwhile work habits. You can help the school achieve this objective by seeing that your child comes to school prepared for the day. Lunch or lunch money, sneakers on days where they have Physical Education, textbooks, homework, notebooks, musical instruments, etc., are all part of the day's preparation. Please do not drop these items off at school. Children should not bring money (except for lunch), cell phones, and valuables such as jewelry, electronic games or I-Pods to school. Additionally, children are not permitted to use the office telephone for personal calls unless there is an emergency. Please do not call

the office to ask that messages be given to children, since this interrupts the instructional day.

Cultural Arts Program

This year the Cultural Arts Program will look a little different than it has in the past. First, the sessions will take place on Thursdays at Cantiague School. Secondly, the program will run at each building so there will be no busing involved. Finally, the program will feature two sessions this year – one in the fall and another in the spring. The program, which is co-sponsored by the Jericho PTA, offers a series of workshops for children in grades K through grade 5. Transportation home from the program must be provided by parents. Please watch for further information about this program.

SCOPE Project Safe Time

Supervised after-school child care for girls and boys from 2:55 PM-6:00 PM is conducted by SCOPE on days when school is in session. The program is held at the Jackson School.

Arrival of Children

In order to provide for the supervision of all children, we request that students do not arrive at school earlier than 8:15 AM. School hours will be from 8:25 AM - 2:55 PM. Children who arrive at school by car should enter the side of the building by the lunchroom. Please note that the doors are closed at 8:25 AM, and any students who enter after that time are considered tardy and must get a tardy pass in the Main Office.

Dismissal of Children

Students who are walkers will be the first group dismissed. Students who walk home should leave the building through the Cafeteria Doors and walk through the gate to Niagara Drive. Parents who are meeting children to walk home should wait in the area just outside the Cafeteria doors. Children who are being picked up by car will be dismissed from the Cafeteria doors too. Parents are asked to park their cars in the loop just outside the Cafeteria doors and remain by their cars. Kindergarten and first grade walkers will be escorted to the parking area and can be met at the Cafeteria doors. All parents are requested to return to their cars and leave the area as soon as their children exit the building.

Students who take the bus will exit through the Main Lobby and the side doors. Students should proceed to their designated bus or bus line if the bus has not yet arrived. In the event of inclement weather, students will line up in the gym or auditorium and then proceed to the buses when announced.

Requests for Early Dismissal/Releasing Students

Our school always strives to provide for the safety and security of our children. Therefore, no child is released from school unless you or some person who is designated by the parents comes for the child. A note giving release information, including the time and who will come for your child should be sent to the teacher in the morning. When you arrive, please proceed to the Main Office. Your child will be called from the classroom after being signed out. Children will not be released unescorted by the designated adult and are not permitted to go home alone in taxi cabs.

Verbal messages will not be accommodated in the interest of student safety. Early dismissals should be kept to a minimum in order to provide for continuity of instruction. We recommend that medical, dental and other appointments be made at times other than during school hours so that children do not miss instructional time.

Traffic

Please do not enter the traffic loop in front of the school while buses are parked. If you arrive at school during dismissal, please park your car and enter the building or wait until the buses have left the loop and then pull next to the curb. Parents can also utilize the Niagara Drive entrance to school or the walker loop.

Transportation

Our transportation office is under the direction of Mr. Michael Cotsonas. For information regarding bus routes, delays of buses, items left on buses or any concerns you may have regarding transportation, please contact his office at 203-3600, Ext. 3465, Ext. 3244, or the operator.

Bus Safety

In order for all students to remain safe while riding buses, they are expected to observe bus safety regulations. These include remaining seated and following the directions of the bus driver. Please stress with your children the importance of following the bus regulations in order to insure their safe transport to and from school. Students who do not follow the rules or directives of the drivers and other staff in authority may be subject to disciplinary action.

In the event of an accident, there are steps that have been developed to ensure that our students receive the appropriate care. Whenever there is a bus accident, our first concern is to ascertain whether any students have been injured. District transportation, the police, as well as the Cantiague Main Office are contacted, and the police must release the bus after gaining all necessary information. All efforts will be made to contact parents as soon as possible.

Bicycle Riders/Walkers

Bicycles may be ridden to and from school, but not on school grounds. We do not encourage bike riding to school but if a child does use one, bicycle racks are near the building by Niagara Drive. Locks should be used to secure bicycles to the rack. Students who ride their bikes or walk to school should be instructed about safety procedures and traffic laws, and should obey all directions given by the crossing guard. Students are required to wear helmets under NYS law. When students ride bicycles, a note should be sent to the teacher, so that your child can be dismissed with the walkers.

School Closing – Snow/Emergency

The school district will post information regarding closings on the website as soon as a decision is reached. In addition, arrangements have been made to notify the general public by radio whenever schools are to be closed because of weather conditions. The announcements will be broadcast over radio station WINS (1010 on your dial). The following stations will also broadcast school closings: WBLI, WLIX, WHLI, NEWS 12, Neighborhood News 12 (Ch. 1 or 95), WCBS and WALK. Our PTA

phone chain will be activated for school closings if you have requested that service on the Meet the Teacher night. Only those parents who have requested this service will receive a call.

Delayed Opening of School

Delayed openings due to inclement weather will be posted on the website and announced on the radio and television stations in the same manner as school closings. The school schedule will be delayed for one hour, i.e., if the bus would normally stop at 8:00 AM, the bus would come to the stop at 9:00 AM. Dismissal times remain the same.

Visiting the School

Signs have been posted throughout the building reminding all parents and visitors to report to the main office. When visitors arrive, they will be asked to wear a "Visitor" badge at all times while in the building. In this way, school personnel have knowledge about any person who is in the building and the nature of the visit. The doors of the school are locked after student arrival. Please ring the front bell when visiting and someone will gladly let you into school. No matter what the nature of the visit, please come to the main office before going through the school to sign-in. If it is necessary to speak with your child or pick him/her up during recess, please follow regular release procedures. For the safety of all, adults should not go directly to lunch or recess.

Children's Lunches

The cafeteria will be open starting the first full day of school, Thursday, September 3rd. A complete meal, including milk, costs \$ 2.50. The cost of milk is \$.40 for chocolate, regular and skim. Children pay for their lunches daily or prepayment plans are available through the cafeteria office. Further information about this program will follow. Lunch hours will be 11:40-12:35 for children in kindergarten, second and fourth grades; 12:20 - 1:15 for children in grades one, three and five. Kindergarten youngsters will not be able to purchase hot lunch until a later date. The teachers will advise you when this occurs. Please do not purchase pizza or fast food lunches and bring them to school for your child.

Student Snacks and Celebrations

Our school community recognizes that we must model, foster, and teach children to eat well and be physically active in order to achieve a lifetime of good health and physical fitness. It is our shared responsibility to properly fuel the minds and bodies of our students. Therefore, please note that all snacks are not equal! Healthy snacks provide necessary nutrition and energy to be productive during the school day.

According to the New York State School Food Service Association, sensible snacks contain 7 grams or less of fat; 2 grams or less of saturated fats; 15 grams or less of sugar; 360 milligrams or less of sodium; and one serving per package. A sensible snack can consist of fruits, vegetables, cheese, applesauce, yogurt, pretzels, healthy snack packs, granola bars, etc. Please avoid sending any of the following as snacks: sugar-based fruit juice, soda, candy, cake, donuts, chips, etc.

Class parents who are planning parties are asked to include healthy snacks and to limit the amount of food being consumed during party times. Likewise, we also ask that parents remain

cognizant of students with allergies and refrain from preparing snacks with the ingredients noted in letters that you may receive from your class. Additionally, no snacks are necessary for the bus during school-based field trips, since students carry their own snacks if necessary. Finally, please do not send in any sheet cakes or ice cream cakes for birthday celebrations unless they are pre-cut.

While we recognize that sweets may be appropriate for special occasions, like birthday parties, when parents plan for Secret Reader or Family Fun Days, we ask that you refrain from bringing food for those activities. Alternatives to food may include pencils, stickers, etc.

Our collective challenge is to educate our children about good choices that promote wellness. We appreciate your partnership.

Student Absence

When a child is absent from school, a note or letter is legally required from the parent or guardian indicating the specific reason for absence. The note or letter should accompany the child on the day of return to school. Your cooperation will be very helpful to us in keeping an accurate attendance record. Preprinted notes, sold by PTA, will be available on Meet the Teacher Nights.

Schoolwork for Absent Children

Students who are absent can obtain schoolwork by going on Blackboard, which can be accessed via the district web site.

Guidelines for Administering Medication in School

The New York State Education Department has established requirements for the administration of prescription drugs by school personnel, as well as over-the-counter medication such as aspirin, acetaminophen, cough syrups, etc. The Jericho Union Free School District is in compliance with these requirements.

1. The school nurse must have a written request from the family physician in which he/she indicates the frequency and dosage of a prescribed medication. In addition, the condition being treated is to be outlined by the physician. (This also applies to non-prescription drugs.)
2. The nurse must also have a written request from the parent/guardian to administer the medication as specified by the physician.
3. Such medication must be in the container prepared by the pharmacist or in the original container in which it was purchased, and the label must include the name and strength of the medication.
4. The medication should be delivered directly to the nurse and will be kept in the Health Office.
5. No medications are provided by school.
6. All medications must be taken in the Health Office. Students may not have medication of any kind with them during the school day (i.e., not in pockets, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc.).

These procedures are established and maintained to protect all students. Medication sent to school which does not meet these requirements cannot be administered. Any unused

medication should be picked up by parents or it will be discarded if it is not picked up within a reasonable length of time.

Cantiague PTA

One of the guaranteed ways of becoming an active member of the Cantiague community is by joining the PTA. Through meetings and committee work, parents can become better informed and can have a positive impact on our children's education. For parents interested in participating in PTA events and/or contacting any of the committee members, call the chairperson of the committee that interests you or just send a note to the school office marked "PTA Mailbox," and the PTA will respond as soon as possible. Please retain the PTA Handbook which lists all committees and chairs.

SEPTA

The Jericho SEPTA is a district-wide Special Education Parent Teacher Association. Any person who is interested in joining or gaining further information, please call Mr. Friedlander's office at 203-3600.

Compact for Learning

The Compact for Learning is a state-mandated program in which each individual school maintains a site-based management team with parents, students, teachers and administrators. This team's purpose is to participate in shared decision making in the hopes of improving educational opportunities and performance and promoting collaboration among all participants in the school community. Information regarding agendas and minutes are on the school page of the district web site.

Upcoming Events

Please check out the Cantiague School website for our monthly calendars to access more information about upcoming events.



CANTIAGUE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

The BIG FOUR Help Us Be Better Bucket Fillers...

BE RESPECTFUL

1. Care about yourself and others
2. Use kind words everywhere
3. Celebrate our differences

BE POSITIVE

1. Smile
2. Always include everyone
3. Take pride in your work by doing your personal best

BE SAFE

1. Make good choices
2. Always let an adult know where you are
3. See something, say something

BE RESPONSIBLE

1. Follow the rules
2. Be an "UP"Stander not a bystander
3. Do the right thing