Dear Children’s School Community,

November is upon us and there is change of seasons in the air. I would like to update you on several happenings at the school.

**Successful Bake Sale for Hurricane Sandy relief**: The first and second grade held a successful bake sale for the American red Cross to support Hurricane Relief on November 14, 2012. Thank you to all the people who baked and bought to support this effort. This type of experience helps children understand what is happening in the world and what they can do to make a difference.

**Family Math Event**: Our family math day was held Saturday, Oct. 20 and over 100 families attended the afternoon event. They explored all kinds of math experiences through pattern necklaces, paper quilts, measuring spoons, paper symmetry, measurements, number order, money/store, left/right, sorting and books you can count on. Thank you to Family Math Co-Chairs, Tara Beardsley and Ingrid Moncada and their committee, and Jen Moffett, PTAB co-chair, for planning and running the very successful event!

**NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Children) NEWS**
I recently returned from the annual NAEYC conference (November 6-9) in Atlanta, Georgia and wanted to let you know that Eliot-Pearson was well represented by current and past colleagues from the school. Heidi Given, Allegra Horne, Lisa Kuh (former Preschool West head teacher), Ben Mardell (former Kindergarten head teacher) and myself were involved in several presentations on topics such as culturally responsive curriculum, professional learning communities, working with incarcerated families, and documentation and advocacy. It is always very stimulating to attend this national conference with 20,000 early childhood educators from around the globe and to share and learn from each other.

**NAEYC Accreditation**: Our re-accreditation site visit was on Monday, October 15, 2012. We are awaiting the final results of the visit, but I am confident it went very well. The assessor was very impressed by the teacher-child interactions and classroom curriculum. I will let you know when this two-year process is complete.

**Parent Teacher Learning Groups** were launched on Monday, November 5. All are welcome to attend group meetings even if you missed the first one. This year there are 6 groups on Knitting, Diversity Dialogues, Topics in Special Education, Book Group on Last Child in the Woods, Social Media and Technology, Mindful Living. Future meeting are posted on the PTLG bulletin board in the front lobby. There is also a binder with notes from each groups’ meetings.

**Work Sampling System Progress Reports**: This year the school will be using the Work Sampling System (WSS) to provide feedback on your child’s progress at school. This developmental checklist for ages 3-8 checklist will be completed twice a year before the parent conference meeting. The parent conferences (in November and May) will provide time to discuss your child’s progress. A fun fact, the original Work Sampling System was first developed at EPCS by Dr. Sam Meisels, who was the Children’s School director, in the 1970s!

Thank you again for your ongoing support to the school!
Sincerely,
Debbie LeeKeenan, Director
Updated Calendar and Announcements:

• The seventeenth annual family dance will be held Saturday, March 23, 2013 and planning is already in the works. The committee has a few small jobs that need to be done now before winter break. If you can help out, please contact Kim Hernandez, Hernandez_kim@hotmail.com, or Sophia Faldonie, faldonie@verizon.net, Dance Committee Co-chairs.

• **Zumba EPCS scholarship fund-raiser** - This Saturday, November 17, 10:30-11:30 AM, Tufts University, Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center. Becky Gray, (former EPCS teacher and Licensed Zumba instructor) will lead the session. $10, advance registration, $12, at door.

• Wednesday–Friday, Nov. 21-23: No School: Thanksgiving Break

• Parent Teacher Conferences: Nov. 28, 2012, **No school for children.**

• Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (November 28, 2012) Please sign up on the front board if you can bring a breakfast or lunch dish for the teachers. (Thank you PTAB for organizing this event!)

• Friday, December 7, 8:45-10:15 AM Friends and Families of Children with Special Rights Meeting in the Library. Open to all families.

• Thursday, December 13, 11:30 AM: All School Sing along. Last day of school before winter vacation. Families welcome. **No lunch and school closes at 12 noon.**

• December Vacation: Dec. 14-Jan. 1 (Staff return Wed., Jan. 2 for staff day)

• All children return Thursday, January 3, 2013.

• Family Service Day, Saturday, January 5, 2013, 9-12 noon. (in lieu of holiday gifts for teachers)

• Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:00-8:30 PM Life After Eliot Pearson Meeting, Location TBA.