COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 32
BUSHWICK, BROOKLYN
TOGETHER WE SHINE

Superintendent Arelis Parache

DISTRICT 32 LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY BULLETIN

October 2026

In the Month of October

As we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we want to spotlight a true trailblazer who has dedicated over 30 years fighting for families in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and across our amazing city:

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez.

Born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, Nydia Velázquez grew up in a house with no electricity or running water. Despite these hardships, she became the first in her family to graduate from college. In 1992, she made history as the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She proved to young girls everywhere—especially in immigrant communities—that no dream is out of reach.

Congresswoman Velázquez has been a fierce advocate for the issues that matter most to our daily lives:

- **Supporting Local Shops** thrive.
- **Fighting for Affordable Housing**
- **Protecting the Environment**

She is stepping down at the end of 2026. We thank her for her service!

Our Website:
www.csd32.org

District 32 Shared Purpose

Vision: Cultivating rigorous and authentic student-driven learning experiences every day to foster strong, successful, and signficant leaders in all our students.

Mission: Accelerating teaching and learning, advancing equity, and activating community in service of our students and families.

The Lighthouse Effect

Dear District 32 Families,
One of the most powerful messages I have carried with me this school year came from our recent Superintendent Town Hall and Fireside Chat with author Steve Pemberton. He shared the idea that each of us has the ability to be a "human lighthouse" for someone else, offering guidance, encouragement, hope, and support during life's challenges.

As parents, caregivers, educators, and community members, we serve as lighthouses every day. When we listen to our children, encourage them to persevere, celebrate their successes, and support them through difficulties, we help illuminate their path forward.

In District 32, the lighthouse has become more than a symbol. It represents our shared commitment to ensuring that every child is seen, valued, heard, challenged, and supported.

Small acts of kindness and encouragement can have a lasting impact. Together, let us continue to build a community where every child knows they are supported, valued, and capable of achieving great things.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue our journey from Heart to Excellence.

Together We Shine. 🌟💙

Arelis Parache

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What's Been Happening in D32?

Chancellor Samuels Visits P.S. 145

NYPD 83rd Precinct Coat Drive

District 32 Middle School Fair

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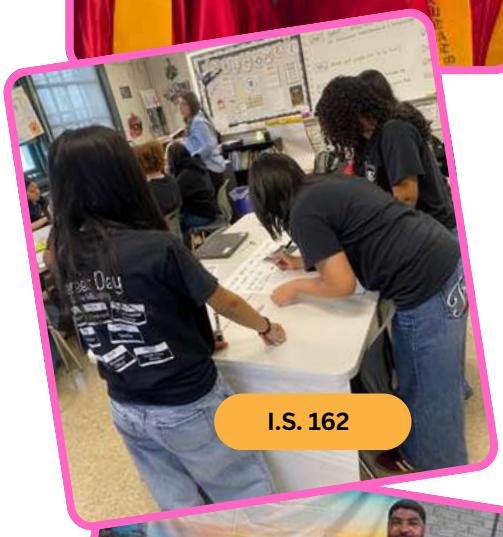

Middle School Applications Open!

Families of current 5th-grade students can now apply to middle school through MySchools. The application opened on October 14, 2026, and the deadline to apply is December 11, 2026. Middle school offers will be released on April 7, 2027. Check out the 8 amazing middle school options right here in District 32!

- Explore schools and programs on MySchools.
- Attend school open houses and virtual admissions events to learn more about your options.
- Rank schools in your true order of preference. Schools cannot see how you rank them.
- There is no limit to the number of programs you can add to your application. Including more choices can increase your chances of receiving an offer to a preferred school.
-

Visit MySchools.nyc to get started and learn more about the middle school admissions process. We encourage families to begin exploring options early and find the best fit for their child's interests and goals.

🎓 High School Admissions Are Open!

Families of current 8th-grade students can now apply to high school through MySchools. The application opened on October 6, 2026, and the deadline to apply is December 4, 2026. High school offers will be released on March 3, 2027.

Tips for Families:

- Explore high schools and programs on MySchools.
- Attend open houses, high school fairs, and admissions workshops.
- Reach out to your child's school counselor for more information.

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Resources for Families

Food Pantry Near Me

https://www.foodbanknyc.org/find-food/

New York Psychotherapy and Conuseling Center

https://nypcc.org/

New York Public School Calendar
School Year 2026-2027

https://tinyurl.com/a7jhk46z

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Harvest Math Festival:
Join us as we transform the District 32 Office into a festive Pumpkin Patch for an evening of fall fun, treats, and community on Thursday, October 29th from 2:30pm - 4:30pm.
All families are welcome to stop by and enjoy seasonalactivities, celebrate the fall season, and connect with one another. This year, we are excited to add a family math component, with engaging games and activities designed to help children and families learn and have fun together.
We look forward to celebrating with you and your family for an evening of pumpkins, learning, and fall festivities!

CHCF x D32 Community Baby Shower:

We are proud to host a Community Baby Shower on October 28th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at P.S. 299. This special event is open to all new and expectant mothers and will provide an opportunity to learn about community resources and supports available to families. Attendees can enjoy refreshments, receive giveaways and gifts, participate in raffles, and connect with organizations dedicated to supporting healthy families and young children. We look forward to celebrating and supporting our growing families. We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of resources, connection, and community!

Family Literacy Learning Series
Join NYC Public Schools FACE and NYC Reads Ambassadors for a free, three-session family literacy workshop series at P.S. 376 on October 14, 21, and 27 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.✨
Families will learn about the science of reading through engaging activities, discover ways to support literacy at home, and connect with other families in the community. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your child's reading journey while building connections with fellow District 32 families. 🍎📖

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Calendar of Events

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 - October 15

High School Applications Open
October 6

District 32 Middle School Fair
October 8

Indigenous People's Day: Schools Closed
October 12

Middle School Applications Open
October 14

Community Education Council Meeting (CEC)
@ I.S. 347/I.S. 349
October 20 @ 6PM

CHCF x D32 Community Baby Shower @PS 299
October 28 @ 2PM - 4PM

District 32 Harvest Math Festival
@ District Office (1160 Decatur Street) @ 2:30PM - 4:30PM

Important Contacts

District 32 Office
1160 Decatur Street
Brooklyn, NY 11207
(347) 315-4041

Community Education Council
CEC for District 32
President / Desines Rodriguez
CEC32@schools.nyc.gov/CEC32.org
Cellphone (347)798-3991

Our Website:
www.csd32.org

Fall Activities

You don't need a farm or a forest to enjoy the season! Here are simple ways to celebrate fall right in your neighborhood:

🍁 Leaf Collection Challenge: Gather leaves of different colors, shapes, and sizes. Sort, count, and create artwork together.

🚶 Neighborhood Nature Walk: Count your steps, look for signs of fall, and see how many squirrels, birds, pumpkins, or colorful trees you can find.

🎃 Pumpkin Hunt: See who can spot the most pumpkins displayed on stoops, in store windows, or at local businesses.

📚 Outdoor Reading Time: Bring a favorite book to a park or playground and enjoy reading together outdoors.

🏙️ Community Scavenger Hunt: Search for fall-themed items such as leaves, acorns, scarecrows, mums, or autumn decorations.

🍎 Visit a Local Farmers Market: Explore seasonal fruits and vegetables and let children pick a new food to try.

🎨 Sidewalk Art: Use chalk to draw pumpkins, leaves, and fall scenes on the sidewalk.

🍂 Gratitude Walk: While walking, have each family member share something they are thankful for.
🧱 Math in the Neighborhood: Count leaves, compare tree heights, estimate distances, or graph the colors of leaves you find.

🌳 Park Exploration: Visit a local park and observe how trees and plants change during the season.

🥾 Family Fitness Challenge: Track your steps for a week and set a family goal to reach together.

Family Fall Challenge: During your next walk, count your steps, collect three different leaves, find one sign of seasonal change, and share one thing you're grateful for.