

QUEENS

Family

www.NYParenting.com

COOL kid stuff

Find what's
good on TV

A daughter's
first date

Young star in
the kitchen

Talking
politics

January 2017
FREE



Success starts with taking a hands-on approach.

Apply Now at SuccessAcademies.org



Exceptional
public
education.

SUCCESS
ACADEMY
CHARTER
SCHOOLS



NEW YORK Parenting

Queens Family
January 2017

Where every child matters



FEATURES

- 8 Talking politics**
How to handle election discussion with your children
BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON
- 14 2017 resolutions: Care more, love fiercely**
BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN
- 18 Kids & TV**
Ratings, recommendations, and guidelines for parents
BY MYRNA BETH HASKELL
- 27 First-date jitters**
Daughter's first dance brings out mom's teen nostalgia
BY KARA MARTINEZ BACHMAN
- 30 This kid's got chops**
NYC cooking prodigy tells us about his prize-winning dish
BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

COLUMNS

- 6 Ask an Attorney**
BY ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER, ESQ.
- 28 Divorce & Separation**
BY LEE CHABIN, ESQ.
- 31 New & Noteworthy**
BY LISA J. CURTIS

CALENDAR

22 January Events

SPECIAL SECTIONS

- 10 Catholic Schools Directory**
- 17 Kids Activities Directory**
- 29 The Marketplace**

Short days and long nights

I'm writing this on the shortest day of the year, Dec. 21, and I can only say how happy I am to know that every day from here on will grow longer. It's draining to get up when it's dark and to leave work when it's dark also. I miss the light and don't know anyone who doesn't. Kids especially have a really



difficult time in the winter, particularly now that most of them are engaged in after-school programs. By the time they too are finished, it's dark and also cold, not the best recipe for outdoor fun.

Light is very important to our psyche and we have to take advantage of the weekends in the winter in particular to make sure we get enough outdoor light time. Getting yourself and the kids up early enough on weekend days to get outside and frolic is of the utmost importance. One

of the glorious things about life in New York are all the wonderful parks that make our city so enjoyable in every season.

It won't be long before we have a snowfall that leaves accumulation on the ground, and what kid doesn't love finding a good hill in a park and sledding or snow tubing

down? And what about those ice rinks? There are many wonderful rinks in all the boroughs and I urge you to make sure that your family begins this fun practice really early on in your child's life.

The holidays were fun as they always are but now we're on to a New Year and new experiences. New York is exciting all year long and winter is no exception. This issue offers a variety of ideas of how to stay healthy, eat well, and prioritize and make the cold months internally warmer.

Rolling out soon will be the "new look" of our website, NYParenting.com, and we hope you will visit it often. It works well with any device and offers a great calendar, helpful guides and of course all of our editorial, both recent and archived. Our Online Camp Guide 2017 will be launching soon. Be sure to look for it.

Wishing all of you and our staff and contributors a very Happy New Year! We hope you have started out the year right and that good health and prosperity will be a part of your every day life in 2017. Take nothing for granted. Enjoy! Thanks for reading.

Susan Weiss-Voskidis,
Publisher/Executive Editor
Susan@nyparenting.com

Community News Group

CEO: Les Goodstein

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:
Jennifer Goodstein

New York Parenting

PUBLISHER / EXECUTIVE EDITOR:
Susan Weiss

PUBLISHER / BUSINESS MANAGER:
Clifford Luster

OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE:
Tina Felicetti

SALES REPS: Alexis Benson, Erin Brof, Jay Pelc, Stephanie Stellacio

ART DIRECTOR: Leah Mitch

WEB DESIGNER: Sylvan Migdal

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS: Arthur Arutyunov, Richard Chance, Gardy Charles, Earl Ferrer, John Napoli, Mark Ramos

MANAGING EDITOR: Vince DiMiceli

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Courtney Donahue

COPY EDITORS: Lisa J. Curtis

CALENDAR EDITOR: Joanna Del Buono

Contact Information

ADVERTISING: WEB OR PRINT
(718) 260-4554
Susan@NYParenting.com

CIRCULATION
(718) 260-8336
Tina@NYParenting.com

EDITORIAL
(718) 260-4554
Family@NYParenting.com

CALENDAR
(718) 260-2523

ADDRESS
New York Parenting Media/CNG
1 Metrotech Center North
10th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

www.NYParenting.com



The acceptance of advertising by **New York Parenting** does not constitute an endorsement of the products, services or information being advertised. We do not knowingly present any products or services that are fraudulent or misleading in nature.

Editorial inquiries, calendar information, advertising rates and schedules and subscription requests may be addressed to **New York Parenting**, One Metrotech Center North, 10th Floor, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

New York Parenting can also be reached by calling (718) 260-4554, emailing Family@NYParenting.com or by visiting our website, NYParenting.com.

Join the conversation on Facebook.

New York Parenting has been recognized for editorial and design excellence by PMA.

New York Parenting is published monthly by New York Parenting Media/CNG. Subscription rate is \$35 annually. Reproduction of New York Parenting Media in whole or part without written permission from the publisher is prohibited. All rights reserved. Copyright©2017





Catholic Schools Week

January 29 - February 4, 2017

Fidelis Care is proud to join with schools, teachers, students, and families in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Thank you for your commitment to lifelong learning and to building stronger, healthier communities all year long.



FIDELIS CARE®

Quality health coverage. It's Our Mission.

1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547)

TTY: 1-800-421-1220

fideliscare.org



Don't have a will? Know the risks

“Just” is not justice.

People often think that if they die without a will, everything will just get taken care of.

“Oh, I don't need a will. Everything will just go to my spouse.” Or, “I don't need a power of attorney. Worst comes to worst, they'll just get a guardianship.”

Often, these statements are driven by the speaker's desire to avoid paying legal fees, making it easier to resort to his vision of focusing on what he thinks is the ultimate result — rather than the process required in order to get there.

When someone dies without a Last Will and Testament, the rules of descent and distribution of property under the laws of intestacy — that is, dying without a will — apply. These rules also apply when someone leaves a will that is invalid and does not comply with the formalities of the statute, for example,

when someone pulls something off the internet and just has it notarized, or has it witnessed by one of the beneficiaries named in the will.

There are rules about the order of priority about who stands to inherit from an intestate estate and who has “standing” — the right to petition to be the fiduciary of the person's estate. The fiduciary is called an “Administrator” and not an “Executor,” a term which applies to probate estates where a decedent died with a will. (By the way, in New York State, female fiduciaries are no longer called “Executrix” or “Administratrix” since the diminutive suffix was abolished by court rule in 1997, yet many people continue to incorrectly use these terms.)

The application of the laws of intestacy may have unintended consequences. For example, the spouse does not take all. Instead, the spouse takes the first \$50,000, and then half of the remainder, with the



ASK AN ATTORNEY

ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER, ESQ.

other half going to any surviving children. And, there are many people who hold themselves out to be husband and wife (or spouses) but in fact are not legally married. New York State does not have common-law marriage.

Often people lose sight of what is involved to administrate an estate, and the fact that it can be less organized and require additional paperwork than in a probate estate. For example, for unmarried persons, you can try to go to court to have a judicial declaration of a marriage, but it is a high burden of proof and an uphill battle, one that encounters legal costs. Those costs are always considered in determining the cost-benefit analysis of whether to proceed in a certain direction. Estate taxes can also be higher in those cases, where a decedent was not actually married to his partner, who now will not receive the assets of the decedent because he or she has no legal standing as a non-spouse.

Also, if there are minor children, those minor children are not legally competent to own property. Therefore, the parent must seek appointment as a Guardian of the property in order to receive the assets, at which point those funds must be held jointly with the Clerk of the Court, and the Court's permission is required for a withdrawal of those assets.

This puts the Court in control of the assets, and not the child's parent. The parent is then required to seek the Surrogate's Court approval every time she

Disclaimer: This column is provided by Arden Besunder P.C. and New York Parenting Media as a public service to inform readers of legal issues. It is not intended to advise. Since legal issues vary with an individual's situation and needs, one should consult with an attorney. It is impossible to cover all aspects of the law in an article. Please be advised that the laws are constantly changing. The content in this article reflects the current law. Nothing contained in this article is intended as advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship between the reader and the firm. Individual consultation with an attorney is required to determine the specific facts and circumstances of any particular situation. A written retainer agreement between you and the firm is required before any attorney-client relationship may be created. Circular 230 Disclosure Notice: To ensure compliance with Treasury Department rules governing tax practice, we inform you that any advice contained herein (including in any attachment) (1) was not written and is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalty that may be imposed on the taxpayer, and (2) may not be used in connection with promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any transaction or matter addressed herein.

or he wants to access some of the child's money for childcare expenses. In New York County, the Guardianship department has an unspecified rule (not codified anywhere) that there should be enough money left for the child to go to college. There are no guidelines for what this means. College tuition at a state school or a private university?

Although the child is legally entitled to whatever is left in the account once he or she reaches the age of 18, many would agree that no child should have access to large sums of money at 18, particularly when that child has experienced a tragedy like losing a parent.

In addition, there are certain factors that render a person ineligible to serve as a fiduciary, such as a felony conviction. Although a will does not necessarily overcome that statutory barrier, at least you would be able to state why you want that person to serve notwithstanding the defect or barrier to serving.

In other situations, the decedent might not have gotten along with his or her siblings, or parents, from whom he or she was estranged, or distant cousins whom he or she never met. Often, people in same-sex relationships, particularly those who hail from the South or "fly over" states, had a falling out with their

conservative family members and don't speak with them once arriving in the Big Apple. Nonetheless, in this case, blood really is thicker than water, and they will stand to inherit if there is no will to stand in the way of that situation.

Without a will, you lose the option of choosing the person who will administer an estate, or serve as trustee. Often in an intestacy situation, in cases where there is no one suitable to serve, or even where there is no family, the Public Administrator will serve as fiduciary. This is a person appointed by the Court to administer those estates that are without someone to serve.

In certain circumstances, even those people who are otherwise entitled to take under the statute can be barred from that entitlement. For example, a parent or spouse who abandoned the decedent cannot inherit, nor can a person who murdered the decedent or was culpable in their death (known as the "Son of Sam" rule).

A Surrogate Court recently took that logic one step further: A husband who murdered his wife's mother (his mother-in-law). The wife — the heir of the murdered woman's estate — post-deceased her mother, also intestate, leaving her husband as the sole heir of her estate.

Even though he was not culpable in his wife's death, the Court barred him from taking in intestacy.

Children who are "adopted out" may also not inherit from the biological parent. Stepchildren are not included in the intestacy list, no matter how emotionally close the relationship.

You need to look no further than estates of celebrities to visualize what happens. Prince died unexpectedly this year without a will. Now his estimated \$300-million estate will be distributed among six siblings. This is complicated because of the nature of his assets. Unsurprisingly, other potential heirs have surfaced claiming to be Prince's out-of-wedlock child, including a federal prison inmate.

There are serious consequences to not leaving a valid will, yet nearly two-thirds of American adults fail to do so. Don't be one of them. And remember that this is not a "do-it-yourself" project.

Alison Arden Besunder is the founding attorney of the law firm of Arden Besunder P.C., where she assists new and not-so-new parents with their estate planning needs. Her firm assists clients in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. You can find Alison Besunder on Twitter @estatetrustplan and on her website at www.besunderlaw.com.



OUR WORLD NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

September 2017 Admissions

Apply Now for Kindergarten - Grade 8 • Applications Now Available

www.owncs.org • 718.392.3405 ext. 258 • 36-12 35th Ave., Astoria



**The K-7 Lottery
will be held
at the middle school building
at 31-20 37th St, Astoria, NY
on Thursday, April 6, 2017
@ 7 pm**

**Elementary Division
Kindergarten to Grade 5
Takes place at
36-12 35th Avenue, Astoria**

Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 am
Friday, January 27 at 1:00 pm
Monday, February 6 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 am
Tuesday, March 7 at 9:00 am
Wednesday, March 15 at 9:00 am

**Middle School Division
Grades 6 to 8
Takes place at
31-20 37th Street, Astoria**

Saturday, January 14 at 11:30 am
Tuesday, January 24 at 9:00 am
Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 am
Wednesday, March 8 at 9:00 am
Monday, March 13 at 1:00 pm

- Tuition-Free Public School
- Maximum 27 Students per Class
- Assistant Teachers For K-2
- Computers in Each Classroom
- Spanish and Mandarin
- Study of World Culture & History of Ideas
- Arts, Music & Physical Education
- ESL Pull-Out Program



Talking politics

How to handle election discussion with your children

BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

As our country prepares to inaugurate its 45th president, Donald J. Trump, it would be an understatement to say that there are still mixed feelings amongst many Americans. The election is over, and we must accept the results, regardless of political designation. As parents, we focus on our kids — their questions, concerns, and opinions. Now more than ever, children (as young as elementary aged) are politically informed.

Due to social media and mass media coverage, children engaged with their parents more than they might have during previous presidential election cycles. In fact, children are quite aware of the significance of this most recent election according to KidsHealth.org poll, where 75 percent of kids and 79 percent of teens answered “yes” when asked whether they

thought that the outcome of the election would change their lives. Most teens who took the poll also ranked issues — like gas and food prices, education, health care, war, and the environment — as “very important” to them.

Regardless of personal politics, parents are still tasked with promoting certain ideals in their children in the face of divisiveness surrounding our political leaders. Although we are no longer inundated with election coverage and advertisements, we have not seen the end of negative talk on our screens, which will continue to raise questions and reactions for children. Adding to the challenge in discussing the current news coverage with children is that parents may still be struggling with their own feelings about this election.

For example, a task for parents who hoped Hillary Clinton would become the first female president, is how to cope with

disappointment in themselves, but also their children’s dismay. Clinton said during her concession speech, “To all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and to achieve your own dreams.”

Parents can use this moment as an opportunity to show our kids how to voice their opinions, respect others’ opinions, and value differences. Start by sharing your own opinions on these subjects, and then ask your children their opinions. Encourage expression, questions, and feelings, to ensure children become comfortable voicing these difficult emotions.

Talking about the election result will add to their learning and critical-thinking skills. It will also allow for you to hear their thoughts and correct any misconceptions. Maybe your child has fears about the fu-

ture. Possibly something a candidate said or did while campaigning is still concerning to them. Actively listen to your child, her concerns, and reassure her, but also encourage her to think about the future. Let your children know that they can also make a difference in their greater community, and help them think of things that they can do for others, or identify a cause that they can more actively support.

Although it can be difficult at times to decipher the complications of this election, parents must model a positive example and provide support for their kids as the 45th president takes office.

Strategies for helping children

Denise Daniels is a Peabody Award-winning broadcast journalist, author, and parenting and child development expert, who specializes in the social and emotional development of children. She offers the following strategies and discussion tips for helping children understand the election:

Actions and values

We're guided by our values, but we're judged by our actions. And actions, especially in children, are almost always inspired by feelings. That's why one of our key jobs is to help our kids understand

Although we are no longer inundated with election coverage and advertisements, we have not seen the end of negative talk on our screens, which will continue to raise questions and reactions for children.

their emotions and learn to manage them appropriately.

Managing emotions

Research has shown that children — and adults — who can't manage their emotions have more difficulties academically, professionally, socially, and psychologically.

It's never too early, or too late, to begin the process of helping children develop "emotional intelligence" — so that they learn to act with civility and respect, despite any bad examples they may have seen during the election season.

Talking to kids

Help older children feel comfortable talking about their emotions by listening without judgement and emphasizing that all feelings are okay. Then teach your children strategies for managing their emotions, whether it's taking deep breaths

and counting to 10 to diffuse anger, or using positive self-talk to overcome fear or sadness.

Talking to teens

When children understand their own feelings and those of others, they can act with self-control, compassion, and empathy. When teens have developed emotional intelligence, they are better able to resist peer pressure and stay true to themselves.

When young adults act responsibly, they will vote with care and conviction. Our world — and our endless election cycles — will be better for it.

Find this and other tips online at www.denisedanielsparenting.com.

Shnieka Johnson is an education consultant and freelance writer. She is based in Manhattan where she resides with her husband and son. Contact her via her website: www.shnieka-johnson.com.

Don't Let Your Child Fall Behind
You Have A Pal
To Give Your Child
A Headstart

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM & UNIVERSAL PRE-K
Ages 2-5

- Full Day 8am-6pm
- Educational Trips
- Certified Teachers
- Social Service Staff
- Healthy Meals & Snacks
- Safe Indoor/ Outdoor Facilities
- Services For Special Needs
- Parent Committees/ Workshops

PAL A&M Schwartz 452 Pennsylvania Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11207 718-342-4141	PAL La Puerta Albierta 2864 W. 21st Street Brooklyn, NY 11224 718-373-1100	PAL Carey Gardens 2964 W. 23rd Street Brooklyn, NY 11224 718-372-4044
PAL Woodside Early Learning Center 50-37 Broadway Woodside, NY 11377 718-278-3616	PAL World Of Creative Experience 280 Livonia Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11212 718-345-5219	PAL Western Queens Nursery 10-26 41st Avenue L.I.C., NY 11101 718-784-2092

PLEASE CALL FOR INFO www.palnyc.org

P.S. 62

The Magnet School of
Computer Science and Innovation

OPEN HOUSE

Our school strives to help our students develop academic and social skills to become the leaders and achievers of tomorrow...

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

🔧 Thursday December 22, 2016
8:30 am - 10:00 pm

🔧 Thursday, January 5, 2017
8:30 am - 10:00 pm

For more information, give us a call at (718) 286-4460
 Address: 97-25 108th St, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419 📍 Web: PS062.org



OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

34-45 202nd Street, Bayside, NY 11361
 (718) 229-4434 • Fax (718) 229-5820
 OLBSACADEMY.ORG

Nursery Half Day and Full Day Programs

FREE Pre-K For All Program

Kindergarten through Grade 8

Comprehensive Technology Program
 featuring iPads & Chromebooks

Art, Music, Physical Education,
 Foreign Language Classes

Interactive Whiteboards & SmartBoards
 in ALL homerooms

CYO Sports, Girl Scouts

Before-School Program starting at 7:15 AM
 After-School Program until 6:00 PM



Join us in Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

1/29/2017 through 2/4/2017

Sunday Mass 10:00 AM in Church
 Tours 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Monday Super Helping Hero Day
 Tuesday Pajama Day and Storytime
 Wednesday Grandparents' Day 9:00 AM
 Thursday Open House 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
 Careers in STEM Community Fair 7 PM – 8:30 PM
 Friday Student and Faculty Appreciation Day
 Saturday Family Bingo

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Sunday, January 29: 11:00AM–12:30 PM
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 1/30, 1/31, 2/2 7:30 AM-2:00 PM
 Wednesday, 2/1 7:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
 Friday, 2/3 7:30 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

*"Accredited by the Middle States Association
 of Colleges and Schools"*

Catholic Schools Week

DIRECTORY

The Mary Louis Academy

176021 Wexford Terrace
 718-297-2120 www.tmla.org
 Principal – Sister Kathleen McKinney

The Mary Louis woman is offered an array of intellectually challenging courses that provide academic foundation. Each student develops her program incorporating honors and advanced placement courses focusing on her strengths and interests and leading to a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. SMARTBOARD Technology is used throughout the school. Over 100 computers are available for student use. Guidance Counselors offer personal and academic counseling beginning in the first year. TMLA has a unique and extensive college program which focuses on acceptance to top level colleges and universities. Student talents are developed and interests cultivated through participation in more than 50 extracurricular clubs and activities.

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

115-50 221st Street
 718-527-0123 www.shcach.org

Our students learn the values and traditions of Faith as we incorporate them in each and every academic and extracurricular activity. We will endeavor to instruct our children in the basic skills, to serve as tools, in the development of their God-given talents and gifts. As we teach the children these academic and physical skills, we wish to provide them with opportunities to develop their fullest potential and to honestly evaluate their own efforts and accomplishments through daily challenges. These efforts will also be measured through timely municipal, local, and school evaluations. The faculty and staff recognize and respect the role of the parents/guardians as the primary educators of their children. We look forward to their deep involvement in these efforts.

St. Francis of Assisi School

21-18 46th Street
 718-726-9405 www.sfa.org
 Principal – Anne Stefano

Proud to be celebrating over 60

years of providing high-quality Catholic education to students in Astoria. At SFA, Success For All, is our ultimate goal.

"The child is a veritable image of becoming, poised to reach towards what is not yet, towards a growing that cannot be pre-determined or prescribed. The potential is there, and it is up to us to create the learning environment in which it can prosper and succeed." We consider it a great privilege to help a child, with all their God-given gifts and talents, grow and flourish! SFA is deeply committed to the ministry of Catholic teaching and giving our students the good example, guidance, and love required to develop in them an active life of faith, skilled academic competence, and a keen global consciousness.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

28-46 44th Street
 718-728-0724

www.stjosephsch.org

Committed to the development of students of diverse backgrounds and faiths from nursery through eighth grade by providing a well-rounded foundation for future learning and life. We offer a rigorous academic program, complemented by classes in music, art, library, physical education, Spanish, Mandarin and a hands-on science lab, with SMARTBoard computer technology in every instructional area. In addition to our newly renovated Library Media Center housing our desktop computers, students in grades 4 to 8 have individual iPads for instructional use. Our educational program encourages in students a desire for life-long learning, a commitment to meeting the challenges to our society and planet, a willingness to give of their time and talents in service to others, and the development of a God-centered value system for life. To that end, we seek to create a nurturing community committed to academic excellence, character building, and a respect for the religious and multi-ethnic diversity that characterizes our community.

St Sebastian Catholic Academy

39-76 58th Street
 718-429-1982

Continued on page 12

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
OPEN HOUSE:**
Sunday, January 29th
12:30 - 1:30pm

SCHOOL VISITS:

Mon., Jan. 30th 8:30 - 9:10am - All Grades
Thurs., Feb. 2nd 8:30-9:10am - All Grades

- ✚ Rigorous Curriculum
- ✚ Vibrant Catholic Identity
- ✚ Dedicated Community Service
- ✚ Leading Edge Technology



21-18 46th Street
Astoria, NY 11105
718-726-9405
www.sfaschool.org

Wednesday, Feb. 8th, Thursday, Feb. 9th
from 9:30 - 10:30am
On-going appointments are available



St. Sebastian Catholic Academy

Serving the Parishes of Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, St. Sebastian and St. Teresa

39 -76 58 Street, Woodside NY 11377
718 429 1982 • www.stsebastianacademy.org

GRADES NURSERY – 8

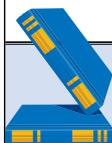
OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 31st – 9 AM until 10:30 AM
Thursday, February 2nd – 9 AM until 10:30 AM

- Monthly Liturgies and Seasonal Prayer Services
- Elizabeth Ann Seton Service Volunteers
- Junior Lectors & Altar Servers
- Technology Center
- Smart Board
- Technology In All Classrooms
- Science Lab
- Internet Based Symphony Math Program
- Newly Renovated Library/Media Center
- Art
- Physical Ed./Health
- Math Strategies Grades 5/7
- Foreign Language
- Title I Service in Reading and Math
- Guidance
- Academic Intervention Service
- SETSS/Speech/OT
- Free After School Sports/Clubs for grades 6, 7 and 8 sponsored on site by Maspeth Town Hall
- Paul Effman Band Service
- Extended Day (N-5)
- Classrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors are air conditioned

FREE Universal Pre-K For All
Partnership with Monsignor McClancy HS
Classes in Advanced Algebra / Earth Science

You may be eligible for tuition assistance for the 2017-2018 school year.



**BUILDING
STRONG VALUES**



St. Joseph Catholic Academy

Pre-K for All
OPEN HOUSE

January 17, 18, 19, & 20
between 9am & 11am

28-46 44th St.
LIC, NY 11103

Learn more about us
at www.sjcalic.org



Private/Independent School Guide



NYParenting.com

Catholic Schools Week

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 10

www.stsebastianschool.org
Principal – JoAnn Dolan

Our school serves 440 girls and boys in nursery through eighth grade. Each grade level has approximately 25-30 students who are heterogeneously grouped. All levels of ability are reflected in our student population. We are a multicultural school with over 40 nations represented throughout the student body. A strong sense of family pervades our school community. Our Academy provides a Catholic learning atmosphere in which students may develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Each student is recognized as a unique individual with special talents and abilities. We strongly encourage daily prayer, Sunday worship, and responsible moral conduct. For more than eighty years, this Catholic School of Excellence has prepared young people to move into leadership positions and service in the Church, national and local

governments, medicine, education, finance, business and many other professions.

Xaverian High School
Bay Ridge
7100 Shore Road
718-836-7100 x117
www.xaverian.org

A Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory school in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers since 1957. A cutting edge, one-to-one learning environment with iPads for every student. Project and problem-based learning through hands-on classroom experiences within the Michael T. Strianese '74 STEM Program, Xaverian's highly acclaimed Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum in conjunction with Project Lead the Way. Private bus service is available. Now offering Parent Tour Thursdays or spend a day on our campus as a "Clipper for a Day".



Sacred Heart Catholic Academy
115-50 221st Street
Cambria Heights, New York 11411
718.527.0123 • shcach.org

**Registering Now
for Pre-K 3 to 8th Grade
for the 2016-17
School Year**

Call to schedule a private tour




We Offer:

- Grants for Children transferring from Public School
- Advanced Math
- Social Studies
- Scholarships
- Science
- Music
- Family Discounts
- Writing
- Technology
- School Hours:
6:45am-7:00pm
- Reading
- Sports

Graduates accepted to the best Catholic, Private and Specialized High Schools

The Mary Louis Academy

TMLA+

At The Mary Louis Academy, you will find your own voice — distinctive, confident, intelligent, creative, and empowered — a voice that will be one of your greatest assets in life.



SHADOW A STUDENT
buddy@tmla.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.tmla.org



176-21 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432 • Phone: 718-297-2120 • Fax: 718-739-0037 • @WEARETMLA • #HILLTOPPERNATION • TACHS #016

The Mary Louis Academy is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York. Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and Chartered by the State of NY.



XAVIERIAN

**Xaverian now offers
Parent Tour Thursdays.**

For more information, contact the
Admissions office at 718-836-7100 x117

A Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory school in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers since 1957, Xaverian offers:

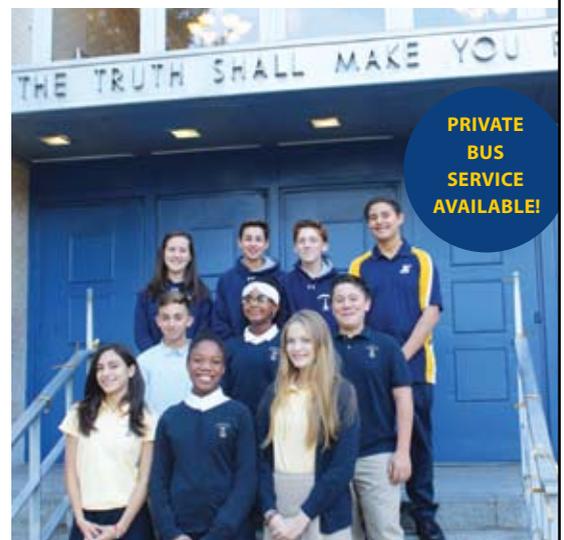
- A cutting edge, one-to-one learning environment with iPads for every student
- Project and problem-based learning through hands-on classroom experiences within the Michael T. Strianese '74 STEM Program, Xaverian's highly acclaimed Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum in conjunction with Project Lead the Way
- College counseling and Internship Program
- College credit opportunities available through

VISIT US

Spend a day on our campus as a
"Clipper for a Day" and
experience what life is like as a Clipper

numerous AP, St. John's University, and Syracuse University courses

- College placements at prestigious schools such as Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Macaulay Honors at CUNY, New York University, Princeton University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, US Military Academy at West Point, and US Naval Academy, with the class of 2016 earning \$36,880,924 in scholarships!
- Unique extracurricular offerings, including the renowned MAX (Music at Xaverian) Program, as well as a competitive athletic program for boys and girls



For more information, please contact Xaverian's Office of Admissions at (718) 836-7100 x117 or admissions@xaverian.org
7100 Shore Road, Brooklyn, NY 11209 | www.xaverian.org/admissions | TACHS #011



2017 resolutions:

Care more, love fiercely

BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN

Daily reports of hate-motivated violence, divisive rhetoric, threats to long-held racial, religious, and gender liberties, along with irreparable attacks on the Earth, have led me to limit my screen exposure. It's not that I want to hide from reality. But determining what is real has become so much more complicated and difficult to establish.

Lately, it feels as though I've been transported to an altered state of existence reminiscent of the sequence in "It's A Wonderful Life" when George Bailey wished that he'd never been born and finds himself in Pottersville. He discovers the people he knew and loved have degenerated into the worst versions of themselves. They had become bitter, greedy, and cruel. The

streets of the once-charming town were lined with businesses catering to all manner of human vice.

In a world without George Bailey, Mr. Potter managed to destroy every shred of decency and humanity that had characterized Bedford Falls. In the absence of George Bailey, Potter capitalized on people's fears, distrust, ignorance, anger, and desperation, creating a dependence on him for their livelihood. Without the conscience, optimism, courage, empathy, and loving kindness of a George, Potter's quest for power and control went unchecked.

Whereas George looked for the best in people, appealing to their strengths, and inspiring them to discover these in themselves, Potter relied on people's insecurities, preying upon their weaknesses, which more readily served his selfish pur-

poses. George discovered that in the presence of genuine caring and relationship, people strive to live up to your highest expectations of them. Potter preferred to operate in the absence of genuine caring and relationship, counting on people to be satisfied to live down to his lowest expectations.

These two opposing approaches to wielding personal influence have been readily observed over the past year. What is abundantly clear is that if we allow ourselves to become disillusioned when faced with disappointment, it is easy to slip into self pity and despair. By doing so, we make ourselves vulnerable to those who would guide us down a destructive path.

This is not the time to retreat into darkness. Now's the time to rise up, determined to stay alert, be smart, take action, and

work harder to create the conditions necessary for the preservation of a healthy future for ourselves, our children, and our planet. We have reached a critical time in our history when we must choose between what is best and what is easy. In choosing to do what is best, we must think globally while living locally. We must live in the present while being mindful of the future. Here are two recommended New Year's resolutions:

Care more

When my younger son became overwhelmed by challenging situations, he attempted to alleviate anxiety by declaring, "I don't care!" Instead of trying to convince him that he did indeed care or excusing him from trying, I would say, "Then I guess I'll have to care enough for both of us until you feel strong enough to care again." This response, combined with guided practice and encouragement, generally invited a spirit of cooperation rather than antagonism. Before long, he felt confident enough to resume caring.

It's easier not to care. It relieves any sense of personal responsibility for improving the situation. But not caring creates a false sense of security that can be dangerous. Not caring leads people to do and fail to do things that may have dev-

This is not the time to retreat into darkness. Now's the time to rise up, determined to stay alert, be smart, take action, and work harder.

astating consequences for all of us, such as pollution, climate change, and food waste. Therefore, I have to care more and do more to make up for those who choose not to care. Hopefully, in time, they will find the courage to care.

Love fiercely

What we have witnessed, recently, is what happens when anger prevails. Anger is an emotion that appears powerful and strong because it is loud, even violent. But anger is based in fear, ignorance, insecurity, and emptiness leading to hate, cruelty, and division. Anger may be a strong emotion, but it is not an emotion of strength. Love is an emotion of strength. Love comes from a place of

courage, knowledge, confidence, and fulfillment leading to growth, compassion, and unity.

It's easy to hate. You don't have to give up anything to hate. Loving is much harder, because you have to give something up. You have to give up putting yourself first. Love is powerful, even fierce. It is patient and kind. It sacrifices and protects. It challenges wrongdoing and defies injustice. Love endures hardship and dares to hope. People yearn for love in their lives. They want to be loved fiercely. I choose to love, in hopes that it will serve as a beacon guiding others to discover the power of love within themselves.

George Bailey discovered he had a wonderful life, not because of what he had, but because of what he gave. The care and love he unselfishly shared inspired hope, giving others the courage to care and love as well. George's wealth was measured in devoted family and friends. May we all seek such riches in the New Year.

Carolyn Waterbury-Tieman is a resident of Lexington, Ky. She has been married for 29 years and has two sons. She spent 15 years as a family therapist and parent educator and has written extensively on the topic of parenting. To contact her, please e-mail parent4life@yahoo.com.

MILL BASIN DAY CAMP
SUMMERS OF FUN & ADVENTURE!

All Activities On Site Campers Grades Pre K - 9 Flexible Registration Schedule Door To Door Air Conditioned Bus Service!

My camp list...

- Friends ✓
- Respect ✓
- Laughter ✓
- Fun ✓
- Teamwork ✓
- Memories ✓
- Awesomeness! ✓

Your Kids Deserve It All!

Celebrating Our 20th Year!

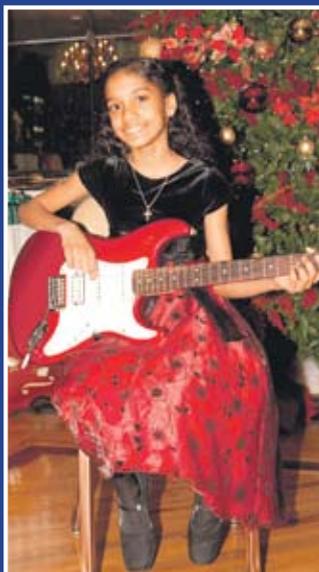
Attend An Upcoming Open House or Call Our Office For Information!

www.millbasindaycamp.com 718.251.6200

BEST BORO



**MUSIC & DANCE
CLASSES
FOR
ALL AGES**
Proudly
Serving the Community
Since 1998



Music Lessons:

*Piano, Guitar,
Bass Guitar,
Voice, Drums,
Violin, Viola, Cello,
Upright Bass,
Steelman,
Woodwind,
Brass, Percussion,
Rock Band,
Gospel Band,
Jazz Band*

Dance Lessons:

*Ballet, Tap, Jazz,
Hip Hop,
Modern Liturgical,
Step, African,
Ballroom,
Salsa and Zumba*



Teaching the
Fundamentals of
Music Theory for the
Magical Math & Science
Connection for ages
18 Months to 7 Years

Joe's Music & Dance Academy

QUEENS LOCATION
114-04 Farmers Blvd., St. Albans, NY
718-454-3036

BROOKLYN LOCATION: 550 Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

www.joesmusiccenter.org

JoesMusicAndDance joesmusiccenter



NEW YORK
**SPECIAL
CHILD**

LONG ISLAND
**SPECIAL
CHILD**

WESTCHESTER/
ROCKLAND
**SPECIAL
CHILD**

Trusted since 2008

**Informing & enriching
"Special Needs" families
throughout NYC, Long Island
& Westchester/Rockland**

For more information about distribution
or how to get your free copy,
please e-mail us at tina@nyparenting.com.

Visit us online at

www.NYParenting.com

Like us on our Facebook page, NYParenting

or follow us on Twitter

To advertise your business and or services
contact us at 718-260-4554
or e-mail us at family@nyparenting.com

New York Parenting/CNG
1 MetroTech Center North - 10th Fl. • Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-260-4554 • family@nyparenting.com

Kids Activities-Sign up now

DIRECTORY

ART

Kimmy Ma ARTStudio

Fresh Meadow

190-19 Union TPK

646-209-9352

www.kimmyma-ARTStudio.com

The fall session begins in September, with the Studio open 7 days a week; beginner friendly classes are offered Sunday/Monday, Tuesday-Thursday is ideal for serious beginners. For skill assertive learners, Friday & Saturday's 2.5-hour classes are designed to further artistic development. The Fine Arts curriculum is designed by Mrs. Ma, Master of art in the school of education at NYU since 1996. The learners explore 5 units in a 16-week semester: comic, pastel, charcoal, watercolor & painting, using medium based & ability level instructions. Enroll now before the session begins or make an appointment to visit; no walk-ins. Please see the website for the student gallery & bios of all our teaching artists.

PERFORMING ARTS

Joe's Music & Dance Academy

St. Albans

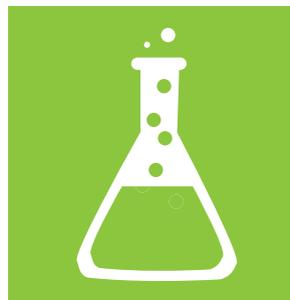
114-04 Farmers Blvd

718-454-3036

www.joesmusiccenter.com

Since 1998 Music lessons & dance classes for Guitar, Bass, Voice, Violin, Viola, Cello, Upright Bass, Drums, Piano, all woodwind & brass instruments, Choir, Preschool Dance, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Step, African and Modern Dance and more – offered all in one location.

Private and group lessons in all popular instruments, as well as voice are available. The staff consists of experienced music teachers, capable of teaching all ages and levels. Constantly renovating and improving the facilities as well as providing on-going support to the instructors. Enrollment is open all year.



Online Activity Guide

on

www.NYParenting.com



Kimmy Ma ARTStudio

“Launch Creative Minds”

Happy New Year!



Year of the Rooster

Schedule a Trial Now!
NEW session begins 2/1

Art for Beginners:

(K-3rd) Mon. 4-5:30 & Sun. 9:15-10:45; Sun. 3-4:30

NEW (Age 6-9) Sat. 3-4:40

(Age 9+) Sun. 11-12:40

(Age 8+) Cartooning Sun.1-2:30

Medium Based & Ability Level Fine Arts Instructions:

T/W/Th 3:30-5:30 (age 9-MS)

Intermediate Beginners:

Fri. 4-6:30 & Sat. 9:30-11:45; Sat. 12:15-2:45

Lead curriculum designer:

Mrs. Kimmy Ma,

Master of Art in the School of Education, NYU,
with a creative team of qualified art instructors.

646-209-9352

190-19 Union TPK, Fresh Meadow, NY 11366

www.facebook.com/kimmymartstudio

For curriculum & 16-wk art calendar,
www.kimmyma-ARTStudio.com

Kids & TV

Ratings, recommendations, and guidelines for parents

BY MYRNA BETH HASKELL

I knew a mom several years ago who had a “no TV” policy. She was adamant about a television-free environment, so she didn’t own one. What she may not have known was that her son would visit his friends’ houses and make a beeline for the tube, instead of choosing to play soccer down at the park or go for a bike ride.

Television programming has changed immensely in the last 20 years. There are so many choices that it can make one dizzy at times. Part of the positive aspect of this change, however, is that there are plenty of quality choices available.

Perhaps the quandary for parents today is not if their children should watch TV but what they should watch and how often they should tune in. Parental controls as well as resource websites (i.e. www.common sense media.org) provide parents with control and information that they didn’t have decades ago.

How much is too much?

Have you ever tried to have a conversation with a child engrossed in his favorite TV show? It’s like trying to get your dog’s attention when he’s just gotten a hold of his new, stuffed bone. He knows you’re there, but he’s too busy chomping to acknowledge you.

Balance is the operative word. Sometimes we all — parents included — need a bit of a break from the “real” world. It’s not unhealthy if quality television programs are viewed in moderation and are not interfering with social activities,

“In terms of negative programming, I always say that turning on any media is like opening the door to your living room. Would you let kids in who were being violent, mean to each other, or making fun of other kids?”

school work, and family time.

“Television can be a source of learning and entertainment,” explains Dr. Sanam Hafeez, a licensed neuropsychologist and founder and director of Comprehensive Consultation Psychological Services, P.C. (www.comprehendthemind.com). “However, too much TV can take away from other activities, such as exercising, playing with friends, reading, and doing homework.”

Hafeez warns parents of additional concerns.

“Studies have shown that kids who watch too much TV are more likely to be overweight, and depending on the content of what they see, more aggressive. Excess TV viewing has also been linked to poor grades, sleep problems, and behavioral problems.”

Dr. Lisa Strohmman, a clinical psycholo-

gist, co-author of “Unplug: Raising Kids in a Technology Addicted World” and founder of Technology Wellness Center (www.technologywellnesscenter.com), reports, “The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends no television for children under the age of 2. For children older than 2, the recommendation is no more than one to two hours of quality programming a day. TV watching and technology use can impede valuable developmental activities like exploring, playing, and interacting with others. These functions are vital to learning and healthy physical and social development.”

Experts also remind parents that TV time includes watching programs on the computer and iPad.

Dr. Jephtha Tausig-Edwards, a New York City-based clinical psychologist and supervising psychologist for Family & Children’s Services of Nantucket, says, “Don’t have it playing in the background. Keep screens and other media out of children’s bedrooms and do not use right before bedtime. There really isn’t a substitute for reading to a child in terms of the boost this gives to early literacy and the opportunities for interaction between parents and children.”

If televisions are not in children’s bedrooms, the battle is half won, because it will be easier to monitor screen time if the television is in a central location used by all family members.

Quality programming

What should parents look for in quality programming?



“Look for educational content, respectful language, take-home messages or lessons which are congruent with your values, and what you feel are important perspectives you would like your children to have towards their fellow human beings,” says Tausig-Edwards.

“I’ve always recommended a rich diet of good, quality educational media that kids are interested in, want to talk about, and want to learn more from,” explains Angela Santomero, a child development expert, TV executive producer, and co-

creator of the current hit, “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” (PBS Kids) as well as “Blue’s Clues” (Nick Jr.) and “Super WHY!” (PBS Kids). She advocates television viewing in moderation: a good balanced diet of healthy media!

When it comes to preschoolers, Santomero counsels, “Interacting and physical touch is the most important stimulation for babies and toddlers. When television is introduced, it should be at a slower pace so that it is not overstimulating.

‘Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood’ fits this bill because of its socio-emotional storylines, preschool musical strategies about sharing, going to the potty, dealing with disappointments, and trying new foods. These are life lessons that this young age group is able to grasp with musical strategies that help and guide both parents and kids together.”

“Go with calm, quiet programs. Slower-paced viewing gives small children time to think and absorb. Lots of random activating.

Continued on following page

ity, like the kind in action-adventure cartoons, confuses them.” Hafeez describes. “Instead, choose simple programs that emphasize interactivity. Ideal shows inspire your child to make sounds, say words, sing, and dance.”

Santomero suggests the following shows for various age groups:

For preschoolers:

“Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” (PBS Kids: Socio-emotional)

“Creative Galaxy” (Amazon.com Inc.: Art)

“Super WHY!” (PBS Kids: Literacy)

“Blue’s Clues” (Nick Jr.: Kindergarten readiness show)

For young kids:

“Wild Kratts” (PBS & PBS Kids: Adventure learning)

“Wishenpoof!” (Amazon.com: Adventure learning)

“Word Girl” (PBS & PBS Kids: Literacy)

For tweens:

“Master Chef Jr.” (FOX: Cooking)

“Project Runway Jr.” (Lifetime: Fashion creation)

“The Amazing Race” (CBS and Travel Channel: Reality adventure)

“The Gilmore Girls” (Warner Bros. and Netflix: Family drama)

“Fuller House” (Sequel to “Full House.” Netflix Original Series: Family drama)

For teens:

“Downton Abbey” (PBS: Period drama series)

“Friends” (Reruns on TBS and NIK: Comedy drama)

Also recommended for teens:

“Scorpion” (CBS: Tech-driven drama series)

“Bunheads” (Freeform: Dance drama)

“The Fosters” (Freeform: Family about foster teens)

What to avoid

Santomero advises, “In terms of negative programming, I always say that turning on any media is like opening the door to your living room. Would you let kids in who were being violent, mean to each other, or making fun of other kids? Depending on the age of your child, the immersive experience of media creates an image that can hardly ever be erased, so be careful of what stories you decide to have your kids be part of and what characters you want your kids to be friends with. Also, be ready to talk about any and all issues that they see.”

Experts have studied the effects of violent and sexual content affecting young viewers’ behavior for decades.

How to interpret TV ratings

Here are Dr. Strohman’s explanations of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ratings.

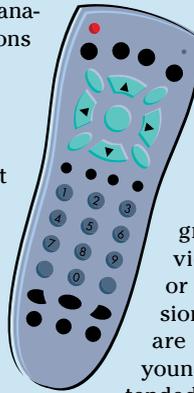
Ratings directed towards children:

TV-Y: These programs are not expected to frighten or upset young children as they are specifically designed for viewers between the ages of 2 and 6.

TV-Y7: These programs feature fantasy that young children may not have the developmental skills to understand and are typically not appropriate for children under 7. The make-believe plot lines are more likely to frighten young children.

Ratings directed toward general audience:

TV-G: These are not “specifically



geared toward children, but they are appropriate for all ages by most parents. They do not contain excessive violence, expletives, or sexual references.

TV-PG: These programs may contain some violence, some suggestive or sexual material, and occasional strong language. They are likely not appropriate for young children to watch unattended, but are acceptable for older children.

TV-14: Parents are cautioned to not allow children under 14 to view these programs without supervision. These programs might include overtly sexual situations, inappropriate dialogue, indecent language, or graphic violence.

Tausig-Edwards points to Albert Bandura’s seminal work in this area.

“The work showed that children are affected by instrumental violence. For example, if they see it, they are likely to try it subsequently. Content is crucial as children are not able to differentiate between real and cartoon violence until they are much older.”

Hafeez agrees.

“Younger children tend to model behavior they see and don’t always understand the difference between reality and entertainment. Therefore, exposure to sex and violence through the media’s influence can cause aggressive or anti-social behavior. Media can influence children to believe violence is a good solution to solve problems or desensitize and cause a lack of empathy for human suffering.”

In terms of the consequences of being exposed to sex and violence on television, Dr. Hafeez states, “Kids exposed to sex on TV are almost twice as likely to initiate sexual intercourse. Some research suggests that kids who watch violence on TV are more likely to display aggressive behavior.” For young children, she suggests that scary shows be avoided as well.

Santomero adds, “Watching violence on television is not only a modeling concern for kids, but might also motivate kids to be more violent in nature. Watching sexual content, before [one is] ready, could cause confusion or lack of understanding about what a positive relation-

ship can and should be.”

Some general guidelines

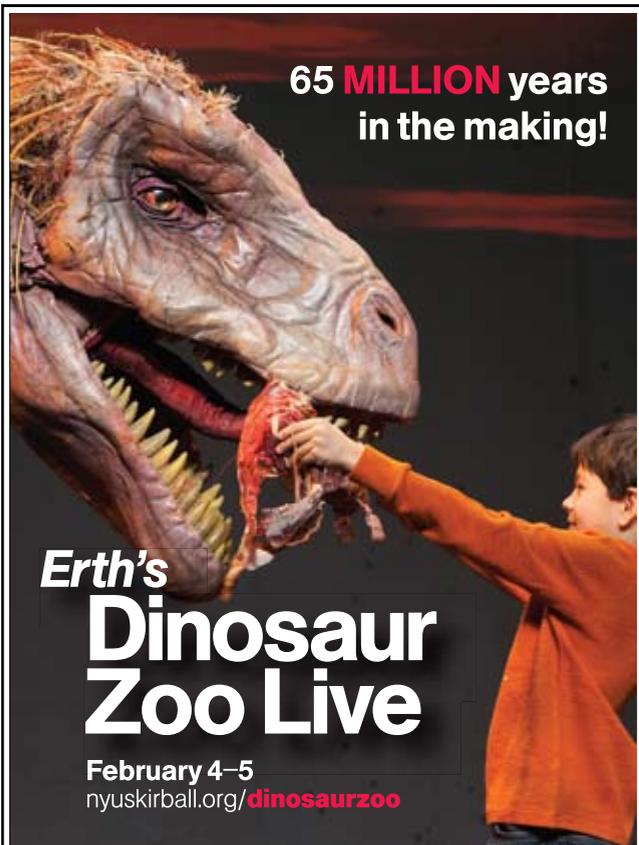
“Overall, I believe in watching age-appropriate content that is enriching and inspiring,” says Santomero. “I also believe that, as a parent, you are doing your best when you are interested, active, and involved in what your kids are doing. Get into the content that they are watching as deeply as possible. Read the books, play the app, do related activities, or just sit over a snack and have a good old-fashioned discussion about your child’s favorite show.”

Hafeez advocates critical viewing.

“Even young children can learn to watch without ‘tuning out.’ Encourage your child to ask questions and relate what’s happening in the show to her own life. For example, if you and your toddler have just finished watching a ‘Sesame Street’ segment that introduces a number, talk about it later and find other examples to show him. While setting the table you might say, ‘Hey, today’s number was 3, and there are 3 places to set!’”

All experts advise encouraging social activities that draw kids away from obsessing about what’s on the screen.

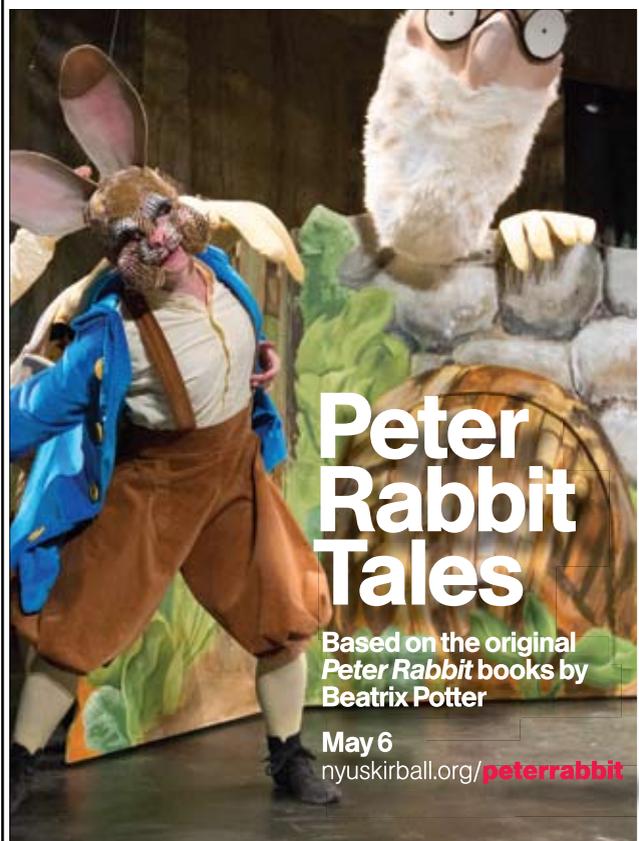
Myrna Beth Haskell is an award-winning author, columnist, and feature writer. Her work has appeared in national and regional publications across the U.S. as well as internationally (www.myrnahaskell.com). She is also cofounder and senior editor of “Sanctuary” (www.sanctuary-magazine.com).



**65 MILLION years
in the making!**

**Erth's
Dinosaur
Zoo Live**

February 4-5
nyuskirball.org/[dinosaurzoo](#)



**Peter
Rabbit
Tales**

Based on the original
Peter Rabbit books by
Beatrix Potter

May 6
nyuskirball.org/[peterrabbit](#)

[nyuskirball.org](#) NYU **SKIRBALL**
212.998.4941 CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS



AUTISM SERVICES

Your insurance pays, we provide.

DIRECT BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
provides customized ABA services and social groups (funded by your health insurance) to children and adults with autism in Manhattan, NYC areas & NJ. No waiting list.

We work on social skills, language, play skills, self-help skills and academic skills at home, school and community. Supervised by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

Call **347.559.6131** or email directbehaviorservices@gmail.com
www.directbehaviorservices.com

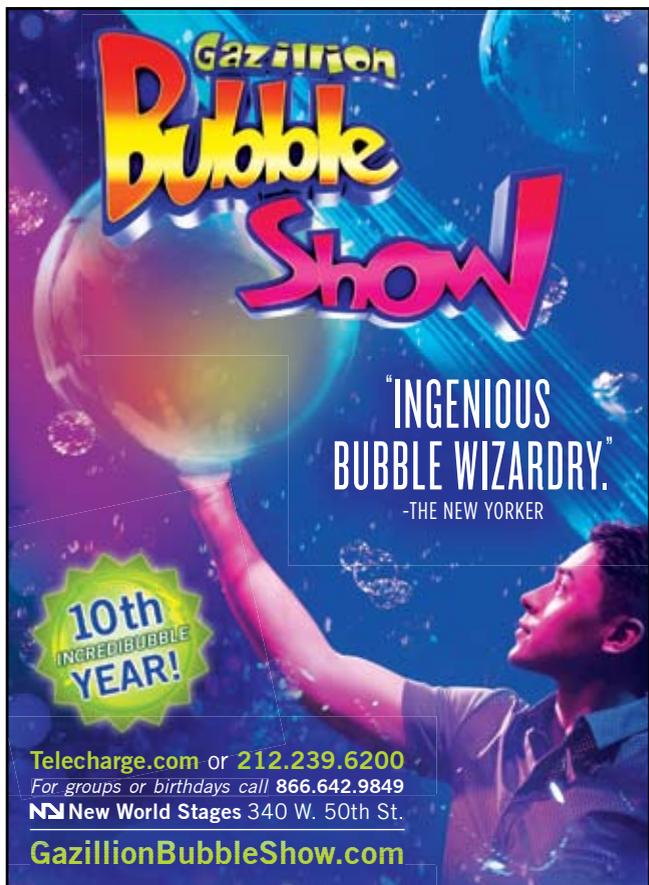
Private pay also accepted.

Like us on



or follow us on 

Facebook Search: NYParenting



**Gazillion
Bubble
Show**

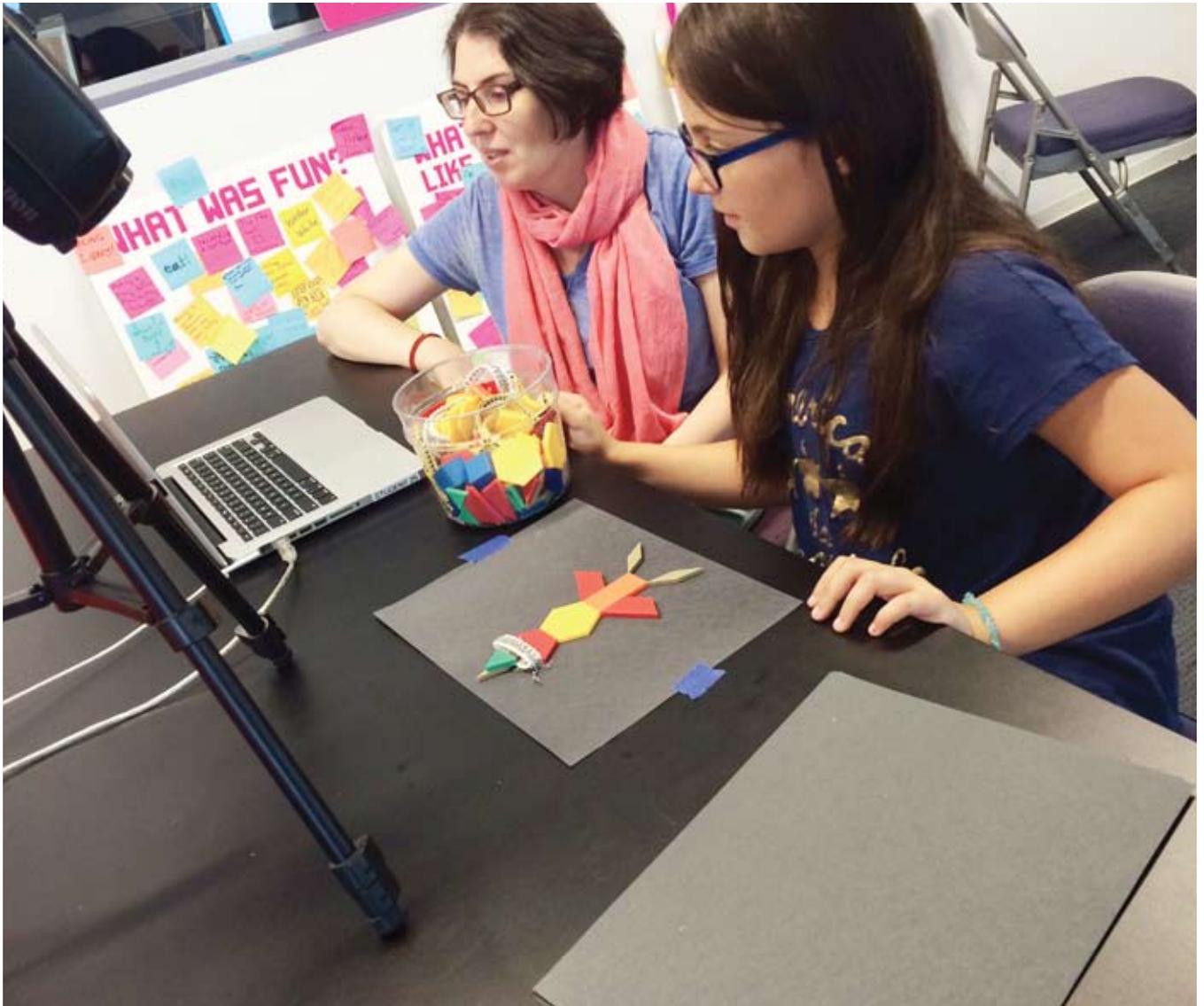
"INGENIOUS
BUBBLE WIZARDRY."
-THE NEW YORKER

**10th
INCREDIBUBBLE
YEAR!**

[Telecharge.com](#) or **212.239.6200**
For groups or birthdays call **866.642.9849**
New World Stages 340 W. 50th St.
GazillionBubbleShow.com

Calendar

JANUARY



Get creative with the Moving Image

Brighten up winter by dropping in to the Museum of Moving Image throughout January. Moving Image Studio is the museum's drop-in space where visitors can create media and other projects. Activities range from making flipbooks and thaumatropes (hand-drawn optical toys) to stop-motion animations and video

games. Recommended for ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult.

Drop in dates are Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from noon to 4 pm. Free with museum admission.

Museum of the Moving Image [36-01 35th Ave. between 36th and 37th streets, (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us].

Never miss a great event!

Sign up for our FREE newsletter and get twice-a-week ideas for you and your family right in your mailbox. NYParenting.com

Calendar

Submit a listing

This calendar is dedicated to bringing our readers the most comprehensive list of events in your area. But to do so, we need your help!

Send your listing request to queenscalendar@cnglocal.com — and we'll take care of the rest. Please e-mail requests more than three weeks prior to the event to ensure we have enough time to get it in. And best of all, it's FREE!

SUN, JAN. 1

IN QUEENS

Tinkering weekend: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 1:30 pm to 5 pm; Free with admission to the hall.

Join us at this free drop-in workshop for tinkering activities that will encourage your family to build, explore, and create together.

MON, JAN. 2

IN QUEENS

Winter Warrior Workshop: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; 11:30 am; Free with museum admission.

Participate in creative media-making inspired by "Kubo and the Two Strings." Activities include character design, origami, animating your own samurai scene, and more. Drop by or stay all day in this workshop for young visitors and families. Recommended for ages 5 and older accompanied by an adult.

FRI, JAN. 6

IN QUEENS

Digital Media Lab: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; 4 pm to 6 pm.

Teens dive into the world of Snapchat and explore its use as a storytelling tool. For teens 14 years and older.

SsingSsing: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.; (718) 939-0647; www.flushingtownhall.org; 8 pm; \$16 (\$10 members; Free for teens between 13 and 19 years old with student ID).

Six Korean musicians from diverse genres join creative forces in the eccentric band SsingSsing. The group melds two totally disparate elements: rock music and authentic Korean folk singing, Minyo, while also including elements from ballads, pop music, and shamanist rituals with an extravagant visual style and stage presence. For teens older than 13 years old.



Historical fun for kids

Come to Long Island's Gold Coast for a fun family day of crafts at the Nassau County Museum of Art on Jan. 15.

The event Merrymaking in a Gold Coast Mansion offers children an opportunity to discover what life was like in the early 1920s — before computers, TV, and electronic games.

The museum was the home of Childs and Frances Frick and their four children who read stories, made art, and performed plays for entertainment. Come dressed for a party inspired by the Frick family. Create a

fancy hat and have your picture taken, just like the many portraits on view in the 100 Years of Photos exhibition, before embarking on a scavenger hunt throughout the museum. Design a picture frame with gems to showcase a favorite photo at home before joining us for a sweet — nut-free — treat.

Merrymaking in a Gold Coast Mansion, Jan. 15 from 1 pm to 4 pm. There is a \$10 materials fee per family, plus museum admission.

Nassau County Museum of Art [1 Museum Dr. in Roslyn Harbor, (516) 484-9338, <http://nassaumuseum.org>].

SAT, JAN. 7

IN QUEENS

Mulch Fest 2017: Brookville Park, Brookville Blvd. at 144th Avenue; (718) 392-5232; www.nypgovparks.org; 10 am to 2 pm; Free.

Families get involved and volunteer to help by spreading mulch that is generated during MulchFest around young trees to insulate them from the cold winter weather, retain moisture, and provide a decorative addition to neighborhoods around the city. You can also pick up bags of mulch to take home with you and use on the trees on your street!

Moving Image Studio: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Noon to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Moving Image Studio is the museum's drop-in space where visitors can create media

and other projects. Activities range from making flipbooks and thaumatropes (hand-drawn optical toys) to stop-motion animations and video games. Recommended for ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult.

SUN, JAN. 8

IN QUEENS

Peruvian art workshop: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.; (718) 939-0647; www.flushingtownhall.org; 2 pm to 4 pm; \$5 (Free for Members) materials included.

All-ages art workshop by Peruvian-American artist Renzo Ortega introducing the art of drawing and painting. Learn basic composition and color concepts.

Story time & craft: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St.; (718) 886-3800; info@queensbotanical.org; www.queensbotanical.org; 2 pm to 3:30 pm; Free.

Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

Bring your little nature lovers to QBG for a relaxing afternoon featuring seasonal nature-inspired stories, followed by a botanically themed craft activity. Recommended for ages 10 and under.

SAT, JAN. 14

IN QUEENS

Family programs: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St.; (718) 886-3800; info@queensbotanical.org; www.queensbotanical.org; 11 am to noon; \$10 per class (\$40 for four classes; \$36 members).

Bring the whole family and experience winter's splendor with indoor garden activities and an outdoor nature walk. Activities are geared for 4-10 year olds, but all are welcome to attend. Each week will include indoor nature-themed hands-on activities, followed by a short nature walk around the Garden. Bundle up and dress for the weather! Sign up for single sessions or all four. Registration required.

Moving Image Studio: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Noon to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Moving Image Studio is the museum's drop-in space where visitors can create media and other projects. Activities range from making flipbooks and thaumatropes (hand-drawn optical toys) to stop-motion animations and video games. Recommended for ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult.

Science of Sound Workshop & Show: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.; (718) 939-0647; www.flushingtownhall.org; 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Call for pricing (free for teens 13 to 19 years old with student id).

Hands-on activities and demonstrations by Michel Lauzière on how he uses basic scientific laws regarding sound to build his bizarre contraptions and original musical instruments, followed by a performance where he entertains with bizarre and original musical instruments. Through Michel's funny way of transforming noise into music, he explains what sound is, how it travels, and how it is amplified with visual examples and audience participation.

Exploring the night sky: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd.; (718) 229-4000; 7 pm to 9 pm; \$15 (\$9 members).

One of the longest running astronomy programs in the city, now in its 20th year, will be led by seasoned professor and astronomer Mark Freilich. Each program features an indoor question and answer session on basic astronomy, followed by exciting outdoor viewing using a professional telescope. Limited to 20 participants. Although this is an adult workshop, children ages 9 and up are welcome to register as long as they are accompanied by a participating adult. Rain date Jan. 21. Registration required.



Blast off to outer space

Ground control is calling all space travelers to come and visit before the mission takes off on Jan. 22 at the Children's Museum of Art.

The exhibit Mission to Space covers the mysteries of outer space and how it continues to challenge our imaginations. As life on Earth faces a volatile future, outer space emerges as a destination of refuge, peace, and infinite possibility.

While there, come to the Pepperman Family Fine Arts Studio and enjoy two new interactive installations by designer

Ellen Van Dusen, and the Bridge Project Crazy Space Odyssey, by Tom Burnett, Edy Escamilla, and Yung Oh Le Page.

The Bridge is full of sights, sounds, and even a moving comet. As you continue to the space station you will board a spacecraft and blast off into outer space.

Mission to Space, daily until Jan. 22, from noon to 4 pm. Free with museum admission.

Children's Museum of the Arts [103 Charlton St. at Hudson Street in Hudson Square, (212) 274-0986; www.cmany.org].

SUN, JAN. 15

IN QUEENS

Little Makers: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family (\$5 members).

Investigate everyday materials to create a colorful masterpiece. Mix up a batch of washable paint to continue art making at home. Recommended for children 18 months and older.

FURTHER AFIELD

Merrymaking in a Gold Coast Mansion: Nassau County Museum of Art, One Museum Drive, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassauuseum.org; 1 pm to 4 pm; \$10 per family materials fee plus museum admission.

Once upon a time, before computers and TV, the museum was the home of Childs and Frances Frick and their four children who read stories, made art, and performed plays for entertainment. Come to the museum dressed for a party inspired by the Frick family.

MON, JAN. 16

IN QUEENS

Gingerbread Lane Giveaway: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 3 pm to 5 pm; Free with hall admission.

Museum visitors can take home a piece of GingerBread Lane. Gingerbread houses will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis until every piece of GingerBread Lane is gone. Visitors are asked to bring a box or

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

bag (flat-bottomed shopping bags or paper grocery bags work best) to carry their gingerbread loot home. (Line starts at 2 pm).

SAT, JAN. 21

IN QUEENS

Family programs: 11 am to noon. Queens Botanical Garden. See Saturday, Jan. 14.

Moving Image Studio: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Noon to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Moving Image Studio is the museum's drop-in space where visitors can create media and other projects. Activities range from making flipbooks and thaumatropes (hand-drawn optical toys) to stop-motion animations and video games. Recommended for ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult.

Story time & craft: 2 pm to 3:30 pm. Queens Botanical Garden. See Sunday, Jan. 8.

SUN, JAN. 22

IN QUEENS

Little Makers: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family (\$5 members).

Mix and blend strips and scraps of recycled paper to make soft paper clay. Think with your hands as you mold it into delightful sculptures. Recommended for children 18 months and older.

Vintage cartoon characters: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave.; (718) 359-6227; www.vomuseum.org; 2 pm; \$5 (Free for children under 3).

Experience the magical world of vintage animation, projected on 16-millimeter film as it often was in homes through much of the 20th century. Film historian Tom Stathes brings us a delightful afternoon of vintage cartoons from Pat Sullivan Studios, including Felix the Cat. For children and adults of all ages.

SAT, JAN. 28

IN QUEENS

Five Senses Exploration: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; Free with admission to the hall.

Workshop for children with autism spectrum disorder. Explore your five senses and learn how they work together to help you discover the world around you. Join us for hands-on science experiments and sensory-rich projects in work. Materials will include visual schedules, a communication booklet, and more. Sometimes creativity can get messy, so please dress your little scientist (and yourself) in old clothing that can be splattered. Registration required.



Discover vintage 'toons

Experience the magical world of vintage animation, projected on 16-millimeter film as it often was in homes through much of the 20th century at Voelker Orth Museum on Jan. 22.

Film historian Tom Stathes brings us a delightful afternoon of vintage cartoons from Pat Sullivan Studios, including Felix the Cat. Adults get to enjoy their childhood favorites again and

children get to see what their parents watched on Saturday mornings and in movie theaters.

For children and adults of all ages.

Vintage 'Toons on Jan. 22, 2 pm. Admission is \$5; free for children under 3.

Voelker Orth Museum [149-19 38th Ave. between Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue in Flushing, (718) 359-6227; www.vomuseum.org].

Chinese New Year Temple Bazaar:

Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.; (718) 939-0647; www.flushingtownhall.org; 11 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm; \$5 (\$3 members and children) per session. Free for teens 13 to 19 years old with student ID.

For centuries, people in China have celebrated the Lunar New Year in temple fairs. Bring your family to enjoy performances, martial arts, crafts, and food to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. The Temple Bazaar is offered in two sessions. Join the dragon parade at Flushing Library at 9:30 am.

Family programs: 11 am to noon. Queens Botanical Garden. See Saturday, Jan. 14.

Moving Image Studio: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Noon to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Moving Image Studio is the museum's drop-in space where visitors can create media and other projects. Activities range from making flipbooks and thaumatropes (hand-drawn optical toys) to stop-motion

animations and video games. Recommended for ages 7 and older, accompanied by an adult.

LONG-RUNNING

IN QUEENS

Gingerbread Lane: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Daily, 10 am to 4 pm; Now - Sun, Jan. 15; Free with hall admission.

Visitors can marvel at homemade gingerbread houses made entirely of edible gingerbread, royal icing and candy. The houses are drafted, designed, baked, planned, built, and decorated by creator Jon Lovitch over the course of an entire year.

Digital Media Lab: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Friday, Jan. 6, 4 pm; Friday, Feb. 3, 4 pm.

Teens dive into the world of Snapchat and explore its use as a storytelling tool. For teens 14 years and older.

Stacks After School program:

Children 6 to 14 years old have an opportunity to improve their education through structured and unstructured activities that enhance science, technology, engineering and math along with literacy activities. Each child must commit to the full year program, have a valid Queens Library card, and the permission of a parent or guardian. Free for all. Weekdays 3 pm to 5:30 pm. www.queenslibrary.org:

- Arverne Public Library, 312 Bch. 54th St. at Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (718) 634-4784.
- Baisley Park Public Library, 117-11 Sutphin Blvd. at Foch Boulevard. (718) 529-1590.
- Briarwood Public Library, 85-12 Main St. at Village Road. (718) 658-1680.
- Cambria Heights Public Library, 218-13 Linden Blvd. between 218th and 219th streets. (718) 528-3535.
- Corona Public Library, 38-23 104th St. between 38th and 39th streets. (718) 426-2844.
- East Elmhurst Public Library, 95-06 Astoria Blvd. at 95th Street. (718) 424-2619.
- Far Rockaway Public Library, 1637 Central Ave. at Mott Avenue. (718) 327-2549.
- Flushing Public Library, 41-17 Main St. at Parsons Boulevard. (718) 661-1200.
- Jackson Heights Public Library, 35-51 81st St. at Northern Boulevard. (718) 899-2500.
- Laurelton Public Library, 134-26 225th St. at Merrick Boulevard. (718) 528-2822.
- Lefferts Public Library, 103-34 Lefferts Blvd. at 103rd Avenue. (718) 843-5950.
- Lefrak Public Library, 98-30 57th Ave. at Junction Boulevard. (718) 592-7677.
- Long Island City Public Library, 37-44 21 St. at 43rd Avenue.
- Queens Village Public Library, 94-11 217 St. at 94th Avenue. (718) 776-6800.
- Ridgewood Public Library, 20-12 Madison St. at Forest Avenue. (718) 821-4770.
- South Hollis Public Library, 204-01 Hollis Ave. at 204th Street. (718) 465-6779.
- Woodside Library, 54-22 Skillman Ave. (718) 429-4700.
- Richmond Hill Branch, 118-14 Hillside Ave. (718) 849-7150.
- South Jamaica Public Library Branch, 108-41 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. (718) 739-4088.
- South Ozone Park Public Library, 128-16 Rockaway Blvd. South. (718) 529-1660.

FURTHER AFIELD

"All Aboard with Thomas and Friends":

New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. at Fordham Road, The Bronx; (718) 817-8700; www.nybg.org; Daily, various times, Now - Fri, Jan. 20; \$30 (\$28 seniors & students), \$18 children under 12.

Join Thomas and Driver Sam at the New York Botanical Garden. Help Thomas find his way from Knapford Station to Brendam Docks using teamwork, friendship, and discovery in this fun-filled sing-along, mini-performance adventure. Bring your camera to have your photo taken with Thomas after the performance.

Holiday Train Show: New York Botani-



All aboard for this show

Hop aboard and come see the Holiday Train Show at Grand Central Terminal now through Feb. 26.

The 15th annual display features iconic holiday images of a model train whirring by as it circles the base of a brightly-lit tree, evoking feelings of warmth and wonder in children and adults alike.

To the delight of all, Lionel trains will journey along a 34-foot long, two-level, "O" gauge model train layout, departing from a miniature replica of Grand Central Terminal on its way

to the North Pole. This year's exhibit showcases Lionel's Grand Central Express, Metro-North, Pennsylvania Flyer, Polar Express, and vintage subway train sets against a backdrop designed for the museum's 40th anniversary.

Holiday Train Show, weekdays now through Feb. 26, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 6 pm. Free with museum admission.

Grand Central Terminal (89 E. 42nd St. and Park Avenue in Midtown East, www.nytransitmuseum.org/exhibits).

out, departing from a miniature replica of Grand Central Terminal on their way to the North Pole. This year's exhibit showcases Lionel's Grand Central Express, Metro-North, Pennsylvania Flyer, Polar Express, and vintage subway train sets against a backdrop designed for the Museum's 40th anniversary.

Neiman Marcus Family Sundays: Nassau County Museum of Art, One Museum Drive, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassau-museum.org; Sunday, Jan. 8, 1 pm; Sunday, Jan. 22, 1 pm; Sunday, Jan. 29, 1 pm; Sunday, Feb. 5, 1 pm; Sunday, Feb. 12, 1 pm; Sunday, Feb. 19, 1 pm; Sunday, Feb. 26, 1 pm; Monday, March 6, 1 pm; Sunday, March 26, 1 pm; Free with museum admission.

Be inspired by the works in the galleries, explore new art materials. Talk about and make art together. During the showing of Feast for the Eyes family art projects will draw inspiration from the exhibition's many works showing food and feasting, restaurants and dining. New projects featured every week.

Be inspired by the works in the galleries, explore new art materials. Talk about and make art together. During the showing of Feast for the Eyes family art projects will draw inspiration from the exhibition's many works showing food and feasting, restaurants and dining. New projects featured every week.

First-date jitters

Daughter's first dance brings out mom's teen nostalgia

BY KARA MARTINEZ BACHMAN

This weekend, I had the first-date jitters. My heart raced a little. My hands shook. My nerves were on fire.

As the big day neared, I had made sure everything was perfect. Shoe heels: high enough to be attractive, but not high enough to attract the wrong glances. Dress: Just the right amount of sparkle — but not too much! (Remember: there's a fine, but very important, line between "Frozen" snow queen and over-the-top drag queen.) Makeup: just a touch, on the eyes only.

When the day of the winter dance came, the big event was the first thought I had when waking up and the last I had before going to sleep.

My daughter had a blast.

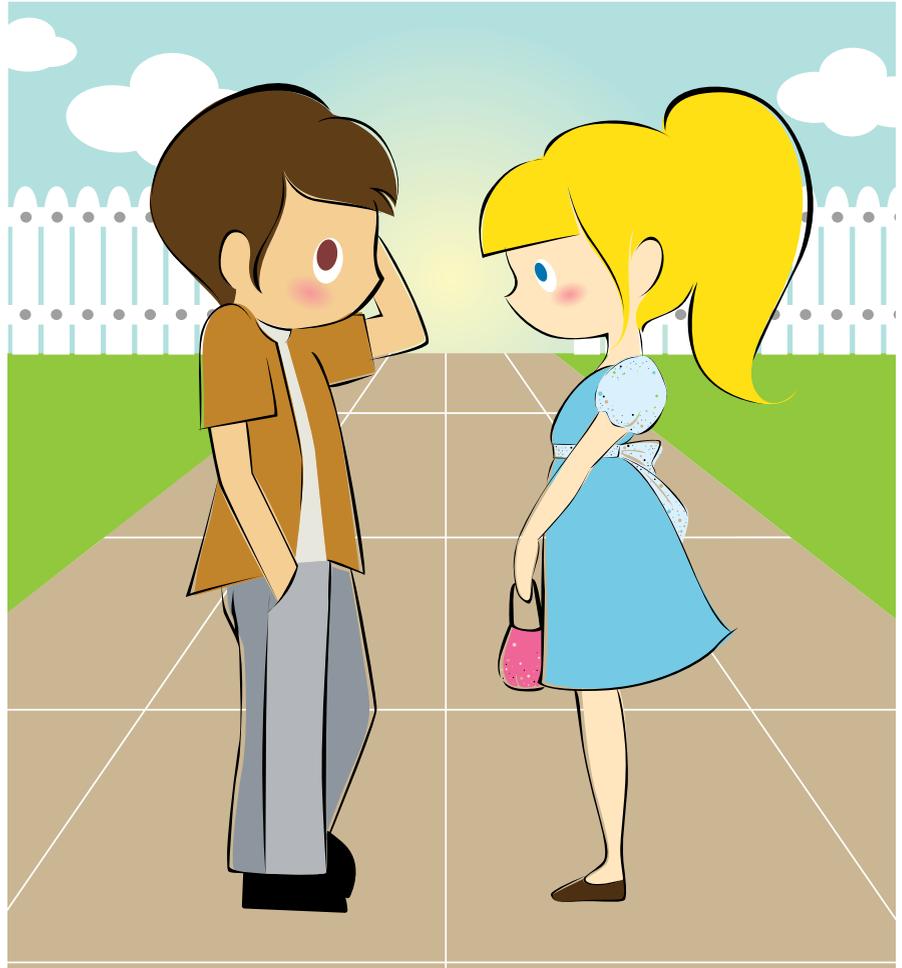
Yeah, the big date was, of course, hers. At age 46 and married for more than 20 years, I'm a little old for first dates. And believe me, if for some reason I had one, I'd spend less time worrying about how I looked and more concerned with whether I'd brought a Tylenol, two antacid tablets, and if I'd make it home before the news started.

When I was her age, there was no eighth-grade dance. Not the kind where anyone brought dates, at least. These days, though, things are different. Everything seems to happen at younger and younger ages.

I wonder why that is, why there's a mad rush on for childhood to start — and thus, end — sooner. Why? Does everyone want to just "get it over with," so our children can move on to more important things, such as making money and continuing the competitive climb?

It's sad to rush something so precious and brief. Rushing the years of first dates and terrible, but exciting, kisses is a mistake. I look back on those times, and I wish I could grab and hold them. I wish I could bottle up those sweet teen days and set the bottle (it would be pink) on my fireplace mantle. I wish, maybe every decade or so, I could open the bottle and release a tiny whiff of carnation corsages and punch bowl punch and let a bit of that genie out of the bottle. Just for a minute.

And that's kind of what happened this weekend. When my daughter stood ner-



ously with her date and posed for a few awkward photos; when I adjusted her wrist corsage — because it was too loose — and felt a misty hint of tears well up; when she left the house beaming, but returned saying, "Well, that was okay, I guess. Nobody danced much ... "; the genie of nostalgia was on the loose.

In the end, her first date at winter dance was more about the preparations than the thing itself, just as it was for me back in the 1980s.

It was more about what was to come, a reminder to me that I'd some day lose her, and a herald of all the dreams of most every girl: marriage, children, friends, job. And as every mom knows, our jitters may momentarily subside as dance night winds down, but still crop up when we open the

report card, or wait on medical test results, or when it's almost midnight and our oldest child is still not home

When the genie's popped out of the bottle, all we can do is watch, wait, and go ahead and take those two antacid tablets, hoping she uses her three wishes wisely.

Kara Martinez Bachman is author of the humorous essay collection, "Kissing the Crisis: Field Notes on Foul-mouthed Babies, Disenchanted Women, and Careening into Middle Age." She's read her work on NPR, and it has appeared in dozens of magazines and newspapers, including The Writer, Funny Times, the New Orleans Times-Picayune, and many more. She is managing editor of Parents & Kids—Gulf Coast, Parents & Kids—Pine Belt, and Parents & Kids—MS Delta magazines in Mississippi. Find out more at KaraMartinezBachman.com.

Mediation tackles income, expenses

Bill and Angela, who we have been following, are set to begin their second mediation session. They attended a consultation in November. In their first mediation session in December, they addressed parenting issues. Now, they will begin to discuss financial matters.

Jan. 19 — Session 2

The mediator asks Angela and Bill how they and the children are, and whether anything of note has happened since the last session.

The mediator gives the spouses a brief overview of Marital and Separate Property (and Debts).

He then begins setting out Bill's and Angela's respective income and expenses. [The mediator had e-mailed each of them a blank form asking for this information after the first session, and both spouses have filled it out.] This is done using a flipchart, so that all three of them can see the figures that the spouses supply.

Bill questions why Angela is paying \$400 a month for clothes for herself and the children. Bill isn't angry, but thinks the number is high. In discussing the matter, it turns out that Angela based her calculation on her September credit card statement, which showed higher costs than average due to purchasing back-to-school clothing. Their daughter needed a lot of

new things, because of how much she had grown over the summer.

Angela says that she will look at her statements for the past year and take the average of that 12-month period. Bill agrees to her suggestion. The mediator makes a note to come back to this question.

Angela asks if — since money will be tight — Bill can cut down on his recreational spending. Bill bristles at first; but looking at where his money goes, decides this is reasonable. Bill says he can spend a lot less on sporting events. He does a quick calculation, agreeing to reduce recreational spending by 10 percent, starting this month. He believes that he can bring it down further, but feels comfortable starting at 10 percent.

The mediator, noticing Angela's facial expression, asks if she wants to say something.

She answers, "Well, I think Bill could do more here." (Bill immediately becomes upset.)

"But," she adds, "Bill is willing to commit to this, and says he'll do more; I believe that." Turning to Bill, she says, "Maybe it's a good idea that you start with 10 percent; that way, you won't feel deprived. If you spent less now, you might hate it, and be angry with me, and we'd be worse off. So, good. Do the 10 percent for now. Then, we can talk about it again in a month or two.



DIVORCE & SEPARATION

LEE CHABIN, ESQ.

Can we do that?"

Bill is still annoyed, but he also feels that he is being heard by his wife. He agrees. They discuss what to do with the money that will be saved. Bill wants to use it to pay down a credit card. Angela agrees to this.

Regarding the expense and income figures now displayed on the flipchart, the spouses agree that the numbers are pretty accurate.

Bill raises a concern he has about the parenting agreement. He says that he has what is a minor change in mind that would allow him to spend more time with the children during the summer, if Angela would be ok with it. Bill shares his thought.

Angela says that the change would be alright with her, if another small change can be made when it comes to the Thanksgiving holiday break, starting the following year.

Bill tells Angela that he is willing; while he likes the Thanksgiving break and doesn't really want to change the schedule they had agreed to, the change over the summer is a much bigger deal to him.

The session ends, with the spouses agreeing to complete the Asset/Debt forms for the next session.

Next time: Assets (especially the house) and debts.

New York City and Long Island-based divorce mediator and collaborative divorce lawyer Lee Chabin helps clients end their relationships respectfully and without going to court. Contact him at lee_chabin@lc-mediate.com, (718) 229-6149, or go to <http://lc-mediate.com/>. Follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lchabin.

Disclaimer: All material in this column is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.



theMarketplace

PARTY PLANNERS

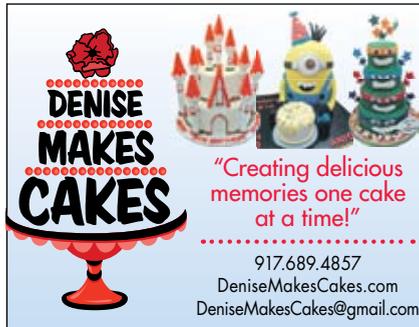


Best Clowns

Clowns • Costume Characters
Princess Parties • Magicians
Face Painters • Balloon Art
Caricaturists • Toddler Games
Cotton Candy & More

1-800-75-CLOWN or 212-614-0988
Bi-Lingual Performers Available
Private & Corporate Events
All Boros, L.I. & Westchester
www.bestclownsnyc.com

PARTY PLANNERS



DENISE MAKES CAKES

"Creating delicious memories one cake at a time!"

917.689.4857
DeniseMakesCakes.com
DeniseMakesCakes@gmail.com

PARTY PLANNERS



Party Pets.com

We'll Bring the Zoo to You!

Call today 516-766-1100
Party Pets of New York
Experience hands-on learning about animals from around the world!

PARTY PLANNERS

Princesses
Clowns
Super Heroes
Costume Characters
Pop Stars
Magicians



PARTY TIME EXPRESS

Silly Magic
Balloon Art
Face Painting
Glitter Tattoos
Dance Games
Cotton Candy

Let us bring the party to you!
party-time-express.com
917-771-1259

PARTY PLANNERS



Puppy Parties

PUPPIES BROUGHT TO YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY...
Really, Really Fun
Totally Interactive
Great for ages 1½ to adults
call 718-258-2342 to book your next puppy party
See the puppies at www.PuppyParadise.com

TUTORING

Accepting Credit/Debit Card Payments Only



In-Depth Tutoring™

- Study only with the best tutors who are graduates from Harvard, Cornell, Cooper Union & Columbia.
- One-on-one instruction
- Drastically improve students' confidence, grades & overall academic performance.
- Learn time management & test-taking skills

Serving all of Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan & parts of Nassau County
Contact us now to reserve a tutor!
in-depthtutoring.com • 917.657.5698

Advertise with us!

MANHATTAN
Family

BROOKLYN
Family

WESTCHESTER
family

QUEENS
Family

BROOKLYN
Family



To place an ad in any of our monthly titles, please call
718.260.4554

This kid's got chops

NYC cooking prodigy tells us about his prize-winning dish

BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

Ben's Beginners is an interactive program and contest that aims to make cooking an activity that bring families together. Offering a cash prize to kitchen-savvy kids, the contest is simple: submit a photo of you and your family making a rice-based dish together to the Uncle Ben's rice company. Manhattan seventh grader and cooking prodigy Jesse Gunn did just that.

His "Lop Chung Fried Rice" earned him \$15,000 and an additional \$30,000 for his school. Thanks to Gunn's creativity in the kitchen, the East Side Community School will now have a lunchroom makeover. Gunn shared his experience with us.

Shnieka Johnson: Who taught you to cook?

Jesse Gunn: My dad taught me how to cook. His favorite thing to tell me is nothing is hard, you just have to try and learn from your mistakes. He is not a chef, just a foodie. We spend a lot of time together in the kitchen with me cooking and him cutting onions and cleaning up after me, ha! We work as a team. We get to talk about the day, video games, our next projects, and things like that.

SJ: At what age did you start cooking?

JG: I started helping my dad in the kitchen when I was really young by stirring and mixing ingredients. Later on, my dad got me interested in tasting new things. When I was 8, I used to watch "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern" and began to start eating things like chicken feet, tripe, snails, and frogs. But I really got into cooking when I was 10. I had seen "MasterChef Junior," and I saw how good those kids were and was a little sad — I thought I could never be that good. But my dad asked me if I would be interested in trying out. I said "no," so he said, "ok, well, I can teach you if you really want to do it." So for the next six to seven months, I was cooking with him three times a week. Each week, it was always something different and harder, reinforcing the basics and learning new techniques. At the last minute, my dad entered me into "MasterChef." I lasted eight episodes and went out on team challenge. Since the show, I have learned and improved so much, and with cooking you never stop learning!

SJ: Have you always enjoyed it?

JG: Yes, I love trying new things and ex-



Matt Hurst, Corporate Affairs Manager at Mars Food North America, and Ben's Beginner's recipe winner Jesse Gunn celebrate Jesse's prize — \$30,000 for his school's lunchroom makeover.

perimenting, but the most fun is when I do molecular gastronomy. It's like doing science, which is one of my favorite subjects.

SJ: Who do you cook with now?

JG: I cook with my dad and sometimes my friends come over and they want to learn how to make something. I have cooking play dates, and I show them how to make French macaroons, profiteroles, Chinese food, and other things. Other times I cook with other chefs doing demos or teaching classes.

SJ: What inspired your dish?

JG: We came up with a lot of amazing dishes, like rice pudding, crème brûlée, mango sphere on top of coconut rice on a bed of Crème Anglaise, but the rice dish we posted, I think 15 minutes before the contest ended, was Lop Chung fried rice with transformation egg. What makes our fried rice different is that almost every fried rice dish uses a plain scrambled egg. We put umami in ours.

It is based on a Japanese dashimaki tamago-styled scramble egg, which is full of umami, which totally changes the egg to a different flavor — sweet, salty, savory, sour — and plays with your taste buds. The second reason is anyone can make fried rice super easy and every ingredient is interchangeable, so if you don't have Lop Chung — Chinese sausage — you can use chicken or sausage beef. We really wanted to win

to help our school with the cafeteria makeover and help promote healthier eating.

SJ: Do you want to go into culinary arts?

JG: At the moment, I have been asked to do a series of cooking videos called "Recipes from the Studio."

The guys Manny and Peter are great, I get to cook whatever I want. I am involved in a lot of cool things in addition to cooking. I love music and playing guitar. I am in two bands right now, and we play out in nightclubs like the Bitter End, where Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin used to play. I am also into building and designing drones. I have been building them since I was 8 years old and right now, I am the youngest professional drone training pilot in the world. I have trained more than 700 people how to fly a drone. I do this with the aerial sports league at the Maker Faires across the country.

If you're passionate about something and put the time and work into it, no matter what it is — sports, science, music, art, writing, school, or cooking — you will see results. Anyone can cook, you just have to get in the kitchen and start!

Shnieka L. Johnson is an education consultant and freelance writer. She is based in Manhattan, where she resides with her husband and son. Contact her via her website: www.shniekajohnson.com.

New & Noteworthy

BY LISA J. CURTIS

Give boring shoes the boot

What's more fun than a pair of rainboots for splashing in slushy puddles? How about transparent wellies that your little girl can transform as easily as changing her socks? She can wear her American Girl plastic Peek-A-Boo Wellies with their set of five pairs of WellieWishers socks for instantly adorable footwear transformations.

The polyester-cotton sock set includes a pink ballet slipper inspired pair, another pink pair with a gold Mary Jane shoe design, a red polka dot pair with ladybug faces on the toes, a multicolored floral pair, and a blue-and-green fish pair.

The rain boots are available in sizes 8/9, 10/11, 12/13, and 1/2.



Peek-A-Boo Wellies rainboots, \$26, WellieWishers set of five socks, \$20, AmericanGirl.com.

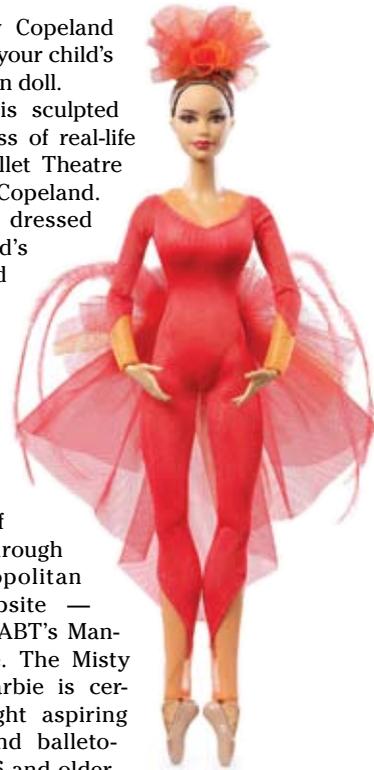
Hot gift idea

The Misty Copeland Barbie is not your child's typical fashion doll.

This one is sculpted in the likeness of real-life American Ballet Theatre star Misty Copeland. The doll is dressed in Copeland's thrilling red costume from Igor Stravinsky's ballet "The Firebird," and she stands tall en pointe.

Sales of this toy — through the Metropolitan Opera's website — support the ABT's Manhattan home. The Misty Copeland Barbie is certain to delight aspiring ballerinas and balletomanes ages 6 and older. This fiery dancing doll will ignite the imaginations and career aspirations of little girls everywhere — especially when paired with Copeland's picture book, "Firebird," illustrated by Christopher Myers.

Misty Copeland Barbie, \$35.96, MetOpera.org.



Junie B. Jones sings!

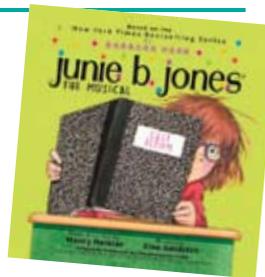
For all of those little musical theater buffs, a Junie B. Jones The Musical cast album dropping on Jan. 13 is a treat for the ears — and heart.

New York City songwriting team Zina Goldrich and Marcy Heisler deserve to go the front of the lunch line for having successfully set the adventures of this first-grade heroine to music for the off-Broadway show originally produced by Theatreworks USA.

The CD opens with a rousing tune sung by Junie B. (Lori Casteel) about her new

journal, "Top Secret Personal B e e s w a x ." More highlights include the comically ominous "You Need Glasses" and the gleeful, exuberant perk of donning her purple specs, "Now I See." It's a great listen for the whole family, especially those between 3 and 9.

"Junie B. Jones The Musical" Album, \$9.99, iTunes.com.



Dropping science from the 'Blue'

Kids can discover scientific concepts while on an out-of-this-world adventure in Galxyz's new app "Blue Apprentice."

Galxyz founder Osman Rashid's digital game for students ages 6-12 is rich in science content — and surprisingly, has many moments of laugh-out-loud dialogue. While it is entertaining, Blue Apprentice takes its educational component seriously. Created in partnership with the New York Academy of Sciences to follow Next Generation Science Standards, it covers more than 45 topics.

Players customize their avatar, Thalo, and — along with their flying friend Grit, a wisecracking Chipku — they're off to save

the galaxy from the evil King Dullard. Like a choose-your-own-adventure-style book, players move at their own pace and select their next actions with text prompts — that can be played aloud for emerging readers — all the while revealing real information, like the elements in the periodic table, or the definition of matter, and much more.

The Blue Apprentice app can be played on iPads (which we preferred) or online at blueapprentice.com via a monthly subscription; the first seven days are free, so they can try it, before you buy it.

Blue Apprentice app, \$10.99 per month or \$74.00 per year, blueapprentice.com.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

Serving the Parishes of St. Joseph, Most Precious Blood, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Mt Carmel, St. Patrick, and St. Rita

Registration for September Classes

Jan. 17, 18, 19, 20
Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

- Nursery, Pre-K for All, Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 8
- Extended Day: Mornings at 7:15am, After School until 5:45pm
- Religious Instruction with Emphasis on Gospel Values and Service to Others
- New York State Standards and Common Core Curriculum (ELA, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science - Hands-on Lab Period in Grades 1-8)
- Spanish, Mandarin, Art, Music, Physical Education, Yoga and Mindfulness
- High School Regents Courses at Monsignor McClancy High School for Qualifying 8th Graders
- Newly Renovated Science Lab/Classroom and Computerized Library
- Resource Room and Title I Remedial Services in Reading and Math, P/T Social Worker
- Full Time Guidance Counselor and Nurse
- Small Classes, Co-curricular Clubs and Activities, CYO Sports Program
- SMARTBoard Interactive Technology in ALL classrooms (Nursery to Grade 8)
- iPads and E-textbooks in Grades 5-8
- RENZULLI Differentiated Learning – Gifted and Talented Program
- Residency Programs in Theatre and Modern Dance
- Outdoor Playground and Gross Motor Skills Room for Early Childhood Programs

Financial Assistance Available to Qualifying Families

Children of all faiths are welcome



28-46 44TH STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11103
www.sjclic.org • 718-728-0724