

Neighborhood NEWS

*The Official Newsletter of The Neighborhood School
March 9, 2020*

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WHAT'S UP THIS WEEK

MONDAY 3/9–WEDNESDAY 3/11

Caroline and Grace Farm Trip

TUESDAY 3/10

PTA Executive Meeting, 8:30am

LUNCH



MONDAY 3/9

BRUNCH

English Muffin Egg Sandwich (V) with or without Cheese

Home Fries

Southwest Burrito with Salsa Cup

Baked Tostito Scoops

Salad Bar Garden Greens

TUESDAY 3/10

Auction Committee Meeting, 8:30am

WEDNESDAY 3/11-FRIDAY 3/13

Oli and Lindsey Farm Trip

WEDNESDAY 3/11

Town Hall Meeting (Playground Renovation),
8:30am

FRIDAY 3/13

School Leadership Team Meeting, 8am
Pi Day



Roasted Chicken

Honey Corn Muffin

Baked Sweet Potato Waffle Fries

Assorted Grab-n-Go Salads

Salad Bar Traditional

WEDNESDAY 3/11

Hot Turkey Sandwiches on Ciabatta

Roasted Zucchini

Salad Bar Garden Greens

THURSDAY 3/12

NY Beef Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers

Baked NY French Fries

Fresh New York Apples

Assorted Grab-n-Go Salads

Salad Bar Burger/Sandwich Fixin's

FRIDAY 3/13

PIZZA

Assorted Toppings

Green Garden Salad

Apple Bake

Salad Bar Pizza Toppings Featuring Balsamic

Chickpea Salad

PI DAY



Camp Trip Fundraiser!

We are celebrating Pi Day on Friday, March 13 with a game, a raffle, and...pie of course! Get a whole pie for \$31.40 or a slice for \$3.14. BONUS (students only): win one M&M for every digit of pi memorized. Sales, raffle, and game at drop off and pick up.

Pie donations much appreciated!

Contact Tatiana to order whole pies in advance at tatiana.prisco@gmail.com.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

We had a great turnout for the Advocacy Committee's information session on State testing last Wednesday! If you couldn't make it, we have good news. It is now available on YouTube. Dyanthe, our teachers and parents had an enlightening conversation about testing and how it affects education. Please check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbHMhGHakk8>

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Save the date! The Wellness Committee will have a meeting on **Monday, March 30 at 8:30am** to answer questions about coronavirus.



TNS

SPOTLIGHT



Dear families,

It's our 9th year at TNS and our youngest child (Zack) is now in 5th grade. I'd like to take a few

minutes to tell you why our family has always supported the opt out/test refusal movement. I am in no way an expert in this issue; I simply come from a place of seeing the testing model played out through my prior professional work in secondary education and higher-ed, and I'm speaking only from the experience of my own kids and our family. Simply stated:

- We opt out because we as a family believe these tests are inequitable from a social and educational justice perspective and because they can sap a child's confidence.
- We opt out because there is so much inherent bias in the questions themselves and because those questions rarely reflect the standards they are supposed to be testing.
- We opt out because the tests, by virtue of being graded on a bell curve, can't truly measure a student's mastery of subject matter.

We also believe education dollars shouldn't be spent on test prep, test proctors and test materials, but *should* be spent on things like art and music and smaller class sizes--and we are grateful to have those enriching experiences here at TNS. As you think about the testing industry in general, ask yourself: Who do these tests benefit? Follow the \$-testing companies! It's certainly not the individual child.

Our now 7th grader did not take the tests in elementary school during her time at TNS, yet that hasn't stopped her from now being engaged in her academics and socially thriving. TNS had taught her how to think, how to self-advocate and how to ask for help when it's needed. When she does have to take a test or be assessed in any way, she's confident and prepared and she does very well!

Opting out has always been our way of standing up in dissent and protesting where we see an injustice, because that's how we can bring about change. It's a way to push back, but also a way to protect what we feel *is* working in our school.

For 4th grade families considering the effect of a test score or lack thereof on middle school admissions, remember: It is illegal for a school to evaluate a child for middle school admissions solely on the criteria of a test, but if a test score is present – it must be counted in the rubric. So a poor test performance can actually hold a bright child back from achieving their desired outcomes to middle school of their choice. There *are* some schools that require tests, but the majority of TNS students go on to middle schools that don't look at test scores *at all*, or have work-around in their admissions rubrics to accommodate the families that opt out. See how many middle schools use criteria other than testing for the rubric [here](#).

Whatever your choices on this issue, know that I support you and I'm here to be a sounding board if you so desire. If you want to join me in Opting Out, you can use [this form](#). (Or just email Dyanthe and ccd your teacher/s in a note.)

My best,
Ella (Zack's mom, 5th grade)
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The Library needs [helpers](#)! Do you have a few minutes after drop off or before pick up to help out? (Don't be scared, someone will show you how to do everything and it's the coziest little spot in school). Sign up [HERE](#)



**STAY  
CONNECTED!**

**Instagram**

[@neighborhoodgram](#)

**[TNS Facebook Group](#)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TNSNY>

*View PTA meetings via livestream!*

*Our Facebook Group and Instagram Page is private and for current TNS families only*

Public Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNeighborhoodSchool/>

Please submit announcements by Thursday [ptaparentengagement@tnsny.org](mailto:ptaparentengagement@tnsny.org)



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