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# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

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**P.S. 65  
Queens, New York**

**P.S. 65 Queens, New York – The Raymond York School is proud to announce that we are now in our seventh year of Success for All in Reading and our third year of Success for all in Math Wings.**

**Public School 65 opened its doors in September of 1996. The school opened with some desks and chairs, few books and minimal supplied. However, there were many bright eyes and curious minds eagerly waiting to enter the building. The children arrived on fourteen different buses and spoke at least seven different languages. Needless to say, the first few weeks were challenging, not only for the students, but also for the entire school community.**

**Many salesmen from a variety of publishing companies visited the school. They generously offered class sets of materials in hopes of a school-wide sales commitment. The end result—at least seven different programs came into focus and use. It was later decided that the reading curriculum demanded one program that would meet the needs of P.S. 65's children. Meetings were held, research was done and SFA was invited to give a presentation to our school. A vote was taken and as they say, THE REST IS HISTORY!**

**In 1998, as the school embarked on the SFA journey, our principal, Mrs. Iris Nelson joined the P.S. 65 family. Over the years, although the faces have changed, our goals remain the same and Success for All has provided us with the necessary tools to soar in both literacy and math.**

**Our SFA Family Support Component has helped us implement strategies to reach children and their families. Twice a year we hold Reading Celebrations. In the fall it is called The Pajama Party. The children, parents and staff join in wearing their PJ's and bringing their favorite books. In the spring, we call it the Beach Party. Weather permitting, we sit outside on beach blankets or chairs and again enjoy the wonderful experience of shared reading.**



**Our school goals are clearly measured by the standards set by both New York State and New York City. In 1999, when we embraced Success for All in Reading, our statistics indicated that for Grade 4, there were 15 percent of students at Level 1, 61 percent at Level 2, 23 percent at Level 3 and 0 percent at Level 4. By the spring of 2004, we saw an increase to 71.25 percent of students in Levels 3 and 4. This was nearly a 50-percentage point increase! Additionally, we were ecstatic to see P.S. 65 listed in every New York City paper as the fifth most improved school in New York City.**

**In 2002, when we implemented SFA Math Wings, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade entered at 63 percent at or above grade level. After just one year we showed an increase of 17 percentage points bringing us to 80 percent at or above grade level. We all celebrated when last year's test indicated an additional 9 percentage point increase bringing our current level to 89 percent. Through the use of many incentives including those used to promote better attendance, our student attendance soared to 95 percent. We believe that good attendance is a major factor to success.**

**As we all know for any program to succeed, it takes a team. The P.S. 65Q team works cooperatively to embrace all the components and incentives of the Success for All program with enthusiasm. Our piloting of Fast Track Phonics in Reading was a great success.**

**We at P.S. 65, Queens New York – The Raymond York School are well on a successful flight into academic excellence in both SFA Reading and Math. New York City has implemented a mandated Literacy and Math Program for most schools. We here at P.S. 65 were granted a waiver and we are indeed proud to be a school flourishing under the Success for All model.**

**Smiling with Success and Growth...The School Community of P.S. 65 Queens, New York, The Raymond York Elementary School.**