

## PS39 WELCOME DINNER a Success!

Over 350 members of the PS 39 community came together on a gorgeous Saturday, September 15 to welcome our children back to school and celebrate our families and our diverse cultures with favorite foods.

In a schoolyard festooned with flags from all over the world, families laid out multicolored picnic blankets and tasted PS39'ers pride and joy in their history. Recipes were swapped, children were stuffed, and new families were welcomed.

Children enjoyed not only the dessert table, but also collecting stickers from children in other grades to earn prizes. As our Principal, Anita de Paz, has instituted weekly mix-it-up lunches to help our children break down grade barriers, we hope the Welcome Dinner helped kick off a few of these inter-class friendships.

Special thanks to our wonderful teachers and administrators Anita De Paz, Karen Herskowitz, Phyllis Polverino, Stephanie Reyes, Nick Deutsch, Suzann Bassil, Eve Ottavino, Daniella Cammarata, Lolin Li, Rebecca Fishman, Jamie Cohen, Taylor Pashkoff, Lauren Sweeney, Elaine Flaherty and Stephanie Long, who took time out of their weekends to be part of this event. The PS39 family rests on you.

Much appreciation to our custodial staff, Eddie and Michael, who set up and broke down the event, and to our spectacular parent coordinator, Karen Herskowitz, who set up the sound and provided a ton of logistical support (and also spent part of her birthday with us!). And thank you to our Welcome Dinner Committee Co-Chairs, Schele Williams-Kleinberger, Chi Kaitano, Jane Chuang, and Kate Navarro-McKay, as well as to our many many AMAZING volunteers who got everything where it needed to be and made sure the event came off beautifully: Jinny Alwais, Jeannie Gallego, Bethania Jones, Molly Solomon, Rory Feinstein, Phoebe McMellon, Nancy Labiner, Laura Wickens, Michal Roberge, Jennifer Norman, Madge Koch, Janene Licata, Dana Luria, Lisa David, Renee Willemsen-Goode, Swati Parikh, Amy Caron-Shif. And to our Parent Association for sponsoring the event.

Lastly, a big thank you to Negril restaurant (and Malissa Browne!) for generously donating of a gift certificate for a spectacular Carribean meal at their wonderful 5th Avenue restaurant.