

Dear friends,

February is an important month for many of our students as they get to see representations of themselves celebrated in media and literature, in culture and art, and in history. February is, of course, Black History Month as well as the celebration of the Lunar New Year. At BKS we find the importance of celebrating the cultural identities of students and families throughout the year while using cultural months of celebration as the catalyst to start conversations, projects, and celebrations. Each day, we work to uplift the culture of our students, the achievements of people past and present, and make deliberate connections to our units of study.

Critical to our success is the connection we have to community and to our parents. We recently launched a new parent engagement tool called ParentSquare with our families last month. It allows us to easily communicate and collaborate with parents and caregivers. ParentSquare allows us to let families know about upcoming events and workshops, school closures, or share photos about what's going on in the classroom and more. ParentSquare has allowed us to routinely reach 100% of our families. If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that the more flexibility and resiliency we can build into our organization and Centers we run, the better we are able to serve our students in this challenging time.

I continue to be grateful for your commitment to BKS and our work.

Regards,

Melisha Jackman
Executive Director

"What we have to learn to do, we learn by doing"

-Aristotle

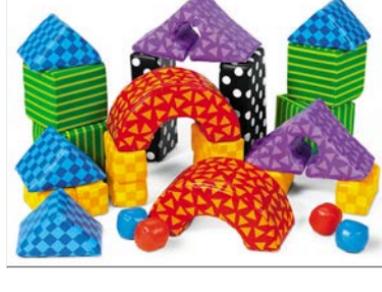
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society is committed to nurturing our earliest learners to ensure that they reach their absolute potential. BKS works in partnership with our families to continue to be the stewards of passion, dedication, inspiration and so much more. Our goal is to foster the following strategic priorities within the BKS community:

1. High Quality Outcomes for All Children
2. Strong Relationships with Parents and our Community
3. Cultivating an Adult Culture of Learning and Inquiry

Critical to providing high quality outcomes for all our students is to ensure that our educators are continually improving their skills and adapting to new ways of teaching. As such, BKS has a central focus on professional development for all our staff. We are embarking on a new and exciting expansion of our curriculum to include coding for our students. We are therefore launching a new set of trainings related to teaching coding to 2- to 4-year olds.

This new endeavor is part of a larger strategy to expand access to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) in the communities we serve.

Below are two sets of blocks that we use for our students *soft large blocks for our toddlers, and large magnetic panels for our 4 year-olds. We use these various blocks in order to support the development of gross and fine motor skills of our students, that teach critical thinking and spatial thinking, and are the "building block" for our new coding initiative.



Educating our staff about the Covid-19 Vaccines

BKS has hosted two sessions with doctors designed to educate and inform staff and parents about the Covid-19 Vaccines.

Covid-19 has had a disproportional impact on the communities we work in, on the lives and families of our students, and on those of our staff. BKS is working to provide accurate information on the Covid-19 vaccines to our staff and our students' parents. We partnered with several doctors to provide town hall format conversations around the vaccines and the importance of being protected.

We would like to thank **Dr. Jennifer Breznay of Maimonides Medical Center, Dr. Belinda Oyinkan Marquis of Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Dr. Adetunbi Ayeni of New York Presbyterian** for generously providing your time to inform our staff about the Covid-19 vaccines.



[Learn more about the Covid-19 vaccines](#)

BKS Thanks Xtend Barre Brooklyn for their fundraiser supporting our students!



"The work BKS is doing in our communities is critically important and impactful, and we can think of no better organization to support."

-Kristine Storie, XTEND BARRE Studio Owner

On behalf of all of our students, staff, and families; BKS would like to thank Xtend Barre Brooklyn for their support as a valued community partner. Xtend Barre Brooklyn offered a special class credit to their clients, with the proceeds going to BKS. We are so very grateful for your support!

Xtend Barre Brooklyn helped to support BKS' Music & Movement Program, which is designed to provide all of our students with access to high quality music programs, physical education, and occupational therapy. Support for this program allows BKS to give all of our students access to high quality enrichment opportunities that strengthen motor skills, communication, and connection.

If you or your business would be interested in supporting BKS and our students or if you would like information on how to partner with BKS, please contact John Linder at jlinder@bksny.org.

SUPPORT BKS TODAY!

