



From the Desk of Principal Karin Kelly

Public School 174

William Sidney Mount

65-10 Dieterle Crescent, Rego Park, NY 11374

November 28, 2012

Dear Families of PS 174:

Do you remember building with LEGOs, those interlocking red, yellow, green, and blue blocks? I would bet that you did not realize the important math skills such as sorting, scale, fractions, proportions, ratios and area - that you were learning. We are thrilled to be able to offer this hands-on, fun and engaging tool for learning for our students. Imagine learning math and engineering concepts – building an entire community complete with structures and transportation. We are not talking about one LEGO kit, but of 12 large, full bins brimming with block, flats and bricks, as well as parts for vehicles, accessories for storefronts, and “people” to drive the trucks and trains, the cars, helicopters and planes.

Our teachers, Mrs. Friedman and Mrs. Fink, are amazed watching the children assembling these vehicles, roads and tracks, connecting the stores and buildings where the “people” live and work. Our students in Grades K through 3 are seen working- talking and planning with each other during our afterschool program. This dramatic play is hard work for our children each Wednesday afternoon. They are learning math communication – in LEGO language - in first describing the shapes and colors, and later with a more mathematical description of the objects and pieces, one-by-eighths, two-by-fours, etc.

We are thrilled to have received over \$2,000.00 worth of these LEGO kits from two different *Donors Choose* proposals that were fully funded this summer. The excitement that these remarkable building blocks generate demonstrates just how appropriate they are in supporting not only our children’s problem solving ability, but also in sparking their creativity, and providing imaginative communication.

LEGO prepares and presents a free magazine for children. You can sign up for a free two year subscription for your child at:

<http://club1.lego.com/en-US/subscription/default.aspx?step=2&SkuId=9052b50e-271e-46d2-9abb-e1950f8cc438&CountryId=US&cahandle=>

You can read more about LEGO and their importance at the link <http://www.educationnews.org/k-12-schools/are-legos-the-answer-to-americas-stem-problem/>.

We look forward to writing other proposals for LEGOs and make them available to more of our students during the indoor recess periods this winter. I am sure that you agree that it is time well spent during inside days.

Best regards,

Principal Karin Kelly

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