



September 25, 2015

Dear Families,

We want to update you on the adjacent construction project and the steps we are taking to minimize its impact on our children's learning.

As most of you know, we had anticipated that that the demolition would start mid-July, but due essentially to the bureaucracy in the Department of Buildings (DOB), the demolition did not start until early September. It would have started even later were it not for the advocacy of our Construction Task Force, which worked with us to follow up continually as a liaison among the DOB, Con Edison and the developer, Toll Brothers.

Over the summer, we did successfully work with Toll Brothers to secure funding from them for comprehensive air conditioning units to be placed in the gym, cafeteria and auditorium by January, as well as placement of temporary units, which will be installed soon. Air conditioning in these common spaces is extremely expensive and will have a significantly positive impact on our community. Toll Brothers also installed noise reducing "Styrofoam" on all of the west side windows. Although this does block the natural light temporarily, teachers report that it is, indeed, reducing the impact of the noise. Finally, thanks to the advocacy of our Construction Task Force, we have been assigned a very dedicated monitor from the School Construction Authority who has been onsite and is very responsive, so far, to all our demands. We are in daily communication with the monitor on issues of safety and air quality and have been surprisingly pleased with his commitment and dedication.

Although we are disappointed that the heavy demolition did not start until September, we are happy to report that the project is ahead of this schedule and that demolition will be completed in mid-November instead of mid-December. In the meantime, we are taking the following steps to manage the impact of the noise on our classrooms:

- While there is noise, the heaviest construction is being done until 8:30 and after school. If you arrive early, you might notice the building's shaking, an unavoidable impact of construction. Rest assured that our foundation is solid and there is no need for concern.
- We have created alternate schedules for all our west side classrooms so that these classes affected by noise can meet in an empty, quieter room.
- Stacy speaks to the foreman of the demolition project multiple times a day about the impact of

the noise. While the foreman has been extremely responsive, including working farthest away from the SOF building during school hours, it has still been a struggle to know when the noise will happen. This inconsistency makes it hard for us to plan to use alternate spaces, as, of course, teachers prefer their own classrooms. Just today, Stacy secured a commitment from the foreman to provide accurate, daily timetables of the noise flow so that the teachers can plan room usage to prevent any loss of instructional time.

- Finally, because we are in frequent communication, the foreman has planned to carry out the most intense work on days we have been closed. This includes Saturdays. Please note the amount of work they have done in a short time.

We are also happy to report the construction has not affected enrollment and we remain at enrollment capacity. Overall, the situation is both manageable and encouraging considering our collective fears and concerns. Again, communication with both the School Construction Authority and the foreman is of good quality and constant. We continue to meet weekly with Toll Brothers as well.

We would not have been able to meet this considerable challenge with such positive results without our extremely engaged parent body. We thank you deeply for all your support.

Sincerely,

Stacy & John

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