



# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## NISHUANE SCHOOL

32 CEDAR AVENUE ~ MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042

WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US

**FRANK SEDITA**

*Principal*

August 25, 2022

Dear Nishuane Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope that you enjoyed a rejuvenating summer vacation and are ready to commence a new school year at Nishuane School! The summer months have certainly been busy at Nishuane as we prepare to welcome all of our learners in just a few short days! I am excited to welcome all of our new families, as well as welcome back all of our returning families. I very much look forward to collaborating with you this school year as we support the academic and social emotional development of our youngest learners. The Nishuane community remains focused on “*nourishing minds while nurturing hearts.*” Our teaching and learning community will be intentional and unwavering in fostering the growth of each and every learner. Through a focus on cultural responsiveness, social emotional learning, and best instructional practices we will continue to ensure equity and access for all learners entrusted in our care.

Our faculty and staff very much look forward to welcoming your child to their class! Per the district, class placements and schedules will be available on the Genesis portal through Parent Access on **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm**. All mandatory district forms must be completed in order for families to be able to view this information. Please note that great care was taken in making these placements and no changes will be made.

The Nishuane team has been quite busy this summer preparing for the new school year! We have had several transitions and additions to our faculty and staff over the summer months.

Please join me in extending our deep appreciation to several recent departures from the Nishuane Faculty and Staff: Mrs. Jazmyn Allen, Ms. Alla Bukh, Ms. Katherine Brody, Ms. Rana Elfar, Ms. Kimberly Lane, Ms. Sandra Lopez, Ms. Rabab Mansour, Ms. Geraldine Marcano, Dr. Kristen Niemczyk-Kistner, Ms. Reem Salam, Ms. Jennifer Staltaro, Ms. Nicole Perna, Ms. Denise Torres, Mr. Elijah Valentine, Ms. Alyssa Velez, Mr. Conor Velez, Ms. Ivory Wise, and Ms. Pin-Ying Yeh. We are forever grateful for their unwavering dedication and commitment to Nishuane and wish them well in all of their future endeavors!

With the start of the new school year, also comes the addition of several appointments to the Nishuane team. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of the Nishuane teaching and learning community:

*Telephone: 973-509-4222 ~ Fax: 973-746-8865 ~ Email: [fsedita@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:fsedita@montclair.k12.nj.us)*

- Ms. Luana Ashe, First Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Brenda Coe, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Latoya Ewing, Social Worker
- Dr. Graceann Furnari, Psychologist
- Ms. Linda Kieferle, Paraprofessional
- Ms. Justine Koszel, Special Education Teacher (Grade 2 In Class Resource)
- Ms. Lauren Kyle, Special Education Teacher (Grade 2 In Class Resource)
- Ms. Leanne Laurino, Drama Teacher
- Mr. Jaron Miño, Special Education Teacher (Pre-Kindergarten Special Education)

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to Ms. Kimberly Raison, Mr. Vladimir Velasquez, and Mr. Donovan Johnson for the countless hours that they have dedicated to preparing Nishuane for the new school year over the course of the summer months! The level of commitment and pride that our custodial team devotes each day to our building is truly remarkable. Our office staff, Ms. Joan Ruggiero and Ms. JaVonne Keyes, have also been integral this summer in preparing for the new school year. I would also like to extend a thank you to Ms. Donna McGowan for her scheduling and technology support in preparing for the forthcoming school year. Finally, I offer my sincere gratitude to Nurse Anne Ndungu for meticulously preparing vital health records for the forthcoming school year. Once again, thank you!

The Nishuane PTA has also been quite busy in supporting our school community over the summer months. These initiatives have included organizing several in-person playdates across grade levels, as well as the upcoming Kindergarten Ice Cream Social that will be hosted on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the PTA organized the delivery of First Day Boxes for those who chose to order this way. I particularly would like to thank all current members of the PTA Executive Board for their collaboration over the summer! I am particularly grateful for the PTA's unwavering partnership with organizing vital events and programs at Nishuane throughout this upcoming school year that will keep our community connected and actively engaged. Please be sure to check out the PTA's website (<https://montclairpta.org/nishuane/>) for all of the exciting events to come this school year!

We are very excited to start the school year with our learners on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:10 am!** On the first day of school only, parents and guardians may walk their childr(en) into Nishuane and bring them to their classroom(s). All Kindergarten students and caregivers should enter through Door G located on the right-hand side of the building. All first and second grade students and caregivers should enter through Door A (the main entrance). If a family has children in multiple grades, they may enter through Door A (the main entrance). Please note that starting Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> all

Kindergarten students must enter the building through Door G and all first and second grade students must enter the building through Door A during arrival time (9:10 am-9:20 am).

Prior to the start of the school year, please familiarize yourself and your child(ren) with the attached Nishuane Family Handbook (2022-2023). This handbook and other useful resources will be posted on the Nishuane website at the following link:

<https://nishuane.montclair.k12.nj.us/>. Additionally, Nishuane's School Supply Wish Lists by grade level may be accessed at the following link:

[https://nishuane.montclair.k12.nj.us/parent\\_information/2018-2019\\_classroom\\_supply\\_lists](https://nishuane.montclair.k12.nj.us/parent_information/2018-2019_classroom_supply_lists)

As we finalize these resources, I would like to share the dates for several important and exciting beginning of the year events in the Nishuane community. We very much look forward to engaging with our families at these events!

- **Nishuane A-Z & School Tours for Students & Families New to Nishuane (Grades 1 & 2 Only):** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 6:00 pm (In-person: Nishuane Library)
- **Nishuane A-Z Kindergarten Orientation:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 6:00 pm (In-person: Nishuane Library)
- **Kindergarten Ice Cream Social:** Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.-5:30 pm (Outdoors: Nishuane)
- **First Day of School!:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 9:10 am. Celebration for students & Boo Hoo Breakfast. Caregivers may enter the building and bring their child(ren) to their classroom during arrival.
- **Nishuane PTA Family Picnic:** Friday, September 16, 2022 (Outdoors: Nishuane)
- **PTA Meeting:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm (Hybrid: Nishuane Library/Zoom). Our PTA will have their first welcome meeting. I hope that you can join us to learn more regarding the amazing programs and activities that will support our students and school community!
- **Back-to-School Night:** Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm (In-person: Information to follow)
- **School Action Team for Partnership (SATp) Meeting:** Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm (Hybrid: Library/Zoom). Please attend and engage with the SATp to inform our School Improvement Plan and goals for the 2022-2023 school year!
- **Information regarding future Nishuane events may be accessed at the following link:**  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19OFG8ixNN4khX4YvUcgN6AiAfdvHwNXA/edit#gid=124491651>

\*Please note that this calendar is subject to updates/changes throughout the school year.

Collectively, these beginning of the school year events will help all families to become well acquainted with all that Nishuane has to offer. Please be sure to join us!

I wish you all a wonderful end to the summer and start to the new school year! We very much look forward to (re)welcoming you to Nishuane. Best wishes for a wonderful year filled with much “bucket filling” and growth!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Sedita".

Frank Sedita