

Alexander Graham Bell PS 205Q  
Project Soapbox  
Parent/Guardian Information Letter

December 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students in Grades 3 – 5,

This year our students have been immersed in the Civics For All initiative. The Civics for All initiative seeks to support schools in developing a school culture that empowers and prepares the whole student as an active and engaged community member. The goal of Civics for All is to ensure high-quality civics instruction and civic engagement opportunities for all students.

An added component to the Civics for All program is the Project Soapbox initiative. Project Soapbox is a public speaking competition that calls young people to speak out on important issues that affect them and their communities. Students are engaged in creating and advocating for solutions to improve their schools, communities, and their lives.

Here at PS 205 our teachers have created time and opportunities to embed the Soapbox lessons and activities for students. At this time we are very excited to inform you that each class will be holding their own Soapbox Classroom Challenge. The classroom challenge will take place on Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>. During the Classroom Challenge all students will present their speeches and based on rubric results select students will be invited to the School-wide Soapbox Event on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>. All students should come to school prepared and look their best on both December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>.

During the School-wide Soapbox Event teachers and staff will be rating student speeches using the city-wide Soapbox Challenge Rubric. I have included the rubric for you to review with your child at home. Individual rubric scores will be tallied and the students with the highest scores will be invited to the citywide Soapbox-NYC. Families of select students will be notified.

Classroom speeches will be video-taped and shared with families. The School-wide event will be video-taped and select student speeches will be submitted to the citywide Soapbox competition. We ask that each student has a required media-consent form on file with the school. Please see attachment for the media-consent.

Kindly encourage your child to practice at home. We are looking forward to our Soapbox event!

Sincerely,

Karen Scott-Piazza, Principal

& The Civics Teacher Team: Ms. Park, Ms. Cruz, Ms. Previti, Ms. Bosco, Ms. Gagliano, Ms. Chavez, Ms. Messersmitt, Ms. D. Chu, and Ms. Butler