August 12, 2015

Dear P.S. 162 Community,

I am excited to have been chosen as P.S. 162’s principal!

“Ubuntu” is a South African term that means, "I am what I am because of who we all are." When I was interviewed by the SLT, I was asked to envision my first six months as principal of P.S. 162. I will be an active listener, I said, and have as many conversations as possible with individuals and groups of school constituents. Listening is first step to best understand what you believe are our school’s successes, so we can maintain and build upon your work with Ms. Casale. Also, I want to hear what you think are logical next steps for our work together.

I understand the sensitive nature of this transition for you, our children, and our families. Therefore, a primary goal this year for me is to support all of us through this transition as smoothly as possible.

As a principal for the past six years and educator in NYC Department of Education since 2001, I have established a repertoire of skills to help me support our school to be aligned with the NYCDOE’s Framework for Great Schools. For example, I have experience in making positive impact with English language learners of various languages and students with disabilities—populations served by P.S. 162. Additionally, being parent of a child who is in the city’s Gifted & Talented program provides me a unique connection with 162’s parents and the passion for supporting students with enrichment opportunities.

My principalship has been informed by career experiences as an educator with deep knowledge of curriculum, rigorous instruction, and assessment. As the literacy coach in a "Teachers College school", I worked closely under the guidance of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project staff. Mentoring new and experienced teachers helped foster my own innovative knowledge of pedagogy and deepened my practices as a teacher leader. I will bring those supports and ideas to our instructional conversations. In addition, teacher collaboration is seen as one of P.S. 162’s strengths, and I look forward to professional learning that involves collaboration.

Moreover, as Coordinator of a Family Literacy Program, administrator of Gifted & Talented testing, and now principal, I have worked collaboratively with parents, staff, and community-based organizations. It’s important that we are all partners in our children’s education. Additionally, family is a metaphor for the supportive environment we create for students to learn and family is also key to a successful school. In a family, no matter what the adversity, we work through it. We have common goals of student achievement and social-emotional balance. I look forward with enthusiasm to our work together!

Warmly,

Pamela Lee