SCHOOLS ADOPTING SCHOOLS is a FaceBook group where schools needing help after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy can connect with other schools across the country who would like to help by operating donation drives in their districts.

Due to the fact that the schools in our district did not suffer any physical damage, we thought it would be a good idea to “adopt” a school who needed help. Our request was submitted and our school was paired up with Rockwood Park School (P.S. 207) located in Howard Beach (Queens). It is a school with over 800 students in grades PreK-8th. Since the school is so large, our school will be adopting the PreK-2nd grade classes with schools from New Hampshire (3rd-5th) and Illinois (6th-8th) adopting the remaining classes.

During the hurricane, Rockwood Park’s basement was flooded. This caused the oil burner to become detached from its pipes spilling oil and creating an unsafe environment in which to hold classes. At this point almost everything in the entire school (basement + three floors) remains saturated with the smell of oil and will probably have to be discarded. As a result of this, the students of the school were relocated to two other schools. The PreK-3rd grade students are attending a nearby school in Queens with the PreK-K classes being held in the gymnasium while the 4th-8th grade students were relocated to a school in Brooklyn.

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Stephanie Hanley, the 3rd grade teacher from Rockwood Park School with whom we will be working:

"Since we are not allowed to enter the school yet, my principal went in to get us materials that we absolutely needed. I asked for my laptop and when she gave it to me it smelled like oil! We will have to replace tons of books and all of our paper goods. There are rumors floating around that say we should be back in our school in the beginning of January. Let's hope it's true!"

As we approach this holiday season, the WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FAMILY is once again being asked to help others who have suffered great losses. On the back of this sheet you will find the items requested by the PreK-2nd grade teachers of Rockwood Park School. Whenever the school opens, these items will hopefully provide the children with a sense of normalcy and make the transition back to school easier. Please contribute whatever you can. Whether it is a box of crayons or several rolls of paper towels, ALL contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and cooperation!

Miss Quiles
Washington Primary School’s Coordinator
ROCKWOOD PARK SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST
FOR PreK-2nd GRADE STUDENTS

- Composition Notebooks
- Bottles of Glue
- Glue Sticks
- SAFETY Scissors (for tiny hands)
- Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Dry erase markers AND erasers
- Pencils
- Pocket folders
- Construction paper
- POST-IT notes
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Ziploc bags (gallon and sandwich size)
- Baby Wipes
- Disinfecting wipes (cleaning wipes)

Please have your child bring the donated items to their classroom. They will be collected weekly from each class, separated and placed in boxes in preparation for delivery to Rockwood Park School.

Thanks again and best wishes for a joyous holiday season!