

# PS Backpack87News

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The Weekly Newsletter of the PS 87 Community | [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info)

April 7, 2016



## From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

Lead in drinking water has been a very hot topic in the news recently. In response to concerns that parents have had about the possibility of lead being in the water in NYC schools, the New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina wrote a letter to families and school staff about the issue. Below is an excerpt from that letter:

“Beginning in 2002, the DOE partnered with New York City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test the water in DOE school buildings. ...

“For those buildings that had even one outlet with results above recommended levels, we have been implementing a protocol, approved by DOHMH and based on EPA guidance, involving a combination of weekly flushing, equipment replacement and more, to ensure the safety of students and faculty. Flushing has been shown to be highly effective in removing lead from water because (a) flushing builds up the protective coating on plumbing pipes and (b) flushing moves old water out of the system and brings in fresh water.”

A link was also given to parents that would give them access to the results of the lead testing done at their school. Initially the lead testing results showed that our school was tested in 2005, and two of the 52 samples taken came back at an elevated level. The results also stated that our school followed the approved DOHMH protocol as described above.

Updated results were posted on the NYC Department of Education website April 1. Testing occurred again recently, and this time 92 samples were taken from the school at different times of the day. Only one sample came back elevated. According to the Department of Facilities, the pipe from which the elevated reading came was replaced in less than a week from the time the test results came in. I was not informed that the children were at risk, but I am sure that, just like me, you want to know exactly how much risk, if any, of exposure there is to our children.

I am still trying to find out information on what these results mean for our community. When I get more information, I will share that with you. In the meantime, if you have any more questions about this topic, please send them to me and I will add them to my list as I try to get more clarity on this issue.

— Monica Berry, PS 87 principal

PS 87 CALENDAR	
APRIL 2016	
13-15	NY State Mathematics testing. (Makeups April 18 – 20.)
18-22	Everybody Reads Week. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
21	No school for Pre-K students
21	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria. PA Board nominations to be announced. Presentation by Socialsklz: “Parenting in the Digital Age.”
22	Earth Day
22-30	Passover
25-29	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Spring Break. 87Afterschool will be offering Spring Camp this week. <i>Details below.</i>
MAY 2016	
3	Dual Language Breakfast Meeting, 8 – 8:40 a.m., library
3	Teacher Appreciation Day
4	<b>PA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING</b> , 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
5	Cinco De Mayo
6	Fiesta Latina, 6 p.m., auditorium. Potluck dinner follows at 6:45 p.m.
8	Mother’s Day
12	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
12	Curriculum Night
12	Rock Night, 7 p.m. <i>Tickets go on sale April 18; details on Page 2.</i>
20-22	Spring Scholastic Book Fair

## Register for Spring Holiday Camp

Everything’s coming up roses at Spring Holiday Camp, where we celebrate the onset of spring with exciting field trips to shake off the winter doldrums, observe the science and art of nature, and awaken creativity through activities at PS 87. Registration is officially open. Sign up now for a day of fun or a whole week!

Activities include a trip to the New Victory Theater to see *Bello Mania*, discovering the inner workings of robots with STEM learning center’s Bricks4Kidz, visiting Historic Richmond Town, and even swashbuckling practice with the Jersey Shore Pirates!

Space is limited. To learn more information and register your child, visit [www.87afterschool.org](http://www.87afterschool.org).

## Everybody Reads Week is coming

From Monday, April 18, through Friday, April 22, join PS 87 in celebrating the written word with Everybody Reads Week (ERW). Invited guests talk with our children about their favorite books, their love of reading and writing, the books they have written, illustrated or published and share how their love of reading has shaped their lives and their chosen careers.

Guests this year will include Chris Grabenstein (*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*), Mark Goldblatt (*Twerp*), Dan Elish (*The School for the Insanely Gifted*), Brain Schatell (*Owl Boy*), Tracy Dockray (*Izzy and Oscar*), Milane Kapadia (Journalist), Marc Myers (music journalist), Peter Ackerman (*Lonely Phonebooth*) and many others.

In addition to our guest speakers, ERW will inspire a passion for books with a special activity each day of the week:

**Monday: Spot the Character** – Illustrations of favorite book characters will be hidden throughout the school during the week and each class will have a list of clues to help identify them.

**Tuesday: Cap/Hat Day** – In honor of some of the most beloved books that feature hats, such as *Caps for Sale*, *Cat in the Hat*, *Paddington Bear*, and *I Want My Hat Back*, children are allowed to wear a hat or cap to school. (It's the only day caps and hats are allowed all year.)

**Wednesday: Book Cover Designs** – In the days leading up to ERW, we hope everyone will design a book cover for the books that they are currently reading or write a recommendation for a beloved book. Templates will be available from classroom teachers and Lucy in the art room as well as in the lobby and library. Please return completed designs to the box on Officer Ayala's desk by the afternoon of Tuesday, April 19.

**Thursday: Book Drive** – ERW is hosting a one-day book drive to benefit our neighbor school, PS 191, to help expand their school's library. Please bring new or like-new books to the lobby on Thursday.

**Friday: Dress as your Favorite Book Character** – ERW wouldn't be the same without coming to school dressed as your favorite book character. Get creative, inventive and come dressed as a character from a book — or maybe even as an author.

We are also very excited to share a new video celebrating reading! You can access the video on the PS 87 website.

ERW promises to be a fun-filled week celebrating our library and our love of books and reading.

## PS 87 goes to Yankee Stadium June 11

Tickets are still available for PS 87's June 11 trip to Yankee Stadium to see the Yankees play Detroit. To purchase tickets, visit <https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/yankees-take-on-detroit-tigers-june-11th-2016/>. For additional information, contact Jennifer Gaylord at [jkdicker@yahoo.com](mailto:jkdicker@yahoo.com).



## Pitch In: Volunteer Opportunities

**Spring Art Show needs volunteers!** Each spring, the halls of PS 87 are transformed into a gallery displaying beautiful artwork by PS 87 students. This year, our illustrious art teacher Lucy Formato has been working hard with kids in kindergarten through 3rd grade to create collages, paintings and pastels inspired by world-famous artists. The Enrichment Committee is looking for volunteers to greet families on the night of the art show, Wednesday, June 8, as well as parents willing to mount and hang art in the hallways in the preceding weeks. Please sign up for a volunteer slot and spread the word among fellow PS 87 families. We need your help! Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caaab2ca1ff2-ps87art1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caaab2ca1ff2-ps87art1).

## Rock Night tickets go on sale April 18

Tickets for PS 87's May 12 Rock Night will go on sale at 7 a.m. Monday, April 18. Tickets will be on sale until 5 p.m. on Friday, April 22. Go to <https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/rock-night-tickets-2016/>. If tickets are still available after Spring Break, ticket sales will resume May 2. For details about Rock Night, visit the school's web page, [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info).

## Help review Common Core Standards

The New York State Education Department is looking for parents to participate on committees that will review and revise New York's English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics Common Core Standards. Parents who apply and are selected will sit on grade-level teams (pre-K-1, 2-3, etc.) with educators and professionals to review and revise either ELA or mathematics standards through the year. This is not a review of the assessments, but only the state standards.

The application has four parts, including a member information sheet and a conflict of interest statement. The deadline for completion of all four elements is April 14. One item is completed online, while the other three must be mailed to the state's Education Department. Parents can access the online application at [www.research.net/r/parentapplication](http://www.research.net/r/parentapplication). The other forms are available at the state's PTA website link: [www.nyspta.org/Advocacy/advocacy\\_standardrevcomm.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/Advocacy/advocacy_standardrevcomm.cfm).

## Support PS 87 with handmade gifts

Shop at [www.jillianhollmann.com](http://www.jillianhollmann.com) and PS 87 mom Jillian Hollmann will donate 10 percent of all proceeds from sales back to PS 87. Be sure to use discount code at checkout: PS87DISCOUNT.

## PS Backpack87News

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The PS 87 PA does not endorse any of the services referenced in the classifieds or represented by any paid sponsorship.

**Deadline for April 14 issue:** Sunday, April 10, at midnight

**Editor this week:** Michelle Feldman