

# PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 13

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

Dec. 10, 2015

## Message from the PA presidents

Dear Families,

Happy December! The holiday festivities are officially under way at PS 87. We hope everyone enjoys the classroom holiday parties and end-of-year celebrations. We look forward to celebrating the teachers at the Teacher Appreciation Dinner tonight and are grateful to the Special Events Committee for once again coordinating this year-end tradition.

Speaking of traditions, we encourage you to come out for the Winter Holiday Festival tomorrow night in the auditorium and see some of our very own PS 87 children in holiday performances. Bring a dish for the potluck dinner that will follow the show. This event is always a big hit!

As you shop for the holidays, we would like to remind you to visit the PS 87 online auction at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/ps87auction/2015winter>. Open for bids until Dec. 16, the online auction is full of great items including experiences, theater tickets, camps and services. It kicks off our Auction season, ensuring that we go into the March Auction already ahead of the game!

In other shopping news, if you visit Amazon for your holiday gifts, please remember to go through the Amazon link on the PS 87 website so that a percentage of your sale comes back to the school. (For more information on how to help the PA while you do your holiday shopping, see Page 2.)

On the subject of giving, we would like to thank everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday by donating to our Family Giving campaign, which is off to a fantastic start. To make a donation before the year comes to an end, please visit <https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/ps-87-family-giving>.

We would also like to thank the parent volunteers who have given their time to lead school tours for potential incoming families. It's so nice to see interested parents observing the exciting things going on at our school such as preparations for kindergarten Apple Markets and classroom publishing parties.

We have one more School Leadership Team meeting of 2015 on Dec. 21 at 4:15 p.m. Please feel free to join us. Check with Officer Ayala that afternoon for the specific meeting location.

We wish you all happy holidays, a restful winter break, and peace and joy in the New Year. We are looking forward to a great 2016!

— Jaime Abrams and Wendy Schnierow,  
PS 87 Parents Association co-presidents

<b>PS 87 CALENDAR</b>	
<b>DECEMBER 2015</b>	
11	Report cards sent home with students
11	<b>WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL</b> , 6 p.m., auditorium. Potluck dinner follows at 6:45 p.m. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
21	SLT meeting, 4:15 p.m., location TBD
24-31	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , winter recess
<b>JANUARY 2016</b>	
4	<b>SCHOOL RESUMES</b>
5	Dual Language breakfast meeting, 8 a.m., library
6	PA Executive Board meeting, 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
13	Coffee with Monica (Pre-K – 1st grade), 8:45 a.m., auditorium
14	Coffee with Monica (2nd grade – 3rd grade), 8:45 a.m., auditorium
14	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 6:30 p.m., auditorium
15	Coffee with Monica (4th grade – 5th grade), 8:45 a.m., auditorium
18	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
22	Family Fit Night, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
25	SLT meeting, 4:15 p.m., location TBD
28	No school for Pre-K students
29	<b>PAN-ASIAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL</b> , 6 p.m., auditorium. Potluck dinner follows at 6:45 p.m.
<b>FEBRUARY 2016</b>	
1	<b>PS 87 SPIRIT DAY</b>
2	Dual Language breakfast meeting, 8 a.m., library
3	PA Executive Board meeting, 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
8	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Lunar New Year
11	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
15-19	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , mid-winter recess

## PS 87 families — we need your help!

We have hardly received any donations for Ronald McDonald House and they rely on our large PS 87 community for much needed resources ... especially at this holiday time. In the next few days, can you please have your child drop off in the bin in the lobby, any toiletry or paper good items including: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, mouth wash, tampons, moisturizer, body wash, kleenex and toilet paper. If we all give a little, the results will be BIG! Let's fill that box, help the Ronald McDonald House and let our children feel the joy of giving. Thank you!

— Wendy Schneirow

## Winter Holiday Festival this Friday

Come celebrate the Parents Association's Culture and Community Committee's Winter Holiday Festival this Friday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. The Festival begins with a 40-minute show in the school auditorium that celebrates holiday traditions from different cultures, including Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and more.

A potluck buffet in the cafeteria will follow. This is a free event, so parents are asked to bring any dish they would like to share: a favorite holiday treat, a cultural tradition, or just good food! No contribution is too big or too small — all of it will be gobbled up.



## Support the PA while you shop

Still holiday shopping? Then there is still time to benefit the PS 87 Parents Association.

A number of businesses, both online and local, partner with us to make a donation when you shop. Over the years, Amazon has been the most lucrative for our PA, so please use the unique Amazon link found on our home page, [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info), to enter the Amazon site and shop as usual.

Local businesses such as 72nd Street Stationery and Toy, Stopher and Boots, Book Culture and Malia Mills, have also asked how they can support PS 87. When you check out, just let the clerk know that you are a friend of PS 87, and the PA will receive a donation equivalent of 5 to 10 percent of your purchase.

Do you have a favorite store that might want to contribute? Ask the manager and then e-mail [pa-fundraising@ps87.info](mailto:pa-fundraising@ps87.info) so that we can include them in our affiliate program.

How about gifting some PS 87 gear to friends and family to spread your school spirit beyond 78th Street? The cousins in Ohio would be very popular wearing a NYC public school T-shirt. PS 87 gear will be on sale on Friday, Dec 11, from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. in the K Yard, and from 2:30 to 3 p.m. in the Big Yard. This will be the last gear sale of 2015, so swing on by and stock up for the holidays!

Now is a great time to remind yourself of all of our ongoing affiliate programs, including Rodan and Fields Skin Care, Urban Sitter, Cook Unity and Masala Baby. A complete list of our affiliate partners can be found on the Fundraising page on the PS 87 website and the bottom of the weekly e-newsletter.

If you are a Fairway shopper, please request a Community Partners card by filling out the form on the PS 87 website. Present the card every time you buy groceries, and Fairway will donate up to 4 percent of your purchase to the PA.

Cleaning out your closets? Donate those clothes to Schoola, and we receive 40 percent of all online sales. Simply request a bag, fill it up, and drop it at the post office. No charge to you. [www.schoola.com/schools/ps-87-william-sherman-new-york-ny](http://www.schoola.com/schools/ps-87-william-sherman-new-york-ny).

Questions? E-mail [pa-fundraising@ps87.info](mailto:pa-fundraising@ps87.info).

## Questions? Here's where to find answers

PS 87 will welcome back parent coordinator Margaret Lerner following the winter vacation. Until Margaret returns, the following people may be contacted in her absence:

**Claudia Zangrillo** ([03m087@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:03m087@schools.nyc.gov)) for help creating a NYC School Account.

**Emily Paxinos** ([epaxino@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:epaxino@schools.nyc.gov)) for questions regarding attendance, kindergarten registration, or changing personal information in the DOE system.

**Jacqueline Rodriguez** ([jrodrig6@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jrodrig6@schools.nyc.gov)) for questions regarding middle school.

**Marie Mooney Martinez** ([mmartins2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:mmartins2@schools.nyc.gov)) for questions regarding Special Education services or IEPs.

**Barbara Kissane** ([bkissan@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:bkissan@schools.nyc.gov)) for questions regarding kindergarten through 2nd grade.

**Suzan Federici** ([sfederi@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sfederi@schools.nyc.gov)) for questions regarding 3rd through 5th grade.



## Coffee With Monica returns in January

Please join Principal Monica Berry and your fellow parents in January to ask questions and learn more about your child's experience at PS 87. All Coffee With Monica talks begin at 8:45 a.m. in the auditorium. Dates and grades are:

- Jan. 13: Pre-K and 1st grade
- Jan. 14: 2nd grade and 3rd grades
- Jan. 15: 4th and 5th grades

## Report cards sent home tomorrow

Report cards for the fall semester will be sent home Friday. If you have questions once you have received the report card, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. The teachers have time set aside every Tuesday afternoon to meet with parents.

## See you next year!

This is the last *Backpack News* of 2015. The newsletter will resume publication in January. We hope all in the PS 87 community have a wonderful winter recess, a happy holiday season, and a festive New Year's Eve. See you in 2016.

## PS Backpack<sup>87</sup>News

PS 87 Parents Association  
160 West 78th Street  
New York, NY 10024

E-mail articles for *Backpack News* to [backpacknews@yahoo.com](mailto:backpacknews@yahoo.com). For details on how to sponsor *Backpack News*, go to the *Fundraising* bar at [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info) and click on "Advertising & Donation Opportunities." Or just click "Backpack News" in the Quick Links.

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

**Next issue is Jan. 7.** Deadline for articles is Sunday, Jan. 3.

**Editor this week:** Angela Freedman