

# PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 18

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

February 4, 2016

## From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

I love PS 87 because . . .

As you enter our building, you will see a large banner with the words “I love PS 87 because . . .” surrounded by stickers written by parents, staff and students describing why they love our school. Most of the stickers mention making friends, having wonderful teachers, having gym and having friends. Other people wrote that they loved PS 87 because we are a strong community. In the spirit of Spirit Day, I wanted to write you to tell you why I love PS 87.

The PS 87 community is not only strong, but it is also a community that you are always a part of. Friendships formed while children attend PS 87 are lasting. Relationships between teachers and families don’t end when children are promoted to the next grade or move on to other schools. Parents who became friends when their children were in kindergarten often remain close long after their children graduate college. It isn’t uncommon that 4th-grade parents seek out advice from their child’s 1st-grade teacher, for lower-grade teachers to have lunch with upper-grade students, or for former parents to come back to the 87 staff for support. On days when middle school students have a half-day, the lobby is filled with former 87 students trying desperately to get past Officer Ayala in order to say hello to their teachers from kindergarten through 5th grade. A number of former PS 87 students teach in the PS 87 Afterschool program or work as teaching assistants during the day.

This is what I love about PS 87. It is a place where strangers become a part of a close-knit community. It is a home away from home that always has its doors open for members of the community. It is something I have not seen in other schools. Seeing how welcoming the children and families are in this community warms my heart. It amazes me that people who are members of a community this large manage to make everyone who walks through the door feel so welcome and cared for.

PS 87 is a big school with a small school feel. That is why I love PS 87.

— Monica Berry, PS 87 principal

**Have a question you would like to ask Principal Monica Berry? Please go to the PS 87 website, [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info), and click the “Ask Monica” button on the home page to submit your question.**

## PS 87 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2016

7	Super Bowl; kickoff at 6:30 p.m.
8	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Lunar New Year
9	Support Services/Spec. Ed. Comm., 8:30 a.m., JCC Café. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
11	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
15-19	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , mid-winter recess
22	SLT meeting, 4:15 p.m., location to be announced
25	Black History Celebration rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., auditorium
26	<b>BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION</b> 6 p.m., auditorium. Potluck dinner follows at 6:45 p.m. in cafeteria.
<b>MARCH 2016</b>	
2	PA Executive Board meeting, 6:10–8 p.m., library
3	Parent-teacher conferences in the evening
3	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL</b> – Parent teacher conferences in the afternoon
10	<b>PA GENERAL MEETING</b> , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria. Guest speaker on cyber security and parental controls.
12	<b>PS 87 AUCTION</b> , 7 – 11 p.m., Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St.. Donations and volunteers needed. Tickets now on sale. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
21	SLT meeting, 4:15 p.m., location to be announced
21	<b>BROADWAY NIGHT</b> , 6:30 p.m., auditorium
25	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Good Friday

### Mid-winter recess camp registration open

Need something fun for your kids to enjoy during mid-winter break? Registration for Winter Holiday Camp 2016 is now open. Choose one day or all five days! Activities include Scientific Liberty, LegoLand and Bricks4Kids. Each day runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visit [www.87afterschool.org](http://www.87afterschool.org) for a full schedule and registration information.

### Recycle old pens, markers, batteries

The Green Team has installed a receptacle for recycling old pens, markers and mechanical pencils in the lobby, behind Officer Ayala’s desk. Please collect your old unusable writing instruments (no wooden pencils or crayons, please) at home and in the classroom, and put them in the bin. They will be sent to Terracycle and made into plastic storage bins. Next to the pen-recycling bin, there is also a receptacle for recycling old batteries.

## Donate to the Auction; deadline is Feb. 12

Time is running out for you to make a donation to the PS 87 Auction. The donation deadline is Feb. 12, and with just over a week left the Auction team is STILL in need of donations to reach its goal. Auction proceeds have supported half of the Parents Association budget, and every penny raised helps provide an enriched and safe education for our children. Visit [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info) for the online donation link or pick up a form from Officer Ayala's desk in the lobby. Welcome big-ticket items include:

- Trips, vacations, hotels stays (local or beyond)
- Sports tickets: Rangers, Mets, Yankees, Nets, U.S. Open, Giants, Jets, All Star Game, etc.
- Live tapings: *SNL*, Larry Wilmore, *Today Show* concert series, etc.
- Broadway shows
- Meet and greets: athletes or celebrities
- Restaurant gift certificates: both local and outside the UWS
- Group parties (dinners or fitness)
- Concert tickets
- Jewelry and accessories
- Unlimited beauty experience (blowouts for a year, etc.)

## Tickets now on sale for March 12 Auction

The PS 87 Auction tickets are now on sale. Don't wait — go to [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info) to buy your tickets now to help make magic for our children. It's a night out with the PS 87 community you won't want to miss!

This year's Auction takes place March 12 at Rodeph Sholom (7 W. 83rd St.) from 7 to 11 p.m.

## Volunteers needed for Auction swaps

Our fellow neighborhood schools need our help! Every year, we work with Hunter, Anderson, PS 9 and PS 452 to send at least five volunteers to these schools' auctions. As a result, each school gets a dedicated group of volunteers that works the whole night! Grab a friend or two and volunteer together. You can sign up at [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info). Dates are:

- March 5, Anderson auction at Church of St. Ignatius
- March 19, PS 9 auction at Landmark on the Park
- April 2, PS 452 auction at Landmark on the Park
- May 20, Hunter auction at Church of St. Ignatius

Volunteers are asked to work from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Questions? E-mail Jessica Baskin or at [jl0212@hotmail.com](mailto:jl0212@hotmail.com) or Christen Bishara at [cmbishara@yahoo.com](mailto:cmbishara@yahoo.com).

## Special education services meeting Feb. 9

The Special Education Committee is a parent resource for services offered to support our children at PS 87. Meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday of every month. Please join us at our next meeting Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. at the JCC Café on Amsterdam Avenue, at 76th Street.

## Buy film festival tickets and help the PA

PA 87 has partnered with New York International Children's Film Festival again, and we are thrilled to announce that 2016 festival tickets are now on sale. For every ticket purchased, the festival will donate \$3 back to our Parents Association! Four weekends. One-hundred films. Thirty-five countries. New York International Children's Film Festival presents the best new films from around the world for ages 3 through 18, Feb. 26 through March 20.

Explore the world without leaving New York! The festival takes place at venues throughout NYC and includes premieres, filmmaker Q&As, workshops, parties and special preview screenings for children and families.

To buy tickets and raise money for our school simply:

1. Go to [www.nycicff.org/tickets](http://www.nycicff.org/tickets)
2. Select our school from the "Select My School" menu (This step is IMPORTANT! We don't get credit if you don't select PS 87.)
3. Purchase tickets

Voila! Our PA earns \$3 for each ticket you purchase!

## PS 87's school directory now online

PS 87's school directory is predominantly online this year, which has been both a green initiative and has saved the Parents Association a considerable amount of money.

We hope everyone is making use of this online directory system available through My School Anywhere. Once you sign up, the app can be downloaded to your phone so that the directory is at your fingertips at all times. If you never signed up through the My School Anywhere link, please contact [pa-directory@ps87.info](mailto:pa-directory@ps87.info) for information on how to do so.

Still, for some, a printed directory is a useful tool. To that end, the PA provided staff with complimentary printed copies and is selling a limited quantity to interested parents for \$10 each while supplies last. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please e-mail the PA presidents at [pa-president@ps87.info](mailto:pa-president@ps87.info).

## Reminder: No school Monday

Monday, Feb. 8, is a holiday for all public schools in New York City. New York schools will be closed in honor of Asian lunar new year. Because of the short week and the looming mid-winter recess, *Backpack News* will not have an issue next week. The next issue of the newsletter will come out Feb. 25.

## PS Backpack87News

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**Deadline for Feb. 25 issue:** Sunday, Feb. 21, at midnight

**Editor this week:** Karen Denker