

# PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 22

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

March 17, 2016

## Message from the PA presidents

Dear Families,

What a magical and memorable event the Auction was this past weekend! It was so great to celebrate our school and community with you all.

We are so grateful to our stellar Auction co-chairs Melissa Burnazian and Martha DiPrete. After a year of planning, they executed a night that was elegant, fun, warm, and profitable for our school. We were pleased to meet our fundraising goals. Thank you to the entire Auction team for tackling this monumental event. Whether you pitched in with solicitations, packaging, class art projects, marketing, coordinating volunteers, food and beverage, décor, technology support, or any of the other countless tasks, you all did so with such talent and ease. You made it look easy when it was not and showed us what a true labor of love is. Our school is the better for it.

We were so happy to have the Auction back in the neighborhood and to be using neighborhood vendors. We were proud to have our own Tim Seymour emcee the night and Christie's auctioneer Andy McVinish bring his craft to the live auction. And, as if all that weren't enough, we were thrilled to have parent band Metal Park, joined by none other than Principal Monica, bring down the house! It was so nice to see such a big crowd, particularly all of the teachers and staff who came out to support the event. The room was packed, the vibe was joyful, and the end result was a celebration that will not be forgotten. We hope you all had as much fun as we did.

While we definitely will be basking in the glow of the Auction for the near future, it's time to look ahead to the next event. Because the Parents Association never rests, our Broadway Night volunteers are hard at work putting the finishing touches on our legendary Broadway night. We hope you have purchased your tickets for Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. because the performances are sure to be Broadway worthy and will include actors from both *Matilda* and *Jersey Boys*. And once again, Monica will be showing off her pipes! We can't wait to see you there.

We are so lucky to be able to support our school with events of this caliber. Please continue to come out for them and see what all of the hype is about!

See you around school.

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

PS 87 CALENDAR	
MARCH 2016	
17	St. Patrick's Day
21	<b>BROADWAY NIGHT</b> , 6:30 p.m., auditorium. Tickets now on sale. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
21-22	Reusable water bottles sold at morning dropoff in honor of World Water Day. <i>Details below.</i>
25	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Good Friday
28	SLT meeting, 4:15 p.m., location to be announced
APRIL 2016	
5-7	NY State English Language Arts testing
6	<b>PA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING</b> , 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
13-15	NY State Mathematics testing
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
22	Earth Day
25-29	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> , Spring Break. 87Afterschool will be offering Spring Camp this week; go to <a href="http://www.87afterschool.org">www.87afterschool.org</a> for more information.

## Need info? It's all there at [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info)

PS 87's website, [www.ps87.info](http://www.ps87.info), is the best way for parents to stay up to date on what's happening in the school and keep informed about programs and initiatives sponsored by the Parents Association. On the site's home page, parents can read announcements about important events, buy tickets to school-sponsored shows, and learn how to stay connected through the school's online directory. The site also has a complete calendar of events and information about ways parents can earn money for the PA while shopping at Fairway, Amazon and other places.

## Bring reusable water bottles March 22

Did you know that enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth four times? PS 87 is celebrating the United Nations' World Water Day on March 22 by promoting the use of reusable water bottles at school. Each child is urged to bring a reusable water bottle to school that day. The Parents Association's Green Team will sell water bottles outside of school after drop-off on the mornings of March 21 and March 22 to make sure each child has a reusable water bottle on March 22. Please help us support this day and one of our most important resources: water!

## Help PS 191 get its library

PS 191 has a proposal for its desperately needed school library on Helen Rosenthal's Participatory Budgeting ballot, and enough votes from PS 87 families and others in District 6 (the Upper West Side and Upper Clinton) can help it get funded. Bring an ID showing residence in the district and cast your votes (you get five) between March 26 and April 3 at Helen Rosenthal's district office (87th Street and Columbus Avenue) or any of the other voting stations (listed at <http://helenrosenthal.com/pb/>). While there, you could thank Helen for her support of PS 87, including our recent auditorium renovation. Take your children and teach the positive power of the vote! Look for lists of polling places/times in the school lobby as the date approaches. Won't be able to get to a voting venue? Request a ballot by e-mailing [district6pbvoting@gmail.com](mailto:district6pbvoting@gmail.com) by March 25. Any questions? Ask Debby Saito at [pa-membership@ps87.info](mailto:pa-membership@ps87.info)

## Don't miss out on Broadway Night

Tickets are going fast for PS 87's annual Broadway Night fundraiser. The performance begins at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21, in the auditorium. It will feature parents, PS 87 staff and special guests in a one-night-only, always-sold-out show. Tickets for the one-hour show cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids. There will be no ticket sales at the door. All proceeds benefit PS 87. Purchase tickets online at <https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/broadway-night-2016/>

If cost is an issue, please do not hesitate to e-mail the organizers at [broadway-night@ps87.info](mailto:broadway-night@ps87.info).

## Buying Film Fest tickets? Mention PS 87

The 2016 New York International Children's Film Festival is under way through March 20. Set sail on an incredible journey, befriend a monster, uncover a mystery, visit a foreign country — or a foreign planet. New York Int'l Children's Film Festival invites families to explore new frontiers through the best new films from around the world. There are 35 countries represented and more than 100 films to choose from.

For each purchase in which you mention PS 87, the school PA receives a donation so go watch some films and enjoy! For details, visit <http://nyicff.org/>

## PS 87 Directory now online – mostly

The 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 all parents are 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 [pa-president@ps87.info](mailto:pa-president@ps87.info).

## Remembering Margaret Lerner

A memorial fund has been started to create a reading garden in honor of Margaret Lerner, PS 87's parent coordinator who died in late 2015. Families who wish to donate to this garden can contribute to the Margaret Marner Lerner Memorial Fund by check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to "PS 87 Parents Association" with "The Margaret Marner Lerner Memorial Fund" written on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: PA Treasurers, c/o PS 87  
160 W. 78th St., New York, NY 10024.

To donate by credit card, go to this link:

<https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/donations-in-honor-of-margaret-lerner/>

## Coming soon: Everybody Reads Week 2016

Everybody Reads Week (April 18 – 22) is an annual in-school literacy celebration, with invited authors, illustrators, publishers, playwrights, poets, community leaders, TV and music journalists, actors and lovers of the written word sharing their work and passion for writing with the students at PS 87. If you know anyone in the literary, publishing or media fields that would be willing to volunteer some time to be part of this annual celebration, please e-mail the PS 87 Library Committee at [pa-librarycommittee@ps87.info](mailto:pa-librarycommittee@ps87.info).

As always, Tuesday of that week will be Cap Day, and Friday will be Come As Your Favorite Book Character Day. (Creativity is key here; please do not purchase a special costume.)

## Complete and return the school survey

Green envelopes containing the 2016 NYC School Survey have been sent home, and parents are encouraged to complete the survey and return it to your classroom teacher by Thursday, March 24. Surveys also can be returned directly to the Department of Education by using the pre-addressed envelope sent with the survey form, but returning surveys to your child's teacher will help school administrators track participation rates. Survey results are used by PS 87's School Leadership Team when advancing school initiatives that may affect the quality of your child's education. In previous years, PS 87's response rate has been significantly lower than the citywide average, with last year's 34 percent response rate placing us among the lowest return rate of any school in the city. Administrators are asking every family to fill out and return the survey, and help the school reach its goal of 100 percent participation.

## PS Backpack87 News

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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.

**Deadline for March 24 issue:** Sunday, Mar. 20, at midnight

**Editor this week:** Skip Card