

PS Backpack87News

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The Weekly Newsletter of the PS 87 Community | www.ps87.info

March 31, 2016

Message from the PA presidents

Dear Families,

March went out like a lion evidenced by our Broadway night, which was a mammoth event! We hope that you were there to witness the Broadway-caliber performances. Our Broadway night team, led by Maree Johnson-Baruch, Laurent Nahon, Kristine Louis Reynal, Max Reynal and Heather Widensky, pulled out all of the stops. We are grateful to them for keeping this tradition going and taking it to unimaginable heights! Special thanks goes to Monica for performing, Scott Ellis for directing and donating so many show tickets for the raffles, and Jennifer Hudson for bringing the house down! The finale of *Seasons of Love*, with all of the performers onstage together, was a really special 87 moment. Broadway Night is one of those unique 87 events that make us really proud to be part of such a talented, hardworking community.

Make sure to join us at the next Parents Association meeting on April 21 at 8:35 a.m. in the cafeteria. The meeting will feature “Parenting in the Digital Age,” a presentation by the Socialsklz social etiquette program. Also at the meeting, our Nominating Committee will announce the nominations for the 2016-2017 PA Executive Board elections. If you are interested in running for a position on next year’s board, please reach out by April 18 to Nominating Committee chair, Michelle Cave, at pa-election@ps87.info.

Serving on the PA’s Executive Board is the ultimate way to impact our school. We encourage you to be a part of it and make your voice heard. All positions are available and include:

Co-President
Administration Vice President
Community Affairs Vice President
Communications Vice President
Enrichment Vice President
Co-Secretary
Co-Treasurer
Afterschool Officer
Auction Chair
Membership & Events Chair
Fundraising Chair
Wellness Chair
Family Giving Chair

We’d love to see your name on the ballot! Thanks in advance, and see you around school!

— *Jaime Abrams and Wendy Schnierow, PA co-presidents*

PS 87 CALENDAR

APRIL 2016

5-7	NY State English Language Arts testing. (Makeup tests will be given April 8 – 12.)
6	PA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING , 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
13-15	NY State Mathematics testing. (Makeups April 18 – 20.)
18-22	Everybody Reads Week
21	No school for Pre-K students
21	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria. PA Board nominations to be announced. Presentation by Socialsklz: “Parenting in the Digital Age.”
25-29	NO SCHOOL , 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
5	Cinco De Mayo
6	Fiesta Latina, 6 p.m.

NYC School Surveys due April 1

The easiest way to make your voice heard is to complete the NYC School Survey that came home in green envelopes with your children. The survey can be completed either in paper form or online at www.nyschoolsurvey.org. Surveys are due **TOMORROW**, on Friday, April 1. By completing this confidential survey, you can provide feedback regarding how the school is meeting your family’s needs. In past years, our collective participation level has been low. Please change that by taking a few minutes to submit your survey.

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 87afterschool.org.

Seeking costumes for Shakespeare *Dream*

Our drama department is gearing up to stun audiences with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and they need your help! Jenny Lombard is seeking donations of fabric, trim, costume jewelry and fabric paint to help turn dream costumes into reality. Volunteers are also needed to help with costumes and sets.

Please e-mail Jenny at DramaTeacher87@yahoo.com if you are interested or want to find out more information!

PS 87 goes to Yankee Stadium June 11

Tickets are still available for PS 87's trip to Yankee Stadium. Come join other PS 87 families to see the Yankees take on the Detroit Tigers on Saturday, June 11, at 7:15 p.m.

With every ticket, you will receive unlimited hot dogs, sausage and peppers, pretzels and Pepsi products and water until the fifth inning. Each student that attends will receive a New Era Yankees pinch hitter hat. Seats are in Sections 305 and 306, and a portion of the proceeds of each ticket will raise money for our school.

This is a great way to celebrate the end of the school year with family and friends while giving our school a helping hand. 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.

Vote to support UWS public schools

Five "Education and Youth" proposals are in City Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal's Participatory Budgeting ballot, and you get five votes! You can help PS 191 get a library, and PS 75 and MS 250 get security cameras, among other worthy initiatives at PS 166, and Brandeis and LaGuardia high schools. (PS 87 is seeking funding directly from our local representatives for on-site security cameras; stay tuned for news on that!)

Bring your ID showing Upper West Side residence, such as your driver's license, utility bill or a credit card bill. All forms of accepted ID can be found at <http://helenrosenthal.com/how-to-vote/>.

Show your child the power of the vote this week at the following times/locations:

Thursday, March 31: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., Hargrave House, 111 W. 71st St. (between Columbus and Amsterdam)

Friday, April 1: 4 – 6 p.m., Councilmember Rosenthal's District Office, 563 Columbus Ave. (corner of 87th Street)

Saturday, April 2: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 91st Street Garden in Riverside Park

Saturday, April 2: 2 – 4 p.m., West Side Community Garden, 90th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues

Sunday, April 3: Noon – 2 p.m., Community Board 7 Offices, 250 W. 87th St. (between Broadway and West End)

Help PS 87 while you shop

Please join us for a PS 87-only evening of jewelry shopping and light bites to benefit the school! The event will be held on Tuesday, May 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at KC Signatures, 2301 Broadway, at 83rd Street. This is a perfect chance to socialize and find Mother's Day or graduation gifts, and 20 percent of the proceeds go back to the school.

Fifth-grade graduation June 22

Fifth-grade families: Save the date. PS 87's 5th-grade graduation ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22, at Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St. The 5th-grade teachers will send home more information as the date nears.

Info available about opting out of tests

New York State's English Language Arts (ELA) and Math tests will take place the first and second weeks in April. Parents who are interested in information about opting out of the tests and its ramifications can e-mail Arlene Hellerman at pa-communityaffairs@ps87.info. Please write either "opting out" or "test info" in the e-mail's subject line.

Middle school letters due in April

The time is approaching to hear back from the Department of Education about middle school seat offers. PS 87 has been informed that this year notification letters will be distributed sometime in April, before Spring Recess. The DOE's Office of Enrollment has not announced specific dates for when letters will be distributed, but all 5th-grade parents will be notified immediately when the information becomes available.

Once PS 87 receives the letters, another e-mail will follow with instructions for what steps to follow next in the middle school process.

2016-2017 school calendar online

New York's Department of Education has released its calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents of public school students who want to plan ahead can view the full calendar online at www.schools.nyc.gov. Key dates are:

Sept. 8: First day of school for K through 12

Nov. 8: Schools closed for Election Day

Nov. 24-25: Schools closed for Thanksgiving

Dec. 26 thru Jan. 2: Winter Recess

Feb. 20 thru Feb. 24: Midwinter recess

April 10 thru April 18: Spring Recess

June 28: Last day of school

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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 7 issue: Sunday, April 3, at midnight

Editor this week: Angela Freedman