

PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 29

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

May 19, 2016

From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

Although it doesn't feel like it, warm weather is on the way. Earlier this week Suzan sent home a notice about the dress code for warm weather. We are repeating that information here in case you did not receive the notice.

Although the notice was written to address hot days in particular, these guidelines are applicable all year long. Some items, like flip-flops, are listed as inappropriate because they could interfere with your child's safety. Other items may be too distracting.

Appropriate warm-weather apparel for school includes sandals, Bermuda shorts, capris, sleeveless shirts, sweatpants (especially PS 87 ones), tank tops, T-shirts.

Inappropriate warm-weather apparel for school includes flip-flops, hot pants, skirts shorter than mid-thigh, tube tops, shirts with spaghetti straps, shirts that expose the stomach, pants that expose the stomach.

Hats, bandanas and sweatbands may be worn to school but must be removed when in the building. If you have any questions, please contact the administration.

Before closing, I want to send a huge thank-you to Abigail Edgecliffe-Johnson, Wilson Cano and the Maker Faire crew for coordinating a fun-filled event last Thursday, in which families had the opportunity to engage in some exciting STEM activities. I also want to thank Eric Fox, Jerome Kramer, Dee Dee Williams and everyone who helped make Friday's Rock Night a success yet again this year. If you didn't get an opportunity to participate in these activities, do not worry. Both events will be happening again next year, so look out for more information when next year's school calendar becomes available.

— Monica Berry, PS 87 principal

Stock up on summer books at Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be back in the PS 87 lobby from Friday, May 20, through Sunday, May 22. Books for all reading levels will be available, including books from the middle school reading lists. Friendly volunteers will be on hand to help you make the best selections. Visitors to the Book Fair can also donate or buy books to stock the new library at PS 191, our neighbor school on the Upper West Side. The Book Fair will be open May 20 from noon to 6 p.m. and May 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To volunteer, e-mail pa-bookfair@ps87.info.

| PS 87 CALENDAR | |
|----------------|--|
| MAY 2016 | |
| 20 | Spring Scholastic Book Fair , noon – 6 p.m., lobby. <i>Details below.</i> |
| 20 | SoulCycle wellness event, 8:15 p.m., corner of W. 77th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. |
| 21-22 | Spring Scholastic Book Fair , 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., lobby |
| 30 | NO SCHOOL , Memorial Day |
| 31 | Fifth-graders depart at 7:45 a.m. for Nature's Classroom. <i>See Page 2 for list of all 5th-grade events.</i> |
| JUNE 2016 | |
| 1 | PA Executive Board meeting , 6:10 p.m., library |
| 5 | SPRING FAIR , noon – 5 p.m., Big Yard & 77th Street |
| 6 | Grade 4 science written test |
| 7 | Dual Language breakfast meeting, 8 a.m., library |
| 8 | PS 87 Art Show. <i>Volunteers needed; see Page 2.</i> |
| 9 | NO SCHOOL , staff development day |
| 9-11 | <i>Anything Goes</i> , performed by the Shining Star afterschool musical theater troupe |
| 11 | Group outing to watch Yankees vs. Tigers, 7:15 p.m. at Yankee Stadium. Sign up at ps87.info . |
| 13 | Garden Party, 8:45 a.m. |
| 14 | NO SCHOOL , clerical day |
| 16 | PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria. |
| 22 | Fifth-grade graduation , 10 a.m., Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St. |
| 28 | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL |

Family Giving: Win popsicles for your class

The classes in each grade with the highest percentage of families who contribute to PS 87's Family Giving fund drive will win a popsicle party! Your donation helps pay for many of our most relied-upon education, enrichment and safety programs not funded by the Department of Education. The suggested donation is \$900 per child, the amount the Parents Association spends annually on each child, but whether you give \$5 or \$5,000, all donations are needed and appreciated! Here's how it works: Donations made between the beginning of the school year and June 10 will count. If you've already donated this academic year, your donation will be counted in your class's participation rate. If you have more than one child, your one-time donation will be counted for each child's class. It's all about participation! Winning classes will be announced by June 13. To give, visit www.PS87Giving.org, or drop a check (with each child's name and class) into the PA lockbox in the main office.

PA Executive Board members elected

Debby Saito and Jackie Shewchuk have been elected co-presidents of the PS 87 Parents Association for the 2016-2017 school year. Debby and Jackie will take over July 1 for Jaime Abrams and Wendy Schnierow, who have served two years as PA co-presidents.

Debby is the mother of two sons, 3rd-grader Niko and 1st-grader Mica. Jackie has two daughters, 4th-grader Mary and 1st-grader Bridget, plus a young son, Adam, who will attend PS 87 in the future. Both were elected co-president at the PA's May 12 General Meeting when Executive Board members were elected or re-elected.

Others on the PA Executive Board for 2016-2017 will be:

Milary Olson and Rebecca Solano, co-treasurers
Pam Unger and Kim Shankman, co-secretaries
Jessica Fox, administrative vice president
Gillian Mollod, communications vice president
Katie Miller, enrichment officer
Wendy Flagstad, community affairs officer
Melissa Burnazian, auction officer
Stacy Cousino, Afterschool officer
Jessica Lawrence, Family Giving officer
Sonya Yerid, fundraising officer
Therese Snider, wellness officer
Lora Martinez, membership and events officer

Apply now for parent openings on SLT

The PS 87 School Leadership Team (SLT) anticipates having three open seats for parent members. Members will serve for two years, from fall 2016 to spring 2018. The SLT offers parents an opportunity to meet with faculty and administrators, and to participate in policy development and shared decision-making. SLT members attend monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings. Voting will take place at the final PA meeting of the school year on June 16. Nominations may be taken from the floor on voting day, but we encourage interested parents to inquire in advance. If you would like more information on how to run, please e-mail SLT Parent Chair Emma Paske at epaske@hotmail.co.uk.

Reminders for parents of 5th-graders

May and June are busy months for the 5th-graders in their final year at PS 87. Here are some timely reminders:

- **Yearbook ads:** These are due to teachers by Friday, May 20.
- **Nature's Classroom:** On Tuesday, May 31, buses will leave school at 7:45 a.m. Children will return on Friday, June 3, by 2:45 p.m.
- **Fifth Grade Graduation Party:** It will be held on Friday, June 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the PS 87 gym. This will be a fun evening celebration for our Class of 2016 graduates, filled with dancing, dinner and more. This party is for current PS 87 5th-grade students only. Parent volunteers are needed to help with party planning and chaperoning. Please reach out to 5th Grade Rep Hillary Solomon, at hillarysolomon@msn.com, if you would like to volunteer.
- **Fifth Grade Graduation:** It will be held Wednesday, June 22, at Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.



Pitch In: Volunteer Opportunities

The PS 87 Art Show needs volunteers!

Each spring, the halls of PS 87 display beautiful artwork by PS 87 students. This year, art teacher Lucy Formato has been working with kids in kindergarten through 3rd grade to create collages, paintings and pastels inspired by famous artists and ancient cultures. Now we need your help to mount, label and hang art in the hallways, and break down the show afterward (*carefully, to return these masterpieces to their respective artists!*). New days and hours have been added to the sign-up, at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caab2ca1ff2-ps87art1.

We need you to make Spring Fair a success!

On Sunday, June 5, the PS 87 Spring Fair will take over the Big Yard and 77th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus. The fair will feature rides, games, arts and crafts, food, books, street vendors, music and more! But we can't do it without you! Please contact your Class Parent or Spring Fair Liaison to sign up for a volunteer shift — kids are the perfect helpers here. Also, if you know a neighborhood business that would like to reach our community and the families of the UWS, encourage them to purchase a vendor space at the fair. Contact Allison Corn, ac73@aol.com, who is happy to solicit their involvement on behalf of PS 87. To learn more and to book space, please go to www.ps87.info, or register at <https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/ps-87-spring-street-fair-vendor-form/>.

We also need help with Spring Fair's Used Book Sale: This component of Spring Fair is hugely successful, but it requires many parent hours of sorting and transporting books. Please contact Hollie Elkins at HollieTELkins@gmail.com, or drop off your used books (*and Fresh Direct-size cardboard boxes!*) at school between May 31 and June 3. We also need strong bodies on Sunday morning to help move books from the school to the tables outside. To get involved, please contact pa-fundraising@ps87.info.

Clean out your closets to support PS 87

Friday, May 20, is the final day to participate in the Schoola Clothing Drive. Donate by dropping your bag off at school. What to do? **Stuff a bag** with new or gently used clothes and shoes for toddlers, kids, and/or women; **attach the sticker** with our school name and ZIP code, to ensure we get credit (*stickers available in the lobby*); **drop it off** in the lobby. PS 87 gets \$2 for every \$5 spent on our clothing, and we have earned nearly \$6,000 from the clothes that parents have contributed since we started our affiliation. If you have any questions, please contact pa-fundraising@ps87.info.

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

E-mail articles for *Backpack News* to backpacknews@yahoo.com. For details on how to sponsor *Backpack News*, go to the *Fundraising* bar at 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 May 26 issue: Sunday, May 22, at midnight

Editor this week: Stacy Cousino