

PS Backpack87News

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

May 26, 2016

Message from the PA presidents

Dear Families,

The countdown to the end of school has begun, and we are actively planning for the 2016-2017 school year to make sure that everything is in place for a smooth transition and another great year.

We'd like to officially congratulate the two new co-presidents of PS 87's Parents Association, Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk and Debby Saito, who were elected at the last PA meeting. We know they are going to do a fantastic job, with the support of our committed families, so please start reaching out to them. We'd also like to congratulate and thank the new and returning Executive Board. PS 87 wouldn't be the school it is without all that our parents do, so thank you for making that commitment for all of our children.

And we have lots more thanks to give out ...

A big thank you to the Book Fair team — Sophia Ferraiuoli, Daphne Guarino, Kelly Ramot and Rebecca Solano — for bringing us the FIRST ever Springtime/Summer Reading/Weekend Book Fair! The school entrance was turned into our own little Book Culture, and we greatly appreciate the effort.

And last Friday night at SoulCycle we had parents, teachers and staff spinning for our school! Thank you to Therese Snider and Polly Lagana of the Wellness Committee who organized another great and inspiring fitness evening. Spinning was followed by wine and snacks, and everyone had a blast.

We hope you all received the PA's invitation to celebrate the career of Assistant Principal Suzan Federici, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Please stop by June 16 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the garden (children are welcome) as we honor Suzan's dedication to the school and wish her our best as a community.

See you around school!

— Jaime Abrams & Wendy Schnierow, PA co-presidents

PS 87 turns into an art gallery June 8

On Wednesday, June 8, the halls of PS 87 will 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. The artwork will be on display from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parent volunteers are needed to mount, label and hang art in the hallways, and break down the show afterward. Parents can sign up to help at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caaab2ca1ff2-ps87art1.

PS 87 CALENDAR

MAY 2016

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
3	Middle school info session for 4th-grade parents, 8:45 a.m., auditorium
5	SPRING FAIR , noon – 5 p.m., Big Yard & 77th Street
6	Grade 4 science written test
6	Kindergarten picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
7	Dual Language breakfast meeting, 8 a.m., library
8	PS 87 Art Show , 5:30-7:30 p.m. <i>Volunteers needed; see article on this page.</i>
9	NO SCHOOL , staff development day
9-11	<i>Anything Goes</i> , performed by the Shining Star afterschool musical theater troupe. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
11	Group outing to watch Yankees vs. Tigers, 7:15 p.m.
13	Garden Party, 8:45 a.m.
13	4th-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
14	NO SCHOOL , clerical day
15	5th-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
16	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
16	3rd-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
17	5th-grade graduation party, 6:30 p.m., gym
20	1st-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
21	2nd-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
22	5th-grade graduation , 10 a.m., Rodeph Sholom
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! 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. 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.

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:

- **Nature's Classroom** begins 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** 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. To volunteer, contact 5th-Grade Rep Hillary Solomon at hillarysolomon@msn.com.
- **Fifth-Grade Graduation** will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 22, at Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St.

Green Team promotes Plastic-Free Fridays

The average American school-age child throws away 67 pounds of lunch waste per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. At PS 87, approximately 120 plastic sandwich baggies are used per day. There are on average 180 school days per year, which means that each school year, we dispose of 21,600 plastic lunch bags. That's a lot of waste that can be avoided! When plastics break down, they don't biodegrade; they photodegrade. This means the materials break down to smaller toxic fragments that contaminate soil, waterways, and animals upon digestion. The solution is simple! Please pack your child's lunch with reusable lunch-ware and limit or eliminate the use of plastic bags, Saran wrap, and other non-recyclable materials. You can find many online or at our Green Team Tabling events.

The Department of Education is starting a Zero Waste Initiative at our school next fall, and we want to get your kids ready. To do this, we need the parent body to help us change our lunch culture from one of use-and-toss to one of reuse. We are starting with Plastic-Free Fridays. Please remember on Friday to send your kids to school with reusable lunch gear or give them money to get school lunch. For the remainder of the year, we will be having a contest on Fridays where the class that generates the least plastic waste will all receive coupons for 10 percent off our reusable lunch-ware. Thanks for helping us with this great effort! If you want to get involved with the Green Team and PS 87's Zero Waste initiative or if you would like to order reusable products from us, please e-mail pa-greenteam@ps87.info.



Pitch In: Volunteer Opportunities

We need you to make Spring Fair a success

Thank you all for volunteering with your classes to work at PS 87's annual **Spring Fair on Sunday, June 5, from noon to 5 p.m.** If it slipped your mind, reach out to your class parent today. Now is the time to invite your friends and family for a day of fun with PS 87. All-access wristbands will be on sale for \$30 at drop-off the week before the fair. Entry to the fair is free, but the wristband will allow your child unlimited access to everything but food. Wristband prices will increase on the day of the fair, so buy early.

If you can spare a few extra hours the weekend of the fair and the week ahead, please contact pa-fundraising@ps87.info. We need strong arms and backs for lifting, bake sale items, book sorters, face painters, and general assistance with ticket sales and promotion. Please read on:

Donate time and books to the Used Book Sale: This component of the fair is hugely successful, but it requires many parent hours of sorting and transporting books. Please contact Hollie Elkins at HollieTELkins@gmail.com if you can help on the days leading up to Spring Fair. Please drop off your used books at school the week before the fair. We also need cardboard boxes (ideally Fresh Direct size).

Sweets and treats: PS 87 bakers have a well-deserved reputation for excellence. Please drop off single-portioned and packaged items from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the bake sale table. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Anna White at anna_roop@hotmail.com or Joanna Sheinfeld at joannasheinfeld@yahoo.com.

Face-painting artists: Face painting is always a big draw. Even a little bit of face painting talent goes a long way. Our fabulous face painting team will give you the training and supplies you need. Please consider giving us an hour or two. Contact jessginc@gmail.com.

Heavy lifting: Extra muscle is needed the day of the fair for set-up and clean-up and to move supplies. Please contact pa-fundraising@ps87.info if you are willing and able.

Anything Goes opens 3-show run June 9

The 87Afterschool program's Shining Star theater troupe will perform *Anything Goes*, the classic shipboard musical featuring the songs of Cole Porter. Evening performances on June 9 and June 10 begin at 7 p.m., and a matinee on June 11 begins at 1 p.m. Shows take place in the PS 87 auditorium.

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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 June 2 issue: Sunday, May 29, at midnight

Editor this week: Skip Card