

PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 11

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

Nov. 19, 2015

Message from the PA presidents

Dear Families,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we wanted to say thank you to all the parents, teachers and staff at PS 87. We are lucky to have such a tight-knit, passionate and generous community.

We would like to specifically thank the Community Service Committee, headed up by Susan Servetnick, for organizing the Veterans Day volunteer opportunity at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. It was a great turnout, and we are very appreciative of special opportunities like this one where children can participate and give back.

The Community Service Committee is also collecting donations in the lobby for Ronald McDonald House to help children with cancer and their families during treatment. They are seeking toiletries and paper products to supply the Parents Pantry. If you would like to make a donation, please bring items to the bin in the front lobby through November. Susan can be reached at pa-communityservice@ps87.info.

Thanks also goes to Therese Snider and the Wellness Committee for organizing a great fundraiser at Pure Barre last Friday night with a special evening class just for PS 87. We thank you for bringing us together, keeping us healthy and making it fun!

And we are not just healthy these days, but also green! You might have noticed some big new recycling bins behind Officer Ayala's desk. Thank you to Gillian Mollod and the Green Team for reminding us to be good recyclers and giving us the tools to make it happen.

Finally, our PA General Meeting on Nov. 24 is an important one, and we encourage you to stop by. Principal Monica Berry will be reviewing the format of the new report cards, which will be going home Dec. 11. Please join us at 8:35 a.m. right after drop-off in the cafeteria, and come with questions for Monica! (Helen Rosenthal, the Upper West Side's City Council member, was originally scheduled to speak at the meeting. Unfortunately, Helen had to cancel.)

We wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. We are thankful for all that you do and to be a part of this community.

See you around school ...

—Jaime Abrams & Wendy Schnierow
PS 87 Parents Association co-presidents

PS 87 CALENDAR	
NOVEMBER 2015	
19	CEC General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
20	Open School Week, Kindergarten, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.
24	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria.
26-27	NO SCHOOL , Thanksgiving recess
DECEMBER 2015	
2	PA Executive Board Meeting, 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
3	No school for Pre-K students
7–11	Wellness In The Schools Hummus Week
10	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
10	Teacher Appreciation Dinner, 6 – 9 p.m., Landmark on the Park, 160 Central Park West
11	Winter Holiday Festival, 6 p.m., auditorium
21	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m., location TBD
24-31	NO SCHOOL , winter recess
JANUARY 2016	
4	SCHOOL RESUMES
6	PA Executive Board Meeting, 6:10 – 8 p.m., library
14	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
18	NO SCHOOL , Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
22	Family Fit Night, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
25	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m., location TBD
28	No school for Pre-K students

Scholastic Book Fair was a literary success

We are grateful to everyone who made this year's Scholastic Book Fair a huge success. Thanks to the many parent volunteers who bought delicious food for the teacher's preview, who helped with the cash registers, or who simply popped in on a regular basis and helped when needed. We would also like to thank Officers Ayala and Edda for sharing the lobby with us, and the custodial staff, Afterschool staff, administration, faculty and parents for all their support. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the children — seeing them so excited about reading and helping them find books is why we do this.

Congratulations to this year's raffle winner, Charlotte Widensky (1-B10), and mascot contest winner Sadie Schnierow (4-308). Mascot contest runners-up were Zoe Truong (Pre-K-107), Alex Tare (K-106), Quinn Lee (1-110), Calliope Neale (2-210), Anna Bessonette (3-208) and Amelie Landberg (5-301). Thank you to art teacher Lucy Formato for coordinating the mascot contest.

—Daphne Guarino and Sofia Ferraiuoli-Croneo,
Book Fair co-chairs

Follow the PA on Facebook and Twitter

The PS 87 Parents Association now has a Facebook page to keep parents updated on events and share noteworthy information. We are listed as "PS 87 PA," so look up the page and join the group! You can also follow the Parents Association on Twitter: @ PS_87_PA.



Pitch In: Volunteer Opportunities

Do you believe in magic? Help the Auction!

PS 87's 2016 Auction is already off to a strong start. On March 12, the Parents Association will host our school's largest fundraiser, supporting approximately half of the PA budget. Every penny we raise supports critical programs including academic and arts enrichment, kindergarten assistants, literacy intervention, substitute teachers, recess monitors, wellness initiatives, and more. The Auction Committee is looking for volunteers to help support this vital event. Visit www.ps87.info for a list of donation ideas and links to donation forms.

Support Ronald McDonald's Parents Pantry

Community Service will be collecting toiletries and paper goods for the Parents Pantry at the Ronald McDonald house. Help families with children who are ill during the holiday season. Drop off paper goods and toiletries to the bin in the lobby by the women's bathroom.

We thank all the PS 87 kids who volunteered on Veterans Day at the West Side Campaign for Hunger. Children sorted and packed apples while they learned how the WSCAH helps families in need. Join the Thousand Turkey Challenge Launch on Sunday, Nov. 22, and donate a frozen turkey to the WSCAH. For details, visit www.WSCAH.org.



Teacher and Staff Appreciation Dinner

The Special Events Committee is hosting the annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Landmark on the Park, 160 Central Park West. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.), service and support during the event (6 to 9 p.m.), and clean-up (7:30 to 9:30 p.m.). Time slots are flexible; volunteer for as little as two hours between 4:30 and 9:30 p.m. This is a hugely popular event with our teachers and staff. We look forward to working with all of you to make it a success again this year.

Volunteers are also needed to make or buy appetizers and desserts. Food items need to be dropped off at the venue, completely cooked and ready to serve, by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. To contribute food or volunteer, or for more information, please e-mail Judy Chin at jchin2014@gmail.com or Caryn Weinberg at carynweinberg@gmail.com by Dec. 1.

Break into Backpack News

Get a beat on all the latest happenings in and around PS 87! If you consider yourself a wordsmith, strive for accuracy, can manage multiple e-mails and are pretty good with Microsoft Word, consider joining the rotating staff of *Backpack News* editors. Contact co-managing editors Skip Card and Aimee Sabo at backpacknews@yahoo.com to volunteer and start breaking news to the entire PS 87 community.

Give to PS 87 on #GIVINGTUESDAY– Dec. 1

Three years ago, a global movement began to kick off the holiday season with a focus on charitable giving. On this year's #GIVING TUESDAY, Dec. 1, we ask that you give back to the PS 87 Parents Association. The PS 87 PA's annual pledge drive directly funds enhanced education, enrichment programs and safety initiatives for *all* PS 87 students. Every dollar counts. As we are all a part of the PS 87 community, *we ask for 100 percent participation* in Family Giving, regardless of the amount pledged. The PS 87 Family Giving Committee looks forward to seeing you on #GIVINGTUESDAY!

PS 87 kids donate 209 lbs. of candy

During the week after Halloween, parents Jana and Jonathan Arkins helped PS 87 students donate large parts of their Halloween loot to U.S. troops via Operation Gratitude. A total of 209 pounds of candy and chocolate were donated (along with a number of special notes of thanks for the soldiers from PS 87 children), and will soon be included in individual care packages sent to U.S. troops serving overseas. Thanks to all for supporting this heartwarming event.

Shop smarter: supermarket tours set

Join PS 87 parent and author Natalya Murakhver on a 45-minute supermarket tour. Learn how to decode labels and stock your fridge and pantry with high-quality, cost-efficient staples. Discover the healthiest, freshest, most versatile ingredients. Get label-reading tips, unmask hidden ingredients, and help make the most of your precious time and resources when shopping for food. Tours will meet in front of the school building on Monday, Nov. 23, at 8:45 a.m., and on Monday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. Please sign up in the lobby on the PA bulletin board or e-mail pa-wellness@ps87.info.

Report cards topic at Nov. 24 PA meeting

The Parents Association's monthly General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 8:35 a.m. in the cafeteria. Principal Monica Berry will discuss the format of the new report cards, which will go home Dec. 11. (The meeting was originally scheduled for today, but the date was changed because of a conflict with Open School Week.)



PS 87 Parent/Student/Staff Classifieds

FREE girls 16-inch Trek bike, purple, training wheels available, in great shape. E-mail Hdrowen@gmail.com for pics and to arrange pick-up.

FREE Melissa & Doug art easel. Cleaned and disassembled with original assembly instructions. Excellent condition. E-mail Hdrowen@gmail.com to arrange pick-up.

PS Backpack87News

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 Dec. 3 issue: Sunday, Nov. 29, at midnight

Editor this week: Aimee Sabo