

PS Backpack87News

Volume 25, No. 9

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

Nov. 5, 2015

Message from the PA Presidents

Dear Families,

It's been almost two weeks since Harvest Fest and people are still talking about how great it was! Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day an incredible success. Whether you were setting up, selling wristbands, working the haunted house, selling gear or food in the cafeteria, making crafts in the halls, working the games in the gym, or breaking down the event, parent volunteers were everywhere. We are continually amazed by the time and energy that you all give to our school, and Harvest Fest was a huge example of your dedication.

Most of all, we want to thank our fundraising chair, Sonya Yerid, who outdid herself! Supported by former fundraising chair Michelle Cave, Sonya revamped the layout bringing us a hugely popular haunted house and an elaborate yucky room. The school was decorated to the nines, and the vibe was festive and fun. It was a really memorable day and a great opportunity for our community to come together.

We are also grateful to Jana and Jonathan Arkins who, for the second year in a row, have organized sending excess Halloween candy to U.S. troops through Operation Gratitude, along with handwritten notes from our children. Jana and Jonathan initiated and independently ran this project. A sweet gesture – literally – that we hope becomes a PS 87 tradition.

We would also like to thank our Special Events Committee (led by Judy Chin, Caryn Weinberg and Laurent Nahon) as well as their many volunteers, who helped organize the Parent Teacher Conference dinner for our teachers. We know how much the teachers appreciate this effort.

Finally, what a great week it has been walking into school and seeing our better-than-ever Scholastic Book Fair in the lobby! Thank you to Daphne Guarino and Sofia Ferraiuoli-Croney for taking the fair to new heights this year and curating a fantastic selection of books for our children, teachers and school.

Thanks also to all of the parent volunteers who stocked books, rang up sales and offered selection advice. What's more, we know that the teachers were really happy with the gift certificates purchased by families so that they could enhance their classroom libraries. We are very appreciative to Daphne and Sofia who have spearheaded the book fair for the last few years.

Speaking of engagement, we have been thrilled with the attendance and participation so far at Parents Association

| PS 87 CALENDAR | |
|-----------------------|--|
| NOVEMBER 2015 | |
| 6 | Middle school application process information session, 8:45 a.m., auditorium |
| 10 | Support Services/Special Education Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m., JCC Café. <i>(Details Page 2.)</i> |
| 11 | NO SCHOOL , Veterans Day |
| 11 | Community service project at West Side Campaign Against Hunger, 10 a.m. – noon. <i>(Details Page 2.)</i> |
| 13 | Pure Barre Night, 8:15 p.m., 412 Columbus Ave. |
| 16 | SLT Meeting, 4:15 – 5:30 p.m., location TBD |
| 16-20 | Open School Week. <i>(Details Page 2.)</i> |
| 17 | School Safety Committee, open meeting, 2 p.m., auditorium |
| 19 | PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria. Special guest: City Council Member Helen Rosenthal. |
| 19 | CEC General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 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 |
| 11 | Winter Holiday Festival, 6 p.m., auditorium |
| 21 | SLT Meeting |
| 24-31 | NO SCHOOL , Winter Recess |

meetings and hope to keep it going! So please mark your calendars for the next general PA meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 8:35 a.m. in the cafeteria. Among other things, City Council Member Helen Rosenthal will be on hand to talk about community issues. Please join us.

See you around school

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

PA news, updates now on Facebook

PS 87's Parents Association now has its own Facebook page. Search Facebook for "PS 87 PA" and click on the green "Join Group" button. Becoming a member of the PA's Facebook group will let you get timely PA news while you're surfing Facebook.

Veterans Day Volunteering

Need a kid-friendly activity on Veterans Day? Join the Community Service Committee and volunteer at West Side Campaign Against Hunger, 263 W. 86th St., Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. After a tour of the facility, volunteers will help staff sort and stock items. Free lunch will be provided for all volunteers at noon. For more information, contact pa-communityservice@ps87.info or visit www.WSCAH.org.

What's Happening: Afterschool

Wilson Cano is serving his first year as executive director of PS 87's Afterschool program. Wilson took over in June following the retirements of longtime directors Kyle Ahrold and Anne Murney. Wilson works with Associate Director Lisa Sapichino, formerly the Afterschool business director.

The PS 87 Afterschool Program is approaching the halfway mark in the semester and would like to take this time to send out a thank you to all of the parents, students, daytime and afterschool staff for helping our program reach this point. We would also like to send out a special thank you to all of the teachers who have helped us tremendously by allowing us access to their rooms during the afterschool hours. We truly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

The PS 87 Afterschool Program will be unveiling a brand new website by the year's end. This website will feature a different layout, more featured photos of our student's work during afterschool, provide resources and information about current and upcoming programs, as well as be the central portal for all registration-related inquiries. The schedule for our spring semester will be rolled out subsequently with the unveiling of the website, so be on the lookout for a notice about both releases.

— Wilson Cano

Open School Week schedule

Just a reminder that Open School Week is coming. All parents are invited to visit your child's classroom on the designated day below.

Pre-K: Monday, Nov. 16, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Kindergarten: Friday, Nov. 20, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

First grade: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Second grade: Thursday, Nov. 19, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Third grade: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Fourth grade: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Fifth grade: Thursday, Nov. 19, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Support Services meeting Nov. 10

PS 87's Support Services/Special Education Committee will hold its second meeting Nov. 10 at the JCC Café on the corner of 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. We meet immediately after drop-off at 8:30 a.m. The committee meets as a parent resource/reference for services offered to support our children at PS 87. We work closely with administrators, the special education coordinator and our parent population to ensure children's needs are being met. You also can reach out to us at any time by e-mailing pa-special@ps87.info. All parents are welcome to attend.



Pitch In: Volunteer Opportunities

Break into Backpack News

Get a beat on all the latest happenings in and around PS 87! Play with apostrophes for a good cause! Impress your child with your name on the masthead! 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. The work is done from your home or office computer on an assigned Monday when you have a few free hours in your day. In most cases, you'll work only four shifts a year. We'll train you, and it's fun! 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.



Green Tips

Recycle E-waste: NYC no longer permits electronic waste in curbside trash. Get rid of your used and broken electronics at the E-Waste Recycling Event on Sunday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on East 76th Street between First and York avenues. Accepted items include computers and peripherals (monitors, printers, faxes/scanners, keyboards, mice, wires, etc.), TVs, stereo and A/V equipment, VCRs, DVD players, and cell and wall phones (but not microwaves, refrigerators, air conditioners, or smoke or carbon monoxide detectors).

Eco-friendly forum: Want to reduce trash, increase recycling, and promote a more healthy and eco-friendly New York? Consider attending the Recycling and Zero Waste Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 7 – 9 p.m. at West Park Presbyterian Church, 86th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Doors open at 6 p.m. Speakers include Gail Brewer and Helen Rosenthal, as well as representatives from Terracycle, Earth Conservancy and other green groups. Suggested donation is \$5 at the door.

Holiday reminder: No school Wednesday

Wednesday, Nov. 11, is Veterans Day, the annual federal holiday dedicated to the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. It is celebrated each Nov. 11 on the date in 1918 that saw the end of World War I. All New York City schools will be closed on Veterans Day.



PS 87 Parent/Student/Staff Classifieds

Kids Chords NYC: Learn to play music you love, from your heart! Kids and adults welcome. Piano, songwriting, music theory and more. Visit www.KidsChords.com for contact information.

PS Backpack News

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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 Nov. 12 issue: Sunday, Nov. 8, at midnight

Editor this week: Michelle Feldman