

PS Backpack87News

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

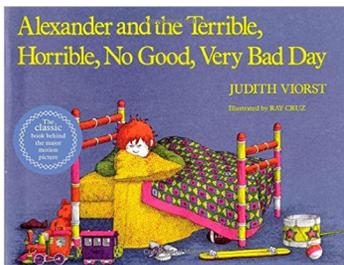
Dec. 8, 2016

From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

In December's book of the month, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, the story starts when Alexander wakes up with gum in his hair. From that point on, everything that could go wrong does. He gets car sick on the way to school. He has disagreements with friends. He has to have lima beans for dinner. He is fed up with his life and wants to move to Australia. The story ends with his wise mother letting him know that sometimes people just have bad days, even in Australia.

When thinking about our four tenets in light of this book, I ask a number of questions. How can we uphold our tenets when we are having a bad day like Alexander. We often feel exactly like Alexander and find it difficult to be kind or to think about how our words and actions affect others when we are in a bad mood. When talking to your children about the book, you can talk about strategies that help you to calm down. You can also help your kids think about how their moods affect those around them so they can make wise choices in how they interact with others.



You can also speak to your children about how they can continue to uphold the four tenets when they run into someone who is having a bad day. What is the wisest way to interact with someone in a mood like Alexander's? Would kindness help to bring Alexander out of his mood? Is running away from your problems showing bravery?

My hope is that when we speak to the children about this book, we will be able to talk about how to cope with these real world problems that many of our children encounter regularly ... even in Australia.

Happy reading!

—Monica Berry, PS 87 principal

PS 87 CALENDAR	
DECEMBER 2016	
8	Teacher Appreciation Dinner
9	Report Cards go home
13	Support Services/Special Ed. Committee Mtng, 8:45 a.m., JCC Café @ 76th & Amsterdam
13	Dual Language Committee Mtng, 8 a.m.
15	GENERAL PA MEETING, 8:30 a.m.
16	Winter Holiday Festival, 6:30 p.m.
19	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m.
26	Winter Recess begins (thru Jan. 2)
JANUARY 2017	
3	School resumes
6	87Afterschool Family Event, 6:30 p.m.
10	Support Services/Special Ed. Committee Mtng, 8:45 a.m., JCC Café @ 76th & Amsterdam
11	PA Executive Board Meeting, 6:10 p.m.
16	NO SCHOOL , Martin Luther King Jr. Day
19	GENERAL PA MEETING, 8:30 a.m.
20	Family Fit Night, 6:30 p.m.
23–27	Afterschool Open House Week
23	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m.
27	Spirit Day
27	Pan Asian Lunar New Year Celebration, 6:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 2017	
1	PA Executive Board Meeting, 6:10 p.m.
3	87Afterschool Family Event, 6:30 p.m.
8	Dual Language Social
13	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m.
14	Valentine's Day (school day)
16	GENERAL PA MEETING, 8:30 a.m.
20–24	Mid-winter Recess

THANK
YOU
TEACHERS
AND STAFF

The Teacher & Staff Appreciation Dinner is tonight, Thursday, Dec. 8. Our parent volunteers are putting together a fun evening of dinner and dancing to thank our teachers and staff for all their hard work and dedication. Please take a moment this time of year to thank someone you admire at PS 87. Thank you again PS 87 Teachers and Staff!



Neighborhood schools round-up

After the recent zoning debates, more than a few parents admitted it's tough keeping track of all the elementary schools packed between 60th and 110th streets. So, if you find yourself confusing PS 191 with 199, or PS 166 and 163, but you're dying to sound like an expert, this list is for you!

PS 191 has a much-loved pre-k program and arts, but low enrollment and resources were main reasons the school's new principal and the CEC supported re-zoning and moving the school from its current location at 210 W. 61st Street to a new school building on West End Avenue between 60th and 61st streets. PK-8

PS 199 has a long history as a popular neighborhood school; in fact, it's become so sought-after that recent K waitlists have topped 100. A smaller zone is meant to ease overcrowding. Located on 70th Street between Broadway and West End. K-5

PS 452 opened in 2010 in the William O'Shea Complex just across from PS 87 on 77th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam, but will be moving to the current PS 191 location on 60th and West End Ave for school year 2017-18 in order to expand and serve more students. K-5

PS 9 is located just above our zone at 84th Street and Columbus. Its district G&T program phased out recently, and the school (and neighborhood families) have been eager to fill the space with a slightly larger zone. PK-5

PS 166 has a popular districtwide G&T program and general education program with a focus on the arts. West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam. K-5

PS 84: PS 84 Lillian Weber is known for its two dual language programs, Spanish-English and French-English. Located on 92nd Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. PK-5

PS 75 prizes its diversity, its Spanish-English dual language program and an ASD Nest program that supports students with autism. West End Avenue between 95th and 96th streets. K-5

PS 163 has a popular district G&T program, a Spanish-English dual language program and a gen ed program, with clubs that mix all tracks. 97th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam. PK-5

PS 145 is adding a Russian-English dual language program to complement its Spanish-English program and draw more families. Located on 105th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues. PK-5

PS 165 offers Spanish-English dual language and a districtwide G&T program. 109th Street between Amsterdam and West End avenues. PK-8



3rd-graders welcome Ajna Dance!

Today, Thursday, Dec. 8 our 3rd-graders kick-started their Ajna Dance residency program with a fun-filled assembly showcasing professional Ajna dancers. Starting in January our kids will begin weekly lessons with Ajna teachers blending Bollywood, folk and classical Indian dance instruction with lessons about Indian culture. The 12-week residency program will culminate in a fully-costumed performance by PS 87 3rd-graders on March 24.

Ajna Dance is a New York-based dance company that offers classes, choreography and professional performances. Ajna dancers have performed at festivals and venues throughout the city—and on ABC's Good Morning America.

Winter Holiday Festival next Friday

Join The Community and Culture Committee and your fellow PS 87 families as we celebrate winter holidays from around the world! Enjoy a FREE one-hour performance by PS 87 students and staff at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium, followed by a potluck dinner and arts and crafts in the cafeteria. Festivities will end around 8:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up and managing the stage. And don't forget to bring a main dish, appetizer or dessert to share and drop it off in the cafeteria before the show! E-mail pa-culturecommunity@ps87.info.



Calling all editors!

Love Backpack News? Handy with words? We need you! If you're interested in joining the editorial team at *Backpack News* and keeping PS 87 parents in the know (even for just one issue!), please e-mail Aimee at backpacknews@yahoo.com.

ELA Tutoring/Test Prep/Homework Help

My name is Angelica and I am a 6th- and 7th-grade English teacher at The Anderson Middle School (PS 334) and a PS 87 graduate. I have taught ELA for the past five years and have experience scoring the NY State ELA Test and NY State ELA Regents for the past four years. Tutoring Rate: \$85/hr; azagami@schools.nyc.gov, (917) 821-2671

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Deadline for Dec. 15 issue: Sunday, Dec. 11, at midnight

Editor: Aimee Sabo