

PS Backpack87News

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

June 16, 2016

From the Desk of the Principal

Hello families,

My name is Bryanna Duckett. Being principal for a day was awesome. I am 8 years old. My teachers are Ms. Lynch and Ms. Dunphy. During lunch and recess I got to invite my friends Simone and Natania to eat lunch with me and Monica.

Only a few more weeks of school! The school year is going SO quickly. There will be a song coming up on next Thursday, June 23. The song is by me, Sophia, Simone and Emma. The song is called “Summer Shimmer.” It is about summer and what you see and what you feel during that time of year.

I hope you enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

— *Bryanna Duckett, principal for a day*

Dear families,

As Bryanna stated in her principal-for-a-day column, the school year is coming to an end very quickly. Each June as a school year winds down, I take time to reflect. The interesting thing is that each year, my reflections revolve around appreciation in some way. This year is no different. This year has been difficult for us as a community, but we have remained strong. Personally, I have learned of the importance of being present and letting people know how much I appreciate them while I have the chance.

So here in my last column of the year, I want to take the time to express my appreciation. To my staff: I appreciate the support you have given me and one another this year. I feel that through this support we have grown closer. To the parents: I appreciate your spirit and our partnership in making PS 87 one of the best schools in New York City. To the children of PS 87: I appreciate you — your humor, curiosity, excitement, and your fearlessness.

My wish for you all this summer is that you take the opportunity to enjoy one another and that you let others know how much you appreciate them. Do not forget to update your e-mail addresses in our parent directory, as I will be sending you notices during the summer.

Thank you all for all you do,

— *Monica Berry, PS 87 principal*

PS 87 CALENDAR	
JUNE 2016	
16	PA GENERAL MEETING , 8:35 a.m., cafeteria
16	Retirement party for Assistant Principal Suzan Federici, 4 – 5 p.m., PS 87 Garden; enter through the Big Yard. Children welcome. <i>Details on Page 2.</i>
16	3rd-grade picnic, 5 – 8 p.m., Riverside Park
17	All library materials due back to the library
17	5th-grade graduation party, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., gym
20	School Leadership Team meeting, 4:15 p.m., site TBA
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 – 11:15 a.m., Rodeph Sholom, 7 w. 83rd St., between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.
28	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 2016	
8	First day of school in NYC’s 2016-2017 school year

Popsicle Party winners announced

Congratulations to the winners of Family Giving’s Popsicle Party contest, held each year to promote participation in the Parents Association’s Family Giving pledge drive. Winning classes are K-108, 1-B6DL, 2-210, 3-209DL, 4-306 and 5-310DL. Winning classes had the highest Family Giving participation rate for their grades, and the winning students will receive a popsicle party in their classroom.

Thanks go out to the many families that participated this year in Family Giving. During the Popsicle Party contest, participation in the PA’s pledge drive jumped from 25 percent of all PS 87 families to 62 percent in just one month. Funds raised through Family Giving pay for essential programs not covered by the city or state. Our PA pays for critical educational components, ranging from supplies and furniture to substitute teachers, kindergarten assistants, and literacy and math intervention. Your donation to Family Giving also pays for informative assemblies, chess instruction, ballroom dancing, wellness programs, recess coaches, books and much more — in short, the programs that make our school special.

The PA’s goal is to have 100 percent of families participate at a level that is right for them. The suggested donation is \$900 per child (the amount the PA spends annually on each student), but donations of any amount are welcome. Please donate online today at www.PS87Giving.org, or by dropping a check payable to “PS 87 Parents Association” in the lockbox in the main office.

Thanks from the library

What a wonderful year it has been in PS 87's library. Throughout the school year the children have been perusing the shelves, checking out their favorite books and obtaining information on various research projects.

PS 87's library is well utilized. Maintaining the library and all it entails is not a task for one person. I would like to thank the library committee, the volunteers (including teachers, you know who you are) and those students who have assisted in the smooth running of the library — checking books in and out, rearranging the books on the shelves, dusting, covering books, mending, discarding books and organizing the closet which is ongoing and assisting in the preparations for Everybody Reads Week.

This year's Everybody Reads Week, the annual literary event sponsored by the library, was a resounding success thanks to great teamwork by the Library Committee and library volunteers who organized fun activities for that week. There were more than 30 guests — authors, illustrators, politicians, a firefighter, a policewoman, New York Public Library librarians, plus TV and other media personalities. All took time from their busy schedules to enthusiastically share their work and love of the written word. Our students were entertained, informed and enthralled by the guests who shared their wisdom and art. Thank you to the teachers who signed up their classes for this event. Of course, the above would not be possible without the ongoing support of the PS 87 administration. We have already begun thinking of next year's Everybody Reads Week!

As the school year winds down and we prepare our inventory for 2016-2017, I will like to remind all students and parents to return all library books. **All library materials are due on Friday, June 17.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Have a safe and great summer!

— *Dawnica Conyette, PS 87 librarian*

Register now for fall Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run NYC is a program that uses running and physical activity to inspire girls to be joyful, confident and healthy. Volunteer coaches lead 20 lessons during a 10-week season (running from Sept. 19 through Dec. 11) with teams of up to 20 girls in 3rd through 5th grade. This fall, PS 87 will have two Girls on the Run teams, one meeting Mondays and Wednesdays and the other meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teams meet from 7 to 8:10 a.m. at the school and in the schoolyard. The program costs \$275. Registration for each team will be conducted by lottery. If both team options work for you, you can register your daughter for the lottery for both. Your credit card will not be charged until your daughter is placed on a team. Online registration opened at 10 a.m. June 10 and will close at 8 p.m. June 20. You can register your daughter any time during this period. The lottery for the Monday/Wednesday team will be conducted first. Once it is conducted, if there are remaining spots available, registration will open on a first-come, first-served basis starting on June 21 at 10 a.m. To register, please visit www.gotnyc.org/register

Party honoring Suzan Federici on June 16

Suzan Federici, the assistant principal who oversees grades 4 through 6, will retire at the end of this school year. The Parents Association invites current and former PS 87 families to join the fun June 16 as the PA honors Suzan's dedication to the school and its students. The party will run from 4 to 5 p.m. in the PS 87 Garden; enter through the Big Yard.

Ruth Tobacco also announces her retirement: In other retirement news, longtime PS 87 teacher Ruth Tobacco, currently teaching 3rd grade, has announced that this will be the final year of her teaching career. Please join the PA in wishing Ruth a happy retirement, and thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the children of this school.

PS 191 opens library with help from PS 87

Last Friday, PS 87 parents joined the staff, students and families of PS 191 to celebrate the opening of their much-awaited "pop-up" school library. The project was a parent-funded, hands-on initiative to give the kids of PS 191 the beautiful community library they deserve. Principal Lauren Keville specifically thanked Monica Berry and PS 87 families for their generous book donations through Amazon, Everybody Reads Week and the Book Fair. Many of our families also spent countless hours organizing, labeling and scanning books — efforts that have resulted in a lovely two-room space where PS 191 students, parents and teachers can share their love of literature. Thanks to everyone who participated in this wonderful community project.

Remembering Margaret Lerner

A memorial fund has been started to create a reading garden to honor the memory of Margaret Lerner, our parent co-ordinator, to be enjoyed by all students of PS 87. If you are interested, you can contribute to the Margaret Marner Lerner Memorial Fund by check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to "PS 87 Parents Association" with "The Margaret Marner Lerner Memorial Fund" written on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: PA Treasurers, c/o PS 87, 160 W. 78th St., New York, NY 10024.

To donate by credit card, go to this link:

<https://ps87pa.wufoo.com/forms/donations-in-honor-of-margaret-lerner/>

Reminder: Last day of school is June 28

Classes at PS 87 and most other New York City public schools will end on Tuesday, June 28. Students at PS 87 will be dismissed early that day, at 11:30 a.m.

	PS 87 Parents Association 160 West 78th Street New York, NY 10024
E-mail articles for <i>Backpack News</i> to backpacknews@yahoo.com . For details on how to sponsor <i>Backpack News</i> , go to the <i>Fundraising</i> bar at www.ps87.info and click on "Advertising & Donation Opportunities." Or just click "Backpack News" in the Quick Links.	
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Deadline for June 23 issue: Sunday, June 19, at midnight	
Editor this week: Skip Card	