

PS Backpack87News

Volume 26, No. 29

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

April 27, 2017

Message from Dual Language

¡Hola! Next year, PS 87's Dual Language (DL) program will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Since 1988, the school's program has been an integral part of our diverse community. You've probably heard about DL, but maybe you have some questions about what it is, who's in it, and what goes on inside a DL classroom each day.

The classes, K–5, are a blend of students who are native English and Spanish speakers. We also have students who speak primarily German, Japanese, Italian, Russian, French or Hebrew at home. **Our kids learn in Spanish and English. That means not only reading and writing, but also math, social studies and science are taught in both languages.** It's a tall task for our great teachers, who must follow the same curriculum as the rest of PS 87.

But language isn't only the ability to speak and read; it's also about being immersed in a culture. Beyond schoolwork, our kids sing songs, learn dances and sample traditional foods from a wide array of Spanish-speaking countries. DL students participate in Spanish spelling bees and poetry contests, visit Hispanic art museums and attend cultural celebrations.



For many of us, raising kids in DL is critical at this time in our society, when diversity and immigration have become contentious issues. Many of our Spanish-speaking families say the program helps their children feel proud of their heritage — and that being multicultural is great. **Beyond the pride this makes us feel, we hope that all of PS 87 feels a sense of pride in DL's three decades and counting.** We are certainly immensely grateful for the support we have received.

We have collected letters from our DL families that will soon be posted on PS 87's website. Our fellow DL parents tell stories of their children learning English, seamlessly talking with family back in their home countries — and proudly serving as translators for Spanish-speaking family members here in the U.S.

For many English speakers, it's become critical to speak another language in the workplace — from hospitals and libraries to banks and universities. Spanish, in particular, is the fastest growing and most spoken non-English language in the U.S. It is our hope, and the goal of all PS 87's teachers, that our kids have the right skills for an already diverse America.

These are just a few of the reasons why we're so grateful to PS 87's entire community for the continued support of DL. We are so proud to stand with you all as a united school family, to truly be "one family under the sun."

If you would like to learn more about Dual Language at PS 87 — about enrollment, curriculum or the program in general — please contact our parent coordinator Sandra Guirguis at sguirguis@ps87.info or Jacqueline Hidalgo Morison at jmoriso2@schools.nyc.gov.

—Leandro Benmergui (Parent of DL 3rd-grader)
& Sara Bonin (Parent of DL K and 3rd-grader)



We want your old shoes!

Starting Friday, April 28, the Green Team will be collecting old sneakers and shoes in the lobby for recycling in honor of Earth Day. Please get started on that spring cleaning and bring us your old kicks!

Lost & found and lunch ware sale

Tomorrow, Friday, April 28, is the last day to view lost and found items in the lobby. Come by and reclaim your stuff before it's donated to charity. The Green Team will also be selling reusable lunch-ware at drop-off.



Scholastic Spring Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be back in the PS 87 Lobby Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30. Books for all reading levels will be available. Volunteers will be on hand to help you make the best choices. Visitors to the book fair can also buy books to help fill the library at PS 149 Sojourner Truth, a fellow District 3 elementary school. The book fair will be open April 28 12 – 6 p.m. and April 29 and 30 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Save the date for Spring Fair June 3—our last FUNdraiser of the year!

Spring is here, and PS 87's annual Spring Street Fair is right around the corner! Please save the date for **Saturday, June 3**. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a vendor, visit www.ps87.info for details. Spring Fair is the final FUNdraiser of the year — help us make it a great one!

PA Board elections heat up

If you're going through SNL election skit withdrawal, fret no longer: We present Parents Association Board elections! Our open positions are:

Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Afterschool, Auction, Communications, Community Affairs, Enrichment, Family Giving, Fundraising, Membership/Events and Wellness

All of these positions have dedicated past board members who will mentor new parents. If you're interested in a board position, please contact our nominating chair, Emma Paske at epaske@hotmail.co.uk. Elections will take place at the PA meeting May 18. Want to hear more? Come to a Parent Breakfast after drop-off in the K Yard on Friday, May 12.



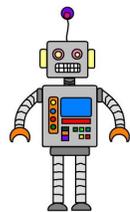
PS 87 Everybody Reads Week

It's almost here! Everybody Reads Week, May 8 – 12, transforms our school into a literary fun land, including a book character scavenger hunt and the chance to design a book cover! Invited authors, illustrators, publishers, playwrights, poets and lovers of the written word will help our children celebrate. And as always, we'll have Cap Day that Tuesday, and Friday will be Come Dressed As A Book Character Day.

Please e-mail the PS 87 Library Committee at pa-librarycommittee@ps87.info with any ideas or questions.

Calling all makers!

Are you an inventor? Do you have a crazy contraption that you've been dying to share with the world? Then we'd like to invite you to show it off at PS 87's second-annual Mini-Maker Faire on Wednesday, May 17, 5–8 p.m.



•What kinds of things are we looking for?

There are all sorts of things that can be included in a Maker Faire—from cardboard pinball to soda bottle science experiments.

•**Anything not OK?** Nothing dangerous! No fire, or sparks or explosions and nothing that

requires heat.

•**No selling!** This is a show and tell only. Please save the sales pitch for another time.

•**Is this for parents or kids?** Both! Use it as an excuse to build something crazy with your kids this weekend.

•**Do I need to bring enough for everyone?** We'll have hands-on activities from our invited guests—Nerdy Derby, MoMath, and Pixel Academy so you don't have to do anything more than show off your cool creation.

Sign up to show off your invention at

<https://goo.gl/forms/1bAAziZVn7rcMZRI3>. Or sign up to volunteer at <https://goo.gl/forms/6eYI3MSFaQFFhGEL2>.

This event is FREE and open exclusively to our school community. If you have more questions or would like to help, please e-mail Abigail Edgecliff-Johnson at aej@me.com.

PS 87 CALENDAR

APRIL 2017

28	Last day to view lost-and-found items in lobby and to buy reusable lunch-ware. Last day of FREE Flywheel spin classes for PS 87 parents!
28	Drop off old shoes in the lobby for recycling
28–30	Scholastic Book Fair (weekend)

MAY 2017

2–4	NY State Math Exams
2	Dual Language Committee Mtng, 8 a.m.
3	PA Executive Board Mtng, 6:10 p.m.
5	Teacher Appreciation Day
8–12	Everybody Reads Week
9	Dual Language Info Session, 6 p.m.
12	Parent Breakfast, K Yard, after drop-off
12	Rock Night, 6:30 p.m.
13	Yankee vs. Astros, 1:05 p.m.
17	Maker Faire, 5–8 p.m.
18	GENERAL PA MEETING, 8:30 a.m.
18–20	Rising Stars performances, exact times TBA
22	SLT Meeting, 4:15 p.m.
29	NO SCHOOL , Memorial Day

JUNE 2017

3	Spring Fair
5	4th-grade State Science Exam
6	Dual Language Committee Mtng, 8 a.m., library
6	Kindergarten Social, 6 p.m.
7	PA Executive Board Meeting, 6:10 p.m.
7	Art Show
8	NO SCHOOL , Anniversary Day
8–10	Shining Stars performances
11	Soul Cycle fundraiser
12	NO SCHOOL , clerical day
14	Garden Party
15	GENERAL PA MEETING, 8:30 a.m.
15	Rehearsal for Fiesta Latina, 5:30 p.m.
16	Fiesta Latina Celebration, 6:30 p.m.
17	5th-grade dance



Take me out to the ballgame

Join PS 87 families to see the Yankees take on the Houston Astros. Purchase tickets at www.ps87.info for \$65.

When: Saturday, May 13 1:05 p.m. Gates open 11:30 a.m.

Where: Yankee Stadium in the Bronx

Why: Celebrate Mother's Day, enjoy the ball game and raise money for our school!

PS Backpack87News

PS 87 Parents Association
160 West 78th Street
New York, NY 10024

Backpack News is printed weekly during the school year by the Parents Association of PS 87.

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.

The PS 87 PA does not endorse any of the services referenced in the classifieds or represented by any paid sponsorship.

Deadline for May 4 issue: Sunday, April 30, at midnight

Editor: Aimee Sabo