


PS Backpack87News

Volume XX, No. 1

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

Back-to-School Welcome | August 23, 2010



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe it's that time of the year again — the beginning of a new school year. We want to extend a warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined our school community and say welcome back to all who are already a part of our PS 87 family. We hope that your summer vacation was enjoyable and relaxing. While the summer has been a time for reflection and rejuvenation for us, we are very excited to start the school year.

We are pleased to announce and welcome new teachers to PS 87. Diane Berman will be joining our 1st grade team, and Melissa Martinez-Orengo will join our 4th grade team to teach the dual language class. With the expansion of our collaborative team teaching (CTT) classes, Kim Henderson and Susie Edelman have joined our staff. Kim will be team teaching with Elisa Rios in 3rd grade, and Susie will be team teaching with Robyn Ulzheimer in kindergarten.

PS 87 is an extraordinary community. We have a highly skilled teaching staff that is dedicated and passionate about teaching and learning. We have a parent body that supports our staff in teaching children in a way we believe best prepares them to become life-long learners. We have students who are curious, motivated and enthusiastic. This combination of staff, parents and students has made PS 87 the school it is today. We look forward to a great school year!

Cordially,

Monica, Suzan and Barbara

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Drop-off and Pick-up Times

Pre-K: 8:30am – 2:00pm*

Kindergarten: 8:30am – 3:10pm*

Grades 1-5: 8:30am – 3:20pm

* Early dismissal times for Pre-K and K apply through September 15.
Refer to the school calendar on page 6 for details.

Keeping in Touch

Full School Name: PS 87 – William T. Sherman School

DOE School Code: M087

School Address: 160 West 78th Street, New York, NY 10024

Website: www.ps87.info

Email: information@ps87.info, or see page 6 for a full PA list

School Days: Monday-Friday

Office Telephone: 212-678-2826

Office Fax: 212-678-5886

School Nurse: 646-505-1710

Monica Berry, *Principal*

Suzan Federici, *Upper Grade (3-5) Assistant Principal*

Barbara Kissane, *Lower Grade (Pre-K-2) Assistant Principal*

Margaret Lerner, *Parent Coordinator*

Emily Paxinos, *Secretary* • Olitha Pointer, *Secretary*

The official website for PS 87 is www.ps87.info, where you will find an updated calendar, archived issues of the *Backpack News*, Parents Association (PA) contact information and meeting minutes, school supplies lists for grades K-5, and notices about all school events.

The **PS 87 Parent Network** is a Yahoo! group where parents can discuss issues relating to the school, to our children's educational needs, to activities in Afterschool, to goings-on at the city's Department of Education — in other words, where parents can post anything related to the school, community and our kids. Membership is limited to parents with children enrolled at PS 87. To join, manage your membership, or get more information, go to <http://join.ps87.shorturl.com>.

Backpack News (BPN) is the weekly school newsletter, underwritten by the Parents Association and distributed weekly in your child's backpack. It is your best source for PS 87 news, information, important dates and upcoming events, plus your community's marketplace through the free parent classifieds.

Blue Emergency Contact Information Cards tell the school staff how to reach you in the event of an emergency or illness. The cards are completely confidential. Expect this card to come home during the first days of school. It is critical that you complete and return it as soon as possible.

Arrival (Drop-off) Procedures

Grades 1–5: Drop-off is in the Big Yard. Please have your children arrive no later than 8:20am, as teachers in grades 1–5 pick up their classes in the Big Yard promptly at 8:30. Please avoid talking with the teachers then; it delays the start of the school day. Once teachers pick up their classes, parents must leave the yard. The main entrance on West 78th Street should be used for drop-off only if you are late (after 8:30am).

NOTE: Once the whistle blows in the morning, please line up your child and leave the Big Yard. The teachers need to move children quickly, safely and in an orderly line into the school. At both arrival and dismissal, there can be more than 800 people in the Big Yard. We ask that no one plays ball during these times, because it is unsafe.

Kindergarten students enter at 8:30am through the Kindergarten Yard on West 77th Street, rain or shine, and are walked by parents to their classrooms through October 1. Starting October 4, K students will line up in the K Yard at 8:30am. The K Yard door is open for ten minutes, from 8:30am to 8:40am. After 8:40am, latecomers must use the West 78th Street main entrance.

Pre-Kindergarten students enter at 8:30am through the main entrance on West 78th Street and are walked by their parents or caregivers to their classrooms. All strollers will be kept at the security desk.

Inclement weather: If it is raining, all students in grades 1–5 enter school through the Big Yard door closest to the garden. Parents/caregivers can escort children to the door, but the children enter by themselves. Children in grades K–2 go to the cafeteria. Children in grades 3–5 go to the auditorium.

Early drop-off is at 8:00am in the cafeteria, and children may enter the building (without parents) through the Big Yard door closest to the garden. Children can receive a free breakfast and will be escorted to their classrooms or the Big Yard at 8:30am.

School starts at 8:30am! You will receive a call from the principal to discuss any issues leading to a pattern of late arrivals. Please have your children arrive no later than 8:20am, as teachers pick up children in the Yards promptly at 8:30am.

Dismissal (Pick-up) Procedures

Dismissal is at 3:20pm for grades 1–5. **Grades 1–4** are dismissed in the Big Yard, rain or shine. **Grade 5** is dismissed on West 78th Street, rain or shine, from the door closest to Amsterdam Avenue. *In the Big Yard, please wait against the fence at dismissal so teachers can move through the Yard and dismiss the children safely.* Younger children should not play ball, climb fences or ride scooters until dismissal is over.

Kindergarteners are normally dismissed at 3:10pm in the Kindergarten Yard (K Yard), rain or shine. For the first few days of school, however, children are dismissed in their classroom at different times. Please see your teacher and the calendar on page 6 for details about September pick-up times and locations.

Pre-K children are dismissed in the main lobby daily. Parents normally pick up children at 2:00pm, except for the first few days of the school year. (See calendar on page 6 for details.)

School ends at 3:20pm! Parents/caregivers who arrive late to collect their children must enter the building through the main entrance on West 78th Street. If you know you will be more than ten minutes late, please call the office to let them know.

Afterschool begins at 3:30pm, and children are escorted there by a staff member from their classrooms. Pick-up is between 5:00pm and 6:00pm in assigned areas.

Arrival and dismissal policies are also available online:
English: <http://tinyurl.com/PS87arrival-dismissal>
Spanish: <http://tinyurl.com/PS87-llegada-recogida>

Additional Rules and Policies

Security Basics: Every parent or visitor who enters the building must do so through the main entrance on West 78th Street. To safeguard all our children, everyone must present a valid ID to the school safety officer and must sign in at the officer's desk. Thank you in advance for your respectful cooperation!

When to Call About Something You Forgot: Please understand that when you need something brought up to your child's classroom, it cannot happen immediately. We will deliver lunches etc., but we need you to remember these things in the morning!

Absences: Routine absences do not require a phone call to the office. However, please provide your teacher with a doctor's note if your child is absent more than three days or call the office if an absence is due to something communicable, such as strep or lice, so that the office can notify other parents.

School-prepared lunches and cartons of milk must be paid for in advance — daily, weekly, monthly or even yearly — by the Thursday prior to the week in which your child partakes. (The exception to this policy is the first few days of school; but please pay in advance thereafter.) Lunch costs \$1.50/day (\$7.50/week). Chocolate and “white” milk costs 25 cents per carton. Payments may be made in cash or by check, payable to “PS 87 Lunch Program,” and sent in an envelope through your teacher (check preferred) or directly to Mercedes Espailat in Room B16-B. Please label envelopes with: (1) child's name; (2) class info (teacher name and classroom); (3) Purchase details (i.e., “Lunch for October 2010”); and (4) Total enclosed.

All families are required to complete in the first days of school a **School Meals Application**, regardless of income or intent to eat prepared lunches. The School Meals Application is critical to the operation of the school foodservice program, and information on this form is used to determine student eligibility for free, reduced or full-priced meals — and for other funded programs such as Title 1, E-Rate and SES, to name a few. Parents are required to complete only one paper application for all children who attend the same school.

You will receive other information from your teacher if your classroom needs to take **allergy precautions** for lunches you prepare at home.

You will be notified in advance of **special lunches sponsored by the Parents Association's Wellness Committee** and available for \$1.50. Click on the “What's for Lunch?” tab at www.ps87.info for access to regular **lunch menus** and more.

Additional Rules and Policies (continued)

Fence: Children are not allowed to climb the fence. Please enforce this rule with your children during arrival and dismissal.

Scooters: Scooters will not be stored at school.

Heelies (Shoes with Wheels): If your child wears these shoes to school, please remove the wheels before the school day starts.

Silly Bandz are not permitted at school, as they create a distraction.

More Helpful Information

The **PS 87 Afterschool Program**, run by the Parents Association, offers an award-winning curriculum of age-appropriate activities to enrich, entertain and challenge our children after the school day is over. Online Afterschool registration runs from August 17 – 24; mail-in registration occurs August 16 – September 8; and drop-off registration is September 7 – 8. The Afterschool Program Director is Kyle Ahrold (212-873-0490). More details are provided at www.87afterschool.org.

Lost and Found items are kept for a limited time in the two-sided cupboard just inside the auditorium. Please mark all clothing and possessions with your child's name. Unclaimed items are donated to charity.

The New York City Department of Education's (DOE) **Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (ARIS)** provides a single place where our principals and teachers can find and study important information so that they can best help our children. You, too, can access this information, such as New York State test results and attendance records. Before you can log on to the ARIS Parent Link at www.ARISParentLink.org, you must have your child's Student ID and Password. Margaret Lerner, the Parent Coordinator, will provide new families with the child's permanent Student ID and a Temporary Password by the end of the year. Returning families can request this information by calling Margaret at 212-678-2826, ext. 3, or by stopping by her office in B16-B.

The **Yahoo! group for District 3 parents** is also a great way to keep up with issues affecting our entire school district. Visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/district3parents>.



From the Parents Association

Welcome to the start of a new school year! We hope you find helpful information in this issue of the *Backpack News*. Family participation has been a large part of PS 87's success over the years, and we are very proud of the many varied opportunities to share your time or talents. If you have questions or ideas about how to get involved, please contact us and we'll be glad to help you find your groove. Contact information is included on page 5.

To the families of our youngest and newest students...on Monday, September 13, *all families of kindergarten children and new children entering the upper grades are invited to a special breakfast and information session* in the auditorium

after morning drop-off. This is a wonderful chance to meet other members of the PS 87 community. We look forward to welcoming you!

The PS 87 Parents Association (PA) is a not-for-profit organization that supports virtually every facet of our children's lives at school by funding key programs and coordinating communications, community events, volunteers and supplemental enrichment efforts. As a PS 87 parent, you are automatically a member of the PA; no dues are required. The PA regularly hosts **General Meetings** for the PS 87 community (see the school calendar on page 6) at which parents can hear the latest news from the administration and from PA committees, discuss what's on their minds, and listen to invited speakers. Most General Meetings will be held in the mornings after drop-off, but we will also have a few meetings in the evening. For evening meetings, the PA provides free childcare and pizza for school-age children. The first PA General Meeting is an evening one and will be held on September 23 at 6:30pm in the auditorium. We will hear from our principal, update you on news from the summer, and provide an overview of the coming year. Drafts of PA General Meeting minutes are posted in the lobby within seven days of the meeting.

Each spring, the parent body elects a representative PA **Executive Board** of officers that meets once a month. All parents are welcome to attend these monthly meetings, and childcare is provided. The first Executive Board meeting is September 15, at 6:10pm in the school library. Agendas for all meetings will be posted in the lobby and on the Yahoo! group prior to the meeting day.

The PA is responsible for the school's **fundraising** and relies on your donations to pay for initiatives that the Department of Education budget does not. We're in frequent conversation with the school administration to figure out what is needed. Financial contributions from parents have helped build and maintain the Kindergarten Yard, pay for professional development and Kindergarten classroom assistants, bring assemblies and enrichment activities to the school, library assistants and technology for the classrooms, to mention just a few projects. There are many opportunities to donate, including during specific fundraising drives and at special events. You'll receive a Pledge Drive letter shortly; receipts from the drive account for a hefty one-third of the PA's annual budget, and we make sure your donations go far. Giving at any level is appreciated: a high rate of community participation makes our school more attractive to grants organizations.

On page 5 are the names of the PA Executive Board members and a list of committees that can always use your help – whether you give only a few hours here and there or can make a longer-term commitment. No matter what you choose, we hope you consider becoming active in our amazing PS 87 community!

Rachel Laiserin and Rebecca Levey
PA Co-Presidents

**Get a head start on the school year.
School supplies lists for grades K-5
are online at www.ps87.info**

Parents Association (PA) Committees

Afterschool Committee: Supports the PS 87 Afterschool program in all areas of operation.

Auction Committee: Organizes, plans and manages all aspects of the annual PS 87 Auction.

Class Parents: Help support specific projects and events in their own classrooms. Participate in regularly scheduled meetings with the Principal and Parent Coordinator to discuss and share the latest happenings at the school, passing information along to the other parents in their classes.

Communications Committee: Coordinates all PA communications with parents. Specific publications include the *Backpack News* (PS 87's weekly school newsletter), the annual publication of the PS 87 Directory and website updates.

Community Relations Committee: Attends District 3, Community Board and citywide meetings and reports on issues that affect our school.

Culture and Community Committee (formerly MLG): Creates awareness and opportunities for celebration and sharing that brings the cultures of our community together. Organizes several community events throughout the year, including One Family Under the Stars evening in the fall, Pan Asian Lunar New Year, and Black History Month celebrations.

Dual Immersion Committee: Represents the interests and viewpoints of our successful Spanish/English program, and assists with the Spanish translation of all key parent information.

Enrichment Committee: Supports our Music, Art, Drama, Science, Physical Education and Assembly programs by organizing school-wide events and performances, and by sponsoring supplemental enrichment instruction.

Fundraising Committee: Organizes, plans and manages all aspects of the major fundraising events and efforts throughout the year. Major events include magazine drive, book fairs, Harvest Festival and Spring Fair.

Garden Committee: Maintains the large garden adjacent to the Big Yard as well as plantings in the Kindergarten Yard. Coordinates teacher participation in garden-related projects.

Health and Safety Committee: Coordinates the lice fund, pest control and extra city sanitation visits. Fields concerns regarding general cleanliness in the school and school safety.

Library Committee: Assists with shelving books, helping children choose books, reading to children, and helping maintain and grow this great resource created with parent support.

Middle School Committee: Assists the guidance counselor and 5th grade parents in navigating the evolving middle school application process. Works with other schools in the district to review existing processes and makes recommendations to the DOE for improvement. Organizes and hosts the Middle School Fair in October.

Parents as Reading Partners: Pairs volunteer parents with young PS 87 children to provide one-on-one reading time.

Pledge Drive Committee: Oversees the annual Pledge Drive to encourage and collect donations from PS 87 families to support functions of the PA.

Special Events Committee: Provides catering, party planning and execution for special events as they arise during the school year, such as the Teacher Appreciation Dinner and welcome events.

Support Services for Special Education Committee: Serves as a liaison and resource for parents who have questions about special education services and related resources available.

Technology Committee: Provides expertise and support for the use of computers and other technology throughout the building and maintains school-related websites.

Other Volunteer Positions

School Leadership Team (SLT) is a Department of Education-mandated body of representatives made up of administrators, teachers, and elected parents. The SLT is directly involved in ascertaining the school's priorities and in reviewing how the school allocates resources to meet them. The SLT meets once a month and also has separate subcommittee meetings on specific topics. All parents are invited to attend SLT meetings, whether or not they are members of the SLT; dates and times are found on the school website and in the *Backpack News*. PA Presidents also sit on the SLT. Contact SLT@ps87.info for more information.

Recess Monitors: Give an hour a week to help watch over the Yards during recess. Coordinated by the SLT and PA Health & Safety Committee.

And More... You will find other ways to volunteer: chaperoning field trips, staffing your class booth at the Spring Fair, and helping out with special projects in your classroom, to name a few. Don't hesitate to get involved. *PS 87 needs you!*

Educational Acronyms (EAs)

ARIS:	Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (for test results)
BPN:	<i>Backpack News</i> (you're reading it now)
CEC:	Community Education Council
CTT:	Collaborative Team Teaching (alternate Special Education term for ITC)
DI:	Dual Immersion (Spanish/English program)
DOE:	Department of Education
ELA:	(New York State) English Language Arts (exam given to grades 3-5)
IEP:	Individualized Education Plan (annual Special Education goal-setting document)
ITC:	Integrated Co-Teaching (new Special Education term for CTT)
K:	Kindergarten (as in, K Yard on West 77th)
PA:	Parents Association
SLT:	School Leadership Team

PS 87 PARENTS ASSOCIATION / ASOCIACION DE PADRES 2010 – 2011
Board Members / Miembros de la Comisión Ejecutiva

Executive Officers / Oficiales de la Ejecutiva

Co-Presidents / Co-Presidentes

pa-president@ps87.info
Rachel Laiserin and Rebecca Levey

Vice Presidents / Vice Presidentes

pa-vicepresident@ps87.info
Michael Kraft: Administrative VP • Beth Servetar: Community Affairs VP
Anna Lehmann: Enrichment & Programming VP
Rena Shapiro: School Events VP • Lola Holness: Human Resources VP

Co-Secretaries / Co-Secretarias

pa-secretary@ps87.info
Katie Miller: Corresponding Secretary • Shali Sterry: Recording Secretary

Treasurer / Tesorera

pa-treasurer@ps87.info
Claire Abenante

Assistant Treasurer / Ayudante de Tesoreria

pa-treasurer@ps87.info
Tanya Khotin

Officers / Oficiales

pa-officers@ps87.info
Rachel Richardson: Membership • Ann Binstock: Fundraising
Frances Rosenfeld: Enrichment • Caitlin McNiff: Wellness
Jane Gerver: Afterschool • Jessica Pratt: Auction
K Rep to be determined in September 2010

Committee Chairs / Presidentes de los Comites

Afterschool Program / Programa Extraescolar

pa-afterschoolcommittee@ps87.info
Soraya Gomez Crawford
Anne Marie Prevost • Jane E. Gerver
NOTE: This is the PA Afterschool Committee only. To contact the Afterschool Program Director, send e-mail to: *info@87afterschool.org*

Auction Committee/Subasta

pa-auction@ps87.info
Jessica Pratt • Judith Greenberg • Linda Hahn • Julie Press • Lisa Shatz

Communications / Comunicaciones

pa-communications@ps87.info
Blake Logan, Rachel Richardson: Class Parent Liaisons
pa-classparentliaison@ps87.info
Shari Gottheim: Directory, Website
pa-directorycommittee@ps87.info
Inès Aslan • Sandra Iranzo: Translation/Traducción
pa-translation@ps87.info
Kate Bushmann, Margaret Tullai: *Backpack News* Managing Editors
pa-backpacknews@ps87.info or *backpacknews@yahoo.com*
Julie Dermer: *Backpack News* Ad/Sponsorship Sales
BPN-ads@ps87.info
NOTE: For information on *Backpack News* submissions and advertising, go to <http://tinyurl.com/backpacknews87>

Community Affairs/ Asuntos de la Comunidad

pa-communityaffairs@ps87.info
Marisa Maack • Beth Servetar • Varda Steinhart

Dual Immersion/ Inmersión Dual

pa-dualimmersion@ps87.info
Bill Gehris • Ted Merz • Teresa Aguayo

Enrichment / Enriquecimiento

pa-enrichment@ps87.info
Frances Rosenfeld
Martha Hurley: Assemblies • Nicole Avallone: Cluster Liaison

Fundraising / Recaudación de Fondos

pa-fundraising@ps87.info
L. Ann Binstock • Haley Fox • Megan Gliebe
Jennifer Schram Maxwell • Randi Cohen (5th Grade Rep)
TBD: Reps for graded K-4

Garden Committee / Comité del Jardín

pa-garden@ps87.info
Richard Kaplan • David Ottavio

Health and Safety / Salud y Seguridad

pa-healthandsafety@ps87.info
Nora Littman • Daphne Guarino

Kindergarten Reps / Representantes de Kindergarten

pa-kindergarten@ps87.info
To be announced in September 2010

Library Committee/ Biblioteca

pa-librarycommittee@ps87.info
Jill Davis • Leslie Flom
NOTE: This is the PA Library Committee only.
To contact the School Librarian, send e-mail to: *librarian@ps87library.org*

Middle School Committee / Comité Escuela Media

pa-middleschool@ps87.info
Randy Schein • Sabrina DaSilva • Bonni Gibel

Culture and Community Committee / Comité Cultura y Comunidad

(Formerly Multicultural Learning Group / MLG)
pa-culturecommunity@ps87.info
Bonnie Hunt • Karen Makela • Chantal Onlelien

Pledge Drive / Colecta de Fondos

pa-pledgedrive@ps87.info
Lauren Wittels • Anne Delorme Rosenberg

Special Events / Eventos Especiales

pa-specialevents@ps87.info
Katie Boyar • Anne Grossman • Deborah Vail

Support Services for Special Education

pa-specialed@ps87.info
TBD: Position to be filled in September 2010 by a parent of a PS 87 child who has an IEP

Technology / Tecnología

pa-technology@ps87.info
Paul Garrity: Website Content, AV
Shari Gottheim: Website Design, Communications Liaison
David Ottavio: Classroom Technology

SLT: School Leadership Team / Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar

slt@ps87.info
Nicole Avallone • Anju Gupta • Cathy Halpin • Tanya Khotin
Lawrence Kimmell • Karen Makela • Judy Meade
TBD: four open parent seats to be elected September 2010

Wellness Subcommittee / Subcomité de la Salud

pa-wellness@ps87.info
Caitlin McNiff • Carolyn Lese Goldberg

Parents as Reading Partners Subcommittee / Subcomité de los Padres como Socios de la Lectura

pa-readingpartners@ps87.info
Peter Ackerman • Debra Vail

PS 87 SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010-2011

Watch for calendar updates in *Backpack News*, on the Parent Network Yahoo! group and at www.PS 87.info

2010	
SEPTEMBER	
7-8	Afterschool drop-off registration
8	First day of school Full day, grades 1-5 Pre-K and K shortened (one-hour) day: 8:30-9:30am End of Afterschool mail-in registration
9-10	NO SCHOOL: Rosh Hashanah
13-14	Afterschool Fun Week
13	New Family Breakfast 9:00am-10:30am (auditorium) Pre-K and K: 9:00am-10:30am Afterschool late registration
14	Pre-K and K: 8:30am-10:30am
15	Pre-K and K: 8:30am-11:30am Afterschool First Day PA Executive Board Meeting 6:10pm
16	First Pre-K full day (8:30am-2:00pm) First K full day (8:30am-3:10pm)
23	PA General Meeting, 6:30pm
TBA	Magazine and Gift Drive
TBA	First SLT Meeting
OCTOBER	
1	PRE-K NON-ATTENDANCE DAY One Family Under the Stars Potluck 6:00pm-8:30pm
11	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
13	PA Executive Board Meeting 6:10pm
28	PA General Meeting 8:45am
30	Harvest Festival
TBA	Math Night
TBA	PS 87 Middle School Fair
TBA	Picture Days
NOVEMBER	
2	NO SCHOOL - Election Day 5th Grade Bake Sale
8-12	Scholastic Book Fair
9	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:30am Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
10	Parent Teacher Conferences (evening)
11	NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
15-19	Open School Week
18	PA Executive Board Meeting 6:10pm
23	PA General Meeting 8:45am
25-26	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
TBA	PS 87 Comedy Night
DECEMBER	
8	PA Exec Board Meeting 6:10pm
10	Culture and Community Winter Event 6:00pm
16	PA General Meeting 8:45am Teacher Appreciation Dinner 6:00pm
24	Winter Recess begins (through Jan. 2)
TBA	Wine Tasting/Holiday Bazaar

2011	
JANUARY	
3	School Resumes
12	PA Exec Board meeting 6:10pm
17	NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
20	PA General Meeting 6:30 pm
28	Pan Asian New Year Celebration
TBA	Broadway Night
FEBRUARY	
2	Last day of Fall Afterschool semester
9	PA Exec Board Meeting 6:10pm
11	Black History Month Celebration 6:00pm
17	PA General Meeting 8:45am
21-25	NO SCHOOL Winter Break / Afterschool Holiday Camp
28	School Resumes
MARCH	
7	Pre-K non-attendance day
9	PA Executive Board Meeting 6:10pm
14-18	Used Book Sale
15	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:30 Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
16	Parent Teacher Conferences (evening)
24	PA General Meeting 8:45am
APRIL	
2	PS 87 Auction
6	PA Executive Board Meeting 6:10pm
14	PA General Meeting 8:45am
18-26	NO SCHOOL Spring Break / Afterschool Holiday Camp
27	School Resumes
MAY	
4-6	NYS ELA Testing, grades 3, 4, 5
11-13	NYS Math Testing, grades 3, 4, 5
18	PA Exec Board Meeting 6:10pm
26	PA General Meeting 8:45am
30	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
31	NYS Science Test, grade 4
TBA	Nature's Classroom
TBA	Everybody Reads Week
JUNE	
1-6	NYS Science Test, grade 4 (exact dates TBA)
2	Garden Party
4	PS 87 Spring Fair
7	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:30am: Clerical Shortened Day
8	PA Exec Board Meeting 6:10pm
9	NO SCHOOL - Chancellor's Day
16	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:30: Clerical Shortened Day PA General Meeting 8:45am
28	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:30: Last day of school
TBA	Dance Festival (grades K-2)
TBA	Graduation
TBA	Student Art Show

Find the Citywide School Calendar at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/default.htm>



Queridas familias,

Es difícil de creer que aquí estamos otra vez – el principio de un nuevo año escolar.

Queremos dar la bienvenida a todas las nuevas familias que se han sumado a nuestra comunidad escolar, y saludar a todos los que ya son parte de la familia de PS 87. Esperamos que hayan disfrutado de una relajadas vacaciones de verano. Este verano ha sido un período de reflexión y rejuvenecimiento para nosotras, y estamos entusiasmadas de comenzar un nuevo año escolar.

Nos complace anunciar la llegada y dar la bienvenida a las nuevas maestras que se sumarán a la familia de PS 87. Diane Berman se sumará al equipo de primer grado, y Melissa Martínez-Orengo al de cuarto para enseñar la clase de inmersión dual (DI). Con la expansión de las clases de enseñanza colaborativa (CTT), se han sumado a nuestro personal Kim Henderson y Susie Edelman. Kim va a enseñar en equipo con Elisa Rios en tercer grado, y Susie con Robyn Ulzheimer en kindergarten.

PS 87 es una comunidad extraordinaria. Contamos con un personal altamente calificado, dedicado y apasionado por enseñar y aprender. Contamos con un grupo de padres que apoya al personal a enseñar a los niños de la manera que creemos mejor los prepara para aprender de por vida. Contamos con estudiantes curiosos, motivados y entusiastas. Esta combinación de personal, padres, y estudiantes es lo que hace que PS 87 sea la escuela que es hoy en día. Comenzamos con entusiasmo un gran año escolar!

Cordialmente,
Monica, Suzan, and Barbara

Inés Aslan, Comité de Traducción

PS Backpack87News

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

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Next Issue: The September 13 issue of *Backpack News* will be edited by Torrie Larson. The deadline for submissions is 2:30pm on Thursday, September 9.

Editors for This Issue: Kate Bushmann and Margaret Tullai

¡Bienvenidos al comienzo de un nuevo año escolar! Esperamos que encontréis información útil en esta edición del *Backpack News*. La participación familiar ha sido una parte importante del éxito de PS 87 durante años, y estamos orgullosos de las muchas oportunidades que existen de compartir tu tiempo o talento. Si tenéis preguntas o ideas sobre cómo involucraros, por favor contactadnos y estaremos encantadas de ayudaros a encontrar vuestra parcela.

A las familias de nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes y recién llegados... el lunes, 13 de septiembre, todas las familias con hijos en kindergarten y alumnos nuevos de cursos superiores estáis invitados a un desayuno especial y a una sesión informativa en el auditorio después de dejar a los niños en el colegio. Es una ocasión estupenda de conocer a otros miembros de la comunidad de PS 87. ¡Estamos deseando daros la bienvenida!

La Asociación de Padres (PA): es una organización sin fines de lucro que apoya virtualmente cada faceta de la vida de nuestros niños en el colegio al financiar programas esenciales y coordinando las comunicaciones, eventos de la comunidad, voluntarios, y esfuerzos de enriquecimiento suplementarios. Como padre/madre de PS87, eres automáticamente miembro de la asociación de padres. No se requiere pago de cuota. La PA organiza reuniones de forma regular para la comunidad en general (ver calendario escolar adjunto) en los cuales los padres pueden escuchar información reciente de la administración y de los comités de la PA, discutir lo que piensan, y escuchar a conferencistas invitados. La mayoría de las reuniones de la PA tendrán lugar por las mañanas después de dejar a los niños en el colegio, pero también habrá algunas reuniones por la tarde/noche. Para las reuniones de tarde/noche, la PA facilita cuidado de niños gratis y pizza para los niños que están en edad escolar. La primera reunión general de la PA será por la tarde noche el día 23 de septiembre a las 6:30pm en el auditorio. Hablará nuestra directora, os pondremos al día sobre las noticias de este verano, e información sobre el año venidero.

Cada primavera, la asociación de padres elige a los representantes de la Ejecutiva y a los oficiales que se reúnen una vez al mes. Todos los padres están invitados a asistir a estas reuniones mensuales y se facilita cuidado de niños. La primera reunión del Comité Ejecutivo es el 15 de septiembre a las 6:10pm en la biblioteca de la escuela. Se pondrá el orden del día de todas las reuniones en la entrada del colegio y en el grupo de Yahoo antes de la reunión. El borrador de las minutas de las reuniones generales se ponen en la entrada del colegio en un plazo de siete días después de la reunión.

La PA es responsable de la recaudación de fondos para la escuela y se apoya en vuestras donaciones para financiar iniciativas que el Departamento de Educación no costea. Hablamos frecuentemente con la administración de la escuela para ver qué se necesita. Las contribuciones financieras de los padres han ayudado a construir y mantener el patio de kindergarten, a pagar cursos a los profesores, así como a los asistentes de los profesores de Kindergarten, por mencionar solamente algunos ejemplos. Hay muchas oportunidades para contribuir durante el año, incluyendo durante campañas específicas para recaudar fondos y en eventos especiales. Recibiréis una carta de Recaudación de Fondos próximamente; esta colecta representa alrededor de un tercio del presupuesto anual de la PA, y nos aseguramos que vuestras donaciones alcancen para mucho. Cualquier cantidad se agradece: un porcentaje alto de participación nos hace más atractivos a la hora de recibir subvenciones provenientes de organizaciones.

Más abajo podrás encontrar la lista de los miembros y de los comités que siempre pueden utilizar tu ayuda - ya sea si puedes ayudar unas horas de vez en cuando como si puedes comprometerse a más largo plazo. ¡Cualquiera que sea la forma de participación que elijas, esperamos que te plantees ser un miembro activo de la increíble comunidad de PS 87!

Rachel Laiserin y Rebecca Levey
Co-Presidentes de la Asociación de Padres

Sandra Iranzo, Comité de Traducción

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

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