

The Parent Association's

Backpack News

Hudson Cliffs PA Newsletter Mar/Apr 2009

Calendar Upcoming Events

- April 9 – 17** No School
Spring Break
- April 23** General PA Meeting
7:00- 8:30 pm
- April 27** Family Yoga Night
7:00 pm
- April 29** School Leadership
Team 3:15 pm
- May 4** PA Committee
Meetings 6:00 pm except
Fundraising/Grant Writing
8:00 pm — Exec Bd 7:00 pm
- May 18** Family Yoga Night
7:00pm
- May 19** IS Spring Music & Art
Festival 6:30 pm
- May 20** School Leadership
Team 3:15pm
- May 22** Half Day – Staff
Development Dismissal:
K – 4th grade at 11:20 am
5th - 8th at 12:10PM
Pre-K – as per Ms. McGlynn
- May 25** No School
Memorial Day
- May 27** School Leadership
Team 3:15 pm
- May 28** Field Day – Pre-K,
K, 1st & 2nd Grade
- May 28** General PA Meeting
7:00- 8:30 pm
- May 29** Field Day – 3rd & 4th
Grade
- June 1** PA Committee
Meetings 6:00 pm except
Fundraising/Grant Writing
8:00 pm — Exec Bd 7:00 pm
- June 4** No School
Chancellor's Day

Please Note: Calendar dates are subject to change. For the most updated information, check the calendar on our Web site <http://ps187pa.com/index.html> or leave a message on PA Voicemail at 212-465-7517.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On March 19, the PA went all out to show the teachers and staff how much we appreciate their efforts and commitment to our children and the PS/IS 187 community. The Staff Appreciation Dinner was a hit, thanks to coordinator Wilma Lopez, Kathy Brito, Senior Cook Maria Marte who kept the kitchen open all afternoon to store food and heated up the food for us, the many parents and students who decorated, cooked, brought food, set up, served, cleaned, helped, and made the celebration a delicious success!

A check for \$16,940 was presented by the PA to Ms. Chory to fulfill the Teachers' Wish List, so a huge THANK YOU goes out also to all parents: your generous contributions throughout the year have made wishes come true! The Wish List will be distributed schoolwide, and is also available on our website, in the PA office, and at PA meetings. PS/IS187 teachers, staff, students and parents: you rock!

Please remember to fill out the Learning Environment Surveys - green envelopes distributed at Parent Teacher conferences - either on paper or online: they count toward our overall school grade. Happy Spring and see you all at our exciting upcoming events & celebrations!

Francesca Di Mauro

PA President

president@ps187pa.com

Mensaje de la Presidente

Estimados Padres y Guardianes:

El 19 de marzo, la Asociación de Padres mostro su aprecio a los maestros y empleados por su compromiso con nuestros hijos(as) y la comunidad de PS/IS 187. La Cena de Aprecio a los Maestros y Empleados fue un gran éxito gracias a los esfuerzos de coordinadora Wilma Lopez, Kathy Brito y Cocinera Principal Maria Marte quien mantuvo la cocina abierta todo el día para guardar comidas y también las calentó. Gracias también a los padres y estudiantes quienes decoraron, cocinaron, trajeron comidas, sirvieron, hicieron limpieza y ayudaron hacer el evento tan memorable.

El AP presento un cheque de \$16,940 a la Sra. Chory para cumplir la lista de deseos, así que un millón de gracias a todos los padres—sus contribuciones durante todo el año han hecho la lista de deseos una realidad. La lista de deseos se distribuirá a todos los padres y esta disponible también en nuestro sitio de web, en la oficina del AP y en las reuniones generales.

Por favor acuerdense de llenar la encuesta sobre el Entorno de Aprendizaje que se repartieron en sobres verdes durante las conferencias entre maestros y padres. Se pueden llenar en papel o en línea—cuentan para la calificación total de la escuela. Feliz primavera y nos vemos en los eventos y festejos venideros!

Francesca Di Mauro

PA Presidenta

president@ps187pa.com

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Parent Coordinator

Ms. Denise Rosa, Parent Coordinator, has a new cell phone for parents to contact her during school hours: 347-563-5070. The Parent Coordinator's role is to engage and involve parents in the school community by working with the principal, school staff, School Leadership Team, Parent Association, community groups and parent advisory councils. Ms. Rosa can be contacted by e-mail at drosa5@schools.nyc.gov or on her cell number during school hours. Ms. Rosa's office is located on the ground floor next to the kitchen and her drop-in office hours are from 7:30 - 11:15 am and 2:15 - 3:30 pm from Monday-Friday. If you have suggestions or concerns and can't reach her by phone or in person, please leave a note for her in the Suggestions Box by her office door. Watch for flyers sent home for her upcoming workshops on: public education philosophy/curricula at PS/IS 187; parent involvement in NYC public schools; testing; and safety and discipline. **Don't forget to fill out the Learning Environment Survey before April 24.** Or fill out the survey online at <http://www.nyc.gov/schools/survey>. Your user name is the 8 digit Serial ID from the first or last page of your paper survey and your password is 2009.

ESL Classes for Parents

Sign up for new ESL classes starting the first week in April. Available to all parents in the school, the classes will be given twice a week for an hour at the school and will be taught by parent Haydee Lorenzo. If interested see flyer already sent home or contact josephina46@aol.com

Schoolapalooza

The Producers of School-A-Palooza, Aryn Chapman, Jim Corona, Stevie-Ray Dallimore and Ariel Nachmann sincerely thank Stacey Linden and Luisa Diorio for the fabulous Food-A-Rama, playbill 'belles' Erin Hinchey and Judith Michael, enthusiastic 8th grade crew, 'vivacious' volunteers, our Silent Heroes Mr. Leone, Mr. Murphy and his crew, outstanding Austin (Linwood Harcum), phenomenal performers and the superb staff of 187. This show is an enormous undertaking and would not be possible without your support and enthusiasm.



\$15 Schoolapalooza t-shirts are available at www.zazzle.com/schoolapalooza.

I.S. Talent Show

Singers, piano players and dancers, both hip hop and ballroom, were among the many gifted Hudson Cliffs students who performed in the Intermediate School talent show called "A Night of Stars", presented on Friday, February 27. Two rock and roll bands rounded out the evening. Besides the performers, the student hosts were quick with a joke and the stage hands prepared the stage expertly for each act. The PA sold homemade goodies and a great time was had by all. DVDs are for sale for \$15 — contact Mr. Leone if interested.

March Madness

On March 13, Grade 5 played Grade 6 in a volleyball match, known as March Madness. The 5th grade team was coached by Ms. Wisotsky and Ms. McCullough, with cheerleaders supervised by Ms. Hirsch. The 6th grade team was coached by Mr. Montes, and its cheerleaders were led by Ms. Maguire. Continuing the tradition of fun and team spirit at IS 187, the gym was filled with cheering students, parents & teachers. The IS at 187 is proud of both teams' efforts and congratulates the 6th grade on a close win! The 8th grade triumphed over the 7th grade when they played each other in March.

Coordinadora de Padres

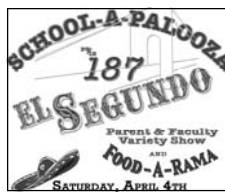
La coordinadora de padres Ms. Denise Rosa tiene un nuevo telefono celular para contacto durante horas de escuela: 347-563-5070. El(la) coordinador(a) tiene responsabilidad de trabajar con la directora, el personal, el Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar, la Asociacion de Padres y grupos y consejos comunitarios para involucrar a los padres en la comunidad escolar. Puede contactar a Ms. Rosa por correo electronico al drosa5@schools.nyc.gov o por su celular durante horas de escuela. Su oficina esta ubicada en el primer piso junto a la cocina y esta disponible de 7:30 - 11:15 am y 2:15 - 3:30 pm de lunes a viernes. Si tiene alguna duda o sugerencia y no se puede contactar por telefono o en persona favor de dejar una nota en el buzón de sugerencias junto a su oficina. Este al pendiente para noticias de talleres venideros sobre la filosofia educativa de PS/IS 187, el involucramiento de padres en la escuela, asesoramiento, y seguridad y disciplina. **Acuerdese de llenar la encuesta sobre el Entorno Educativo antes del 24 de abril.** O hagalo en linea al <http://www.nyc.gov/schools/survey>. Su nombre de usuario es el numero de 8 digitos de la primera o ultima pagina de su encuesta de papel y su contraseña es 2009.

Clases de ingles para padres

Inscribase para nuevas clases de ingles comenzando la primera semana de abril. Abierto a todos padres de familia y enseñado dos veces por semana por Haydee Lorenzo. Regrese la parte de abajo del volante que se ha mandado a casa o contacte a josephina46@aol.com.

Schoolapalooza

Los organizadores de School-A-Palooza, Aryn Chapman, Jim Corona, Stevie-Ray Dallimore and Ariel Nachmann dan su sincero agradecimiento a Stacey Linden and Luisa Diorio por el fabuloso Food-A-Rama, a Erin Hinchey and Judith Michael por el programa, a los voluntarios entusiasmados del octavo grado, al Sr. Leone, al Sr. Murphy y su equipo, al destacado Austin (Linwood Harcum), a los fenomenales presentantes y el excelente personal de 187. El show es un enorme labor y no seria posible sin su apoyo y entusiasmo. Camisetas de Schoolapalooza costando \$15 estan disponibles en www.zazzle.com/schoolapalooza.



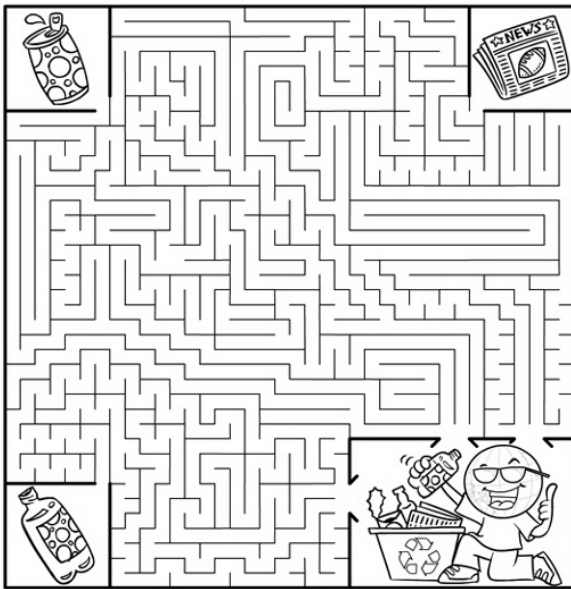
Show de Talento del EI

Cantantes, pianistas y bailarines fueron algunos los talentuosos estudiantes quienes actuaron en el show de talento de la escuela intermedia denominada "Una Noche de Estrallas", el viernes 27 de febrero. Dos grupos de musica rock completaron la noche. Los estudiantes anfitriones hicieron buenas bromas y los tramoyistas prepararon bien los escenarios para cada actuacion. El AP vendio postres horneados y todos se divirtieron mucho. Hay DVDs de compra por \$15 — contacte Mr. Leone si esta interesado(a).

Locura de marzo

El 13 de marzo, los grados 5to y 6to jugaron un partido de voleibol conocido como Locura de marzo. Las capitanes del equipo de 5to grado fueron Ms. Wisotsky y Ms. McCullough y Ms. Hirsch superviso las chicas de porras. El capitán del equipo de 6to grado fue Mr. Montes y las chicas de porras fueron dirigidas por Ms. Maguire. El gimnasio estuvo lleno de estudiantes, padres y maestros haciendo porras. Felicidades al 6to grado por su victoria! Los partidos entre los 7o y 8vo grados tambien tomaron lugar en marzo.

JUST FOR FUN



EARTH DAY is April 22!

Help **Globe Boy** find his way through the maze to recycle bottles, cans and papers.

Bent on Learning

One entire grade in the ES will be receiving yoga classes once a week for 10 weeks this spring 2009, thanks to a grant from Bent on Learning, a not-for-profit company that brings yoga to New York City public schools to "help reduce stress and improve concentration, self-esteem and overall health." Yoga is taught in the classrooms and desks are pushed aside. Our own fundraising for BOL has additionally gotten us supplementary classes for staff training or additional student classes. This is our second year receiving this grant and we hope to keep the program growing and expanding to include other grades.

Yoga en la escuela

Un grado entero de la escuela intermedia recibira 10 clases semanales de yoga gracias a Bent on Learning, una organizacion sin fines de lucro que trae yoga a las escuelas publicas de Nueva York para reducir estres y mejorar concentracion, auto estima y salud. Se enseña yoga en los salones de clase moviendo los escritorios al lado. Nuestra recaudacion ha traído clases adicionales para capacitacion de maestro o para mas estudiantes. Este es el segundo año que hemos recibido la subvencion y esperamos seguir creciendo el programa y expandiendolo a otros grados.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Oasis Afterschool

Parents, please let Oasis, the parent working group (Leonisa Ardizzone), and the school administration know your thoughts about the program. (Contact the parent group at la171@columbia.edu and Oasis at PS187@Oasiskids.org). This after-school program is a valuable asset to our community. Please share your feedback and support so next year can be even better!

AND Great News: Oasis will be offering a swimming program on Tuesdays beginning March 31st. For more information contact Lori at 646-206-7060 or PS187@Oasiskids.org.

Friends of Hudson Cliffs Winter Gala

Friends of Hudson Cliffs thanks everyone for their support at the Winter Gala.



We netted \$10,000. We will be starting our Spring Appeal in May, where your

donations will be 100% tax deductible. Please consider giving so we can support much needed programming at the school. For more information, please visit our website: www.friendsof187.org.

Movie Night

Thanks to all who came out on March 6th to see "School of Rock" and give their support. It was great fun to see parent volunteers in costume getting kids up to dance at the end. This fundraiser netted nearly \$1,000. Thanks to all who helped make it such a success: Coordinators Holly Gould and Vicky Taylor, parents who helped with flyers, advertising, and supplied the DVD, Class Parent Reps for recruiting volunteers to help, parents selling refreshments and helping with tickets and security. Thanks to Mr. Leone for being our projectionist and the PS/IS 187 staff for their assistance.

Fitness & Nutrition

Once a month at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria, is **Family Yoga Night**. Stretch, relax, strengthen with your family. Family Yoga dates for the remainder of the school year are:

- Monday, April 27
- Monday, May 18
- Monday, June 15

The P.S./I.S. 187 Multi-Cultural Community Cookbook can be purchased at the monthly PA Meetings for \$10 each. Proceeds will fund projects through the Fitness & Nutrition Committee. Many thanks to all the families who sent in so many wonderful recipes! To buy a cookbook contact Susan at : fitnessnutrition@ps187pa.com

ACTIVIDADES EN LA ESCUELA

Oasis extraescolar

Padres de familia, por favor comuniquen sus impresiones y opiniones del programa a Oasis, al grupo de trabajo de padres (Leonisa Ardizzone) y a la administracion escolar. Contacte al grupo de trabajo la171@columbia.edu y Oasis PS187@Oasiskids.org. El programa es sumamente valioso para nuestra comunidad. Ayudenos con su retroalimentacion a mejorar el programa aun mas! Y buenas noticias: Oasis ofrecera un programa de natacion los martes a partir del 31 de marzo. Para mas informacion contacte a Lori al 646.206.7060 o al PS187@Oasiskids.org.

Fiesta Invernal de Amigos de Hudson Cliffs

Amigos y Amigas de Hudson Cliffs agradece su apoyo para la Fiesta Invernal la cual recaudo \$10,000. Empezaremos nuestro solicitud de cuotas en mayo y sus donaciones seran 100% libres de impuestos. Por favor considere una donacion para aportar la programacion que tanto necesita nuestra escuela. Para mas informacion visite nuestro sitio de web www.friendsof187.org.

Noche de cine

Gracias a todos los que vinieron el 6 de marzo a ver la presentacion de "School of Rock." Fue muy divertido ver los padres disfrazados sacando a los niños (as) a bailar durante el fin de la pelicula. Este evento recaudo casi \$1,000. Gracias a todos los que ayudaron: coordinadoras Holly Gould y Vicky Taylor, los padres que ayudaron con volantes y anuncios, los padres representantes de clase que reclutaron voluntarios y los padres que ayudaron vender refrescantes y boletos y con seguridad en la escuela. Gracias al Sr. Leone por ser nuestro proyeccionista y al personal de PS/IS 187 por su asistencia.

Salubridad y Nutricion

La **Noche Familiar de Yoga** toma lugar una vez al mes en la cafeteria a las 7:00pm. Estirese, relajase y fortalezcase con su familia. Las fechas para el resto del año son:

- lunes 27 de abril
- lunes 18 de mayo
- Lunes 15 de junio

El Recetal Comunitario Multi-cultural de P.S./I.S. 187 esta de venta para \$10 en cada reunion. Los ingresos aportaran proyectos del comité de salubridad y nutricion. Gracias a todos los padres que mandaron recetas! Para comprarlo contacte a Susan at : fitnessnutrition@ps187pa.com.

Buy an Eco-Tote!

Earth Day is April 22!
The Environmental Committee will be selling eco-tote bags with a P.S./I.S. 187 logo for \$10. Proceeds go toward landscaping the school grounds.

P.S./I.S. 187
 HUDSON CLIFFS SCHOOL

**349 Cabrini Boulevard
 New York, New York 10040
 School: 212-927-8218
 PA Voicemail: 212-465-7517**

**Visit us online at
 www.ps187pa.com**

PA E-group: to subscribe, send a blank message to: ps187pa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com along with your name, child's full name, grade, and room number.

Backpack News

Backpack News is a monthly publication of the Parents' Association of Hudson Cliffs School P.S./I.S. 187. Its purpose is to inform parents of events at the school and the PA, volunteer opportunities, and other important information in a timely manner.

Francesca DiMauro—President
 Kathy Brito—V.P. I.S.
 Ivelisse Suarez-Levine—V.P. E.S.
 Juan Carlos Brito—Treasurer
 Kirsten Cowal—Recording Sec'y
 Susan Saar—Communications Sec'y
 Chris Kapetanios—CEC Delegate

Please submit information for the newsletter to Communications Secretary Susan Saar through the PA Mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to:

comsec@ps187pa.com
 The submission deadline is approx. the 1st of every other month; the next deadline is **June 1st, 2009**

Compre una bolsa ecologica!

El dia de la tierra es el 22 de abril!
El comite ambiental Esta vendiendo bolsas con un logo de PS/IS 187. Los fondos se usaran para paisajiar el campo.

PA General Meeting Minutes

Ms. Hozumi thanked parents for the staff appreciation dinner and announced that the school purchased Rosetta Stone for Spanish, a software-based language instruction program. The program, which will be implemented in the intermediate school, will be piloted later this spring as an after school activity. The administration did not yet receive notice of a starting date for the Out2Play playground renovations.

The Treasurer's report revealed that the PA is on track to exceed its projected budget due to Schoolapalooza's success in raising funds. A nominating committee for the upcoming Parents Association and School Leadership Team elections was formed, consisting of Joey Brenneman, Rosalba Santos Alba and Margaret Janik. There will be three open positions for parents on the SLT and the PA requires, at minimum, a President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

Ariel Nachmann reported that \$3,800 has been raised in ad sales to date for Schoolapalooza. Food donations have been obtained from TA Cocina and the Associated Supermarket for Food-a-Rama. The cafeteria will be decorated and the Environmental Committee will sponsor seedling plantings as a children's activity.

Leonisa Ardizzone announced a fundraising committee meeting on April 6th.

The parent working group for the arts reported that Studio in a School is beginning in kindergarten and 4th grade and in one 5th grade and one 8th grade classroom.

Copies of the fulfilled wish list were distributed and all school parents will receive a copy. As per the approved motion at the previous general meeting, a discussion ensued about the wish list and general PA funding priorities. The discussion focused on the relative emphasis parents wish to place on funding the traditional wish list (mainly field trips and manipulatives) vs. enrichment programming (i.e. Studio in a School). Parents also discussed the role parents could or should play in determining the contents of the wish list. The discussion will be continued at the next general meeting in April.

Student Council by Rebecca Agrest

This year Student Council has been working closely with grade representatives, homeroom representatives, teachers and the Parents Association at 187. Student Council has already been involved in many school events, including helping with the canned food drive, organizing Black History Month events, running a Heart-o-Gram fundraiser and Sweet Treat Afternoon, starting a 187 Student Newspaper, and helping out with March Madness volleyball (including organizing a movie raffle fundraiser at all games). Student Council meets weekly to discuss new ideas and plan events for the benefit and support of the school. Grade representatives are: Lily Doherty grade 5, Marianne Martinez grade 6, Abigail Avital and Jack Donohue grade 7, Rebecca Agrest grade 8.

Resumen del Reunión de la AP

Ms. Hozumi agradeció a los padres por la cena de aprecio y anuncio que la escuela ha comprado "Rosetta Stone" la cual es un programa de computadora de aprendizaje del castellano que se implementara en la escuela intermedia. Sera piloteado esta primavera como una actividad extraescolar. La administracion aun no ha recibido fecha de comienzo para las renovaciones del patio de Out2Play.

El informe del tesorero relevo que la AP ya casi ha conseguido todos los fondos planeados en el presupuesto debido al exito de Schoolapalooza en recaudar fondos. Un comite de nominaciones para las elecciones del AP y el Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar se establecio conformado por Joey Brenneman, Rosalba Santos Alba y Margaret Janik. Habra dos vacantes en el ELE y para la AP se tiene que elegir por lo menos un presidente, tesorero y secretario de actas.

Ariel Nachmann informo que han vendido \$3,800 en anuncios en el programa de Schoolapalooza y que se han obtenido donaciones de comida de TA Cocina y el supermercado Associated. La cafeteria estara decorado y los niños podran plantar semillas con el comite ambiental.

Leonisa Ardizzone anuncio una reunion del comite de recaudacion de fondos el 6 de abril.

El programa Studio in a School empezara en el kindergarten y el 4to grado y en un salon de clase de 5 to y 8 vo.

Se repartio copias de la lista de deseos otorgados y todos los padres recibiran copias. Despues hubo discusion sobre las prioridades para el uso de fondos recaudados. El tema central fue la cuestion de destinar fondos hacia la lista de deseos (excursiones y utiles) y/o a programas de enriquecimiento (Studio in a School). Se discutio tambien el papel que los padres quisieran y deberian tener en determinar el contenido de la lista de deseos. La discusion continuara en la siguiente reunion.

Consejo Estudiantil

El Consejo Estudiantil este año ha colaborado con representantes de grados, representantes de "homeroom", maestros y la Asociacion de Padres de PS/IS 187. El consejo se ha involucrado en varios eventos escolares tal como: ayudando con la campaña de comidas enlatadas, organizando el mes de historia de africanos-americanos, manejando eventos de recaudacion como "Heart-o-Gram" y "Sweet Treat Afternoon", empezando un periodico escolar y ayudando con en voleibol de locura de marzo (influyendo rifas en todos los partidos). El consejo se reúne semanalmente para discutir nuevas ideas y planificar eventos. Los representantes de grados son: Lily Doherty 5to, Marianne Martinez 6to, Abigail Avital y Jack Donohue 7o y Rebecca Agrest 8vo.