

Backpack News

Calendar Upcoming Events

- Dec 11** Annual Winter Music and Arts Show for Grades 1 & 2 6:30 pm
- Dec 15** Family Yoga 7:00pm
- December 17** School Leadership Team 3:15 pm
- December 18** PA General Meeting-Holiday Party 7:00pm
- December 24 – January 4** Winter Break—No School
- January 5** School resumes
- January 5** PA Committee Meetings 6:00 pm except Fundraising Grant Writing 8:00 pm
- January 19** Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School
- January 21** School Leadership Team 3:15 pm
- January 22** PA General Meeting 7:00pm
- January 23** Half Day – Staff Development Dismissal:
K – 4th grade at 11:20 am
5th - 8th at 12:10PM
Pre-K – as per Ms. McGlynn
- February 2** PA Committee Meetings 6:00 pm except Fundraising Grant Writing 8:00 pm
- February 16 – 20** Mid-Winter Break—No School
- Please Note:** Calendar dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check the calendar on our Web site <http://ps187pa.com/index.html> or leave a message on PA Voicemail at: 212-465-7517

Happy Holidays!

Hudson Cliffs PA Newsletter Nov/Dec 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It's incredible that our fall/winter fundraisers are behind us. They were very successful, so a huge Thank You To All who helped by volunteering their time and efforts, purchasing goods and making donations.

All ideas for spring fundraisers are welcome! At the November PA Meeting, the Executive Board introduced a Fundraising Proposal Form to help submit new fundraising events/ ideas. Anyone interested in proposing a fundraiser can pick up a form in the PA office, from the Bulletin Board by the school cafeteria entrance, or by sending an email to fundraising@ps187pa.com.

Concerned parents have formed a few working groups recently. For information or to join, please contact them: the *Parents Art Group* (contact: Navi Stoller, navitimes@yahoo.com); the *Parents Technology Group* (contact: James Goldwasser, locussolus@verizon.net); the *Parents Science Group* (contact: Leonisa Ardizzone, ardizzone@salvadori.org); the *Student Council/IS/Parents Group*, to work with our Student Council on IS fundraising (contact: Judith Michael, JMichael@jobson.com), the *Oasis Working Group* (contact: Aryn Chapman, arynchapman@gmail.com), and the *Foreign Language Parents Working Group* (contact: Jeni Chapman, jenileec412@yahoo.com).

Please remember: keep dogs leashed when in the school yard and please don't bring them inside the school. Also, please keep children away from the fenced-in areas, (Garden Path in particular), where there are newly planted bulbs and plants. Finally, please dress children appropriately for the weather, so they can enjoy recess period after lunch. If they aren't dressed warmly, they won't be able to go outside.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Holiday Season!

Francesca Di Mauro president@ps187pa.com

MENSAJE DE LA PRESIDENTE

Estimados Padres,

Es increíble es que los eventos de recaudación de fondos del otoño y invierno están ya realizados. Fueron muy exitosos así que MUCHÍSIMAS GRACIAS a todos los que ayudaron comprando mercancía y haciendo donaciones. Son bienvenidas todas ideas para eventos de recaudación el la primavera. En la reunión general de Noviembre, el Consejo Ejecutivo introdujo un formulario para postular nuevas ideas para eventos de recaudación. Cualquier persona interesada en proponer un evento puede recoger copia en la Oficina del AP, del sobre en la pared de la entrada a la cafetería o por correo electrónico al fundraising@ps187pa.com.

Padres han formado varios grupos de trabajo recientemente. Para información o para unirse favor de contactar: *Grupo de Padres para las Artes* (Navi Stoller, navitimes@yahoo.com), *Grupo de Padres para Tecnología* (James Goldwasser, locussolus@verizon.net), *Grupo de Padres para Ciencia* (Leonisa Ardizzone, ardizzone@salvadori.org), el *Grupo de Padres para Apoyo al Consejo Estudiantil* (Judith Michael, JMichael@jobson.com), el *Grupo de Trabajo de OASIS* (Aryn Chapman, arynchapman@gmail.com), y finalmente, el *Grupo de Trabajo de Padres para Idiomas Extranjeras* (jenileec412@yahoo.com).

Por favor recuerde: los perros deben estar atados alrededor de la escuela y nunca pueden entrar a la escuela. También mantega alejados a los niños de las rejas alrededor de las flores recién plantadas.

Les deseo a todos felices fiestas!

Francesca Di Mauro, president@ps187pa.com

Sovereign Associates, Inc

Gregory Healy,
Principal Broker
Direct: 917-709-1491
Fax: 212-202-4731
www.Sovereignrealestate.com
ghealy@Sovereignrealestate.com



Sovereign Associates, Inc.
Real Estate Brokers

Gregory Healy 917.709.1491
Pinehurst Ave.
Mark Katz 646.261.4875
Cabrin Blvd.
Linda Rhodes 212.300.6997
Magaw Place
Tonya Reeves 347.860.1919
Hillside Avenue
Annie Hawkins 917.771.0172
West 225th Street

Blackboard Award

PS 187 was chosen for an Elementary School Blackboard Award, described as "Manhattan's Rising Star Public Elementary School." The publishers of *Our Town* and *West Side Spirit* created the Blackboard Awards to highlight schools, principals and teachers who are doing a great job. They've awarded our school for being a vibrant, caring and challenging learning community (which is no surprise to us!) Ms. Chory was quoted as saying, "the secret is out". For a full article, please go to the link:

<http://ourtownny.com/?p=1060>

Studio In A School

PS/IS 187 has been selected to participate in the Visual Arts Blueprint Collaborative Community Program, a grant with a long-term arts partnership with one of New York's premier arts-education organizations, Studio in a School. With this grant our school will integrate a standards-based curriculum through art projects in grades PreK - 12. PS/IS 187 is fortunate to have Ms. Torres as a full-time art teacher in the upper school who will play a central role in the implementation of the program at the school. Because art education is more limited in the lower

school and in order to provide the scope and sequence outlined in the DOE's Blueprint at PS/IS 187, there will be two 14 day residencies this year, the first beginning in December servicing 2nd grade and Pre-K, the second servicing K and 1, one 5th grade and one 8th grade class. It is our hope that this grant will continue to serve PS/IS 187 students in 2009-2010. The Collaborative Communities grant provides substantial professional development for both our arts specialist and for general classroom teachers.

New Teacher

My name is Ms. Battista and I work as the AIS (Academic Intervention Service)



teacher at PS/IS 187. I have been working in the school system since I graduated from college in 2001. I graduated with my Masters in Education from Mercy College. I

currently hold 3 certifications in education. This past summer, I got married and I currently live with my husband Jon and my dog Ozzy in Pleasantville, NY. I look forward to a new year here.

Congratulations ...

on 25 Years of Service - Ms. Yolanda Melendez recently received an award, recognizing 25 years of service in the Main Office. She enjoys her job and the children very much. "Every day brings a different challenge at the school" she says. "Everything's for the children here and I love them". Ms. Melendez has seen 5 principals come and go over the years. When she first started in the school, the class sizes were much larger— 35 children per class. She sees tremendous improvements, including reduced class sizes and is happy to work in an environment that's better for the children. "I guess I'll be here another 10 years," says Ms. Melendez. She and her husband have 2 grown children, 3 grandchildren and an elkhound named Tiffany.

Order PS/IS 187 merchandise! Visit www.cafepress.com and search on "Hudson Cliffs"

Premio Blackboard

PS/IS 187 gano el premio Blackboard para las escuelas primarias y fue descrita nuestra escuela como "La Escuela Primaria Estrella de Manhattan." El premio fue creado para reconocer a las escuelas, directores y maestros sobresalientes. Fue premiado nuestra escuela por ser una comunidad de aprendizaje vibrante, calido y retadora (lo cual no es sorpresa!). La Sra. Chory se cito diciendo "el secreto se ha descubierto." Para el articulo completo vaye a

<http://ourtownny.com/?p=1060>

Studio In A School

PS/IS 187 ha sido elegido para participar el programa comunitario "Cianotipo Colaborativo de Artes Visuales," de una de las organizaciones mas prestigiosos de educacion de arte, Studio in a School. Con esta donacion, nuestra escuela integrera un curriculo baseado en estandares por medio de proyectos de arte en los grados pre-k a 8vo. PS/IS 187 tiene la buena fortuna de tener a Ms. Torres como maestra de arte de tiempo completo para la escuela intermedia quien tomara un papel central el la Imple-

mentacion del programa en la escuela. Debido a que la educacion de arte es mas limitado en la escuela primaria, y para proporcionar el alcance y la sequencia esbozado en el cianotipo del Depto de Educacion, habra este año dos residencias de 14 dias cada uno. El primero comenzara el Diciembre y sera para el pre-k y el 2do grado. El segundo sera para el kinder y 1er grado asi como un salon de clase de quinto y uno de octavo. Esperamos que este programa continue en el 2009-2010. La donacion Comunidades Colaborativas proporciona capacitacion para nuestra maestra de arte y otros maestros tambien.

Nueva Maestra

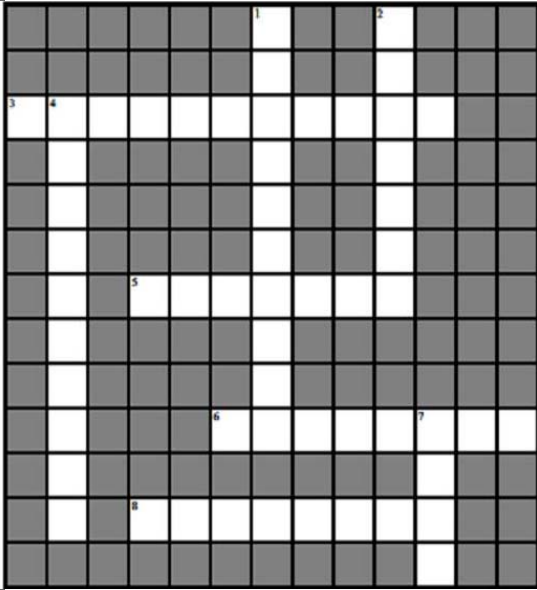
Mi nombre es Ms. Battista y soy la maestra de intervencion academica (AIS) de la escuela. He trabajado en el sistema escolar desde 2001 al terminar mis estudios universitarios. Me gradue con maestria en educacion de Mercy College y tengo 3 certificados en educacion. Este verano pasado me case y actualmente vivo con mi esposo Jon y mi perro Ozzy en Pleasantville, NY. Espero con mucha anticipacion mi año nuevo aqui.

Felicitaciones ...

Después 25 años de servicio - Ms. Yolanda Meléndez recibió un reconocimiento al merito por sus 25 años de servicio en la oficina principal. Ella disfruta su trabajo y se siente encantada de estar al rededor de los niños. Ellas nos dice que,



"Todos los días en la escuela nos enfrentamos un nuevo desafío" continua diciendo. "todo lo que hacemos es para los niños y los amo". Ms Meléndez ha trabajado con 5 directores a través de los años en PS/IS 187. Cuando ella comenzó su labor en la escuela, las clases eran de 35 niños por salón, mucho más grandes de lo que son ahora. Ella confirma que han habido enormes mejoras, incluyendo la reducción en el tamaño de las clase y esta feliz de trabajar en un ambiente que sea de mayor calidad para los niños. "presiento que estaré aquí otros 10 años," confirma Ms Meléndez. Ella y su marido tienen 2 hijos, 3 nietos y un elkhound de nombre Tiffany.



Across: 3. On New Year's Day, some people make _____ for the coming year.
 5. A _____ is a period of 100 years.
 6. _____ is the last month in the year.
 8. On New Year's Day, many college _____ teams play important games.
 Down :
 1. Who is the character that ushers out the old year?
 2. _____ is the first month in the year.
 4. A _____ is something you are going to try to do in the new year.
 7. On New Year's Eve at midnight, a _____ drops in Times Square.

Fundraising

Results of Fundraising Efforts:

Fall Fundraiser appx \$8,000

PA Dues \$ 11,505

Bake Sale \$1,882

School Photos still to come

Thanks to everyone who participated!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Frank's Market and Ahn's Fruit & Vegetables for donations for the Bake Sale.

All the parents who baked, made donations and helped staff the Bake Sale Table.

Associated Supermarket for donating Raffle items.

Resultados de los eventos de recaudación de fondos

Evento recaudación de fondos del otoño appx \$8,000

Cuotas de la AP \$ 11,505

Venta de Postres \$1,882

Fotos Escolares (en proceso)

Agradecimientos especiales a: Frank's Market y Ahn's Fruit & Vegetables

por sus donaciones para la venta de Postres .

A todos los padres que hornearon, hicieron donaciones y ayudaron durante la venta.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Grant writing



A private donor gave \$15,000 to continue the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Program in the Elementary School. Also the Middle School received \$6,060 in funding from the same donor for an After School Sports program featuring flag football, step aerobics, volleyball and basketball. Our school was selected for a playground make-over by Out 2 Play, and awarded a grant for \$200K for this purpose, from Borough President Scott Stringer.

Environmental Committee

This Committee recently received some donated plants and bulbs from the wonderful gardeners at Ft. Tryon Park and the New Yorkers for Parks Foundation. The \$290 raised from their Sidewalk Sale will purchase additional plants and supplies. They are planning another fundraiser, to sell eco- totes with a great PS 187 design for the near future. This spring, look for coral bells, columbine, bleeding hearts, iris, hosta, helaboris, lily of the valley, tulips and daffodils. Many thanks to Anna and Brit Terrell and Kate Forbes Dallimore for braving the elements during the sale!

Family Yoga Nights

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, December 15

Friday, January 9

Friday, February 6

Friday, March

Monday, April 27

Monday, May 18

Monday, June 15

Copies of the PS/IS 187 Multi-Cultural Community Cookbook will be available for purchase soon! Thanks to all the families who sent in recipes.

Playground Committee

Out2Play, the organization undertaking our playground make-over, has met with the Playground Committee (made up of school administration, parents and students) to brainstorm playground makeover ideas to meet the needs of Pre-K to 8th graders. Ideas discussed included resurfacing, adding more basketball hoops, a running track, football field, keeping existing tennis courts, including small areas for hopscotch, skellies, four-square, etc. Contacting local artists about painting a mural was also discussed. Construction should begin in Spring 2009.

ACTIVIDADES EN LA ESCUELA

Propuestas para fondos

Un donante particular dono \$15,000 para continuar el programa de danza de Daniel Gwartzman en la escuela primaria. El mismo donante dio \$6,060 para la escuela intermedia para un programa extraescolar de deportes como balompié, aeróbicos, voleibol y baloncesto. Nuestra escuela fue seleccionada por la organización Out2Play para recibir renovaciones en el area de juego y recibo una donacion para este proposito de \$200,000 del presidente del contado Scott Stringer.

El Comite Ambiental

El Comité recibió plantas y bulbos de los jardineros del parque Fort Tryon y la Fundación de Neoyorquinos para los Parques. Con los \$290 recaudados por la venta de pasillo se compraran mas plantas. El grupo esta planeando otro evento para recaudar fondo a través de la venta de carteras ecológicas con el logo de PS/IS 187. Esta primavera, podrás ver en el jardín campanas coralinas, corazones, Iris, lirios de valle, tulipanes y narcisos. ¡Muchas gracias a Anna , Brit Terrell y Kate Forbes Dallimore por su tenacidad durante la venta!

Noche de Yoga Familiar

toma lugar una vez al mes a las 7:00pm en la cafeteria. Relájese , estírese y fortalecece con su familia. Las fechas de Yoga Familiar para el resto del año escolar son los siguientes:

Lunes, Diciembre 15

Viernes, Enero 9

Viernes, Febrero 6

Viernes, Marzo

Lunes, Abril 27

Lunes, Mayo 18

Lunes, Junio 15

Estamos finalizando el Libro de Recetas Multiculturales. El cual estará a la venta pronto. Gracias a todas las familias que enviaron recetas.

Comité del Área de Juego

El comité supervisor de la reconstrucción del patio escolar (compuesto de la administración, padres y estudiantes de la escuela) y la organización "Out2Play", que estara a cargo de la reconstrucción se reunieron para discutir ideas para cubrir las necesidades de los estudiantes de Pre K- 8vo grado. Dichas ideas incluyen mas aros de baloncesto, pista de correr, campo de Fútbol, mesas de ajedrez, etc. Esperamos comenzar la construcción en la Primavera del 2009.

Congratulations to Student Council Representatives :

Lily Doherty – Grade 5
Marianne Martinez – Grade 6
Abigail Avital – Grade 7
Jack Donohue – Grade 7
Rebecca Agrest – Grade 8

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

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

Visit us online at
www.ps187pa.com

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 Kapetanos—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 the 1st of every other month; the next deadline is February 1st, 2009

PA General Meeting Minutes

During the administration's report, the following was announced and/or discussed that current and anticipated budget cuts (\$70,000 this year, \$200,000 next year), the feasibility and desirability of funding an F-status teacher (\$9,000 for the rest of the year) for foreign language instruction and the administration's plans to cap kindergarten enrollment at 75. The 7th grade co-representatives and the 5th grade representative of the IS Student Council were introduced and spoke about their ideas for activities and events.

The PA Treasurer reported that the dues campaign, the Fall Fundraiser and the Election Day bake Sale brought in \$17,336.36(gross), \$11,505 and \$1,882, respectively. The plans to renovate the playground (with a \$200,000 grant from Scott Stringer) are underway as is the implementation of the Studio in a School program. Budgets for spring fundraising events are due by the December general meeting.

The School Leadership Team is preparing the Comprehensive Education Plan and a draft will be completed in December. Parent working groups for the arts and for technology are up and running. A new group for science is being established and there is interest in a group for foreign language instruction.

Over the next few months, the PA will need to decide whether to continue raising funds for the traditional Wish List or whether monies should be directed toward larger programs or goals. The PA membership discussed and voted affirmatively on two fundraising proposals. With \$100 from the PA, the Fitness and Nutrition Subcommittee will produce a multi-cultural cookbook. With an allocation of \$580, Mr. Jennings, the music teacher, and others will produce a CD and DVD of a recording session of the IS choir. Potential profits are \$400 for the cookbook and \$1,500 for the CD and DVD.

It was announced that some subsidies for the OASIS After School Program are now available. Applications will be widely disseminated.

Resumen del Reunión de la AP

La Sra. Chory anunció y se discutió los recortes al presupuesto de la escuela, la posibilidad de conseguir un/a maestro(a) F-status para enseñar idiomas extranjeras y el plan de limitar la inscripción al kindergarten a 75 plazas. Los estudiantes del Consejo Estudiantil de los grados 7 y 5 fueron introducidos y ellos presentaron sus metas para actividades y eventos.

El tesorero informó que la campaña de cuotas, el evento de recaudación del otoño y la venta de postres del día de elecciones recaudaron \$17,336.36, \$11,505 y \$1,882, respectivamente. Esta en proceso el planeamiento para la renovación del patio de jugar (gracias a una donación de \$200,000 de Scott Stringer) y el programa "Studio in a School" esta siendo implementado. Los presupuestos para los eventos de recaudación de la primavera entrante se tienen que entregar a más tardar la reunión general de Diciembre.

El Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar esta elaborando el Plan Educativo Comprensivo y se completara un borrador en Diciembre. Grupos de trabajo de padres para las artes y para tecnología estan vigentes y se esta armando un grupo para ciencia. Hay también interes en un grupo para la enseñanza de las idiomas extranjeras.

Durante los siguientes meses la Asociación de Padres tendra que hacer una decision sobre la lista de deseos de los maestros – si se quiere seguir cumpliendo la lista o si se quiere recaudar fondos para otros propositos mas ambiciosos. Se discutió y se voto para aprobar dos propuestas de eventos de recaudación. El sub-comite de nutrición y salubridad recibira \$100 para elaborar un libro de recetas multiculturales. Chris Jennings (el maestro de musica) y Ariel Knackmann usaran \$580 para producir CDs y DVDs de una sesion de grabación del coro de la escuela intermedia. Las ganancias potenciales para el libro y el CD y DVD son \$400 y \$500.

La programa extraescolar OASIS esta en posición de ofrecer algunos subsidios para el costo de participación el el programa. El formulario de aplicación se difundira estrechamente.

Oasis After School Program Offers Sliding Scale Rates

Oasis is accepting applications for their new Sliding Scale Rates. This option applies for 3, 4 and 5 day attendance. Rates are: 5 days per week, \$237.50 per month (discount of \$97.50); 4 days/week is \$200 per month; 3 days/week is \$160 per month. Space is limited – please contact Oasis for more information ASAP. Oasis is currently offering the following classes: Monday-Visual Art & Go Club, Tuesday-Soccer, Wednesday-Drama, Thursday-Martial Arts/Capoeira, and Friday-Music & Adventure. For more information on registration please e-mail kinya@oasiskids.org or ps187@oasiskids.org or call Allyson Paterson or Lori Jimenez-Estrada at 347-436-6838.

Programa Extraescolar OASIS Ofrece Cuotas de Escala

OASIS esta aceptando solicitudes para su nueva cuota de escala. La oferta es para asistencia de 3, 4 y 5 dias. Las cuotas son: 5 dias/semana son \$237.50 por mes (descuento de \$97.50), 4 dias/ semana son \$200 por mes y 3 dias/ semana son \$160 por mes. Cupos son limitados - por favor contacte a OASIS a lo mas preve posible. OASIS actualmente ofrece las siguientes clases: Lunes - Arte Visual y Go Club, Martes - Futnol, Miercoles - Drama, Jueves - Artes marciales/capoeira y Viernes - Musica y aventura. Para información sobre registraci3n mande correo electronico a kinya@oasiskids.org o ps187@oasiskids.org o llame a Allyson Paterson o a Lori Jimenez-Estrada al 347-436-6838,



817 West 181st St.
NYC 10033
Tel: 212-923-2020

Michael Orloff,
Licensed Optician

Eugene Orloff, O.D.

www.vistasiteny.com
See well. Live well.