



Backpack News

Hudson Cliffs PA Newsletter

March 2008

Calendar
Events

MAR

MAR 10-11

Math Exam 6,7,8

MAR 13 1/2 Day

PT Conferences

Staff Appreciation
Dinner

MAR 14 Family Yoga Night

@ 6:30 PM

MAR 20 PA General Meeting

7 pm

MAR 21 NO SCHOOL

MAR 25 School Tour

MAR 28 7th vs 8th Grade
Volleyball game @
2:30 PM

APR 3 3 & 4 Grade Music
and Art Festival

APR 7 Ex Board Meeting

6 PM & Committee
Meetings @ 7 PM

APR 11 Family Yoga Night

6:30 PM

APR 17 PA General Meeting
7 PM

APR 21-25

NO SCHOOL

MAY 2 Parent Talent Show

President's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support, donations and dues contribution. Thanks to you, we have received over \$6,000 that we can use towards the teachers' wish list.

The wish list is made up of items that teachers feel would aid them with the education of our children. These are items that unfortunately are not covered by the money budgeted for the school from the department of education (such as books for the class libraries and school trips).

This year's parental support was more than double of what was collected last year. Therefore we will be able to cover the majority of the items listed on the wish list!

Kudos to all of you.

Sincerely,
Kathy Brito
PA President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mensaje de la Presidente

Estimados Padres y Guardianes:

Queremos dar nuestro agradecimiento por su apoyo, donaciones y contribuciones de cuotas. Gracias a todos ustedes hemos recibido mas de \$6,000 lo cual que podremos usar para realizar la lista de deseos de los maestros.

La lista de deseos consiste en útiles que los maestros piensan pueden ayudar en la educación de nuestros hijos(as). Estas son cosas que no caben dentro del presupuesto de la escuela otorgado por el departamento de educación (tal como libros para las bibliotecas de salón de clase y excursiones escolares).

El nivel de apoyo financiero proporcionado por los padres este año fue mas del doble del año pasado. Así que podremos realizar casi toda la lista de deseos!

Felicidades a todos.

Saludos cordiales,
Kathy Brito
Presidente del PA

MENSAJE DE LA PRESIDENTE

A Message from the School Leadership Team

The SLT has just distributed the How Are We Doing? Needs Assessment Survey. We urge everyone to fill it out and return it to your child's homeroom teacher or to the Parent Coordinator, Ms. Denise Rosa, as soon as possible. It is important that all parents make their voices heard: the opinions you express - anonymously - in this INTERNAL survey will give us an idea as to what areas you are happy about, or not, and what needs improvement. The more surveys we receive, the more accurate and complete will be the data we use in planning for the educational direction of our school. Please don't take this lightly! We are all in this together, working to make the school a thriving, safe, exciting learning environment for our children. If you have misplaced your

survey, look for Ms. Rosa outside of school in the morning when you drop off your child(ren), or ask your teacher for an extra copy.

And speaking of surveys ... The Department of Education conducts an annual survey of parents, students, and teachers to evaluate how well each school supports student learning. This year, the Learning Environment Survey will be given out starting on March 12 (green envelope in backpacks). The SLT strongly encourages all parents to take this EXTERNAL survey because it is used in calculating the school's overall grade at the end of the year - which determines state funding and aid to our school. Know that it is a numbers game, the more parent involvement we show (by number of surveys taken and returned) the better it will

reflect on our school!

And by the way, this survey can be also taken online at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/SchoolReports/ProgressReports/Surveys/default.htm>

On March 13th, during Parent / Teacher conferences you will see a PA/SLT Task Force walking the halls with surveys and pens, ready to assist anyone who needs help or has questions about either survey.

Thanks for your help,
SLT



Una Mensaje del Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar

El SLT recién ha distribuido la encuesta "Como Vamos? Asesoramiento de Necesidades." Alentamos a todos que lo llenen y regresen a el (la) maestro(a) principal o a la Coordinadora de Padres, Denise Rosa, lo mas antes posible. Es muy importante que todos los padres levanten su voz. Las opiniones que expresen—anonimamente—en esta encuesta INTERNA nos dará una idea de los áreas en que están o no están satisfechos y cuales son los que necesitan mejoramiento. Mientras mas encuestas recibimos, mejor es la imagen de nuestra escuela. Por favor no lo subestime! Estamos todos juntos trabajando para asegurar que la escuela tenga un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro, prosperante y emocionante. Si ha perdido o no puede encontrar su copia de la encuesta, busque a Denise Rosa en la entrada de la escuela cuando deje a

su hijo(a) o pidele a su maestro(a) otra copia.

Y hablando de encuestas ... el Departamento de Educación conduce un encuesta anual de padres, estudiantes y maestros(as) para evaluar que tan bien cada escuela apoya al aprendizaje de estudiantes. Este año, la Encuesta del Ambiente de Aprendizaje será repartida el 12 de Marzo (sobre verde en las mochilas). El SLT alenta a todos los padres a llenar esta encuesta EXTERNA ya que es usada para calcular la calificación de la escuela al final del año escolar, lo cual determina el financiamiento y apoyo estatal a nuestra escuela. Tenga en cuenta que es un juego de números. Mientras mas participación de padres mostramos (por el numero de encuestas entregadas) lo mejor se ve nuestra escuela por ojos ajenos.

Además, esta encuesta se

puede llenar por el internet al <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/SchoolReports/ProgressReports/Surveys/default.html>.

El 13 de Marzo durante las conferencias entre padres y maestros(as) usted vera un comité del PA y SLT en las salas con encuestas y plumas listos para asistir a cualquier persona que necesite asistencia o que tenga alguna pregunta sobre cualquiera de las encuestas.

Muchas gracias por su ayuda.

El Equipo de Liderazgo Escolar.

St. Patrick's Day Facts

St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

St. Patrick was born in 385 AD somewhere along the west coast of Britain, possibly in the Welsh town of Banwen. At age 16, he was captured and sold into

slavery to a sheep farmer. He escaped when he was 22 and spent the next 12 years in a monastery. In his 30s he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He died at Saul in 461 AD and is buried at Downpatrick.

Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something: the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck.



JUST FOR FUN

Bent on Learning Yoga

Bent on Learning Yoga Program

This year, students in grades 5 - 8 have been doing yoga in the After School Enrichment Program, courtesy of Bent on Learning, a not-for-profit that brings yoga into NYC public schools and youth centers. Bent on Learning has a fundraiser going on right now until March 31st

at www.bentongiving.org. Our school needs to participate in this fundraiser to continue the program. Please make a donation, big or small. All donations will go directly to our school's yoga program for 2008-2009. To make a donation online, go to our school's Web page on www.bentongiving.org.

Go to the bottom right and click on: "Team Rank" then ">>more". Or you can mail a check to: BENT ON LEARNING, 105 Duane St., Suite 10J New York, NY 10007 (remember to write "P.S. 187" on the check). Don't forget to print out a receipt for your donation from the Web site. In time, we want this yoga

program to grow to include the lower grades and/or become a gym class. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to the parents of the preschoolers who handled the minor bus accident in such a calm and wonderful manner. Thank you as well to the staff who acted professionally and spent the time to make sure each child was safe.

YOGA

Fitness News

Family Yoga Night - February was a great class

Twenty five people came to the Family Yoga class on February 29, although it was a bitterly cold evening. Stacey Linden, parent/yoga teacher (Eli's mom), gave a magical class that evening. Many of the fifteen children there were under the age of 7 but almost all of them stayed

focused and engaged throughout the class! The teacher lead them through various poses and stretches, broken up by an occasional round of "Yogi Says", a yoga version of "Simon Says". The children had fun and the parents were able to do some yoga and relax. The next Family Yoga class will be on Friday, March 14th at 6:30 pm.

Noticias de Bienestar Física

Noche Familiar de Yoga—la clase de Febrero fue muy bueno

Veinte y cinco personas vinieron a la clase de Yoga Familiar el 29 de Febrero a pesar del frío en esa noche. La maestra Stacey Linden (madre de Eli) dio una clase mágica esa noche. Muchos de los quince niños que asistieron eran de menos de siete años pero sin embargo todos

Se mantuvieron atentos y entusiasmados durante toda la clase! La maestra les ayudo hacer varias posiciones y estiraciones. Los niños se divirtieron y los padres pudieron hacer un poco de yoga y relajarse. La siguiente clase de Yoga Familiar será el Viernes, 14 de Marzo a las 18:30.

FITNESS & NUTRITION

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

P.S./I.S. 187 Hudson Cliffs School
349 Cabrini Boulevard
New York, New York 10040
212-927-8218

Voicemail: 212-465-7517
PA e-group

To subscribe, send a blank
message to:

[ps187pa-
subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ps187pa-subscribe@yahoo.com)
with a note about 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.

President

Kathy Brito
VP Int School

Stevie Ray Dallimore
VP Elem School

Francesca Di Mauro

Treasurer

Luisa Diorio
Recording Sec.

Kirsten Cowal

Comm. Sec.

Marci Stringham
UPA Delegate

Juan Carlos Brito

Please submit information for the newsletter to Marci Stringham through the PA Mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to marci@stringham.name. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

PA General Meeting

Ms. Chory thanked parents for their interest and participation in the Talent Show and the Science Fair that took place in February. She asked parents to remember to pick up their children at the right time on the upcoming half day on March 13th.

Luisa Diorio reported that parents contributed \$6,915 in dues this year. Jennifer Marciano reported that a three person audit committee is reviewing the PA's finances for the past three years.

Francesca Di Mauro announced that there is money enough to fulfill the entire wish list and checks will be presented at the Staff Appreciation Dinner on March 13th. The School Leadership Team's needs assessment will be distributed on March 3 and efforts will be made to ensure high levels of parent participation. The Chancellor's Learning Environment Survey will also be distributed sometime in March.

Marci Stringham announced that an alternate delegate is needed to attend district meetings on Title I issues. The PA will investigate whether the UPA delegate and/or alternates can attend the meetings since no one volunteered for the position.

Kirsten Cowal called for a nominating committee for the elections for next year's Executive Board and Joey Brennehan volunteered. She also announced that the Executive Board will be proposing revisions to the bylaws at the next general meeting to modify the UPA delegate position.

Stevie Ray Dallimore announced that a Parent Talent Show will be held on May 2nd and asked for parents' support. Jeanine McAdam reported that the fundraising committee is still trying get funding for the second grade video project. Susan Saar discussed Bent on Learning which provides free yoga classes for 5th – 8th graders as an enrichment activity. Parents were asked to make donations to the organization (through www.bentongiving.org) to ensure the continuation of the yoga program at PS/IS 187.

FISICA & NUTRICION

Este año estudiantes de 5to a 8vo grados han estado tomando yoga en el Programa de Enriquecimiento de "After School" gracias a Bent on Learning, una organización sin fines de lucro que trae yoga a las escuelas publicas y centros juveniles de la ciudad de Nueva York. La organización esta recaudando fondos (teniendo un "fundraiser") hasta el 31 de Marzo por medio de www.bentongiving.org.

Nuestra escuela tiene que participar para que continúe el programa. Por favor haga una contribución de cualquier cantidad. Todos las contribuciones beneficiaran a la programa de yoga de PS/IS 187. Para hacer una contribución por el internet acuda a nuestra pagina de web en el www.bentongiving.org. En la parte de abajo a la derecha haga click al "Team rank" y despues al ">>more." O mande su con-

Resumen del Reunión de la AP

La Sra. Chory agradeció a los padres por su interés y participación en la Feria de Ciencia y el Show de Talento. Pidió también que los padres se acordaran de recoger a sus hijos temprano el 13 de Marzo, día de jornada media.

Luisa Diorio anuncio que se recaudo \$6,915 en cuotas. Jennifer Marciano informo a los padres que un comité de auditoria esta revisando las cuentas del PA de los pasados tres años.

Francesca Di Mauro dijo que hay fondos suficientes para cubrir toda la lista de deseos y que los cheques se repartirán durante la Cena de Agradecimiento a los Maestros y el Personal. Un cuestionario de asesamiento de necesidades para la escuela se distribuirá a los padres el 3 de Marzo. La participación de padres es sumamente importante.

Marci Stringham pidió un voluntario para asistir a reuniones en la oficina del distrito sobre asuntos relacionados con los fondos Title I. El Consejo Ejecutivo investigara si el delegado o los suplentes del UPA pueden asistir ya que nadie se ofreció como voluntario.

Kirsten Cowal convoco a un comité de nominaciones para las elecciones para el Consejo Ejecutivo del PA para el año que viene. Joey Brennehan establecerá el comité. Kirsten Cowal también anuncio que el Consejo Ejecutivo presentara una propuesta para cambiar algunos aspectos de los reglamentos del PA teniendo que ver con la posición de delegado del PA.

Stevie Ray Dallimore anuncio que Habrá un Show de Talento de Padres el 2 de Mayo y pidió el apoyo de los padres para este evento. Jeanine McAdam dijo que aun esta tratando de recaudar fondos para el proyecto de video del Segundo grado. Susan Saar solicito el apoyo financiero de los padres a la organización que esta proporcionando clases de yoga gratuitos a los estudiantes de los grados 5 a 8.

tribución por correo postal a BENT ON LEARNING, 105 Duane St., Suite 10J, New York, NY 10007. Escriba PS/IS 187 en el cheque. No se olvide imprimir un recibo para su contribución del sitio de web. Eventualmente queremos que este programa crezca e incluya a los grados de primaria y/o se convierta en programa regular de gimnasia.