

About Our School

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Hudson Cliffs School community to enable each student to achieve his/her personal best academically, socially and personally. We enlist the full partnership of the parents and the community to help us prepare literate, responsible, self-reliant young people who are ready to take advantage of every opportunity they encounter in their future.

School Hours

	<u>Daily Arrival Times</u>	<u>Daily Dismissal Times</u>
Kindergarten	8:00 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Grades 1-4	8:20 a.m.	2:50 p.m.
Grades 5-8	8:00 a.m.	2:30 p.m.

Telephone numbers

School Telephone (212) 927-8218

School Fax (212) 795-9119

Parent Coordinator Cell

PA Voicemail (212) 465-7517

City Information 311

Safety Procedures

All visitors entering the school building must present photo identification to the Security Officers and receive an entrance pass. Please take the pass to the Main Office and the secretaries will answer any questions or call for your child, if necessary.

Visitors must not, under any circumstance, go directly to the classroom. Everyone must observe this procedure so that all our children, teachers, and staff members will be safe.

School Closings / Delayed Openings

The Chancellor will make an announcement to all schools in the city on whether to close or delay their opening. All authorized delayed openings will result in the regular starting time being two hours later. By 6:00 a.m., the decision is announced on the following radio stations in the city: 1010 AM, 880 AM, 1190 AM, 107.5 FM, 91.5 FM, as well as

the following television stations: WCBS (Ch. 2), WNBC (Ch. 4), WNYW (Fox Ch. 5), WABC (Ch. 7), WNYE (Ch. 25) and “NY 1”.

The school telephone number to call is: **(212) 927-8218**

For official school closings, consult the DOE school calendar at:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/calendar/index.aspx>

Arrival / Lateness / Dismissal Policy

All children in grades K-4 must be picked up by a parent or representative. Children in grades 3 and 4 may go home alone at dismissal provided they have their parents’ written permission. For safety reasons you must notify the classroom teacher or call the office if you wish your child to be picked up by someone other than yourself or your designated representative.

In the event of a storm or a city-wide emergency condition, the Chancellor may have to announce an early dismissal schedule. Please note that you must list a relative, friend or neighbor on the school’s “Blue Emergency Contact Card”, because schools are not authorized to release students to persons not listed on that card.

In the event of lateness, in the Intermediate School, students will be given a late pass. The lateness is considered excused if the student has a note from a parent or guardian; if he/she does not have a note, a detention notice is given. The detention will be served the following day if the student does not bring a note from a parent excusing the lateness.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are classified as emergency drills. Everyone in the building must follow procedures posted on Fire Drill cards in each room. If a fire drill occurs at the beginning of the school day, parents, students and visitors must wait outside the school until the drill has ended. Children arriving late are not permitted to join their class outside until the class has returned to the school building. If the fire drill occurs at the end of the school day, parents and designated representatives must wait until the drill has ended before picking up a child. Students cannot be taken off the line during a fire drill.

Student Absences

In the event of an absence, please send an excuse letter with your child when he/she returns to school. In the excuse letter, please indicate your child’s name, class, date(s) of absence and reason for the absence. In the Intermediate school, a detention notice is given in the event a student returns to school without an excuse letter from a parent or guardian.

Blue Emergency Contact Card

During the first week of school, two blue emergency contact cards are distributed to all students. The cards **must** be filled out and returned to the school as soon as possible. You **must** make certain that the card is always up to date.

Health Information

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has issued School Admission Immunization Requirements for the 2007-2008 school year. To view the immunization requirements in full go to: www.nyc.gov

For more information about the immunization requirements, you may also dial the City's hotline, 311.

The law requires that all new students – children entering day care, nursery school, pre-school or pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten through grade 12 in New York City for the first time – **must** show proof of having received a complete medical evaluation.

Please be advised that **medicines** for acute conditions (pain relievers, antibiotics, cold and cough preparations) are not to be sent to school with your child. Only medications for chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and migraine headaches, for which a 504 Medication Administration Form is on file in the medical office, may be administered by the school nurse.

Health Card or Cumulative Health Record (yellow)

This record includes the health history, data on illnesses and health conditions, and other relevant health information. It is kept on file and up to date by a school health counselor. Every student is given a yearly health screening for height, weight, hearing and eyesight.

Dress Code

Our school has a dress code: tank tops, midriff blouses, sweat pants, stretch pants, leggings and sandals without straps are not permitted. Also, skirts and shorts must be fingertip length above the knee or longer. In the event a student does not observe this dress code, their home is called and suitable clothing is requested.

Breakfast / Lunch Programs

Each year applications for free and reduced-price meals are distributed during the first week of school. You only need to complete one (1) form for all children from the same

family that attend the school. A notice is then sent home advising families of their child's lunch status after the forms are processed.

Completed forms not only enable students to receive free and reduced price meals, but they are also the basis for determining and distributing additional educational funding from the state and federal governments.

For more information, visit

http://www.opt-osfns.org/osfns/meals/breakfast_faqs.aspx

To print a copy of the application for free and reduced-price meals, visit:

http://www.opt-osfns.org/osfns/meals/form_reduced_eng.aspx

Full price lunch is \$1.50 per day. Notices for collection of lunch money are sent in the Parent Bulletins each month. Breakfast is free for all NYC public school students, regardless of lunch status.

Lunch Menus are distributed by the school each month.

Parents should notify the school if they wish to send lunch from home.

Lunchtime policies:

- Grade 8 students may eat out every day with signed parental permission.
- Grade 7 students may eat out Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with signed parental permission.
- Grade 6 students may eat out Tuesdays and Thursdays with signed parental permission.
- Students in all other grades may not eat out.

(At certain times during the school year, children will not be allowed out of the school building to eat lunch).

Questions about our lunch policies should be directed to your child's grade advisor.

Snacks

Students in grades K-2 are asked to bring in a healthy snack in a brown paper bag each day.

Supplies

The list of supplies needed for the following school year is distributed with the final marking period report card. For new students, the list is given out during the first week of school.

Lost and Found

Items lost and found around the school building and yard are placed in a box outside Room 159 (for the Elementary School) and Room 424 (for the Intermediate School).

Library (needs to be updated)

Our school has two libraries, one for the Intermediate School in Room 409, and one for the Elementary School in Room 101. The Elementary School library is open once a week after-school. The I.S. library is being restructured. The furniture was replaced and we expect delivery of 12 computer workstations. Students visit the library during the school day once or twice a week, depending upon their grade. In addition, leveled libraries are available in every literacy class.

Admission Policy / Registration

We schedule a school tour in the fall and then again in the spring. To register for a school tour please call the school's pupil accounting secretary at (212) 927-8218.

A child must be age 5 by Dec. 31st of the year they are requesting enrollment. To register in a NYC public school, you must bring proof of address (a rent, mortgage, or maintenance receipt and either an electric or a gas bill); proof of immunization; and either a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport; and you must bring the child.

For information regarding registering at a NYC public school, please contact the Manhattan Borough Enrollment Office at (212) 342-8300 located at 388 West 125th Street, NY, NY 10027, or visit the NYC DOE web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment>.

Parent Orientation / Open School Week

Parents are invited to an orientation meeting at the beginning of each school year. Parents meet their child's teacher, see their child's classroom, learn the daily schedule, are informed of behavioral and academic expectations, as well as aspects of the curriculum.

Open School Week is celebrated in November each year. During this time, parents are invited into the school at any time to visit their child's classes. This is an excellent opportunity for parents get acquainted with their child's daily schedule, teachers, school procedures and policies.

School Communications

P.S./I.S. 187 regularly distributes a parent bulletin containing school closing dates, upcoming school events, reports on school events and student achievements, school lunch menu, and a vocabulary list. Additional flyers are sent out by the school and Parents' Association to announce other events and activities that come up throughout the year.

Check your child's backpack every day for these important flyers.

Administration speaks to parents at most of the monthly PA meetings. News from the PA, the school and the classrooms also comes to parents through School Leadership Team meetings, PA meetings, PA monthly newsletter, *Backpack News*, bulletin boards, Class Parent Representatives (K-4) and the PA website: <http://ps187pa.com>

The PA also posts important information on their e-group. To subscribe send a blank message to ps187pa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Teachers, administration, and staff will send notes home and or make phone calls if they need to speak directly with a parent. At the beginning of the year, teachers inform parents of the best times and way to reach them (e.g. notes, phone calls, or early morning appointments). Parents also have the opportunity to speak with teachers twice a year (November & February) during Parent Teacher Conferences.

Ladder of Referral

Please follow the following "ladder of referral" for any questions or concerns that you would like to see addressed:

1st: Contact your child's **teacher**

2nd: Contact the **grade advisor** (*applies to the Intermediate School only*)

3rd: Contact the **Assistant Principal** assigned to your child's grade

Transportation

New York City's Office of Pupil Transportation ("OPT") is responsible for making sure that eligible students receive transportation to and from school on yellow school buses, vans, or using a Metro Card for buses and subways. In addition to daily operations during the school year, OPT also facilitates all city-wide field trips and transportation for the summer school session.

The OPT website (www.opt-osfns.org/opt) provides various transportation-related forms to download, and can answer many of your questions concerning: eligibility requirements, school bus routes, student Metro Cards, safety drills, and summer school. For questions or more information about transportation, please contact OPT's Customer Service Hotline at (718) 392-8855, or the teacher in charge of transportation at school.

Transportation Eligibility Requirements

The transportation regulations contained herein provide students who are New York City

residents with pupil transportation to and from school by contract bus or common carrier service according to grade, distance, and program. The mode of transportation (yellow school bus or MetroCard) is determined by OPT:

- If your child is in grades **K through 2** and resides **less than _ mile from school**, he or she is eligible for half fare on Public Transportation.
- If your child is in grades **K through 2** and resides **_ mile or more from school**, he or she is eligible for General Education Transportation (Yellow School Bus) or free fare on Public Transportation.
- If your child is in grades **3 through 6** and resides **at least _ mile and less than one mile from their school**, he or she is eligible for half fare on Public Transportation.
- If your child is in grades **3 through 6** and resides **1 mile or more from school**, he or she is eligible for General Education Transportation (Yellow School Bus) or free fare on Public Transportation.
- If your child is in grades **7 through 12** and resides **between _ and 1_ miles from school**, he or she is eligible for half fare on Public Transportation.

Lost Card: If your student MetroCard gets lost or stolen, call your school pass coordinator right away. If you can supply the card’s number, it will help to trace it.

School Behavior Expectations (Intermediate School)

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Consequence</u>
1. Chewing/ Eating Food in class.....	Detention
2. Talking during silent passing.....	Detention
3. Neglecting to bring absence note, School wide notice tear off forms	One reminder, then referral to grade advisor for possible detention if note is not brought in.
4. Lateness to school.....	Detention unless note from parent is brought in next day.
5. Defacing school property.....	Detention, Cleaning of school property, Possible suspension
6. Theft.....	Detention, Restitution of property, Possible suspension
7. Obscene language.....	Detention, Possible suspension
8. Fighting among students.....	Detention, Possible suspension
9. Physical Violence directed against personnel.....	Immediate Suspension, possible relocation, Police contact
10. Possession and/or use of weapons or illegal substances....	Immediate suspension, possible relocation, Police contact

The following items are **not permitted** in school: magic markers, white out, beepers, portable stereos (i.e. walkman, MP3 players, Discman), laser lights, scooters, electronic

game devices, and trading cards. If they are found, the teacher will confiscate them and contact the grade advisor.

Cell phones (check to see if this is consistent with current NYC DOE policy)

If you feel your child must have a cell phone, please send a note to your child's grade advisor in this regard. The cell phone must remain off and in your child's locker during the entire school day, including lunch and recess. Please contact the main office in the event of an emergency. Your child's grade advisor will contact you if your child needs to speak with you. Students may use their cell phones once they have left school grounds. If a cell phone is used on school grounds, it will be confiscated and the parent will be contacted by the grade advisor. If this occurs, your child could lose the privilege of having a cell phone in school.

Academics

Curriculum

P.S./I.S. 187's curricula follow the guidelines set by the NYC Department of Education and Region 10. In addition to the core curricula, we provide students with enrichment classes throughout their education. Students in grades K-8 receive instruction in the following areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Music, Art and Physical Education. In the Elementary School, students also have a scheduled Library period once a week. In the Intermediate school, Health Education is also taught to the eighth graders.

For information on the literacy and math curriculums adopted by NYC go to: [**http://school.nyc.gov**](http://school.nyc.gov)

For information on the New York State Learning Standards, go to: [**http://www.nysatl.nysed.gov/standards.html**](http://www.nysatl.nysed.gov/standards.html) or [**http://www.nysed.gov/**](http://www.nysed.gov/)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are held twice a year, in November and in February. Afternoon and evening appointments are available to meet the needs of all parents. Your child's teacher will schedule your appointment based on your preference.

Sample questions that parents may want to ask during their conference are:

- What specifically will my child be learning in school this year?
- What affects grades and promotion in your classroom?
- How do you handle students who learn at different paces?
- What kind of additional help is available?
- How can I stay informed about my child's progress and what is going on in the classroom?
- What is the best way to contact you with questions or concerns?
- What types of activities can I do with my child outside of school to help him/her learn?

For each question, decide (alone or with your child's teacher) what concrete things you can do to help your child succeed.

In addition, tell the teacher about your child's interests, talents, and challenges. Sharing them can help the teacher help your child learn.

Homework

Each grade receives daily homework assignments. We believe that establishing good study skills in the early grades will lay the foundation for a child's success in school. Many teachers ask that each homework assignment be signed by a parent.

Report Cards

The NYC DOE grading system shows how children are progressing toward achieving the state standards. Each child's work and learning behaviors will be evaluated using the following numerical indicators:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 4 | Exceeds grade-level standards |
| 3 | Meets grade-level standards |
| 2 | Approaches grade-level standards |
| 1 | Far below grade-level standards |

In the Intermediate School, grades are based on 55-100%. A performance level (1-4) is indicated for major subjects only.

There are three marking periods. Parents must sign to receive their child's report card during Parent-Teacher conferences.

Programs

In addition to the core curriculum, our school provides other programs for enrichment and academic intervention, such as:

Special Education - Special services are provided to support students with learning disabilities. In addition, we provide speech therapy, counseling, hearing education service, and occupational and physical therapy for children with special needs. In accordance with the Department of Education policies, a number of Special Education students are mainstreamed in one or more academic subjects.

English as a Second Language (ESL) - ESL instruction is available to those students whose first language is other than English and who fall within the mandated guidelines for this service.

Extended Day Activities and Power Hour - Students in need of remedial help in reading and/or mathematics, in grades 3-8, are targeted for extended day and Power Hour programs. They receive small group instruction in their subjects and extensive preparation for city and state tests. **The PA helps finance these programs?**

Early Intervention - This program assists children who are experiencing difficulty reading in the beginning of first grade. Trained reading teachers meet daily with individual students to help them become independent readers.

Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) – The SETSS teacher provides instruction to support students who need academic intervention. Additional instructional services are available after the child is evaluated and screened by a team consisting of a social worker and a psychologist, known as the Instructional Support Committee (ISC). The ISC recommends a course of action to the children’s parents. The SETSS teacher works closely with classroom teachers to help address students’ academic needs and to reinforce their academic strengths. Ongoing evaluations help teachers and parents monitor each child’s progress.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Service Learning

This wonderful P.S./I.S. 187 program promotes community service and enables children to realize how assisting others can add to their personal growth. Intermediate School students receive service credits for their participation in the program.

Athletics

Our physical education program focuses on life-long fitness and the development of specific skills in team sports. The school playground and the gymnasium are popular sites for children in the early grades. Here students learn the principles of good behavior and team cooperation while they develop their gross motor skills.

Generous grants obtained by the Parents' Association allow us to have Movement Classes for all our students in grades K-6. The P.S./I.S. 187 Dance and Movement Program provides students with a stimulating and creative program, with classes at each grade tailored to specific concepts and tasks. The internationally-acclaimed, Washington Heights-based Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company is in residence at the school two full days per week to teach the classes.

Our Intermediate School students participate in basketball competitions. Inter-mural sports include a Girl's League and a Boy's League. In the springtime, students participate in intramural volleyball games. The culmination of these games is a faculty-student volleyball game.

After School / Clubs

Some of our students participate in the after-school programs run by the YM&YWHA at 54 Nagle Avenue (near 190th St). The YM&YWHA provides transportation back and forth from our school to their site. Visit their web site at <http://www.ywashhts.org>.

Another option that picks up from PS 187 is the Riverdale Tennis Club which offers snack, homework time, swimming and gym classes and a van ride home. Currently there is one PS 187 attending this program who is picked up on some days from PS 187.

The Y in Riverdale also has an after school program. They offer snack, homework, swimming classes and the other typical arts of crafts activities. They also have a music program which offers group and private lesson. While they don't typically offer bus service to the Riverdale Y, but they would arrange for bus service if there are five children from PS 187 enrolled in their after-school program.

The following neighborhood recreation centers have various after-school programs, but do not seem that they offer transportation from PS 187:

168th Street Armory, Track and Field Center, Fort Washington Avenue between 168th and 169th Streets. Tel: (212) 923-2068

Highbridge Recreation Center, 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue.
Tel: (212) 740-3866

J. Hood Wright Center, 351 Fort Washington Avenue (at 174th Street).
Tel: (212) 927-151

For a different NYC experience, there is the Riverdale Equestrian Center which offers after school horse back riding lessons. They may pick up at local Manhattan schools; however, you must check their web site to see if they pick up at PS 187

After-school activities in the Intermediate School include: The Chess Club, The Art Club, The Lego Challenge, The Student Talent Show and Inter-mural sports. During school time, Intermediate school students also participate in Concert Choir.

Field Trips

Students go on field trips and participate in special events as part of the school curriculum. Our science classes sometimes visit the nearby Fort Tryon Park. Children also go to The Cloisters, Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The New Victory Theater, City Center Dance, Metropolitan Opera, NYC Opera, Aquarium, Zoos, and ice-skating.

All parts of the Parent Consent Form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. It is essential that a parent consent form be returned by every student taking the field trip and kept on file.

County Fair & Field Day / Music & Arts Festivals

In June, all students enjoy participating in Field Day activities. During Field Day, students participate in team-based, athletic and non-athletic activities.

The County Fair, also in June, serves as the school's fundraiser. All students participate in games of chance with prizes.

At our three Music and Art Festivals, students have the opportunity to showcase their creativity in vocal music, drama and dance. We have three choirs at P.S./I.S. 187: the Fifth Grade Choir, the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir and the Intermediate School Concert Choir for the sixth through eighth graders. The choirs perform for school events such as annual music festivals, Broadway Benefit and the Region's Arts festival. In the Intermediate School, students select an instrument to learn and begin to understand the art of ensemble playing in one of our bands. Intermediate school students also participate in the Talent Show and Drama Club.

Classroom Parties

Each teacher has their own policy regarding classroom parties. Please consult your child's teacher about this. In the lower grades, contact your child's teacher to arrange for birthday celebrations.

School Services

Pupil Personnel Team

The Pupil Personnel Team uses a multidisciplinary approach in examining why an individual is demonstrating significant academic, social or physical needs and then determine which supportive strategies are appropriate.

Instructional Support Committee

The Instructional Support Committee, formerly known as the School Based Support Team (SBST) consists of the school psychologist and a social worker. They are in charge of evaluating children to determine if they have a handicapping condition and if they qualify for special educational services. If students are recommended for special services, they may receive related services.

School Health Office (Room 143)

Our Public Health Nurse is available
Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Our Public Health Assistant is available
two (2) days a week, 8:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Columbia Pres – Psych services

Safety Committee

The Department of Education's Office of School Safety and Planning (OSSP) makes sure that every school maintains a comprehensive School Safety Plan. This plan is developed by the school's safety committee. A Summary Guide for School Safety and Emergency Preparedness for our school are available upon request.

In Our School

Administration

P.S./I.S. 187 operates under the exceptional leadership of one Principal and two Assistant Principals (one for the Elementary School and one for the Intermediate School).

School Leadership Team

A team of administrators, teachers, staff and elected parent representatives meet monthly to set the educational direction of the school. This team is composed of a balanced number of school personnel and elected parent representatives. Our team currently consists of 7 elected parents and 7 school representatives. The School Leadership Team makes decisions about school curriculum, staffing, and expenditures. The team's work culminates each year with the writing of the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) for the school. Parents are welcome to attend and observe these meetings. Check Parent Bulletins for meeting dates. Elections for parent members of the SLT take place in May.

Parents' Association

Our school has an active and vibrant Parents' Association (PA). All parents are welcome and invited to participate. General PA Meetings are held monthly, typically the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm and simultaneous Spanish translation is provided. These meetings provide valuable information about what's happening at the school and in the PA, and they provide a forum for parents to meet other 187 parents and to exchange ideas. Elections for PA Executive Board members take place every year in May.

The Parents' Association's annual fundraisers have included the Candy and Gift Wrap Sale, School Photographs, and Cookie Dough Sale. The PA has also launched the "Box Tops for Education" program. Each year a "Wish List," based on a survey of our teachers, is presented to the Parents' Association. Generous PA donations to the list jump start programs and bring valuable equipment into the classrooms. Money raised by the PA also funds many activities and events throughout the year.

The PA can be contacted via voice mail (212) 465-7517 or the PA mailbox in the Main Office.

Parent Coordinator (add piece re: Denise Rosa)

In September 2003 a new staff person working on-site in schools was added to all NYC public schools – a Parent Coordinator. Parent Coordinators are responsible for encouraging and promoting active involvement by parents in their children’s education. They will also work to make schools more welcoming to parents. In addition to administrators and teachers, the Parent Coordinator will be an important point of contact for parents at their children’s schools. Parent Coordinators are trained to help parents find answers to their questions and concerns. Our goal is to make it easier for parents to resolve issues at the school level or find the information and services they need to help their children.

Teachers and Staff

Our highly trained teaching staff gives the school a superb academic profile. Over 85% of our teachers are licensed by New York State and have master’s level degrees. The professional staff uses creative and innovative techniques to meet the needs of the individual child. Our teachers regularly participate in district and Region professional development programs that allow them to test new methods and strategies in their classrooms. Literacy and math coaches support teachers and facilitate the introduction of new curriculum.

District 6 Family Engagement & Advocacy

The Office of Family Engagement & Advocacy (OFEA) in District 6 is located at:

4360 Broadway
Room 423
New York, New York 10033

The Family Advocates for District 6 are:

Rebecca Alicea 917.521.3783 RAlicea@schools.nyc.gov
Ernest Clayton 917.521.3790 EClayton@schools.nyc.gov

The Borough of Manhattan OFEA is located at:

333 7th Avenue
New York, New York 10001
917.339.1700
Manhattan Borough Director is Deborah Walker 917.339.1753
DWalker2@schools.nyc.gov

The central OFEA Office is located at:

49 Chambers Street, Room 503, New York, New York 10007

CEO of OFEA is Martine Guerrier, MGuerrier@schools.nyc.gov

Community School District Six Superintendent

Martha Madera

4360 Broadway, 5th Floor

New York, New York 10033

917.521.3757

MMadera@schools.nyc.gov

Community Education Council for District 6

4360 Broadway, Room 430

New York, New York 10033

CEC6@schools.nyc.gov

District 6 CEC President is Judith Amaro

Ligia Pisani, Administrative Assistant

917.521.3793; fax# 917.521.3643

Parent Involvement Opportunities

Several avenues for Parental Involvement are available at P.S./I.S. 187. Some are:

Book Pals

Book Pals is an all-volunteer team of professional actors, under the auspices of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), who read aloud to children at public elementary schools, helping to introduce them to the world of reading and literacy. Volunteers from our community work with the children in our Elementary School reading aloud to them every week and making books come alive through their talent and training. (www.BookPals.net). For more information about Book Pals contact our Elementary School Librarian, Rm. 101.

Class Parent Representatives

Parents in the Elementary School are able to volunteer to be a Class Parent Representative for their child's class. These parents are a communications link between the teacher and the other parents in the class and help foster a sense of classroom community. Some possible responsibilities include: coordinating chaperones for class trips; getting parent volunteers to assist in the classroom; coordinating a social event to introduce parents and foster friendship and spirit within each class; creating a class telephone list; and communicating upcoming PA events and volunteer opportunities to

the parents in their class. For more information on Class Parent Representatives, contact the PA.

Learning Leaders

Learning Leaders is a NYC non-profit organization that recruits, trains, screens, and supports school volunteers who provide one-on-one and small-group instructional support and other services to NYC public school children. The program has been implemented at P.S./I.S. 187 in the Kindergarten through grade three. Volunteers give students much needed individual attention, instructional support and encouragement, enriching students' lives and helping the teachers by volunteering a minimum of one hour per week. Training dates are usually scheduled for the early Fall. For more information and for training dates, contact your parent coordinator.

Kindergarten Parent Programs

The *Hands-on-Parents* and the *Bennett Park Children's Garden* Programs were started during the 2002-03 school year by parents of kindergartners. With the *Hands-on Parents* program, parents can visit their child's class every two weeks and make a presentation or lead an activity in the class. The *Bennett Park Children's Garden* Program is a partnership between P.S. /I.S. 187, Kindergarten parents, the Friends of Bennett Park, NYC Parks Dept., NYC Partnership for Parks, and the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association. In the Spring, for ten weeks, Kindergarten children visit the park weekly to plant flowers, watch and observe how plants grow and discover why plants, worms, and bugs are important. They also learn to appreciate our local park and develop a sense of ownership of the park. For more information about these programs, contact the Elementary School Assistant Principal or parent coordinator.

PA Executive Board and Committees

The PA executive board is elected each spring and consists of a President, a Vice President of the Elementary School, Vice President of the Intermediate School, Recording Secretary, Communications Secretary, Treasurer, and UPA Delegate. The PA has four committees that meet once a month for one hour: Fundraising, Hospitality, Community Liaison, and Environmental. Parents can sign up for a committee at general meetings, or contact the PA through the mailbox in the Main Office.

School Leadership Team (see *In Our School* on page 16)

Café 187 (update)

Café 187 is an opportunity for parents to meet at the school with the parent coordinator to share ideas, thoughts, ask questions, or listen to guest speakers. Café 187 takes place on the second Friday of each month, at 8:45 AM, in the cafeteria.

Resources

NYC Department of Education: <http://schools.nyc.gov>

UFT Dial-a-Teacher - Free Homework Help (M, T, W, Th, 4-7:00 p.m.), (212) 777-3380

The Learning Disabilities Helpline – (212) 645-6730

Literacy Assistance Center – Literacy Referral Hotline for information about free classes, including: Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, English for speakers of other languages. – (212) 803-3333

The NYC DOE Office of School Safety and Planning has issued an updated Discipline Code, entitled "Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures", effective September 2004. To see the text of the Discipline code, please go to:

<http://docs.nycenet.edu/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-1225/DisciplineCode.pdf>

For further information on **school safety policies** go to <http://erceo.nycenet.edu/>

National Children's Literacy Web site: www.child200.org

Reading is Fundamental Web site: www.rif.org/parents

Who's Who at P.S./I.S. 187

Administration

Janet Aravena, *Principal*

Cynthia Chory,
Assistant Principal, Intermediate School

Nilda Marrero,
Assistant Principal, Elementary School

Guidance Counselor

Ms. Dawn Powell

Instructional Support Committee

To be Announced, *Social Worker*

To be Announced, *Psychologist*

To be Announced, *Family Worker*

Related Services

Ms. Doris Hampton, *Special Ed. Counselor (BL)*

Ms. Isabel Stoll, *Special Ed. Counselor*

Mr. Richard Reid, *Speech*

Ms. Martha Ramirez, *Speech (BL)*

Ms. Tammy Gotz, *Occupational Therapist*

Ms. Narda Narveaz, *Physical Therapist*

Ms. Melissa Lawley, *Hearing Ed. Teacher*

School Leadership Team

Ms. Denny Chern-Kelk, *Parent, 2004-06*

Ms. Kim Dramer, *Parent, 2004-06*

Ms. Kimberlee Gonzalez, *Parent, 2004-06*

Mr. Ric Brown, *Parent, 2005-07*

Ms. Sarah Diamant, *Parent, 2005-07*

Ms. Kerry Marshall, *Parent, 2005-07*

Ms. Judith Amaro, *PA President*

PA Executive Board 2005-6

Ms. Judith Amaro, *President*

Ms. Jennifer Marciano, *Vice President, I.S.*

Ms. Francesca Burns, *Vice President, E.S.*

Ms. Ivelisse Suarez-Levine, *Treasurer*

Ms. Elise Cagan, *Recording Secretary*

Ms. Lisa Anderson, *Communications Secretary*

Ms. Juana Lewis, *Alt. UPA Delegate*

Ms. Paula McBean, *Public Health Nurse*

Ms. Gloria Wilson, *Public Health Assistant*

Transportation

Mr. John Leone

School Safety Officers

Agent Cesar Cabrera

Agent Roberta Manigault

Parent Coordinator

Ms. Sybil Mercado

School Health Office

For a complete listing of all P.S./I.S. 187 teachers and staff please contact the main office or parent coordinator.

Parent Involvement Pledge

As a parent/guardian, I pledge that, to the best of my ability, I will:

- 1. Support my child in school.** I can accomplish this by:
 - Discussing/listening to their daily experiences.
 - Providing a quiet place for my child to do his/her homework.
 - Reading together nightly.
 - Extending their learning by visiting places of interest (libraries, museums, parks, theaters, etc.).
 - Meeting with teachers as needed.
 - Notifying appropriate staff when changes occur that might affect my child's performance in school (health conditions, family crises, etc.) or the school's ability to contact me (change of address or contact numbers).
 - Responding to issues of concern in a timely manner with the teacher involved.

- 2. Prepare my child for school.** I can accomplish this by assuring they:
 - Are well rested & well fed.
 - Arrive on time for school daily.
 - Bring needed school supplies.
 - Complete nightly homework to the best of their ability.
 - Dress appropriately for the weather and their day's activities.

- 3. Participate in the life of the school.** I can accomplish this by:
 - Attending parent conferences, class programs and other activities in which my child is involved.
 - Chaperoning field trips and parties.
 - Attending school events.
 - Attending Parent Association events and working on the standing PA committees.
 - Volunteering at the school.

- 4. Model behaviors, qualities and values I want for my child.**
 - Living them myself as a person, thinker, reader, writer, problem-solver.
 - Encouraging my child to be a respectful and peaceful member of the school community.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____