

PRINCIPAL UPDATE!

We believe that all students learn best when provided with a supportive environment and are consistently engaged in rich discussions and rigorous tasks. We believe children learn best when we meet them at their cognitive, social and emotional levels and help them to develop to their highest potential.

Dear P.S. 87 Community,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I am delighted to report that students have returned to school brimming with enthusiasm and excitement for the New Year. The staff is also rejuvenated after a much needed rest and ready to continue their efforts to deliver quality instruction to our students. Our focus, as always, is on the students and meeting their needs. In order to meet students' needs, we have invested in professional development for our teachers to support their understanding of the new standards and support them in adapting and scaffolding our ELA and Math curricula.

Our goal is for **all** students to make one year's progress and for 75% of our students to be meeting grade level standards by June in Reading, Writing and Math. This seems like an impossible goal. If we don't set the bar high we can expect mediocre results, at best. We have to model for our students what it means to set goals and work hard to achieve those goals. Not all goals are achieved in one year. The important thing is to stay focused and committed and continue to put in the necessary day-to-day work so that we are making steady progress.

Time seemed to move at warp speed from September to December. Look at what we have achieved together:

INSTRUCTION, ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS, ENRICHMENT AND THE ARTS
Teachers and children are engaged in rigorous math and English Language Arts curricula: ReadyGen and Go Math!
Many parents took advantage of our Get Acquainted evening to meet their children's new teachers and learn about the upcoming curriculum for the school year. Tuesdays from 2:35 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. has been designated as a time for parent outreach. Teachers are engaged in activities to increase parent communication through avenues such as newsletters, phone calls etc.
Selected Grade 1 students are involved in the READ Program . This program provides 1:1 tutoring for Grade 1 students three days a week, by high school students. We have worked with READ for several years and students make tremendous progress in their reading levels as a result of participating in this program. Reading success starts early!
Students who are identified as have difficulty with reading received Great Leaps 1:1 intervention services during the school day.
Students in grades 3-5 are attending our Saturday Academy and After School programs . These programs support students in bridging the gap between what students currently know and the higher standards they are expected to meet on the New York State tests.
What's Growing at P.S. 87? We are in our second year of collaboration with the New York Botanical Gardens and Trust for Public Lands in creating a school garden. Class 201 and class 203 participated in transforming a space overgrown with weeds into a beautiful vegetable garden. A special thank you to all the parent volunteers who worked to make the garden possible!
Art at P.S. 87 - Grade 1 students are engaged in a yearlong visual arts program and class 502 is working with the Asia Society on a special project in the visual arts. Grade 3, 4 and 5 will be concluding their visual arts program this month and Kindergarten will begin theirs in February.
Dance at P.S. 87 - All grade 2 students participated in a dance program for 10 weeks. They performed The Sound of Music through Dance to an appreciative audience of students and parents. Grade 1 will begin their dance program this month and will be performing The Lion King.
Orchestra – Forty-eight (48) students in Grades 4 and 5 are in our P.S. 87 Orchestra. Students receive group instruction during the school day and meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 a.m. for full orchestra practice. We look forward to attending their first concert soon. Students in Grade 3 are learning to play the recorder. Our P.S. 87 Chorus gave a lovely performance at our Holiday Concert.
Monthly Assemblies – Students participate in monthly assemblies facilitated by the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) Team and PJ the Penguin. During these assemblies, students learn about character traits such as respect, responsibility, perseverance and grit through active participation.
Mandarin Comes to P.S. 87! - Twenty-Five grade K-2 students will be learning Mandarin on Saturdays in collaboration with Unity After School. 你好
Bio Bus Visits P.S. 87! The Bio Bus is a high-tech laboratory on wheels – a mobile science lab. On the Bio Bus, students used world class microscopes alongside research scientists to make scientific discoveries.
Track and Field – Our P.S. 87 Track Team has had tremendous success during the season and 14 girls participated in the Colgate Games , a national track competition for girls.
Students Honored! – Students who received a Level 3 or 4 in the NYS ELA and Math test were honored at a special event held at the school. Parents and the entire school community are proud of these students!
Basketball – Students in Grades 4 and 5 have signed up to be a part of our Basketball Clinic.
Robotics – Our Robotics program will begin this month. Students will be learning how to assemble and program their own robots!
Student Leadership – This month, the voting will be completed to elect members of our Student Council. Students will be voted by their peers to be a part of the Student Council.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT & PARTICIPATION
High Energy Dance! Parents and Children have been enjoying several weeks of dance and exercise complements of Title 1 Parent Committee.
Parent Common Core Workshops - Several workshops have been conducted to help parents have a better understanding of

the new Common Core Standards and how they can support their children at home. These workshops will continue throughout the year.

Family Art making Day - Mr. Williams, our resident art teacher, conducted a Parent and Child workshop and introduced the work of Matisse. Several parents and students also visited the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) to view the work of Matisse in person and extend their experience beyond the walls of the school.

The PTA has been working to plan events for our P.S. 87 families. Their first **movie night** was a great success and plans are being made for a Father Daughter and Mother Son Dances. More news to follow.

OctoberFest! Parents and their children enjoyed an evening of games, arts and crafts and a trip to the Fun House to celebrate the Fall season.

Veterans' Day! We honored the families in our school who are Veterans either on active duty or retired with a **Veterans' Day Breakfast**. We owe so much to the sacrifices that our parents who served or who are currently serving in the armed forces make on our behalf. Class 302 wrote letters to our Veterans and read them aloud. Their letters were appreciated and brought tears to many eyes. The PTA supported this event with a beautiful cake made to look like the United States flag.

These are just a few of our accomplishments and we could not have done any of them without your support. Our school is now a well rounded school where every child can find places to shine whether it is in academics, the visual or performing arts, sports, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) or through Leadership. I look forward to watching our students take advantage of the many opportunities that are being offered allowing them to excel to their full potential. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Donna Anaman
Principal



Chess with Mr. Jacobs at Lunch



Track Team Members



Parent and Child Art Workshop



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Veteran's Day Remembered! Thank you PTA for this amazing cake in honor of our Veterans!



Bio Bus



PTA Movie Night



Colgate Games



Octoberfest 2014



High Energy Dance Class



P.S. 87 Holiday Concert



Awards Night Ceremony for our Level 3 & 4 Students in ELA, Math and Science

Congratulations to Destiney Green from 5-501, Ms. Bolton's Class who received a Level 4 in ELA, Math and Science!



Our First Grade Students production of "The Sound of Music"

