



# PS 295 Thursday News Bulletin



Linda Mazza, Principal  
Lisa Pagano, Assistant Principal

December 13, 2018  
Volume 10, Issue 14

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- December 24-January 1 – Winter Recess
- January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 5 – Lunar New Year
- February 18-22 – Mid-Winter Recess

## IMPORTANT DATES

- December 13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to Beckett Theater
- December 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade trip to Salt Marsh Nature Center
- December 18 – PTA meeting 8:30AM
- December 19 – Open House 9AM
- December 20 – Last day for adult English classes for 2018
- December 21 – Cupcake Friday
- January 2 – School resumes
- January 7 – Pre-K B103 trip to Tiny Scientist
- January 8 – Pre-K B104 trip to Tiny Scientist
- January 8 – Open House 9AM
- January 9 – Bagel Bits 8:10AM
- January 10 – Adult English classes resume
- January 15 – EC meeting 8:30AM
- January 15 – Armory Day 3-5
- January 17 – Lice Check
- January 22 – SLT meeting 4PM
- January 22 – PTA meeting 6PM
- January 23 – Open House 9AM
- January 25 – Cupcake Friday
- January 29 – Armory Day K-2
- January 30-31 – School Play 7PM
- January 31 – 1-2/111 & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade trip to New Victory
- February 6 – Bagel Bits 8:10AM
- February 12 – EC meeting 8:30AM
- February 12 – SLT meeting 4PM

## REACH OUT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

Did you know that businesses can support PS 295 through event sponsorship? At Touch a Truck, sponsors provide fun activities and giveaways, and at the Spring Fling, you'll see many of their services and products on our online auction.

We're looking to put together a team who can help fundraise and reach out to local businesses about event sponsorship and donations. Are your kids involved in an after school activity, or do you frequent a local business? Join us Friday, December 14, after drop off and we'll provide all the information to get you started. Not able to make the meeting, but would like to help? Email Maria Tenaglia at [mariatenaglia@hotmail.com](mailto:mariatenaglia@hotmail.com).

## SHOUT OUTS

Thank you to Tina Habib and her team for hosting our first Family Fun Friday: Jason Weiner, Alice Hawks, Maria Fusilero, Yuna Weiss, Devin Molina, Jess Mabli, Regina Kiperman with volunteers for the night, Hilla Katki, Julia Parshall, Michele Smawley, David Cordero, Sergio Borrero and Christine Ellrodt.

Congratulations to Peter Mallo, chair of this year's Holiday Bazaar, and merchants Ms. Shen, Ms. Weseen, Ms. Calo, Karine Kelley, Rebecca Stein, Delany Schucker, Una Weiss, Sara Rothstein, Claire Cavanah, Adriana Cuesta, Heather Rodney, Angelique Spector, Elvira Vida, Karen Smith and Alison Dorfman. They braved the cold and even sold during Family Fun Friday to help raise money for the PTA. Thank you to everyone who supported the bazaar and hope everyone got to see all the beautiful (and yummy) things they made!

Shout out to Gina Caroddo for organizing our first author visit of the year, and to Christine Ellrodt for helping with the tech stuff for it. See Classroom Round Up below.

## DECEMBER PTA MEETING IN SPANISH – DECEMBER 18 AT 8:30 AM

Join us December 18 for our next PTA meeting with simultaneous translation in Spanish and English. We'll meet in the main lobby area after drop off at 8:30 am. Bagels and coffee provided!

## HELP DELIVER FOOD FROM FOOD DRIVE

We need help delivering food on Monday, December 17 after drop off. Boxes (about 10) must be delivered to Helping Hands Food Pantry at St. Augustine's Church by 10 am. If you have the time and a car, please email Maria at [fusilero.maria@gmail.com](mailto:fusilero.maria@gmail.com).

## ART AT PS 295

Visual art is alive and well at PS 295 this year despite Ms. Shen's one-year sabbatical. 4th and 5th grade have started an 8-week course with visiting artist Tamara Damon (an alumni parent.) Tamara will be at the school on Thursdays. 3rd grade has started an 8-week session through Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) on Tuesdays. 1st and 2nd grades will receive an 8-week session with BAC starting in February. Tom Pnini (parent of Max in 1-113) has been running 1-day workshops for K, 1st, 2nd and 3rd and will continue running workshops once a month through the end of the year.

## ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES BREAK

December 20 will be the last day for adult English classes for 2018. Classes will resume January 10, 2019.



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## **CLASSROOM ROUND UP** — news and highlights from our classrooms

**Ms. Jackson and Ms. Rona's kindergarten class** (K-115/014) went to the farmers' market in Prospect Park on Wednesday, December 5. Katrina Motch, PTA co-president, coordinated the trip. They learned about where local fresh produce comes from and had fun with their families sampling tasty goodies, like apple chips and fresh applesauce. They can't wait to go again in the spring!

Council Member Carlos Menchaca and Community Affairs Director Ling Ye-Kneller met with our **4th grade** students at Bagel Bits on December 5. Our kids were excited to discuss possible neighborhood/school projects for Participatory Budgeting. It will be a great activity for them to practice their persuasive writing skills.



Author and illustrator John Steven Gurney visited with our **2nd and 3rd grades** after Bagel Bits to talk about the creative process involved in making and publishing an illustrated story. Mr. Gurney is the author of the widely acclaimed chapter series *A to Z Mysteries*, *Calendar Mysteries*, and *The Bailey School Kids*. He talked to our kids about his illustrated books *Dinosaur Train*, *Fuzzy Baseball* and *The Bossy Pirate*. Thank you to Mr. Gurney and everyone who made this awesome visit happen!

*An "orcapandapsiderlionadactyl" illustrated by John Steven Gurney, edited by 2nd and 3rd grade students.*

On Nov. 19th, our **1st graders**, their families and teachers came together to enjoy a multicultural potluck breakfast, inspired by the Book of the Month from October, *The Sandwich Swap*, by Queen Rania Al Abdullah. *The Sandwich Swap* is about two friends named Lily and Salma. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus—but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them? This is a story that remind us to develop more acceptance and understanding for one another.



## **DECEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH**

Our book for this month is the story *Zero* by Kathryn Otoshi. In this story, Zero feels empty inside because she can't count like other numbers. Throughout this story, Zero compares herself to the other numbers. This story teaches us that it's our qualities on the inside that matter most. It also reminds us that everyone has qualities that make him or her valuable, special, and unique. Another story to explore by this author is *One*.

*Books of the Month at PS 295: As a school community, we have established monthly read-alouds that will support our continued initiative around inclusion and acceptance. The books were carefully chosen because they provide windows and mirrors into often-underrepresented identities. They are windows for students who don't share those identities and potential mirrors for the students who do. This concept of windows and mirrors is not something we invented. Much research has gone into the value of people being exposed to identities other than their own (windows) and the value of seeing one's own identity represented respectfully (mirrors). While our curriculum has included opportunities for this all along, we wanted to build on our success with school-wide books that will celebrate our culture and add to the community-feel of our school.*



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## **LAST DAY! HELP PURCHASE GROCERY GIFT CARDS**

Today, December 13, is the last day to contribute. Each year around the holidays, we reach out to families and ask for donations to purchase grocery store gift certificates to distribute to families in our community who need them. As in years past, Tina Habib is collecting donations to purchase \$25 gift certificates from Steve's C-Town at 329 9th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues). If you're interested, you may send donations in the following ways:

PayPal ([christinehabib@yahoo.com](mailto:christinehabib@yahoo.com), or 908-400-6209)

Venmo (christine-habib)

Chase Quick Pay ([christinehabib@yahoo.com](mailto:christinehabib@yahoo.com), or 908-400-6209).

## **MESSAGE FROM MS. MEADE, 3-105** (please feel free to share with friends & family):

For those that do not know, I am from Thousand Oaks, California. My parents moved there in 1978, following my grandparents who had moved there in the 60s. They loved the small, safe community so near to Los Angeles. My parents still live in the house where I grew up and I take my daughters there every summer. My parents live less than a half mile from The Borderline where the shooting occurred and they were under mandatory evacuation as the Woolsey fire ripped through nearby land. Thankfully, their house was spared from the fire and they were allowed to return to only clean up ash and retardant. However, so many were not that lucky (friends, former classmates, former students and their families). From a community reeling from the shooting and then the fires, there is more than physical devastation to clean up.

I know the holiday season is approaching and funds always seem tighter this time of year. However, if you have a few extra dollars to donate to the victims of either tragedy (or both), that would be great. Even just spreading the word would be helpful and appreciated.

<https://vccf.org/donate/make-a-donation/>

<https://vccf.org/donate/hill-fire-and-woolsey-fire-sudden-and-urgent-needs-effort/>

## **DONORSCHOOSE FOR MS. THOMPSON'S CLASS**

Ms. Thompson has created a DonorsChoose project to help her Kindergarten students learn the alphabet and letter sounds. She is looking to add Alphabet Teaching sensory tubs to the classroom—can you help us reach that goal? Please consider donating to the DonorsChoose project: <https://bit.ly/2DM9meo>

## **SHOP AMAZON WISHLISTS**

As you start your Holiday shopping on Amazon, please consider purchasing something from one of our classroom wishlists. Many of our teachers have created Amazon Wishlists with items they need for their classes or things that would enrich our children's educational experience. You can locate your teachers' wishlist next to their name on our staff website page: <http://www.ps295.org/staff/>

## **TEACHER GIFTS & CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS**

The chill in the air means it's time to start thinking about Holiday Gifts for our beloved teachers and staff. Please watch your email/homework folders for a message from your Class Parents about gifts and class celebrations. Please feel free to reach out to your Class Parents to see how you can help (updated Contact Sheet attached). Additionally, Adley has generously volunteered again to collect for our Specials teachers; <https://bit.ly/2P5is87>  
Please email Rebecca with any questions: [vpparentengagement@ps295.org](mailto:vpparentengagement@ps295.org)

## **ANNUAL GIVING**

Remember PS 295 in any of your end-of-year giving plans. Many large companies offer Corporate Matching programs — ask your employer if they do and you can often double your donation. You can go to [www.bit.ly/GiveToPTA](http://www.bit.ly/GiveToPTA) (case sensitive) to make a one-time **Annual Giving** donation, or set up recurring payments. Checks are also welcomed! Please make payable to PS 295 Parent Teacher Association and drop off in the PTA mailbox in the main office.

# PTA MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

8:30 am – main lobby area

Meeting in Spanish and English

Come for bagels + coffee and to hear updates from our Sustainability Committee and on construction; volunteer to help with lunch recess and Spring Auction. Plus, another 50/50 Raffle – 1/2 to you, 1/2 to the PTA.

# REUNIÓN PTA

MARTES 18 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2018

8:30 a. m. en vestíbulo de la escuela

En español y en inglés

Venga y desayune con bagels y café. Averigüe lo que está pasando con el comité de sostenibilidad y con la construcción en la escuela. Ofrézcase para trabajar como voluntario durante la hora del almuerzo y recreo y para la subasta de primavera.

Habrá también una rifa 50/50 donde la mitad va para el ganador y la otra mitad para la PTA.