



# PS 295 Thursday News Bulletin



Linda Mazza, Principal  
Lisa Pagano, Assistant Principal

March 7, 2019  
Volume 10, Issue 23

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- April 19-26 – Spring Recess
- May 27 – Memorial Day
- June 4 – Eid al-Fitr
- June 6 – Anniversary Day

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to Pacificana Restaurant
- March 8 – Family Fun Friday 6PM
- March 12 – EC meeting 8:30AM
- March 14 – Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:40AM  
**Dismissal**
- March 18-22 – Spirit Week
- March 19 – SLT meeting 4PM
- March 19 – PTA meeting 6PM
- March 22 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting 8:30AM
- March 22 – Cupcake Friday
- March 25 – 1/2 Music Shares
- April 2 & 3 – NYS ELA Exams
- April 4 – Call for Nominations SLT + PTA
- April 6 – Spring Fling Auction Celebration
- April 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Share
- April 9 – EC meeting 8:30AM
- April 9 – SLT meeting 4PM
- April 9 – Science Fair 6PM
- April 10 – Bagel Bits
- April 16 – PTA meeting 8:30AM
- April 18 – K-115 trip to Brooklyn Botanical Garden
- April 18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to BAM
- April 29 – School resumes
- April 29 – Lice Check
- May 1 & 2 – NYS Math Exams
- May 3 – Cupcake Friday
- May 6-10 – Teacher Appreciation Week

## SPOTLIGHT: NEW INITIATIVE--RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

In January 2019, PS 295 began a collaboration with the Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility. Morningside Center works hand in hand with educators to build students' social and emotional skills, strengthen the classroom and school community, and make the school more caring and equitable through restorative practices. Teachers are being trained to utilize the 4Rs curriculum to support the social-emotional learning of our students. This curriculum engages the imagination and creativity of children in grades PreK-5 to help develop critical skills including empathy, community building, and conflict resolution. The curriculum opens the door for children to look more closely at their own experiences and gives them clear tools for handling difficult emotions and resolving conflict with their peers.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES NEXT THURSDAY + SPRING

### AUCTION PREVIEW

Mark your calendars for Parent Teacher Conferences: Thursday March 14. Please note that Thursday, March 14 is an early dismissal day. Kids will be dismissed at 11:40 am, following lunch.

**CHILDCARE:** The PTA is offering limited childcare during conferences, through CBE, for a suggested donation of \$5 per family. Counselors will be on hand to watch PS 295 students for the duration of the meetings; 30 minutes maximum per family. Availability will be first-come-first-served; meaning you sign-up at the classroom door when you drop-off and do not need to make advance reservations.

**SCHEDULING:** Conferences for PreK-4th grade will be held on March 14, and 5th grade will have a multi-day special schedule. Sign-up forms were sent home with your child in their folders.

**AUCTION PREVIEW:** Have a few minutes before or between conferences? Come see a preview of items you can bid on for our Spring Auction!

*Please note: due to PTCs, we have no Bagel Bits in March.*

## SPRING SWAP FAMILY FUN FRIDAY, TOMORROW!

PS 295 Families—Join us for the [Celebrate Spring Swap Family Fun Friday](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48abae29a75-potluck2) tomorrow, March 8 from 6-8pm. This one promises to be AMAZING! Activities include: a children's clothing swap; a guest from the immensely popular series, Drag Queen Story Hour; outdoor soccer; indoor board games and potluck dinner. We are asking everyone to bring a picnic dish to share. Please let us know what you're bringing in your RSVP. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48abae29a75-potluck2>

As always, this FFF event is totally FREE and runs from 6pm-8pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult (NO drop-offs!). **NOTE ABOUT CLOTHING SWAP:** Depending on the amount of clothes collected in advance, we may NOT accept donations the evening of the event. Thanks and looking forward to it! Tina (Karim, Louka, Camilo)



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**BOOGIE BRUNCH SHOUT OUT** to Liza Quinonez, Liz Ip, Charlotte + Kirk Douglas, their families and the BBB bunch of volunteers, who rocked to raise over \$7000 (and counting) for the school. It was an amazing show with reggae, metal, *Soul Train* DJ spins – a gong! Thank you to all of our brunch and silent auction donors, and everyone who came to support PS 295.

## LOOKING FOR A LITTLE ME TIME?

In the heart of winter, you are in need of a little “me time”? Us too! We are looking forward to being able to bid on things that will help us realize this dream in a few weeks on our online auction, BUT first we need more donations. Do you know someone who has a spa or salon? Have you gotten a great massage? Does your fitness, yoga, or Pilates class hit the spot? Consider asking them to donate to our auction, which will take place on April 6! You can find all the information you need on <http://www.ps295.org/spring-auction/> and can print the form for the business to fill out or find the online link. Too much trouble to print the form? Don't worry, just connect us with the business and we will make sure they get the paperwork they need ([ellengrayce@yahoo.com](mailto:ellengrayce@yahoo.com)).

## CLASSROOM ROUND UP

**4-102** is very happy to welcome back Ms. Brokman this week; her class missed her very much! Thank you to everyone who has been helping out in the classroom in the last few months.

The **1st grade** had a field trip to the College of Staten Island to see “The Cat in the Hat” on February 28. Everyone had a great time and the kids even enjoyed the bus ride across the Verrazzano because the ocean was so pretty and full of boats. — *As reported by Violet Motch in 1st*

## SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Save the Date for Spirit Week, March 18-22. We'll distribute a flyer next week with themes for each day. There will be a PS 295 Merch Sale for PS 295 Day, and to end the week, Cupcake Friday!

## SCIENCE FAIR

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! PS295 is hosting their annual Science Fair April 9th 6-7PM, and a school share during the day of April 10th. This is a voluntary project that offers students an opportunity to engage independently in a hands-on scientific investigation. Individuality and uniqueness are encouraged! Parents, please remember to guide your child with their project, but allow them to do the majority of the work independently. All info has been distributed in Science class, and please feel free to reach out to Ms Holland for any questions or support. Let ideas and curiosities spark creativity when creating your projects!

## MARCH TICKET MADNESS!

*This month, you can score tickets to attend one of our amazing fundraising events.*

**Spring Fling Auction Event, April 6** The online portion of our auction will go live next Friday. See select items on display, plus LIVE auction of teacher experiences donated by beloved PS 295 staff at our celebratory/end-of-auction event on April 6 at The Old Stone House — open bar, light dinner and kids welcome! Purchase at [http://bit.ly/295\\_springfling](http://bit.ly/295_springfling) \$35 Early Bird until March 29.

**Touch-a-Truck Rolling in May 18 — Tell your friends!** Come to experience the trucks, food trucks, bouncy houses and interactive art projects! We're also going to need lots of help to make this a fun, successful day so we'll be posting a sign-up for volunteers, as we get closer to the event. We'll be selling discounted tickets to PS 295's families the week of the event, but please spread the word that tickets are on sale now! People can get tickets and also check for updates here: <http://ps295touchatruck.weebly.com> Thanks to all who have already been working behind the scenes to make this event happen!



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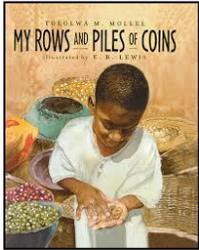
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**Let's all go to the movies!** NY Int'l Children's Film Festival 2019 has started and PS295 is officially a school partner. **With every ticket sold and attributed to our school, NYICFF will donate \$3 to our PTA!** From February 22 to March 17, the NYICFF is highlighting thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent films for young people ranging from ages 3-18. It's the perfect opportunity to go to the theater this winter and watch films showcased from all over the world — it's the LARGEST children's film festival in North America!

To buy tickets and raise money for our school simply:

1. Go to <http://nyicff.org/tickets/>
2. Select **PS 295** from the "Select My School" Menu at the top (IMPORTANT!)
3. Purchase tickets

Just like that—our school earns \$3 for each ticket you purchase! (Fundraising will not apply to purchases made with a discount code.) Please email Vibha Ciecko with any questions: [vibha001@gmail.com](mailto:vibha001@gmail.com). Enjoy the show!



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

Our March Book of the Month is *My Rows and Piles of Coins* by Tololwa M. Mollel. This story is about a boy named Saruni living in Tanzania in the 1960s. Saruni is saving all of his money to buy a bicycle to help his mother carry heavy goods to the market. This story teaches students about maintaining perseverance and determination while setting out to reach a goal. This story also invites young readers to consider how we can *lighten the load* for others through kindness and a generous spirit.

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Please sign up for March shifts volunteering in the library here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084ca8ab29a20-feband>

If you haven't joined us for a shift before just let me know and we'll make sure someone can show you how it works. In addition to our usual Monday K and Pre-K days twice a month, we added weekly slots for assisting Susan (Ms. Weseen) with tasks on Thursdays and Fridays. These shifts are just after drop off and just before pickup for a single period. If you know people interested in helping in the Library who can't make it during the day on Mondays, these other times may work. Thank you, Jane Higgins, parent volunteer in the library

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

From helping with recess, to helping in a classroom or on a trip or at an event, volunteers do a lot of important work in our school and are crucial to making 295 the wonderful place it is! It's important as a volunteer that you understand your role and have knowledge about important guidelines to follow — this will allow you to have a positive and rewarding experience. We are looking to train all adult volunteers who come into the school or go on field trips. We will be offering regular trainings that will last no more than 20-30 minutes.

**Please sign up here for a training:** <https://bit.ly/2GNMONy>

Please email Ellen with any questions: [ellengrayce@yahoo.com](mailto:ellengrayce@yahoo.com)



# BOX TOPS SHAM-ROCKS!

A grid of 20 dashed boxes arranged in 4 rows and 5 columns. The grid is decorated with large, stylized shamrock cutouts and smaller shamrock icons. The cutouts are placed in the following positions:

- Row 1: Large shamrock in the second box.
- Row 2: Large shamrock in the third box.
- Row 3: Large shamrock in the fourth box.
- Row 4: Large shamrock in the first box.

Small shamrock icons are placed in the following positions:

- Between Row 1 and Row 2, Column 3.
- Between Row 2 and Row 3, Column 4.
- Between Row 3 and Row 4, Column 2.
- Between Row 4 and Row 5, Column 4.
- Between Row 1 and Row 2, Column 5.
- Between Row 2 and Row 3, Column 5.
- Between Row 3 and Row 4, Column 5.
- Between Row 4 and Row 5, Column 5.

Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school.  
Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet - please submit them separately.  
To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, go to [BTFE.com](http://BTFE.com).