



PS 295 Thursday News Bulletin



Linda Mazza, Principal
Lisa Pagano, Assistant Principal

May 2, 2019
Volume 10, Issue 30

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- May 27 – Memorial Day
- June 4 – Eid al-Fitr
- June 6 – Anniversary Day
- June 26 – Last Day of School
11:40AM Dismissal

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 1 & 2 – NYS Math Exam
- May 3 – 1st & 2nd grade Music Share 8:30AM
- May 3 – Cupcake Friday
- May 3 – Family Fun Friday 6PM
- May 3 – SLT & PTA Nominations Close
- May 6-10 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6 – 1st grade/111 trip to CSI Enrichment Through the Arts
- May 7 – K-114 trip to Brooklyn Botanical Garden
- May 8 – Bagel Bits 8:00AM
- May 8 – 5th grade Music Share 8:30AM
- May 8 – K-110 trip to Brooklyn Botanical Garden
- May 9 & 10 – Spring Bazaar
- May 11 – PTA Fun Run
- May 14 – EC meeting 8:30AM
- May 14 – Armory Day 3-5
- May 15 – 1st grade Assembly 8:30AM
- May 16 – 3-105 trip to Schomburg Center
- May 17 – Cyber Safety Parent Workshop 8:30AM
- May 18 – Touch-a-Truck
- May 20 – 3-105 Drama Share 8:30AM
- May 21 – 3-104 Music Share 8:30AM
- May 21 – SLT meeting 4PM

MAY SAVE THE DATES

- Tomorrow – Friday, May 3
- PTA / SLT Nominations Close
 - Family Fun Friday International Night
 - Cupcake Friday
- Teacher Appreciation Week – May 6-10
Bagel Bits – next Wednesday, May 8
Spring Bazaar – May 9-10
Mother's Day – May 12
1st Grade Assembly, parent share – May 15

- Touch a Truck – May 18
PTA Meeting – May 21
K Orientation – May 22
Field Day – May 24
No School for Memorial Day – May 27

SPRING ELECTIONS – NOMINATIONS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 3

Nominations for our Executive Committee and SLT will close this Friday. We need to fill the mandatory positions to continue as an active PTA. The VP positions are not mandatory, but necessary. Remember, last year, we did not have anyone step up for the VP of Development role. As a result, we did not do any work in this area this year. Do you like getting Facebook notifications? Let's get someone as VP Communications! Want to know what's going on in your child's classroom? The VP Parent Engagement helps us with that. Do you value our music, dance and art programs? We need someone to work with administration to facilitate them. Are you a newish parent willing to help out incoming families? Consider being next year's New Families Ambassador. Does it take time? Yes. Commitment? Yes. Our PTA is adaptable and every bit helps. In the next few months, we'll be looking for committee and event leads too. We need parents in these roles to make it happen. *You* make it happen, so please consider stepping up. Terms are for one year with a two-year limit.

Executive Committee

- *Co-Presidents (mandatory)
 - *Co-Secretaries (mandatory)
 - *Co-Treasurers (mandatory)
 - VP Development
- *co officers must run together*

- VP Communications
- VP Parent Engagement
- VP Programs
- New Families Ambassador

School Leadership Team

There are two positions on the SLT for the 2019-20 school year. The SLT is an advisory committee consisting of equal numbers of parents and sta. The SLT meets monthly to discuss everything from approving the school's budget and business plan, to it's policies on homework and testing, to new opportunities for student enrichment. The SLT's membership includes the principal, UFT representative, PTA president (assigned if there are co-presidents), and additional members elected for two-year terms each spring. The SLT election must take place after the EC election. If uncontested, we may vote after the EC election on May 21 at the PTA meeting. If ballots for SLT are required, they will be sent out in backpacks the week of May 28 and are due on May 31. Results will be announced June 3.

Any parent or guardian that has a child currently enrolled in PS 295 and that will also be attending the school in the 2019-2020 school year may be nominated for any position on the Executive Committee and SLT. Staff members cannot be nominated.

Nomination forms are available in the PTA mailbox or by email request to Sergio (sborrero@ps295.org) or the Nominations Committee: Yuna Weiss (apcyw1@gmail.com) and Jess Mabli (jessica.mabli@gmail.com). SLT nominations include a 200-word statement of intent. Nominations officially close May 3 and an election will be held at the PTA meeting on May 21.



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2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

You can now download a PDF version of next year's school calendar at the DOE website:

http://bit.ly/2019_20doecalendar (please scroll down to the bottom of the site to download; available in select languages).

LAST FAMILY FUN FRIDAY—TOMORROW, MAY 3

Please join us for our last Family Fun Friday of the school year! From 6-8pm, we will enjoy a night of art and culture, celebrating the many backgrounds represented at our school through food, dance, art, film, music, and of course, soccer! We will be premiering a film featuring all your children's classes, enjoying folk dance performances, and have music and art activities for the children to create and explore!

- Please sign-up to bring a dish of cultural significance to your family to share:
<http://bit.ly/FFMay19>
- If you would like to volunteer to help, or have any questions, please email Tina at christinehabib@yahoo.com. We hope to see everyone there!

SPRING BAZAAR—MAY 9-10

Just in time for Mother's Day! Our Spring Bazaar will be held May 9 & 10 —mornings from 8am to 8:30am and afternoons from 2:30pm to 3pm. Interested vendors who would like to sell handmade goods should reach out to Peter Mallo directly a pmallo@guggenheim.org. We would like 10-15 vendors. Vendors should look to sell a variety of items, including small items at low price points for kids who may want to surprise their moms with small gifts. Vendors should bring their own cash for change, or their own square or other POS device. Vendors will donate 25% of all sales to PS295.

CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION SURVEY—DUE MAY 10TH

It's that time again! Crossing Guard Appreciation Day: Salute Your Favorite Crossing Guard

We're looking toward the end of the school year and all of the people who get thanks. Crossing guards are often the unsung heroes who keep families safe and who, many times, are overlooked during end-of-the-school-year festivities. So in 2014 PSP started a Crossing Guard Appreciation Day for the guards in the 78th precinct. It spread to the 72nd in 2017 and we're told that there is a NYC-wide appreciation happening this year! Let us know about your favorite crossing guards on this short form: <http://bit.ly/CrossingGuardShoutOutForm2019>

Sierra (19th & 6th)

Maribel (19th & 7th)

Carmelina (18th & 6th)

Sandra (18th & 7th)

Also —HELP US OUT, forward this message to your children's class email lists, block associations, other online groups and anyone who comes into contact with a crossing guard.

—PS295 PTA, Susan Fox & Eric McClure, Park Slope Street Safety Partnership+Park Slope Parents

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IS NEXT WEEK: MAY 6-10

Show our teachers some love! Parents are encouraged to help your children make something for their classroom teacher(s), Specials teachers or paraprofessionals. We suggest a handmade card or gift; a heartfelt gesture goes a long way. This does not replace the gifts that parents contribute to at the end of the year, and you do not need to spend any money on this.

CYBER SAFETY PARENT WORKSHOP—MAY 17 8:30AM

On Friday May 17th at 8:30AM, Candice Perrier will present a parent workshop that will cover online safety information and tips, "screen time" management, and strategies to help your child create a positive digital identity.



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COME SEE A REAL FORMULA E RACE CAR MAY 18

A special guest among the heavy lifters rolling in for Touch a Truck! Touch a Truck is a fun event for adults and kids of all ages. Not only can you touch the trucks, but we have a great line-up of sponsors who provide really fun activities of all kinds. It's also our largest fundraiser that helps us support the program our kids love at PS 295, but we need your help to make it a success! How can you help?

1. Please sign up to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44ada62ea1f49-touchatruck1> Deadline for t-shirts had passed.
2. Help spread the word. Sharing the event info on social media is always helpful, but we also have posters and postcards so please take some to put up at your favorite neighborhood spots or high traffic areas for families!

We'll be selling discounted tickets to PS 295's families leading up to the event. The first one will be **this Friday, 5/3, in the courtyard at drop off**. Bracelets for admission to PS 295 families are \$5 that gets you in to all the trucks and activities. Adults and all children need to purchase a bracelet for admission into the event except for infants who are worn or carried. Additional charge for bounce houses and you can also purchase the unlimited bounce bracelets in advance for \$10.

Check out <https://ps295touchatruckweebly.com/> for updates and FAQs. Also tell your friends and neighbors to buy the on-line tickets in advance to avoid lines the day of the event. Thanks and please email jillbloch@gmail.com with questions.

CLASSROOM ROUNDUP

Starting in March, students from **Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5** were invited to join our afterschool Running Club, led by Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Van Doren. Students have been enjoying some healthy fun and fresh air. They are practicing jogging, sprinting, doing relays. They are also learning the racer start and working on form, warm-ups and stretching. (Thanks to contributor Emy Motch!) Photos can be found on Facebook.

Thank you to all our **4th and 5th grade** students who participated in this year's science fair. We had a wonderful turnout from our community, and each student brought forth innovative and creative projects! Their love of Science continues to be an incredible way our students can spread their ideas, and be the great change makers of the future.

It's a bird ... it's a plane ... no it's a tour of the backstage rigging system at BAM! On 4/18, the **5th graders** took a very special field trip to BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). Over the years of directing the PS 295 winter theatrical show, Ms. Cat and Ms. Ellrod, the technical director, have discovered that more and more students have become interested in being a part of the Crew. Ms. Cat thought it would be a special trip to see what real Stagehands do backstage at a historic, 2000+ seat professional theater! Ms. Cat organized this very special field trip with support from Ms. Mazza and the 5th grade teachers. It was a day to remember. Check out @ps295drama on Instagram for pics!

UPCOMING DRAMA SHARES

Please look out for the notice that your child recently received regarding Drama Shares. There will be Drama Shares for each class in Grades 1st-4th. The Drama Share is an informal sharing of work the students have been working on in drama class. All shares are in the Drama Room, Room 216, from 8:30-8:50 am on the date indicated below. It is not a full performance and will be approximately 15-20 minutes. If you are unable to attend, video or photos will be posted.

Thank you, Ms. Cat

1/2-111	Wednesday, May 29th	3-103	Wednesday, May 22nd
1-112	Friday, May 31st	3-104	Monday, June 3rd
1-113	Tuesday, May 28th	3-105	Monday, May 20th
2-106	Wednesday, June 5th	4-102	Monday, June 10th
2-107	Thursday, June 13th	4-208	Wednesday, June 12th



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JOIN THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

We are looking for parent volunteers to join our Diversity Committee/Equity Team for the 2019-2020 school year. Participation is a yearlong commitment. We meet two times per month. The committee is comprised of parents & staff. More information will be shared at upcoming PTA meetings. If you're interested in volunteering for this committee, please email Liza Carfora at lcarfora@ps295.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Lailah's Lunchbox is a story about a young girl named Lailah who has just emigrated from Abu Dhabi to live in Peachtree City, Georgia in the United States. This is Lailah's first time observing Ramadan in the United States. This Ramadan marks an especially important time for her because she is finally old enough to fast. Lailah is a bit unsure of how to communicate to her teacher Mrs. Penworth and her classmates that she will be fasting; however, with the help of the librarian, Mrs. Carman, Lailah writes a letter to her teacher explaining Ramadan and its significance for her and her family. This story touches upon many universal themes such as identity, acceptance, and the power of finding your voice. This story may also resonate strongly with students who have struggled with having to make friends after moving to a new school or after emigrating to a new country. ****If your child will be observing Ramadan by fasting, please write a note to your child's teachers so that we may offer support to him/her during lunch, recess, and throughout the school day.***

SUPPORT OUR FAMILY AFTER THE SUNSET PARK FIRE

On April 3rd, the Sunset Park community experienced a heartbreaking 6-alarm fire on 44th Street. The fire destroyed many homes and displaced more than 50 families, **including our wonderful ENL Teacher Sedina Montoya's mother, Cindy**, a newly retired Department of Education educator. In the spirit of our P.S. 295 family, we are coming together to raise money to help Sedina and her family rebuild. 100% of all donations will go directly to Cindy. Please give what you can; no donation is too small. Let's show our support for this amazing family.

GoFundMe: <https://bit.ly/2G2lkRV>

(please consider sharing on your Facebook/email/social media)

Other ways to donate:

PayPal Pool: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8dF2dQxwEK>

Venmo: <https://venmo.com/RebeccaStein438> (mark donations "Cindy Rosas")

Cash: Sergio will also accept cash donations, to go directly to Cindy.

If you would like to contribute a separate monetary donation or a Gift Card, please email fundraiser@ps295.org or you can contact Maria Fusilero (fusilero.maria@gmail.com) or Rebecca Stein (reb.stein@yahoo.com). Thank you!

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

RUN FOR OUR PS 295

The PTA Fun Run is May 11 in Prospect Park. This is a great way to raise money for our PTA. We need at least 20 participants — PS 295 families and supporters — to qualify to raise funds as a PTA. Registration and Details at <https://nycruns.com/races/?race=brooklyn-pta-fun-run>.