



PS 295 Thursday News Bulletin



Linda Mazza, Principal
Lisa Pagano, Assistant Principal

June 20, 2019
Volume 10, Issue 37

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- June 26 – Last Day of School
11:40AM Dismissal

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 20 – Pre-K End of year celebration
- June 20 – 2nd grade breakfast
8:30AM
- June 21 – Kindergarten ceremony
8:30AM
- June 24 – Summer Book Giveaway

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that the year is quickly coming to an end. It is time to reflect on the year 2018-19. PS 295 is a community that appreciates the talents of their children as evidenced by so many wonderful events. At this time I would like to celebrate some of the memorable events that made this year special. Our traditional events, such as the Spring Arts Festival, Annual Science Fair, Dance Festival, Fifth Grade Show of The Jungle Book, Drama Shares, Music Shares and Afterschool Band Performance provided the entire PS 295 community with time to celebrate your children's learning and creative growth. Each time we watched one of these events we knew that our efforts were well worth it.

Our PTA continues to support our school through creative fundraising such as Touch-A-Truck, Spring Fling, Boogie Brunch, Danceathon, Amazon.com link and grants. Through the efforts of our PTA executive board, so many wishes have come to be. They have been able to support our Dance and Music program as an active part of our school program and provide our upper grades with an amazing afterschool band. Wellness in the Schools has brought Chef Laurielle and Coach Randy to our building. We are extremely proud and grateful for the participation of all our community members involved in these events. I would like to especially thank the PTA Executive Board for their tireless efforts. You are AMAZING!

Our school budget has been released. We anticipate the following classes: 2 full day Pre-K, 3 Kindergarten, 2 first grade, 3 second grade, 2 third grade, 3 fourth grade and 2 fifth grade. As always we will continue to create programs that honor our school vision. Our Drama, Creative Movement, Visual Arts and Science specials will continue. Mr. Laster has been our Music instructor for the past 2 years and our program has been quite successful. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Laster will continue with us as our full-time Music teacher.

Next year our school hours will remain 8:20-2:40 for all students PK – 5, Monday thru Friday. Our first day of school is Thursday September 5th. Class placement letters will be mailed in early August.

Final report cards will be sent home, Tuesday June 25th. The last day of school is Wednesday June 26th with dismissal at 11:40. It is extremely important that the children keep up their studies as well as have some fun in the sun! Please encourage your children to read, read, read! This will help support their learning and provide a smooth transition to the start of the next school year. If your child's teacher sends a packet home for your children to work on during the summer, please return it to the classroom teacher by Friday September 19th.





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Last bulletin of the year. We hope that you're enjoying end-of-year parties; you've ordered school supplies for next year; and most of all, have fun plans for the summer!

Please be sure to read the **President's Report** about all the wonderful things we've accomplished as a PTA this year. Thank you all for your time and commitment, and especially to our departing 5th grade families, who have helped in so many ways, for so many years (some for more than a decade). We will miss you!

Keep in Touch with us over the summer break and stay up-to-date with school news, fun opportunities and back-to-school info! We always welcome parent submissions.

- Join our **online PTA discussion group** to share events, advice and schedule meet-ups. Go to <https://groups.io/g/PS295PTA> and scroll down to click on "+ Apply for Membership in This Group" (you will be asked for your name, your child's name & their grade for security)
- Sign-up to receive **emails from PS 295 and the PTA** (in English & Spanish) and be the first in the know. In the fall, this is where we send the Bulletin, school news & event info. Email vparentengagement@ps295.org to be added to the list. Please include your name, your child's name & their grade for security
- Like us on **Facebook** for pictures and reminders about events over the summer: <https://www.facebook.com/PS295/>
- Read the **Website** for forms, contact info and curriculum resources: <http://www.ps295.org>
- Relive memories and watch us on **YouTube**: <https://bit.ly/2ILiMY7>
- Follow us on **Instagram**: PTA: [@ps295pta](https://www.instagram.com/ps295pta), Drama: [@ps295drama](https://www.instagram.com/ps295drama), Visual Arts: [@ps295visualarts](https://www.instagram.com/ps295visualarts)
Email vparentengagement@ps295.org with any questions.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL is Wednesday, June 26 and it's a half-day. Dismissal is at 11:40 am. Lunch will be served. For those who want to join, many PS 295 families go to Riis Beach. Find us on the far left side, facing the ocean. Park to your immediate right and take the tunnel to the beach. Hope to see you there!

CHANGES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

Everyone knows that change can be difficult but it is inevitable in schools. A few changes that we will have next year-- Ms. Jackson will be taking a study sabbatical. Ms. Breen will be returning from a childcare leave. Mr. Wohlleb will be our Science cluster. Some of our faculty members have made a life changing choice and are retiring. Each of these special people, Nieves Veloz, paraprofessional, Chris Pacifico, school psychologist and Susan Weseen, library/yoga teacher, have devoted much time and energy to the students at PS 295. We are extremely grateful to each of them for all they have done while at PS 295. We will miss them dearly and wish them much happiness in their retirement.

FAREWELL TO MS. WESEEN

Please join us in wishing Ms. Susan Weseen, our School Librarian and Yoga teacher, the fondest of farewells. She is retiring at the end of this school year. Ms. Weseen joined PS 295 in 2000 as a parent. She and a group of other dedicated parents noticed a need at our school and started the school library from scratch. In 2004, she joined our staff as a full-time Librarian and continued in that role until 2015. As Librarian, she developed our school gardening program and built the garden (again from scratch) and started our PS 295 green market that ran for 5 years. She was always looking for ways to bring mindfulness and social emotional learning to our school and she ran our Seeds of Kindness cluster for 3 years. She has been a tremendous resource to our school—always noticing when kids are having a bad day and providing a calm, safe space for them. Through all of her efforts she has nurtured our children in ways that reach well beyond the academics. As a cluster teacher she was able to touch the lives of all of the children in the school with her kind and patient energy. She will be missed tremendously, but we wish her all of the best in her future endeavors



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SUMMER READING BOOK GIVEAWAY—Our annual summer reading book giveaway will be held Monday, June 24th. If you would like to help organize books or help on the day of the giveaway, please contact Katrina Motch at kmotch@gmail.com. We will need volunteers from 8:20-10:30 on June 24th. It is a super fun opportunity to help children find great books.

BOOK OF THE MONTH—June's book of the month is "The Have A Good Day Cafe." This story is about a family from Korea who recently immigrated to the United States. They have a food cart business. Every day they sell hot dogs, pizza, and soda. Business is slow until, the grandmother suggests that the family name their food cart "Have A Good Day Cafe" and sell traditional Korean foods. This story serves as a window into the experiences of immigrants in the USA. It invites readers to embrace their own culture & share it with others. This story can serve as a starting point for students to discuss their culture with one another. This book is a great resource for us to use to build on our discussions from the "We Are From" project.

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 and 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

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS ARE HERE—You should have received a supply list in your child's folder provided by teachers listing what they will need for their classroom the upcoming year. As in years past, we will partner with a vendor to facilitate ordering these supplies—Star School Supplies (the artist formerly known as The Mulee). Through Star, you can order a pre-packed box with all the supplies needed for your child, shipped directly to the classroom before the first day of school. **We have a deadline of July 7, 2019 to use this service.** Go to www.starschoolsupply.com/ and enter our school's code **0390** to see a list of supply kits by grade. You can even make a donation to the PTA, your child's teacher's Wish List Fund, or towards a kit for another student in your child's class.

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER! The PTA is able to use this as a fundraising opportunity where it receives back between 6-8% per kit. You do not need to use this portal to order your supplies, however. You will still get a list of supplies before the end of the year and can buy them anywhere you like any time before the first day of school next year. You may also see the supply lists by grade by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tina at christinehabib@yahoo.com.

FREE SUMMER MEALS

NYC School Food offers free breakfast and lunch during the summer recess—June 27th - August 30, 2019—for all children age 18 and under. The Summer Meals program is available at hundreds of public schools, community pools, public parks, libraries, and other locations around the city. No registration, documentation, or ID is required to receive a free breakfast or lunch meal. <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/summer-meals>

No Kid Hungry has access to information about tens of thousands of groups serving free meals nationwide as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program. If you have or know kids in need of breakfast and lunch this summer, simply text "FOOD" (or text COMIDA in Spanish) to 877877 and you'll receive a message with the closest location where they can get free summer meals. There's no paperwork to fill out, no income requirement to meet. They just feed the kids. It's really that simple. They serve kids 18 and under. As long as they can eat table food, they can eat with this program.

<https://www.nokidhungry.org/>



PS 295 PTA President's Report 2018-2019

Dear PS 295 Friends:

As the end of the school year 2018-2019 comes to a close we wanted to send out a letter to reflect on our time as PTA Co-presidents and highlight some of our successes for the year. We have said many times that the families are what makes PS 295 special and it is your contributions that make all of our events and efforts to enrich our children's education possible. We want to thank everyone who has contributed this year from buying cupcakes at Cupcake Friday to making food at a Fun Friday to chaperoning field trips to helping at the Teacher Appreciation Lunch and in so many more ways. All of your effort is what makes our PTA successful in meeting our goal of enriching the education of our children.

The PTA this year has worked to keep as many programs running at our school as possible. It was a challenging year for Art with Ms. Shen's sabbatical and we are delighted that she is returning for our next school year. We did manage to provide some Art classes and workshops to every grade with parent-led workshops and funded programs from BAC. We want to especially thank parents Tom Pnini and Molly Snyder-Fink and alumni parents Tamara Damon and Cathy Maguire for working to keep art alive in our school this year. Our monetary contribution to the school was able to ensure that we had science and music in every class year round.

We also funded our dance program and festival, monthly Bagel Bits, 4 Family Fun Fridays, Field Day T-shirts, the 5th grade graduation trip, after school intervention, Cool Culture passes for PreK and K families, lice checks, gardening, child care at conferences, and library author visits. Every class and cluster was provided with monies that they used for class parties, supplies, equipment and field trip fees. New initiatives for the year included childcare for conferences, bilingual morning meetings and supporting our diversity committee in their first Family Fun Friday event.

This school year was a very successful year for our PTA fundraising efforts and we anticipate being able to provide the same level of monetary support to our school next year. We had a record breaking fundraising year with almost all of our events making more than anticipated. In the fall our Halloween Dance got us off to a good start with a net profit of \$4,258 and we all got to enjoy a very fun Carnival. Thank you to our event leads Jacqui Daniel-Scherz and Jannelle Gellizeau. Book Fair netted \$2,081 thanks to our event lead Karen Smith. In the winter, Brooklyn Boogie Brunch kept the momentum going with a net profit of \$8,043. Thank you for a great day of music to our event leads Liz Ip and Liza Quinonez. Our Spring Fling has turned into a super successful fundraiser thanks to the efforts of our event leads Maria Fusilero and Ellen Cerniglia. This year we raised \$18,079. Touch-a-Truck continues to be our biggest fundraiser

and it too broke records and we were able to raise \$32,006. Many thanks to our event lead Jill Bloch (in her second year running the event.) Cupcake Fridays has turned into a powerhouse fundraiser and we have raised over \$5,360 from cupcake sales and concessions at Spring Arts and Halloween Dance. Thank you to our cupcake queens Ryan Goldberg, Shana Zidell and Alison Dorfman. This year we held two merchant bazaars thanks to new event lead Peter Mallo that raised \$723 and showcased all of the talent of our community. We also raised a lot of money in our direct appeal but fell short of our goal of \$20,000. Through all efforts and fundraising channels we managed to raise \$110,375.

We would like to wish a very fond farewell to our departing 5th grade families. Many of you have been with our school for over a decade and have helped us in so many ways with Halloween Dance sets, music acts, art donations, as library workers, costume designers, cupcake sellers and in ways too numerous to mention. You will be missed. All of your children and families have enriched our school tremendously.

We would also like to say farewell and thank you to our departing EC members. Departing members are Jasmin Castro (Treasurer for 2 years), Janelle Gellizeau (Secretary for 2 years) and Stefanie Albaeck (Secretary for 1 year.) We will be adding 2 new members to our EC— David Cordero (VP of Events), Jaymee's dad and Ms. Alejandro's husband; and Danielle Keeler (Secretary), Marcus and Averí's mom. We also have 5 continuing EC members - Rebecca Stein (VP of Communications), Ellen Cerniglia (New Parent Ambassador), Allie Rex (Treasurer), Katrina Motch (Co-President) and Maria Fusilero (Co-President).

We are still looking for a morning Secretary and have many events for next year without leads. We love to hear new voices on the EC. The PTA is an all volunteer organization and it requires a lot of work but the reward is without measure when you see the smiles on the kids faces at the dance festival or watch the diversity committees video at Family Fun Friday or match a kid to the perfect book at the Book Giveaway.

We wish you a very relaxing and enjoyable summer and we thank you for your support this year.

Katrina Motch and Maria Fusilero (Co-Presidents)