

Tara's Corner



Dear P.S. 183 Community,

As another wonderful year at PS 183 comes to a close, I am filled with tremendous pride at all our students have accomplished, how they have developed as learners and as individuals. I know they will find much success and happiness as they embark on their journeys of summer, a new grade, and for our fifth graders, as they journey on to Middle School. I know some of your children may not want to say goodbye to P.S. 183. They may be afraid to leave our nurturing, supportive environment for an untested future.

I understand these feelings for I, too, am beginning a new journey of my own, as I announced last month to the P.S. 183 community.

This is my final year as Principal of P.S. 183, and this is my farewell letter to you. I write with bittersweet emotion because serving as your principal for the past seven years has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling responsibilities of my professional life. I set my sights on high expectations and feel proud of our accomplishments. Like our students, I will take with me all that I have learned about myself and the extraordinary students, parents, and staff who make up our school. P.S. 183 will always be a part of who I am as an educator and as a person. For this, I am forever grateful.

As teachers and students wrap up the year's learning and studies with culminating celebrations, we have an opportunity to reflect and recognize all the hard work and growth our students have made—the math problem he or she grasped, the complex book they read and understood, the song they performed with gusto, the science experiment that surprised and delighted, the service project that supported those in need. Each event, building knowledge and confidence, encouraged and guided by teachers. Ask your child, "What is it you want to remember about this school year?"

Our fifth graders "Moving Up" ceremony last week was a celebration of this growth and the many accomplishments over their years at P.S. 183. As part of the ceremony and my ritual, I read to them their final "PS183 Read Aloud."

This year I selected, *The Almost Impossible Thing* by Basak Agaoglu. It's about believing in your dreams and having persistence. As they enter this

new chapter of their lives – the middle school chapter – there are many resonating experiences they will have to carry with them as they journey to this new part of their lives. All the experiences they've shared have contributed to the foundation laid down for our students and, as a result, they are better prepared for the challenges and world of possibilities that lie ahead.

As our students pack up their bags for sleep away camp, trips, overnights, and weekends at the beach, my hope is that the memories of P.S. 183 days and celebrations will be carried along with them, bringing inspiration along the way. From classroom learning celebrations to our strong PTA community- there are many memories made...Publishing parties, ice-skating night, block party, carnival, movie night, Frightenly-Fun Friday, Escape the School, math mornings, hatching baby chicks, talent show, book buddies, band & chorus, chess, book clubs, enrichment electives, art museum trips...and more!

I send my very best wishes to all our P.S. 183 families for a restful and restorative summer of simple pleasures and beautiful moments with your children. It has been an honor being a part of this remarkable community. I am confident that P.S. 183 will continue to teach, nurture, and inspire outstanding students for many years to come.

With thanks and appreciation,
Tara

Looking Forward (By Remembering a Great Year)



Kim Banks, Assistant Principal

Each school year brings continued traditions and a few exciting new ones. Some activities the entire school participates in and some activities are saved for a particular grade. These traditions and rituals help establish P.S. 183's school culture.

On a beautiful day in May, I had the chance to interview students in every grade to listen to them reflect on their year.

The question proposed, "What is special about your grade?" Below is a snippet of things students are saying about their 2016-2017 school year.

- Things to look forward to in pre-kindergarten... drawing many things including rainbows and butterflies, singing songs, playing marble run, reading stories, and doing stations.
- Things to look forward to in kindergarten... playing chess with David, Valentine's Day celebrations, Boosterthon, popsicle parties, silly hair day, games during math lessons, picnics with teddy bears, enrichment electives, playing with Maizy, and Go Noodle.
- Things to look forward to in first grade... writing lab reports like scientists, the 100th Day of School celebration, book clubs during reading time, learning addition and subtraction, making Serial boxes in writing, making masks and imaginary parts in art class, and field trips to the museum, fire station and police station.
- Things to look forward to in second grade... the many activities with the bird study, persuasive writing, losing more teeth, bird puppets in art, doing more experiments in science,

the bridge study, and chicks in the classroom.

- Things to look forward to in third grade ... studying fairytales, the rainforest study, taking state tests, track, chorus, using recorders, and writing about animals.
- Things to look forward to in fourth grade ... learning fractions and decimals, using computers more in the classroom, band, learning about the American Revolution, moving to the 5th floor, state tests, science 2x a week,, and writing essays.
- Things to look forward to in 5th grade... Greenkill, being the oldest in the school, NDI, walking home alone from school, rotating classrooms, band, being role models, the yearbook committee, going straight upstairs in the morning, and teachers giving you more responsibilities.

We look forward to watching students next year experience old and new traditions. Have a wonderful summer and see you in September!!

Kim



What to Expect When You're Expecting...a Kindergartener

Erin Timms, P.S. 183 Kindergarten Teacher

Your baby will be starting Kindergarten - wow! Those five years went by fast, didn't they?

Don't worry everything will be okay! Each child will enter Kindergarten with a unique set of skills, background knowledge, and some challenging areas. A Kindergarten teacher's job is to foster their stronger areas, continue growth in the not-so-strong ones, and help them develop their independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence.

Kindergarten is a very exciting year where your child will read books (all by themselves!), write stories, add, subtract, and solve word problems. They will do all this while playing, building, and exploring the world around them. They will become independent problem-solvers who are also able to work cooperatively and follow school expectations.

The big question is: will you get to see any of this happening? Yes. You will be invited into the classroom for reading and writing celebrations, highlighting the students' hard work during a particular unit of study, Math Mornings, holidays and special day celebrations, weekly Mystery Readers, and we are always happy to have someone come into the class to teach something or do a special activity.

Coming to Kindergarten also means coming to the "big school" - a very big, maybe scary, new place where they probably don't know anyone. They might be joining a sibling, but either way, it is a big change from pre-school, and for some children and parents it can be tough, so here are some tips:

- Separation - a clear goodbye is beneficial to both the uneasy child and uneasy parent. Let your child know you're leaving, and then leave quickly, assuring them that you will see them later.
- Talking about Kindergarten - while discussing and preparing for the change might help some children, others may feel anxious and find it difficult to think about anything else all summer. You know your child - if they are feeling nervous about the change, there is no need to focus on it so much right now.
- Independence - your child will be packing and unpacking their own backpack every day, putting their own work away, and generally being responsible for their own things and materials. Foster this independence and maybe even get a head start over the summer by giving them some daily jobs!

The main goal of kindergarten: to build a lifelong love of learning and school. It is going to be a special year to truly watch your child develop and shine. You will be amazed by the growth you see everyday.

They will become independent problem-solvers who are also able to work cooperatively and follow school expectations.



Waiting Is Not Easy



LuAnn Propper,
P.S. 183 Parent Coordinator

Dear Families,

Have you ever wondered what P.S.183 is like over the summer? Who is here? What is being done to the classrooms, the auditorium, and the cafeteria? What does it look like when all of the student artwork has been sent home? What about when the student's names and pictures have been taken off classroom doors, charts and prompts have also been taken down, books have been boxed up, blocks have been gathered up and furniture has been stacked away in a corner?

Despite all of these things the Main Office is still humming with activity. We are hard at work clearing up end of year business. Elizabeth, however, will have cleared her desk, put away her files and taken down and packed up all of her penguins. Suddenly all goes quiet, the front door is locked and the office waits.

The custodians, Tom, Jose, Charlie and Marlon will begin to give the building a thorough cleaning. Everything in classrooms and offices is moved out into the halls, windows are washed, floors are stripped of last year's wax, a new coat of wax is put down, light fixtures are dusted and if a classroom needs it, a new coat of paint is given. After all this the furniture is moved back into the classroom or office, stacked up, covered in plastic and the door is locked. The room waits.

Hallways are next. Wax is stripped, light fixtures are cleaned and wax is reapplied. Lights are turned off. The hallway waits.

In the past, Tara and I worked with the radio on, turning it down for the occasional phone call while she interviewed for empty positions and planned pretty much everything for the coming year. Tara would also reflect on what worked, what didn't and what could be changed to make something better. I worked on summer mailing and first day packets. E-mail always slowed to a crawl and there would be some days where the phone didn't even ring! We waited.

P.S. 183 over the summer is very quiet. There are no teacher voices in the classrooms. We do not hear Mr. D's trumpet in the music room. There is a hush over the Science Room and Technology has unplugged. There are no whistles during PE and no bells ringing at recess. Children's voices cannot be heard in the classrooms, the hallways or in the lunchroom. The building waits.

The building waits for you and your children, who every year breathe excitement and life into its rooms and halls. P.S. 183 without that, is just a building waiting. It needs parents doing potlucks, auctions, bake sales and block

parties. It needs children learning about birds, bridges, essay writing, math strategies and ecosystems. It needs teachers, parents and students working together to create meaningful service projects and celebrations. Without these things, it is just a building.

Tara will not be working with me this year. She will be walking into her own quiet, waiting school building in Westchester. However, here at 183, summer mailing will still happen in early August and first day packets will be ready to go home on the first day of school. Someone new and I will wait to see you and your families on Thursday, September 7th when the life comes back into our building.

Have a happy summer!

Warmly

LuAnn



Ready, Set, Read!

Jackie Perez and Christina Wilson, Children's Librarians, 67th Street Branch, New York Public Library

Summer reading is the best time of year at the 67th Street Library, New York Public Library! Kids can earn prizes by simply reading for 20 minutes a day! Some of our favorite reads for this summer include:

Grades PreK-1

1. The Colors of Us by Karen Katz (Learn about how people come in all different colors!)
2. Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein (Little red chick hilariously corrects Papa's bedtime stories.)
3. Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall (Overcoming differences and difficulties to find your truest self.)
4. 10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh (Learn about simple ways we can help our environment.)

Grades 2-3

1. We're All Wonders by R. J. Palacio (Find your wonder.)
2. Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford (Reflect on the injustices of the past and help preserve our current freedoms.)
3. The Great Pet Escape by Victoria Jamieson (Classroom critters attempt a jailbreak.)
4. Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau by Jennifer Berne (The famous oceanographer and champion of the seas.)

Grades 4-5

1. The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (How can a robot survive in the wild?)
2. One good thing about America by Ruth Freeman (An authentically told story of a young Congolese immigrant girl living in New England.)
3. Kid Beowulf: The Blood-Bound Oath by Alexis E. Fajardo (Twins uncover their past and seek their future in this epic tale.)
4. Coding Projects in Scratch by Jon Woodcock (Spend your summer building!)

PLEASE remember that you can save a lot of time and effort by putting summer reading books and school booklists on hold and get the books delivered to the your local library through nypl.org.

Sincerely,

Jackie Perez & Christina Wilson
Your Local Children's Librarians!



Oh, the Places You'll Go....

P.S. 183 is a magical place where children learn and grow. For many families, our time here goes by in a blink of an eye. This year we decided to have one Kindergartener, Tobin Bach and one 5th grader, Mikaela Gunn, interview each other to capture the perspectives of an incoming and outgoing student at P.S. 183...

Mikaela Gunn, 5th Grade:

1. My favorite class at PS 183 would be gym!! It is always fun to play games and do sports with your classmates. Mr. P always makes gym a fun class. I also enjoy writing class. My favorite writing assignment was the fantasy unit.
2. I will miss my friends and teachers the most. PS 183 is a wonderful community.
3. There are many cool things about being a 5th grader. It is kind of cool being the oldest kids in the school. It is cool to rotate classes and experience different teachers. I think all the 5th graders enjoyed NDI and our 2 nights away to Greenkill. Another cool thing about being a 5th grader is that you can walk to and from school by yourself, with your parent's permission of course!
4. My favorite teacher, hmmm.... Well, that's kinda hard to answer. It's like choosing between ice cream or pizza! Mr. P is always a favorite. Mr. D is pretty cool too. I have had so many great teachers: Ms. Hilary, Ms. Albert, Ms. Mary, Ms. Holly, Ms. Lauren and my current 5th grade teacher Ms. Rachel.
5. My favorite book is "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's library". This book is about kids that go on an adventure and get stuck inside a futuristic library. I liked this book a lot as it was full of adventure and suspense, and also because I could relate to the characters since they were my age.
6. My favorite song is from the musical Hamilton - "Guns and ships". I love this rap song that incorporates history in the lyrics. I know all the words and love to sing along. I have not seen this really popular musical yet. I really want to see it one day!
7. My advice to someone about to become a 5th grader is: Work hard, have fun, make new friends. Don't worry about middle school and enjoy all the privileges of becoming a 5th grader. It is a really fun year!

Tobin Bach, Kindergarten:

1. My best memory from kindergarten was the first day, because I was so excited that I was able to meet new friends.
2. My favorite hobby is hard to answer...I like a lot of things, Legos, reading, playing cars with my brother. I also really like technology class at school; we get to play fun games.
3. My favorite movie right now is Captain Underpants because I just saw it with my brother Hudson. It was funny.
4. When I am in 4th grade I want to play the trumpet because sometimes Mr.D plays silly songs with the trumpet and I want to do that too.
5. My favorite snack is Lollipops. I like orange and blue ones. My brother Hudson loves lollipops.
6. I think it was very easy to make friends at P.S. 183. When I met the kids in my class we all decided to just be friends.
7. I am sad that school is going to be over, but I am looking forward to starting camp and going to Maine to see my cousins and also visiting my friends who will be in the Hamptons.




Congratulations!

P.S. 183

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