



Kim Banks:
**Re-Organizing
 for Class
 Placement**
 Page 2



Nicole Kraft:
**"Escape the
 Room" Math
 Challenge**
 Page 10



Jackie Schector:
**Avoid the
 "Summer Slide"**
 Page 3

FEATURING: Boosterthon Fun Run, Ask the Expert: celebrity chef Gabrielle Hamilton's recipe ... *and much more!*

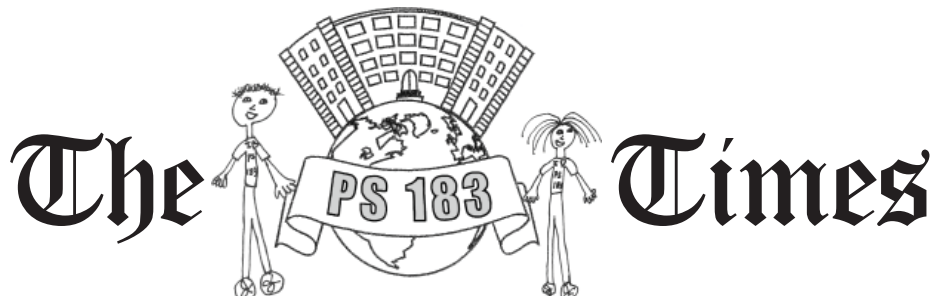
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My 5th Grade Trip to Greenkill

Maddy Goldstein (5-501)

From May 11th to May 13th, the fifth graders went on a trip to the Greenkill Outdoor Education Center. We had an amazing time and learned so much! It was an experience we will all remember as a highlight of our time at PS 183.

When we arrived at Greenkill after a 2.5 hour bus trip, we were assigned to dorm rooms. The girls were in one building and the boys were in two other buildings. Once we found our rooms, we headed out for lunch.

Meals at Greenkill were a learning experience. We learned that it's not good for the environment to waste food. Our leftovers were measured with the goal of having little or no food waste. The tables that had no food waste were recognized and celebrated.

On the first day, we met with our naturalists and learning groups and then played some fun and challenging team building games. In these games, we learned that working together is important and that communicating with other people is key. Later, we were given many options of things to do for choice time. (I did "Random Things With Kyle".)

Evening activities were a highlight. On the first night we had a talk about the Revolutionary War where we got to learn all about soldiers, weapons, how they dressed, etc. It was very cool especially when the speaker shot one of the weapons outside! After that, we had a night walk where we couldn't use our flashlights! We learned all about how our eyes adjust to seeing in the dark and how animals see in the dark. It was a lot of fun. After the long day, we headed back to our dorms and went to sleep.

After breakfast on the second day, we started on our all day hike! On our hike we stopped along the way and saw many awesome

Continued on page 2



Tara's Corner

Here we are at the end of another wonderful school year. The end of each school year reminds me of having a birthday. We fondly recall the experiences from this year and ask ourselves, "What do we wish for when we blow the candles out this year?"

I am in a unique position because each year I can reflect on our successes, collect feedback from the community, and start a new year with goals aimed to further enrich our school. As we wind down the school year, I gear up...organizing class placements, end of school year tasks, hiring as needed, and scheduling the budget to align to our plans. This time is precious for us to pause, reflect, and blow the candle for this year while making a wish for next.

During June, part of my reflection and planning is working with teachers and staff, and the PTA cabinet to set our calendar for events. It becomes evident that 183 is steeped in traditions and that our traditions hold strong values. Even as we change and try new events, our value of strong community is at the root of our decisions.

Continued on page 7

My 5th Grade Trip to Greenkill *continued from page 1*

things like waterfalls and wildlife. Later we got to our meeting spot where we cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and even smoreos! After eating, we learned about survival skills and GPS tracking. On the way back from our hike we used a GPS device to find our way to camp.

The evening activity on the second night was a campfire and then Birds of Prey show. The campfire was very fun - we learned camp cheers and some of our classmates dressed up in funny costumes. The Birds of Prey show was really exciting! We got to see all kinds of birds, including a Turkey Vulture.

On the last day we had a "Town Meeting." Each of our learning groups was given a topic - my group's topic was Education. We designed a school where students could study subjects like science, performing arts, sports, etc. Our group won the competition!

Besides the fun activities, the highlight of the trip for me was spending time with my friends and teachers. It was so much fun to get to know kids that had never been

in my class before, and I loved hanging out with my current and former teachers. We all learned so much and had a fantastic time! ☒



Re-organizing for Class Placements



Kim Banks, Assistant Principal

The month of June is a busy time for PS 183. There are end of year celebrations in and out of the classroom, days for teachers to complete clerical work, International Day, and the 5th grade Moving Up Ceremony. June is also a time for administrators, grade level teachers, and support staff to sit down and determine placement into classrooms

for the next school year. The goal for the classroom placement process is to create well-balanced heterogeneously grouped classrooms of students.

To determine the best placement for your child, we hold three rounds of reorganization meetings. Prior to these meetings, classroom teachers complete informational cards for each student. Information on these cards includes academic levels, services received, student strengths, areas of improvement, and peer relationships. We use these cards to form the initial groups of students. We can't take parent's requests for a specific teacher as there can be changes to the grades teachers teach, new hires, and understandably, out of fairness. However, we do consider the type of classroom and teaching strategies that will best suit children's needs.

During the second and third rounds of reorganization, we review classes of students to ensure there is diversity within each class and balance among the classes. When changes

need to be made, we again review the class groups to ensure there is balance- equitable number of boys and girls, academic and social needs, birthdates and independent/dependent workers. At the same time, we review the students who have been primarily placed in a class together to ensure that they are placed with students that they have worked well with in previous years and are separated from peers that have proven to not be a good match. Throughout the entire process we make placements, discuss, make changes, talk more, revise again and ongoing...! This is a challenging process that involves multiple variables and ultimately we must look at the big picture for the grade.

You can look forward to receiving your summer mailing in early August.

Have a splendid summer!!

Kim

Community Service at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church

Morgan and Dylan Small

On May 17th, 13 fifth graders from PS 183 were able to share the opportunity of working at a hospitality dinner where we were able to serve many who are not as fortunate as we are and needed a nice warm meal. It was a great opportunity to help our community and to work together. Some of our fellow volunteers had this to say:

Eli Levy spoke about his experience: "It was very nice to help those in need and we should all feel blessed that we live a happy and healthy life."

Jesse Bash shares the way he felt: "It was a great opportunity to help the needy."

About her involvement, Shira Hirsch said "I had the experience to help others and I felt really good seeing their faces when we gave them the food."

"I really liked helping serve and prepare the dinner. It made me feel good to help others that are less fortunate." said Sylvie Landman.

Elizabeth Saccone added, "It was great to do community service through school. I'm glad I got the opportunity to do it."

Finally, Elena Baldo stated, "It felt kind of bittersweet."

So this experience was a valuable learning lesson for all of us and we hope that future fifth graders will carry on this tradition.



Avoid the "Summer Slide"

Jacqueline Schector, Senior Children's Librarian
67th Street Branch, New York Public Library

Another school year has flown by! While the PS 183 community is getting ready for the beach and pool, we're gearing up for Summer Reading here at the library. Don't forget reading in your summer plans-- children who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress. In fact, according to the National Summer Learning Association, "All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer."

So what can we do to alleviate the "summer slide?" As your local librarian, it's my job to tell you to read with your child or encourage your older child to read independently. Read challenging new books, read old favorites, read newspapers, maps, comics...read everything! Then talk about what you've read. Make reading a part of your summer fun: have your child be the navigator and read the map at the Bronx Zoo, or make up a story at the dinner table.

The library is here to support your summer learning. As always, we have our Summer Reading Challenge. Our theme this year is Get in the Game and Read! Come in to sign up and get prizes for time spent reading. Visit us in person or our website nypl.org/summerreading. In addition to our books, we'll have games, activities, and programs available all summer. We have exciting science, music, LEGO, and art programs planned and we'd love your child to join us!

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The Reflection: A Year in Review



LuAnn Propper,
P.S. 183 Parent Coordinator

This year flew by, and it was an extraordinary one! Events feel as if they just happened but when you really stop and consider this school year, you realize how long ago so much of it really was. In no particular order...

We have ordered magazines and put on a scare for Family “Frighteningly” Fun Night, baked or bought (a lot!) for bake sales, smiled for a new company for picture day (and liked it), tried a new book fair company (and liked it!) learned about what was going on at a PTA meeting, filled out a survey, went to “Camp” with Bunk 183, had tea with Tara, sent another fifth grade to Greenkill, attended a concert, a publishing party, a field trip, an art show, a carnival, had real world writers visit, Escaped the Room, donated time, energy, ideas, money and so much more. We still have a lot of events left such as movie night, end of year publishing parties and celebrations but all too soon I will be saying goodbye to our fifth grade students who will be moving on to middle schools all over the city and to those families who will be leaving 183 this year. All of this brings us to the end of the school year.

This is my 16th end of the school year and though my older son Alan has been gone from 183 for eight years and my younger son Gene for three, they still look forward to coming back and volunteering at school events. This speaks a lot to the community that has been built here. The faces may change but the sense of belonging does not. I can't imagine a better place for my children to have attended elementary school and I can't imagine my desk parked anywhere else but in the main office with the people who make up the office staff. I look forward to my desk being covered with papers, envelopes, auction donations, stickies and whatever else is the activity of the week next year.

Thank you to everyone for your friendship, your support for our school, your hard work, and most importantly, your laughter. Have a peaceful and restful summer. Take time to mark each day because they all go so fast! To those families that are returning, I will see you back at school on Thursday, September 8th, and for those families that are moving on to middle school or heading for destinations elsewhere, be well and keep in touch.

LuAnn

Now onto the business:

- Report cards will be distributed on Friday, June 24th. If your child will be absent, you must provide your teacher with a 9 x 12 stamped, self-addressed manila envelope so that the report card can be mailed to you.
- Math Parent Handbooks must be returned before the end of school. (Please wait for the exact date from your child's teacher). The cost to replace lost handbooks is \$18.
- Summer mailing will be going out the first week in August. It will contain your child's class placement for the coming school year and important information about procedures such as drop-off, pick-up, play dates, dismissal, etc. Each grade has information that is specific to that grade so please store your letter in a safe place and refer to it before the first day of school.
- Medications left with Diana, our School Nurse, must be picked up during the last week of school. Anything left at school will be disposed of. No medication can be stored at school over summer break.

• A new feature has been added to NYC Schools Account (NYCSA), which will require all parents or guardians who use NYCSA to validate their email address in order to continue to view their child's data. Going forward, after creating your account, new users will receive an email from NYCSA asking you to click on a link to validate your email address. Upon signing in to already active NYC Schools Accounts, current users will be asked to confirm their email address by September 30, if they have not already done so. Beginning October 1, users who have not yet validated their email address will be unable to access their child's data in NYCSA until they do so. Please note that State Test Scores are accessed through NYCSA Accounts as well as report cards and attendance data, please open and/or activate your child's account before the end of school in June.

I can't imagine a better place for my children to have attended elementary school and I can't imagine my desk parked anywhere else but in the main office with the people who make up the office staff. I look forward to my desk being covered with papers, envelopes, auction donations, stickies and whatever else is the activity of the week next year.

Ask the Expert : What kind of cake does celebrity chef Gabrielle Hamilton make for her son Leone's birthday?

Patty Brahe, Editor P.S. 183 Times

When your fourth grader is classmates with the son of Gabrielle Hamilton, chef/owner of Prune, an award-winning restaurant downtown, and author of *Blood, Bones and Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef*, he is going to come home from birthday celebration day with very different standards.

"Mom, I can't stop thinking about that cake. It was sweet, but not too sweet. And maybe it had mocha. Can you text her for the recipe?," my son asked me.

Well, I thought, I could, but even if she did share it with me, could I — a baker who barely strays from Nestle Tollhouse recipe — actually make it? To my delight, Gabrielle sent it to me... with extra directions! Here's what she said:

It's a standard cocoa/oil cake. The other part was the ganache frosting, which is simply equal parts bittersweet chocolate (in our case, Callebaut 70%) and heavy cream. You



Gabrielle with Leone (left) and brother Marco, a 183 alum

chop up the chocolate, pour scalded cream over the chocolate and let sit, stir gently until smooth and completely blended. Then pour over each cake and stack the layers. the leftover ganache goes into a pastry bag with a star tip, put in the fridge to firm up, and then you pipe decoratively as desired with whatever frosting is left. Sounds, easy, right? Enjoy!

Cocoa Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup boiling water

Preparation

Combine dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Add eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla. Beat with electric mixer on medium speed for 2 minutes. Remove mixer; stir in boiling water by hand. Pour the thin batter into a greased and floured 13x9x2-inch baking pan or two greased and floured 9-inch layer cake pans or three greased and floured 8-inch layer cake pans. Bake at 350° for about 35 minutes for a rectangular cake or 30 to 35 minutes for layers.



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#Boosterthon #FunRun #RaisingMoneyFor183

Vicky Schattner

This year for the first time, PS 183 partnered with Boosterthon to introduce a new pledge-based fundraiser to our school. The program kicked off with a pep rally on May 24th and was followed by a series of “team huddles” focusing on this year’s theme, “Big World Recess.” During these gatherings, the students “met” student athletes from around the world and engaged in discussions promoting values such as good sportsmanship, humility, teamwork, and living with curiosity.

The main event, the “Fun Run,” took place on June 3rd in the gym. The classes arrived with excitement, marching behind their class banners. They were greeted by cheering parents, and for an hour, rooted on by classmates as they ran. Teachers, parents, and administrators worked as human lap markers during the run! Overall, the children of PS 183 received pledges from 36 different states and 19 different countries. Also, as a direct result of our children’s efforts, Boosterthon donated 47 pairs of shoes to people in need!

We hope a fun day was had by all!



Photo credit: Mark Rebe Bogulavsky



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Tara's Corner *continued from page 1*

Here are a favorite few that come to mind...

Each September, we hold potluck dinners to gather families together for mingling and making connections. This fall, we're trying something new and will host a street fair on 66th street on Sept. 25th as our welcome community event. We look forward to seeing everyone and welcoming the school year with an afternoon of gathering, games and delicious food.

Our International Day parade is a wonderful June morning festivity highlighting the cultural diversity that is part of our school fabric. From the student marchers representing countries all over the world, to the student-led presentations, it's a celebration of our community.

The Art Show is on exhibit this week and transforms our school building to a magnificent gallery showcasing our young artists. This annual event has become a much-anticipated 183 tradition. Sophia,

our art teacher, and our committed parent volunteers work very hard to display student work for our community to enjoy.

This past Friday and Saturday evening was our after-school play that was led by Diane Gallagher. Fourth and Fifth grade students join this after school opportunity and each year impress us with their stage abilities. This year students performed, "Into the Woods" and it was another fantastic performance.

Our new family-fun event, "Escape the School" took place on June 8th with 100 participants. This was an event hosted by the School Leadership Team intended on bringing the community together to engage in some math fun! Everyone worked in teams to solve puzzles to break out of classrooms and "escape the school." It was a fun-filled event that reinforced our values of providing community events and in this case, it connected to our school instructional math focus! This Thursday our fifth graders had

their moving-up ceremony and watched the beloved slideshow put together by dedicated parents that has become a tradition during the ceremony, along with hearing a final read aloud by me. In the evening they returned to school for their DJ dance party!

And, we will end our school year with concert week. Andre has put together a week of kindergarten through 2nd grade morning concerts along with evening Chorus and Band concerts. It's such a treat to end our school year together with these musical celebrations.

What do you dream about for this school, or, for your kids? At 183 we value our community and work hard to provide an amazing elementary education. We're not just growing skills...we're growing people. Here's to ending a wonderful year. We wish our families that are moving onto middle school, or new adventures, all the best. And, we look fondly ahead to the 2016-'17 School Year! ☒

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Words from Our PTA Presidents

Patricia Correge and Susan Small, PS 183 Co-Presidents

On behalf of the PTA, we want to thank all of our volunteers for giving of their time, interest and love to support the programs here at PS 183.

Our school would not be as magical for the children if it weren't for the involvement and commitment of our parents as well as the teachers and staff for their encouragement of the parents, which helps to form our strong community.

We remember our first days as a new parent here at our school - nervously bringing our children into their respective classrooms. Once there, they were greeted with smiles and love from their Kindergarten teachers. The teachers ensured us that the children would be fine and we left the classrooms feeling they were safe and secure. That feeling was further enhanced as we greeted other parents in the hallway, and as we attended the Kindergarten Meet and Greet where Tara, Jen and members of the Executive Board introduced themselves and made us feel right at home. Both of us

decided to become class parents, which is how we got to know one another and many other fabulous parents! As time went on, we each became involved in different aspects of the school, with Patricia's main focus being the Art Room and coordinating the beautiful Art Shows that PS 183 is known for.

It was the effort and the friendliness, stemming from Tara and Jen — branching out toward and from the staff and fellow parents that helped us become a part of this amazing community.

As we approach summer, we encourage all of our parents to think ahead to the fall. If you'll return to our school, we ask that you make time to be involved next year in our PTA and sign up to assist, and be involved in a committee. Just as important, we ask that you find new parents next fall and welcome them, so that they feel comfortable and a part of our tremendous community. Please encourage them to be involved and active, let new families know how the time and effort you put into

being active in our PTA community has helped you and your children.

If you're leaving us to attend a new school, (as Susie is) please remember us. Please know that we appreciate what you've given to our school. And when you enter your new school with your child, sign up for something, get involved, be a part of your new community. It helps both children and parents when the parents are active in the school.

Have a safe and healthy summer!

Personal Note from Susie-

I sincerely thank all whom I have worked with both directly and indirectly, these past 6 years. My family and I found PS 183 the perfect place for our children to start their academic life and explore the world around them. From Tara, Kim & Jen, to the amazing teachers our boys have had- to the staff and the fantastic families of 183, it's been an honor to call the school our home. We will never forget our time at the Robert Louis Stevenson School.

No time to make a photo album?
Send us ALL of your pictures, we'll do the rest!



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First-Ever Spring Festival @183

On Saturday May 7th, PS 183 held the first ever Spring Festival and were thrilled with what a fabulous day it was! We had incredible vendors selling everything from unique kids apparel, camp accessories, honey, pottery, handmade soaps to handmade granola! Some very exciting new brand launches such as Snap't (kids accessories), Rose and Rex (toys), and Upper Sweet Side (cakes & cupcakes) were there featuring their amazing new products. It was wonderful to have our very own PS 183 moms Patty Brahe with her stationery line P's of Paper, Nikki Barker's Victory Martial Arts Studio as well as the first trunk show for Diamonds Doing Good, fine jewelry by Cara Gelfand.

We aimed to not only make this a unique shopping experience but super fun day for the kids as well! We had an array of activities beginning at noon with a phenomenal magic show followed by an incredible dance performance. All day long the Playroom NYC and Gate Hill Day Camp hosted Mother's Day gift making crafts, while high school volunteers applied glitter tattoos and

TreatHouse had the kids making their own treats!

A fun kid-run lemonade stand kept us quenched thanks to the Girl Scouts and all the PS 183 kids who volunteered to run this! Lucky raffle winners got to take home amazing packaged baskets thanks to many local establishments including Fratelli, Eddie's Haircut, Milk and Cookies and Camprageous to name a few.

After months of planning to create a fun atmosphere with relevant vendors and amazing kids activities we were so happy with the turnout and amazing success this event yielded as a fundraiser! The biggest thank you ever to everyone who volunteered to make this happen, we absolutely could not have done it without you, especially chairs Cara Gelfand and Tanya Samoylova! Rest up, we are already planning for next year!



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- Students are made aware of the need for social justice and social action and their responsibility to the various communities they belong to.



Classes are forming now and meet on Sunday mornings beginning in September.
For more information or to register, email rabbi@rabbigarykatz.com or call 201-410-2629.

Rabbi Gary Katz • rabbigarykatz.com

"Escape the Room" Math Challenge!



Nicole Kraft with her daughter Caitlyn (3-408)



On June 8th, families came together to enjoy our newest family event sponsored by SLT. Each team worked together to solve clues and puzzles to "break out of the school." It was a fun-filled night with parents enjoying the puzzles as much as the students! If you missed it this year, please join us next year for what we hope to become an annual event to remind us how fun math can be!!



Real World Writer's Day

PS 183 hosted its third annual Real World Writer's Day on Friday, May 20th and it was a great success!

We had a wonderful mix of new and returning guest presenters visit 183 classrooms to share their passions. From novelists, editors and magazine journalists to comic book authors and songwriters, they helped 183 students to think of writing in new and exciting ways and open their minds to careers in writing. The students were excited, engaged and asked some really great questions and we look forward to continuing this event next year!



International Day



Carnival at Victorian Gardens



Family Marketplace

183 Parents!

Do you have a business or service you'd like to promote? You can advertise here and reach the whole 183 community for only \$20.


The 183 Times is published three times a year and distributed school wide and made available on the school website. Promote your business or service with a business card sized advertisement and 100% of the proceeds will go toward PS 183's fundraising efforts.

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