

“News at 9”: PS9’s School & Community News - 2.6.2012

In School

ARIS Parent Link: For EVERY PS9 Parent!

[ARIS Parent Link](#) is a secure location, where you can easily find information regarding a student’s attendance, periodic assessments and New York State test results, including Regents exams. ARIS Parent Link is also a great resource to help you identify what types of learning activities you can do at home with your child to improve his or her achievement. For instructions on how to log in or questions about ARIS contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob, our Parent Coordinator in room 112. We cannot provide student information by phone or email. Please log onto www.ARISParentLink.org to get started!

Art Calendar on Sale!

Please support our school and Art in Education!

Get a copy of our beautiful PS9 Calendar for 2012, full of our children's original artwork. You may pick up a copy from Charmaine Jacob, room 112 or our PTO office now at a new lower cost of \$105!

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Benefit House Concert – This Saturday February 11!

We are confirmed with featured artist/PS9 parent Pyeng Threadgill <http://www.pyeng.com>, who will perform after the Jen Chapin Trio <http://www.jenchapin.com> at the next PS9 Benefit House Concert on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 6 – 9 pm. This concert will have a Valentine theme! World-class music of love, dinner, drinks, dessert and child care. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/216550> Visit, Jen, Stephan and their Trio at <http://www.jenchapin.com>

Dual Language Admissions for 2012-2013

Our Dual Language admissions process has begun. Applications and admissions information have been uploaded onto our school’s website. Applications for both Spanish and English students (in English and Español) are now available in our main office. Our first open house will be held on Friday, February 17, at 9:30am. On Friday, March 9, at 9:30am we will host our final open house. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 9 at 3:00pm. Visit our website at <http://www.ps9brooklyn.org/about-ps-9/dual-language/> for information.

Enrichment Showcase

We are happy to announce that our winter enrichment cycle is coming to an end. Our school-wide showcase event is scheduled for the week of February 13 and will be open for the entire week. Please make sure to stop by and take a look at the wonderful work that our children and staff have done by viewing



Games for Gear –PS9 is in the race! Final Game this Weekend!

Help us win \$500 for our school. As of today PS9 is in 5th place to receive the \$500 award, but things can turn if we don't have attendees for the FINAL game this Sunday. Please pick up tickets with Laura or any PTO officer, room 132.

Dear Games for Gear participants:

This Sunday is the last chance for your school to win \$500. The attendance contest is still wide open; only the top two spots are taken so there are still four spots in play.

Plus, a doubleheader counts for DOUBLE!

February 12 2:00 pm Women's Squad vs. St. Francis, Brooklyn
4:30 pm Men's squad vs. St. Francis, Brooklyn

Grant Committee Update

Thanks to our grant committee who have secured many grants for our school this year. Recent grant awards include: Lowes Toolbox for Education (grant for an outdoor classroom); Walmart Local community contribution grant (materials for the dual language program); Scholastic Learning Leaders grant (books for the library); Ms. Codrington was awarded the Toshiba America Foundation grant for K-5 teachers (materials for the trout project). We expect many more to come! Great work team!

InsideSchools.Org Visit

Insideschools.org will be touring our school for a rating review on Wednesday, February 15, from 9:30am to 12:30 pm. Insideschools.org is a nonprofit organization founded by Advocates for Children in 2002 that is dedicated to providing the best independent information about New York City's public schools. It is a forum for journalists, public school parents and advocates to inform the public and illustrate more about our school than just test scores! We are proud and more than ready to welcome them.

Kindergarten Intake for PS9 Students

If your child is currently enrolled in our Pre-K program at PS9, you will receive a pink-colored Intake Application form. This form is due to Mr. Williams or Ms. Coyle in our main office by Friday, March 2, 3:00pm. You do NOT have to bring any of the required documentation that is listed on page 2 of the form, UNLESS any of your (or your child's) personal information has changed since registering for school.

Kindergarten Admissions for September 2012

Intake applications are available in our main office. The kindergarten admissions process is school-based, but there is a standard timeline for all schools and there are citywide guidelines for eligibility and admissions priorities. ***ALL PS9 families MUST submit an application for kindergarten admission, even if they are applying to PS9 as their zoned school.*** Important dates in the kindergarten admissions process for the 2012–2013 school year can be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/CalendarandEvents/default.htm>

- **January 9 – March 2, 2012:** Kindergarten admissions period.
 - **March 19 – March 23, 2012:** Assignment notification period.
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- **March 26 – April 20, 2012:** Pre-registration period.

Admissions Priorities

- Zoned schools will give priority to students who live in that zone, as they have in the past. Schools will make assignments according to the following priorities, listed from highest to lowest:
- Zoned students with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in 2012-2013;
- All other zoned students;
- Students residing in the school's district but outside the school's zone, with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in 2012-2013;
- Students residing outside of the school's district with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in 2012-2013;
- All other students residing in the school's district but outside the school's zone;
- All other students.

Mid-Winter Recess Practice Work

Ms. D'Avilar will provide take-home ELA and Math practice packets for all students in grades 3, 4 and 5 during the February break. Packets will be distributed to students on Friday, February 17.

Parent Center: Basic Computer Skills Class for Adults

Thanks to Ivana for her excellent instruction and care while training our families in computer and internet basics! Thanks to those parents who took advantage of this opportunity and created email accounts and logged into their children's ARIS account for the first time!

** The PS9 Parent Center is OPEN and has PCs available for all parents and family members of PS9 students to use for school-related purposes. If you wish to use one of the PCs, please sign in and ask for a key at the main office**

Pre-Kindergarten Admissions for 2012-2013

Public School Universal Pre-Kindergarten Programs: If you are interested in sending your child to a public school pre-kindergarten program, you must submit an application through the centralized admissions process in order to gain admission for September 2012. The 2012-13 pre-kindergarten admissions process begins on March 5. Pre-k directories and applications will be available in early March. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>

“Promotion in Doubt” Letters

Parents of students in Kindergarten through grade 5 who have been identified as being in jeopardy of meeting the mid-year benchmarks for promotion to the next grade in the fall of 2012 will receive “Promotion in Doubt” letters this week. These letters will be mailed home and also backpacked with students. Parents should contact their child's teacher to make an appointment if they wish to discuss specific results for their child. For information on the Chancellor's promotion policy, visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/default.htm>

PTO Meeting Tonight

Join our PTO tonight for their February monthly meeting where lots of school updates and upcoming events will be discussed.

“Real Men Read” Planning Meetings

Calling all men! You are invited to the first set of planning meetings for our annual June event. Join Mr. Williams, Mr. Lynch, Ms Durham and Ms Shaw-Taylor as we map out this year’s plans and schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 at 5:45pm in room 124.

Registration

Registration for zoned students is ongoing daily from 9am to 12pm. Information about what to bring can be [downloaded here>>](#)

Saturday Academy

We are encouraging ALL parents of students in grades 3, 4 and 5 to make sure that children attend weekly Saturday School. These sessions will be geared towards ELA and Math assistance in preparation for April 2012 NYS exams.

Visiting School: Valid NYS Photo Identification Card Needed!

All parents, caregivers, family members and visitors to our school who enter the campus using the main doors on Underhill Avenue, must present a valid New York State Photo ID Card to the School Safety Agent and sign the log book. This regulation also applies to persons dropping off and picking up in the early childhood classrooms; adults wishing to visit other parts of the school during those times MUST also exit the building and use the main entrance to sign in before visiting other areas. Thank you for your cooperation and ensuring that our school community is safeguarded!

In Our Community

Activitytree@activitytree.com

Can you believe over 30% of children are overweight or obese? ActivityTree.com would like to help your families get their kids active. Our Kids Activity Finder Widget offers parents a handy way to find information on thousands of local kid’s activity providers. And, it’s FREE!

Parents simply enter their zip code and click search to find local kids activities close to home. They can also enter to win a scholarship that can make it more affordable to get active.

You can see what it looks like here: <http://activitytree.com/page/company/widget>.

BCAP Summer Camp 2012

BROOKLYN CULTURAL ADVENTURES PROGRAM SUMMER CAMP

This summer, come explore world cultures at Brooklyn Children’s Museum and become a plant scientist at Brooklyn Botanic Garden! Dissect an owl pellet at Prospect Park Zoo, scavenger hunt your way through the breathtaking book stacks of Brooklyn Public Library, see a real-life mummy at Brooklyn Museum, and discover the wonderful wildlife of Prospect Park!

<http://www.prospectpark.org/education/bcap>

Black History Month at Brooklyn Children's Museum

<http://www.brooklynkids.org/index.php/kidsandfamily/kidsandfamilycalendarofevents>

Circle of Love

“Circle of Love”: Dads & Daughters Ball! FEBRUARY 11, at 5:30pm. Be a debutante on your date with Dad (or Mom)!

Enjoy an evening of dance led by Curious George, refreshments by Dunkin' Donuts®, Valentine's activities, DJ MITCH from WBLS 107.5 FM radio and dance instructor! Complete with corsage, Valentine's Card, and keepsake photo, this is an event you won't want to miss!

Supported in part Kids Club THIRTEEN, WBLS 107.5FM and Dunkin' Donuts® (Eastern Parkway & Nostrand Avenue). Tickets on sale now! Separate admission ticket required, please visit www.brooklynkids.org for tickets and more information.

Get Your Tax Refund

It's Tax Time. Go Get Your Refund!

You have several free or low-cost tax filing options from which to choose:

Annual income \$57,000 or less

Annual income \$50,000 or less (with children) or \$18,000 or less (no children)

Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site where a certified volunteer will prepare your taxes for free.

Annual income \$41,000 or less (with children) or \$31,000 or less (no children)

Turn in the City's [coupon](#) at a participating H&R Block where a tax professional will prepare your taxes for \$29.

The City's partners have agreed not to offer [Refund Anticipation Loans](#) (RALs) or other loans.

Refund Fast Facts

With the [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#), you could be eligible for up to \$7,600.

With the [New York City Child Care Tax Credit](#), working families with children 3 years old and younger could be eligible for up to \$1,733.

Special Tax Time Savings Opportunity

At select VITA sites, you could be eligible to open a [SaveUSA account](#) when you file your taxes. Save at least \$200 of your refund for a year and earn 50¢ for every \$1 you save. Save \$1,000 for the maximum \$500 match.

IRS E-file: Free

CALENDAR YEAR 2012 TAX RETURN PREPARATION AND *E-FILE* AT THE “REVELATION VITA”: 307 ROCKAWAY AVE., BKLYN, NY

For information call Barbara at 718-974-0024 or e-mail at revelation307@optimum.net

You must bring the following items:

--A copy of your 2010 tax return

--Social Security Cards for Dependent(s)

--Child Care Information (caregiver's name SSN or EIN/amounts paid for 2011)

--If filing joint (both spouses must be present)

--For Direct Deposit (you must have proof of account and bank routing number, acceptable proof is a voided check, or information from your 2010 tax return)

Sandra D'Avilar, *Principal*
Deborah Smith, *Assistant Principal*

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Brooklyn, NY 11238
Tel: (718) 638-3260
Fax: (718) 622-2961
www.ps9brooklyn.org



Teunis G. Bergen School

--Picture Identification, such as a driver's license; or non drivers ID

NikosKids

Come join the fun! Join Nikolai Moderbacher for "3 Tuesday Afternoon Concerts" starting February 14 (2/21, & 2/28) always at 4pm at Soda Bar; 629 Vanderbilt Ave. \$10 suggested donation "Funky Family Folk at its best! Bring your own instrument.

NYS Senator Adams: Office Relocation

Senator Adams' office has relocated to 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor (corner of Montgomery St) Brooklyn, NY 11225. Phone 718.284.4700. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, February 6, 2012. If you require assistance prior to February 6, please call their Albany office at 518.455.2431.

Contacts:

Charmaine Derrell-Jacob: 718.638.3260X1121 / 34.563.5324 / E-mail: cderrell@schools.nyc.gov
PTO: ptops9@gmail.com

Links:

Fan the PS 9 PTO on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/PS-9-PTA-Brooklyn-NY/152557378100856>

Notify NYC: <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/>

NYCDOE Parents & Families Web Page: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ParentsFamilies/default.htm>

NYCDOE School Year Calendar 2011-2012:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/Additional+Information+11-12.htm>

NYC.Gov: http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/?front_door=true

PS 9 Family Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ps9family>

PS 9 Website: www.ps9brooklyn.org

Prospect Heights Patch: <http://link.patch.com/view/4xnq.db/b231b394>PTO blog:

<http://ps9pta.blogspot.com>

School Meals Breakfast & Lunch Menus: <http://www.opt-osfns.org/osfns/default.aspx>

School Activity Calendar: [Click here for January's Calendar >>](#)