

PS9-News at 9

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2018

Asylum Seekers Toothbrush Drive at PS9

More than 6,000 asylum seekers from Central America are gathered at the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana and other locations. More are arriving all the time. Many of them are families with children seeking to escape political and economic violence.

Some of our elected officials in Washington have been scapegoating these refugees, who have every right under international law to seek asylum and a better future for their children. They may have to wait many months or longer to have their cases heard with no guarantee that they can enter the U.S.

The families stuck at the border are living in desperate conditions. Many supplies are needed, and fortunately, people in the Southwest and elsewhere are organizing regular trips to bring donations to those in need. Recently one of our PS9 parents participated in a solidarity car caravan from Los Angeles to Tijuana delivering aid donated by the community. When he returned home, his 4th grade student asked, "How can the kids at my school help?"

WE ARE SETTING UP A TOOTHBRUSH DRIVE from now through December 21. This is an urgently needed item that is often overlooked. It's also easy to ship across country.

Bring a new children's or adult toothbrush (not battery operated please) and put it in the donation box in PS9's main office. This is a small, inexpensive but very important way of showing our love and solidarity in the spirit of diversity that is our PS9 family.

We will ship the collected toothbrushes to aid organizers in Los Angeles who will take the aid and distribute it directly to families in need on behalf of the PS9 family.

Thanks to grade 4 student Dru for caring enough to ask her dad how she and her fellow students could help. Thanks to her dad Gregory for caring so passionately and following up!

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Backpacks & Binoculars Afterschool Adventures Coming to PS9!

We are happy to announce that PS9 will host a 4th school-based afterschool program beginning Wednesday, January 2, 2019! Please visit backpacksandbinoculars.com for program information and a sample schedule. Look for the B&B staff as they flyer at arrival and dismissal times in the upcoming weeks. Their program has not yet been confirmed for Pre-K students; stay tuned as they await approval.

Cast Party

The cast members of PS9's Nutcracker Ballet are invited to a Thank You pajama party on Friday, December 21, 2018, 12:00-2:30 p.m. in our school's Gymnasium. This is a Red Carpet affair! Contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob at Cderrell@schools.nyc.gov, or 718.638.3260 X10190 with questions.

Coat Drive

Our annual coat drive will be held in conjunction with New York Cares. We will collect new or gently used, CLEAN COATS ONLY (we do not have the capacity to collect other winter items that NY Cares does not collect), until Friday, December 21. The collection box will be located in the school's main lobby.

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Games 4 Gear (G4G) & LIU Basketball 2018-19

To view Games 4 Gear game schedule visit:

<http://www.ps9brooklyn.org/news/2018/11/liu-basketball-games-4-gear-program/>

Please note: All games, with the exception of Friday December 21, 12:00noon, will be played at the Steinberg Wellness Center located at 161 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. December 21 will be played at Barclay's center.

Contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob, our Parent Coordinator at 718.638.3260 X1090 or cderrell@schools.nyc.gov to get free game tickets!

Gifted & Talented Testing

Students in Kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 will be scheduled for in-house Gifted & Talented testing from January 3rd to January 18th. Parents will be notified in writing of their child's appointment day and time ahead of the test. The test will be administered during the school day. You may contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob at cderrell@schools.nyc.gov, 718.638.3260 X1090 with questions.

Grade 5 Senior News

A 4-page packet with information about the senior trip, keepsake package and June 2019 events will be backpacked with students on Friday and emailed to parents. Please read the entire package carefully and contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob at cderrel@schools.nyc.gov, or Carol Hernandez at Csheldrakeherna@schools.nyc.gov with questions.

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Immunization Needed Urgently

If your child is missing REQUIRED immunization, please be informed that they are not in compliance with school immunization requirements and PS9 is now required to exclude such students.

Parents of children who do not have a physician may call 311 for assistance with finding a provider or they can view a list of health centers found at: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>.

We are calling parents of each child who appears out of compliance. Please contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob at 718.638.3260 X 1090, or cderrel@schools.nyc.gov, or Carol Hernandez at 718.638.3260 X 1302, or Csheldrakeherna@schools.nyc.gov if you know that your child's immunization must be updated.

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Kindergarten Application: Apply by Monday January 14!

Each pre-k student at PS9 must have an application completed in order to get a seat in PS9's, or any other, Kindergarten program!

If you live in New York City and your child was born in 2014, apply to kindergarten by January 14, 2019.

Submit your child's application one of three ways:

1. Online with MySchools(Open external link), <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/>
2. In person at a Family Welcome Center
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers>
3. By phone at 718-935-2009

Learn more on our Kindergarten page: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/kindergarten>

Kindergarten Directories were delivered to all pre-k classrooms in October. You may also view the directory online at:

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

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PACC Afterschool Program Update

Good news! PACC has returned to their normal schedule of program activities, but please note they will not yet be able to accommodate Pre-K students, as there is a second level of approval for Pre-K. Updates will be provided in the coming weeks.

That said, "Homework Time" has been restored and the coordination of the 10-Week Winter session of Specialized Workshops has begun, with classes scheduled to begin the week of January 14th. An online registration and class listing will be published by the end of this week.

We want to again express our gratitude for the understanding and the supportive outreach and offers of assistance from many families during the interruption of programming.

School Lunch for Free – Help PS9 Get Funding!

Please stop at our School Lunch Form station tomorrow to complete your form online!

VERY IMPORTANT! We need to get enough funding for our school meals! EACH family MUST complete a form today! Paper forms are available in our school's main office. Apply online at: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>

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Thank You & Happy Holidays!

For all that you've done for the students, staff and fellow parents of PS9, we thank you! For all that you've given through your donations of time, money, coats, food, sharing, volunteering and chaperoning, we thank you! We wish a joyous season of peace, love and renewal! Happy Holidays and a bright and prosperous New Year!

Ugly Sweater and Pajama Day

Wear your "ugly sweater" or your comfy pajamas and join us for a fun and comfortable day at PS9 on Friday, December 21. Check with class teachers or class parents for information about fun happenings that day.

Violin Caroling

The Noel Pointer string students will "carol" schoolwide on Thursday, December 20th, presenting music from Christmas and other holidays around the world.

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In Our Community

Bee Tutored

As the Winter semester begins, many 7th grade families may start to consider preparing for the Specialized High School Admission Test (SHSAT), which current 7th graders will take in October of their 8th grade year.

Bee Tutored is offering the following full length Mock Exams and Small Group Prep Courses in convenient Manhattan and Brooklyn locations. Bee Tutored specializes in SHSAT prep - we have prepped students since 2008 and have provided prep courses at top NYC schools. Space is limited and filled on a first come first served basis.

Interested in private 1:1 sessions or tailored small group options? Contact us directly.

www.beetutored.com

917-482-4880

learn@beetutored.com

Brooklyn Acting Lab (See the flyer attached to this week's news:)

At Brooklyn Acting Lab, our mission is to create innovative theatrical works that reflect our diverse global community and to nurture new talent by providing comprehensive arts training for children and adults. Through partnering with schools and community-based organizations, we provide arts-in-education programming, performances, and events.

We strongly believe that our programming is more enriching and equitable for all when it coalesces with Brooklyn's diverse makeup. This diverse, inclusive, and integrated student body is fundamental in developing enriching ensembles, for both our performing arts curriculum and our students' long-term educational and social emotional growth. As we celebrate our vibrant community, we strive to cultivate ensembles that nurture connection, belonging, and value for all.

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Contacts:

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Links:

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

Community Education Council for District 13: <http://cec13.org/>

Community School District 13: 718.634.3284

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

NYCDOE: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/home>

NYCDOE Enrollment Division Contact: 718.935.2009 or ES_enrollment@schools.nyc.gov

NYC Government: Call 311 or website: <http://www.nyc.gov>

NYC Office of Emergency Management:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/home/home.shtml>

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

PS 9 Website: www.ps9brooklyn.org

Prospect Heights Patch <http://prospectheights.patch.com/>

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