Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We would like to thank you for all of your warm wishes. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and a restful Winter Recess.
The start of a new year brings time to reflect on the past and begin to consider what can be. During this time many set “New Year’s Resolutions” or goals that they would like to accomplish over a certain period of time. Some are successful, while others eventually fall by the way side. Either way, taking time to set goals and make a plan to achieve those goals are worthwhile endeavors.

At P.S. 127, we are constantly learning new practices, using student achievement data to make decisions about instruction, collaborating with each other to individualize what is needed for each child, and setting goals for future work.

As a school community, our ultimate goal is to increase achievement for all of our students. By proudly working together, we will continue to strive and ensure all of our students are excelling in their learning.

We are excited about the valuable opportunities that lie ahead in the New Year. The Saturday English Language Learner and Newcomer Academy will begin this month and run until May. We also look forward to programs such as Midori & Friends After-school Chorus and “Jazz For Young People” from Lincoln Center.

All families are encouraged to be actively involved in their children’s education by communicating with school staff on a regular basis to support student learning and build a valuable partnership that is so important to student academic success. We would like to remind you that each Tuesday afternoon from 2:40-3:15 pm is dedicated to parent communication. This is one of the times set aside for you to make appointments, or to call your child’s teacher. If you need any assistance with this, please reach out to your child’s teacher or our parent coordinator, Mrs. Rosann Vento.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Again, we wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy 2019!

Happy New Year to all. The second part of the school year is off to a very exciting start. There are many events on the calendar. Please make sure to check them each month so that you and your child do not miss out on any of the events.
**GRADE NEWS**

**Kindergarten**
Happy New Year! The wind is blowing colder, time to bundle up. Winter is on its way! Kindergarten students will discuss what can be learned from the pictures, and how pictures support the text or help define the unknown words in reading. In Writing, we will continue to write descriptive sentences using objects. In Math, we will be concentrated on learning subtraction. We will learn how to use numbers, symbols, and drawings to help us solve subtraction word problems.

**First Grade**
Welcome back! In the month of January, first graders will be focusing on understanding place value, counting by 1’s and 10’s to reach 120 and comparing two digit numbers in our Go Math! program. In reading, students will be reviewing how to sequence story events by using transition words, cause and effect relationships, comparing and contrasting story characters, and how to draw conclusions while reading. In writing, first graders will be writing to inform.

**Second Grade**
Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a happy and restful winter vacation. Second graders will continue their learning adventures as the new year begins. In our Journeys lessons we will be exploring reading skills such as analyzing text and graphic features. Our Go Math lessons will find us practicing 2-digit subtraction and regrouping. We are working hard on our nonfiction animal essays and cannot wait to publish and share them with our classmates and teachers. A new year is here, and we’re giving a cheer! 2019 will be bright and we’re starting the year off right!

**Third Grade**
Happy New Year to all our families!!! In math we will continue with multiplication and division strategies to solve word problems and equations. In Writer’s Workshop the students are working on an opinion writing piece. In reading we continue to work on stamina and focus on Cause and Effect and Text and Graphic Features. We continue with our Africa study in Social studies, and our focus is on Egypt. We look forward to seeing our family members and friends in the community on Career Day during College Awareness week.

**3/4/5** Welcome back, I hope you had a wonderful and restful Winter Break. The students in class 3/4/5-206 continue to strive for their goals. We will be continuing Unit 2 in Journeys. Our reading skills will include Cause and Effect, Understanding Characters, Main Idea and Details, and Author’s Purpose. We will also be starting Chapter 5 in math. Our skills will be understanding multiplication facts, using multiples and patterns, and multiplying decimals. I encourage you to practice multiplication and division facts with your children daily.

**4th Grade ELA**
Happy New Year to all of our students and families! We hope that you had a restful break and enjoyed time with friends and family. We will continue reading wonderful stories in Unit 2 this month. Our next two stories are exciting pieces of realistic fiction.

**4th Grade Math**
Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a restful Holiday Break. During January, we will be transitioning into the Volume 2 Go Math workbook and the Volume 1 book will be sent home. This marks the beginning of the critical area: Fractions and Decimals. *Please continue to work on the multiplication tables every night.*

**5th Grade ELA**
Happy and Healthy New Year to all! We are concluding our Novel study “Tuck Everlasting” and we have completed many fun activities that built our reading skills and comprehension. Also, we have begun, and are finishing our STEAM Project in reading that relates to our Novel Study, and we made connections to the book.

**5th Grade Math**
January, a time for resolutions, new beginnings and fractions! I hope everyone had a great winter break. We will be working with fractions for the next two months. Please review the lessons with your child nightly. Happy New Year.

**5th Grade SS/Writing**
Happy New Year! January will be filled with European exploration and we will begin our persuasive essays on whether Christopher Columbus was a hero or a villain.
CLUSTER NEWS

Art
K-2 are exploring with the style of pointillism. Third grade will explore with the media of graphite pencils to create a realistic self-portrait. Fourth grade will explore with the media of oil pastels to create art in the style of fauvism. Fifth grade will create action figures of dancers which will be inspired by artist Edgar Degas.

Science
Happy New Year!!! We are looking forward to an exciting year in Science class. The New Year is a great time to reset and regroup. Please make sure that students are coming to class prepared with all of their supplies including enough sharpened pencils for the day. All the best in the year ahead!!!

Physical Education
Grades K-3: All lower grades are learning the basic fundamental skills of Volleyball. The children love to learn how to bump and set the ball over the net. We even get competitive and play who can keep the ball off the ground the longest “Keep it up in the air”. They will show teamwork and enhance their communication skills during these team building exercises. After practicing a few drills we will practice what we have learned in our various volleyball stations. At the end of this unit we will have Volleyball themed stations for implementing these various skills and have fun! Grades 4-5: Fourth and Fifth grade will continue to be tested in our next area for fitness gram. We will be working on strengthening our volleyball skills. During some of our drills we will be playing different roles such as coaches and captains to learn responsibilities and giving our peers positive feedback. At the end of the Volleyball unit students will display their volleyball skills in our themed stations (which will vary in levels). The culminating event for our upper grades will be a volleyball game held in the MPR.

Dance
Hello, I hope you had a happy new year and a refreshing break with your family and friends. In dance class, we are learning how to make pathways with our bodies. We are continuing to explore our movement maps using locomotive skills, pathways, levels and dance moves. We are also practicing our choreography skills as a group as well. Thank you!

ENL
Happy New Year! We hope all our students, their families and friends had a wonderful and restful Winter Break! The New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) will be held April and May 2017. We are beginning our Saturday ELL Academy January 12th to help our students prepare for the test. If you have not returned the notice, please look for the 2nd notices in your students’ folders. As always, we are available for questions and conferences every Tuesday afternoon.

SUPPORT SERVICES

OT/PT
Welcome back to school! We hope everyone enjoyed their break from school. In our fashion of providing some helpful tips from an OT perspective we thought you might like to hear some more useful information about writing and your students grasping of pencils. Here are some fast OT facts to consider about pencil grasp:

- A mature pencil grasp is typically well established between ages 4-6.
- There are many different “functional” and mature pencil grasp but they don’t all have to look the same.
- Research has found that children who have to practice 2x/week for 20 sessions before seeing significant improvement in handwriting.
- A child’s handwriting grasp has not been found to impact handwriting speed or legibility.

We continue to work towards helping all out students perform and participate and be the best students they can be!

Speech
We are starting off the new year with a boost of energy. The students are reviewing their goals to stay focused and enthusiastic. We continue to scaffold on the skills taught in the classroom to build a stronger base of knowledge for the students meeting their language goals in a small group. These goals are also being targeted through a variety of genres of reading materials. We’re including writing skills within the goals to help the students’ progress in all areas. Speech goals targeting articulation continue to be addressed with hands-on fun activities and funny stories containing target sounds. We’re hoping you all have a happy and healthy new year.

AIS/IEP/SETSS
SETSS rings in 2019! I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy their wonderful family and friends over the vacation. As the New Year rings in, the SETSS students will continue working on vocabulary, sentence writing, reading comprehension strategies, and new math concepts. To reinforce all the skills that the students are learning, listed are a few websites to use at home.

www.turtlediary.com, reallygoodstuff.com, jumpstart.com. BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED!

Counselor
Happy New Year! Welcome back to school and welcome to 2019! Take this time to think of your New Year’s Resolutions. It is a great time to refresh and think of what old habits you can change or what new good habits you can introduce. There’s always room for improvements ;)

Happy New Year!!
As we continue to roll out RULER, and teach our students ways to express their emotions, this month’s Book of the Month is a great read aloud to support positive Social Emotional development in our students. Big feelings are part of daily life for children of all ages, and happiness just isn’t always within reach. Unwelcome events, from a broken toy to a missing pet, bring on sad feelings that can darken kids’ days. In this charming feelings book, follow along as Ben helps cheer up his friends and shows how kids can turn sadness into smiles. We will utilize this book as a teaching tool with our students.

**Book of the Month**

**January**

I’m Not Happy. By: Sue Graves

Title 1:

2019 Title 1 Parent Committee

/PTA Events:

(all take place after Family Friday)

- January 4 - Parenting in the Digital Age. Don’t miss this one with Sara Steinweiss!
- February 1 - Lunar New Year Celebration. Watch our bilingual classes perform!
- March 1 - Pastries for Parents. (With coffee, of course!)
- April 5 - Our First Annual "Spring Fiesta!" Celebrate Latino culture with food and dance!
- June 7 - Annual Volunteer Breakfast. All are welcome.

All events include coffee, snacks, and smiling faces! Hope to see you there.

**Student Council Corner**

We’re kicking off the New Year with another fundraiser, Make a Wish foundation fundraiser will take place 1/11/19. Memos will go home to families and staff in the middle of the month. Keep a look out!

We are also hosting “Words Have Power Day” January 23rd! We are helping our students understand that words have power to build you up and words have power to tear you down. Let’s help P.S. 127 build up our students with kind words.

**PTA**

Happy New Year from the PTA!

2018 was filled with great events and fundraisers that were made possible by YOU! Thank you! Let’s do it again in 2019!

Keep an eye out for the following upcoming events for you and/or your child to participate in:

- Movie Night
- Used Book Sale
- Jazz In The Schools
- Someone Special Dance (K-2)
- Valentine's Day Pictures...
- Cupcake Fridays, Fruity Fridays, Bake Sales, Chocolate Bar Sales, Title 1 Events... And More!

5th Grade Families: Turn in your Senior Dues this month.

How will you contribute to the PTA this year? We look forward to working with you again.

**Note from the Nurse**

Hopefully everyone is well rested after our Holiday break! We have completed the first Asthma Open Airway classes and will be arranging the second one later in January.

I’m still waiting for 19 more physicals. Please complete forms with your Doctor ASAP and return them to me.

Dress in layers in the Winter months!