It is with great pleasure that we write to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. We hope everyone is healthy, revitalized, and eager to begin another school year. Whether you traveled or stayed nearby, we hope you were able to participate in many meaningful family activities that enriched your life and created special memories.

We are looking forward to a year filled with wonderful opportunities for our entire school community to come together in support of our students. We will continue to help each of them build successful futures through fostering individual determination and striving for educational excellence at P.S. 127. Together, we will work hard and follow our school motto, that is, to BELIEVE! ACHIEVE! and SUCCEED! Excellence is our Goal.

Those of you that were with us last year and during previous years know that we encourage parental participation in our school. We also know that many of you work during the day and find it difficult to get to the school to volunteer or go on trips, etc. Don't worry - you can still be an active part of our school family. Please make an effort to keep channels of communication open with your child, your child's teachers, the school administration, our PTA, and certainly with our Parent Coordinator, Rosann Vento.

If you have internet service at home you can always go into the Department of Education website for information. It is a huge resource with something for everyone. The internet address is http://schools.nyc.gov. There is valuable information that is provided by the Department of Education. Just type in our school number (127) in the Search box and click the magnifying glass icon. Then, click on P.S. 127 The McKinley Park School, which will then the link to our site. Take a peek when you have some time. You may want to check it periodically for citywide announcements and news about our wonderful public schools. In addition, we have our school website (www.mckinleypark127.org) which will also provide you with useful school information and special events.

September 17th was Back to School Night which was very successful. Thank you for taking the time to join us and learn more about the many ways we can work together to support the children throughout the school day and beyond.

On September 21st, P.S. 127 wore gold / yellow to Go Gold for Pediatric Cancer. All of the members of the school community were invited to wear gold / yellow and make a donation to support pediatric cancer.

This month is Socktober. We will be collecting new socks all month for the homeless.

Our first “Family Friday” will be held on October 5th. We enjoy welcoming family members to join us and participate in the children’s learning. “Family Friday” is a wonderful way for us to work together as a community and strive for student success. In addition, we will show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness by wearing denim and pink on that day.

On October 13th many of our students and staff will proudly march behind the P.S. 127 banner at the annual Ragamuffin Parade along Third Avenue. We look forward to having a nice day, enjoying this wonderful tradition, and showing our school spirit! At P.S. 127, we work toward the shared goal of establishing a supportive and collaborative environment where together, we value each other and prepare our children for a successful future.

We wish all the members of our school community a very prosperous and productive school year!
GRADE NEWS

Kindergarten
Welcome back Mrs. Alicandro, Mrs. Quaglione, Ms. Laudicina, teachers, students and PTA board members! This month we will be taking the children on their first tour throughout our wonderful school and introducing them to our P.S.127 family members. Throughout the month of September, we will begin to learn about our school’s goals, class rules, routines, making new friends and learning new material. In October, children will be working on counting, writing and representing numbers 1-5. The children have begun labeling their drawings in writing which will be displayed on our bulletin boards outside of the classroom. In reading, students will complete letter and sound recognition and apply their skills to their writing. Kindergarten is ‘apple’solutely the best!

First Grade
Welcome back! Throughout September and October in reading first grade will be working on finding the main idea and details in our stories, understanding characters, story structure, and text and graphic features. In writing, first graders will learn how to label and caption pictures with action verbs. We will also learn about nouns, verbs, and adjectives. In math, we are learning how to find the sum and strategies. Please provide additional support by devoting extra time to review work and study with your child. We are very excited and look forward to working with you!

Second Grade
Welcome back to school! We look forward to a fun and exciting year with all of our second grade students! During these first few weeks, we will be taking the time to review important school and class routines and procedures. We also will be embarking on an awesome learning journey! We will be exploring reading concepts such as sequence, compare/contrast and author’s purpose. We will be learning about number concepts during our Go Math lessons, and we will be crafting narratives during writing workshop. It’s going to be a wonderful year, and we can’t wait to see what each day brings!

Third Grade
Welcome Back! Third grade is in full swing. This month we will focus on important reading skills, writing narratives, addition/subtraction, geography and forces. Our class trip to Decker Farm is October 24.

3/4/5
Welcome back! I hope you are all well rested and had a great summer break. I am very eager to learn all about the students and to share with them my expectations for Grades 3/4/5. We will be working on these reading skills for the first two months: story structure, understanding characters and summarizing. You can also access the text on line at Thinkcentral. In mathematics we are going to be reviewing place value, estimating, rounding and doing mental math addition, subtraction multiplication, and division. I encourage you to practice multiplication facts with your children daily. I am goal setting so the students can be actively involved in their education. I look forward to a very exciting and successful school year

4th Grade ELA
The fourth grade will continue to work on Unit 1 of journeys in the month of October. Several selections in this unit deal with people who help others. We recently read “My Brother Martin”, a biography that tells about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life as a boy. You can support your child’s learning by discussing how Dr. King’s work changed the lives of people in our country.

4th Grade Math
Welcome to the 4th Grade! We will be studying Chapter 1 during September which reviews place value, addition, and subtraction. During October, 4th grade Math students will begin Multiplying by 1 digit. This is a very important concept that should be reinforced at home. Students should study multiplication facts every night! We will begin having 3 minute multiplication fact quizzes every week in October.

4th Grade SS/Writing
Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. The students are very eager to start exploring the historical world around them. In Social Studies, we are learning about the geography of New York State and how the Native Americans influenced the development of New York. In Writing, students will identify the features of a descriptive paragraph. They will focus on creating paragraphs using vivid details, sensory words, and concrete words. As we move into October, students will begin Narrative writing. I look forward to an exciting and productive year with your children.

5th Grade ELA
Welcome to 5th grade!!! We have been busy working the last month, we have completed 2 lessons from our Journey’s reading program. We have been reading different selections and completing many activities for different reading skills and strategies. I am excited to have a fun and productive year ahead!!

5th Grade Math
I cant wait to teach you everything! We have some things that are new, exponents, three digit multiplication and my Dear Aunt Sally too! I know this is going to be the best, because our seniors are going to Rock the Test!

5th Grade SS/Writing
Welcome back! Looking forward to an exciting year. In writing, we will become authors by bringing our fictional narratives alive. In Social Studies, we will begin exploring the Early Civilizations in the Americas.
**CLUSTER NEWS**

**Science 3-5**
Welcome back!!! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer vacation! This year I will be teaching science to grades 3, 4 and 5. I am very excited to begin this year and look forward to working with all of you to help our students believe, achieve and succeed!

**Physical Education**
Grades K-2: Students have been introduced to the locomotor movements. (run, walk, jog, slide, leap, gallop, jump, hop, skip) They will continue to work on these movements for the next couple of weeks. The children are practicing these movements through organized games. Grade 3: Students are learning about the game of kickball! Kickball is very similar to baseball except there is no bat. The children are very excited to play their first game. Grades 4/5: Students are in the beginning phases of NYC Fitness Gram. They are preparing for the PACER. (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) This assessment seems to be the favorite of all the assessments! The kids constantly need to be reminded that it is not a competition!!! Eat healthy & exercise!!!

**Dance**
I can’t believe we are already in our second month of school. Students in grades K-5 are working on the Element of Dance called ‘Space’. We are learning about our surroundings and our personal space. Activities and lessons vary depending on the grade level. We are focusing on how we can use our personal space to make movement. Also, each grade is working on a choreographed dance that we hope to be able to perform for parents one day.

**PT/OT**
Welcome back to school and the 2018-2019 academic year. Our section of the newsletter will provide you with information that can support you in supporting your child’s ability to learn with more efficiency and success. As Occupational and Physical Therapists, we are highly trained healthcare professionals that work in the school setting to address the needs of students experiencing delays, disabilities, or health challenges through therapeutic intervention to promote skill advancement, the use of compensatory strategies, adaptations to the child’s equipment and environment, and/or modifying the curriculum or activity. This year we have a new OT staff member joining our team. We are very pleased and excited to introduce Ms. Danielle Tanamy to the school community. Together we will all be supporting everyone in the school community to perform at their best and learn together. Looking forward to having a great school year! Patrick McTague OT, Danielle Tanamy OT, & Anna Fridman PT

**ENL**
Welcome back, parents! We hope everyone had a restful summer. We are looking forward to a great year and working with the students to support their academic instruction and build their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Additionally, we are proud to share that many of our ENL students have made significant progress in the state ENL test (2018 NYSLAT). Congratulations! We are available on Tuesdays afternoons to answer any questions and concerns you may have.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Speech**
Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful summer full of memories. We have been welcoming our new and returning students to the speech room, reviewing their goals and establishing their routine. All speech students will soon be getting a letter informing you about their speech teacher and goals being addressed. Please feel free to contact us at the school with any questions or concerns. We look forward to an exciting new year of learning and growth.

**AIS/IEP/SETSS**
Falling into SETSS ~ Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year. With the start of the school year, SETSS students will be “falling” into a variety of new programs. I will be teaching the students using new modalities of learning and enriching them with new experiences. By putting our best feet forward, I am confident that the students will have a successful school year.

**Counselor**
Welcome to a new school year! I hope this school year is a successful one for all of our students. You can help make this school year a great one for your child as well. Here are a few tips to get you started to help your children succeed.
- Follow a routine.
- A routine at home will help children with their schedule at school. For example, every day after school your child washes their hands, eats a snack and begins their homework.
- Promote independence.
- Say “you can do it!” when your child asks for help with something you know they can complete on their own. This will encourage the independence students need in the classroom.
- Build attention span.
- Have your child attend to tasks for 15 - 20 minutes at home. This will help them practice doing class work for expected period of time.
- Recognize effort.
- Praise your child for trying! Even if the answer is incorrect, praise is important. Children need to know that their effort is appreciated. Positive reinforcement is something every child needs. For example, “It seems like you worked really hard on this, you got most of it right... keep up the good work!”
- Have conversations.
- Children want to share experiences. Let your children share their school day experiences with you. Listen to them, and respond. Having conversations with your children shows them your present, you care and you’re interested.

**Student Council Corner**
We have some great things coming up this September! We are kicking off our first fundraiser on 9/21/18. P.S. 127 Goes Gold For Pediatric Cancer Awareness. Wear Gold/Yellow on 9/21 to show support! Small donations are appreciated, all proceeds go to American Cancer Society, Relay For Life. We are also honoring National Thank A Police Officer Day on Friday, September 14, 2018. A memo has went home to families regarding this event. We will join together as a school community and wear blue to show our support and appreciation to our Police Officers. October will also be a busy month, here are our events:
- Denim & Pink Day
- Sock-Tober
- Stomp Out Bullying Month
- Memo’s will be going home with more detailed information.

Stay Tuned =)
Book of the Month
Your Fantastic Elastic Brain! Is a great book to teach growth mindset. Did you know you can stretch and grow your own brain? Or that making mistakes is one of the best ways your brain learns? Just like how lifting weights helps your muscles get stronger, trying new things without giving up strengthens your brain. Written by an educator and psychologist, this fun and engaging introduction to the anatomy and functions of the brain will empower each young reader to S-T-R-E-T-C-H and grow their fantastic, elastic brain! Enjoy!

Reminders for October 2018:
5 - Family Friday/Title 1 First Aid Workshop for Parents (FREE!)
Dress Denim & Pink Day
8 - School Closed (Columbus Day)
9 - Picture Day/Snack Shack/Walk To School Week (Title 1)
12 - Cherrydale Ends/Sweet Shop
13 - Ragamuffin Parade (Saturday)
16 - Used Book Sale
18 - PTA General Mtg - 8:45 a.m.
19 - Sweet Shop
23 - Snack Shack
26 - Cupcake Friday
30 - Snack Shack
31 - Halloween Trick-or-Treat/Photos

Title 1:
2018-2019 Title 1 Parent Committee/PTA Events:
(all take place after Family Friday)
October 5 - First Aid for Parents Workshop, by Kristofer Nelson (& Walk to School Week)
November 2 - Understanding Bullying vs. Conflict, by Sara Steinweiss
December 7 - Desserts Around The World
January 4 - Understanding the Rules of Engagement with Social Media/Technology, by Sara Steinweiss
February 1 - Lunar New Year Celebration
March 1 - TBD
April 5 - Pastries for Parents
(May - No Family Friday/Title 1)
June 7 - Volunteer Breakfast

PTA
Sign Up for Important Updates from P.S. 127 PTA

Tell people to take out their phones.

Use this link to download the app: https://www.remind.com/join/ps127t

Or use without the app by texting #81010 to: @ps127t