



MANY SIGNS, ONE VISION, ONE COMMUNITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF "47" THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL

Volume 3, Issue 1 | September–October 2022

Principal's Message

Greetings "47" Community! The 2022-2023 school year has officially started and the new school year holds exciting new learning and hopes. Our skilled and devoted staff has planned and prepared a lot for our young people, from making sure all families receive needed documents to planning engaging lessons for our students. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning our school campus.

As we are in our second month of school, we are thinking about these questions: What do our students want to accomplish this year? What new activities and experiences do our students need to have? What will this school year be like? We hope to share answers to these questions with you as the school year moves forward.

Also, to ensure timely communication, members of our community should expect to receive a weekly update and a monthly newsletter. In this communication you will see news about what is happening at the school, artwork, trips, and school events.

We know a strong partnership with families will make a great difference in the education of our young adults. Please share your concerns/ideas to ensure that parents' voices are being heard at "47" by sending me an email at wshama@47aslhs.net or calling 917-326-6670.

We are off to a great start!

"Making a difference is always possible, especially with persistence and dedication." –Gladys De La Mora

Watfa Shama, Proud Principal

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Recent Developments

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL HAS STARTED!

Girls' Varsity Volleyball has started this year, and the team has been practicing hard. They have seven games in October, including four home games. Check out their schedule on the [PSAL website](#), and join their games to cheer them on!

TILL SCREENING

October 3, 2022

"47" students had the opportunity to attend a New York Film Festival screening of *Till*, a movie about Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. Mayor Eric Adams talked about his appreciation of the film, and some of the cast and crew spoke on a panel to answer student questions.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTED

Congratulations to the following students, who were elected to Student Government officer positions:

- **Yahelis (Yaya) Vega '23** – President
- **Diana Contreras '24** – Vice President
- **Isangy Hernandez '24** – Secretary
- **Isabella Ferguson '26** and **Thomas Jimenez '26** – 9th Grade Representatives
- **Asia Canada '25** and **Amy Jimenez '25** – 10th Grade Representatives
- **Amy Hernandez '23** and **Evelyn Pomavilla '23** – 12th Grade Representatives

The 11th Grade Representative seats are currently vacant and interested juniors should contact Mr. Severin. All students are welcome to be active participants in Student Government meetings and help make "47" an even greater place to go to school. Student Government meets Thursdays after school in room 406.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15–October 15, 2022

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15th to October 15th. This month celebrates and recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the histories, culture, and achievements of the United States.

The celebration started as a Hispanic Heritage week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and then was expanded to a month by President Ronald Regan in 1988. September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days in September. At our school we will be celebrating this month with a Hispanic Heritage Assembly on October 14th.



Reference: Library of Congress, <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

September 20–October 20, 2022

We are also in Deaf Awareness Month! According to [the University of Washington](#), “The purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase public awareness of Deaf issues, people, and culture. The month focuses on promoting the positive aspects of deafness, encouraging social inclusion, and raising awareness of the organizations locally, nationally and globally that support those who are deaf.”

Here are some articles and information related to this month, brought to us by the ASL Department:

- Deaf “[Cheat Sheet](#)” – basic do’s and don’ts in Deaf culture
- [Laws & Legal Rights for Deaf/Hard of Hearing People](#)
- [TED Talk from Nyle DiMarco](#) on making education more accessible for Deaf/Hard of Hearing students
- [TED Talk from Rebecca Knill](#) discussing technology and how it has changed things for the Deaf community
- [TED Talk from Rachel Kolb](#) discussing many personal experiences that our students may have also experienced or will experience in the future

Here are some excellent places online for learning ASL:

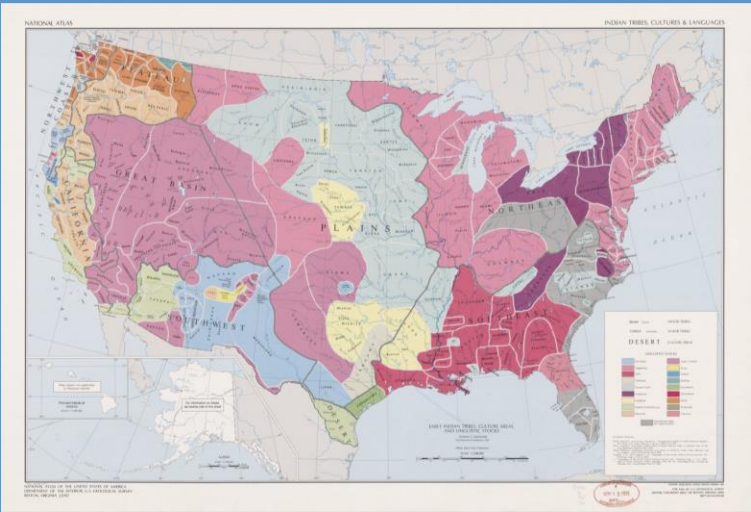
- [ASLThat](#) – A teacher who has many videos with different categories of vocabulary
- [Dr. Bill Vicars](#) – Has full classes (among other things) uploaded to his YouTube channel
- [Deafies in Drag](#) – Two hilarious Deaf people making skits (in drag) about things that D/HH people face everyday and making it funny at the same time! Click for laughs :)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY

October 10, 2022

Indigenous People’s Day is a US holiday that commemorates and honors Native American peoples and their history and culture. It is celebrated each year on the second Monday in October. This holiday was formerly known as Columbus Day, however, many people reject celebrating Christopher Columbus because they believe he represents the violent history of colonization in North America.

Although we often examine the culture of Native Americans through the lens of history, there are still native tribes that exist throughout North America who still practice their cultural traditions today.



Comic Relief

THAT DEAF GUY

Matt and Kay Daigle, with the permission of the artists



Staff Highlight

SEPTEMBER: MS. STEPHANIE ENTIN-WALD, LIBRARIAN

Q1: *Describe yourself in a hashtag.*

#librariesareforeverybody

Q2: *What is your favorite time of day?*

Morning. I like the quiet of morning. And NYC is a different city early in the morning. I like the photographer, Daniel Root, who photographs pictures of NYC early in the morning.

Q3: *What is your dream place to visit?*

Japan—the food!!! The history.

Q4: *What is the biggest surprise you have had?*

After babysitting all my life and being fine with other people's kids, after I had my own kid I FREAKED out. I didn't know what to do all of a sudden. I figured it out....

Q5: *Do you prefer vintage or new?*

Both. But, let's be honest, classic is cool.

Q6: *If you could win an Olympic medal for any sport, real or fake, what would it be?*

Procrastinating (should I really admit that?)

Q7: *If you could make a documentary, what would it be about?*

How food really brings us all together.

Q8: *If you could choose someone to play you in a movie, who would you choose?*

Charlotte Gainsbourg. She looks nothing like me. And she's French. But she's just so cool.

Q9: *What is one thing that you enjoyed when you were younger that kids today don't get to do?*

Listen to one side of a record, flip it over then listen to the other side—while not doing ANYTHING else.

Q10: *What is the best advice you have ever gotten?*

Take time to think about something before making a decision.



Important Announcements

DOE ACCOUNTS

Each student has an online NYC DOE account, and each parent can register for one! These accounts will be used to access student grades in the future, though the DOE is still working on that functionality. All students received their login information in school and parents can get their information by contacting the school. Please contact Ms. Delta (dortiz@47aslhs.net) for help getting set up!

TUTORING AVAILABLE

Having trouble with one or more of your classes? Students have access to one-on-one and small group tutoring with teachers. Tutoring is available during lunch or after school. Check out the [full schedule on our website](#), or reach out to your teachers directly to set something up!

Tutoring is available in the following subject areas:

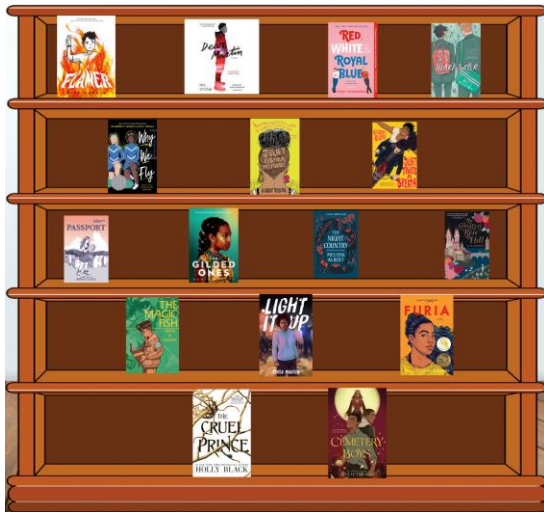
- American Sign Language
- English Language Arts
- Science
- Arts (Open Studio)
- Mathematics
- Social Studies

CLUBS IN SESSION

"47" is hosting more than 15 clubs this semester. Check out the [full schedule on our website](#). The following clubs are open to students as of this writing:

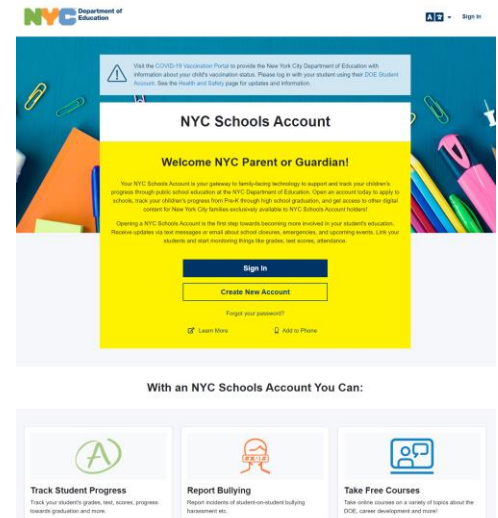
- Anime Club
- ASL Club
- Basketball Club
- Boardgame Club
- Craft Club
- Crochet Club
- Fashion Club
- Fitness Club
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance
- Knitting Club
- Literary Magazine Club
- Model UN
- National Honor Society
- Performing Arts Club
- PSAL Volleyball
- Student Government
- Yearbook Club

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER



Our librarian, Stephanie Entin-Wald, has put together [reading recommendations](#); students can borrow books in the Library or borrow ebooks and audiobooks in the Sora app. New York Public Library has also assembled the "best books of the year," accessible via the same link.

Students had some maker fun in the library during their lunch periods on September 21st. Beads, stones, letters, and charms were all available as students' creative ideas unfolded and they planned out and refined their designs to make earrings, necklaces and more. We plan to continue "Library Maker Lunchtime" in the library monthly. Stay tuned for more and see Ms. Stephanie with ideas for what sort of Maker activities you think we should try out for our future Library Maker Lunchtimes.





Calendar of Important Dates

For more information, check out the [New York City Schools calendar](#) and [our school calendar](#).

ITALIAN HERITAGE/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, October 10th, 2022

SENIOR PICTURES

Friday, October 14th, 2022

END OF MARKING PERIOD 1

Friday, October 21st, 2022

SCHOOL HALLOWEEN DANCE

Friday, October 28th, 2022, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

ELECTION DAY | STUDENTS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Tuesday, November 8th 2022

