



# MANY SIGNS, ONE VISION, ONE COMMUNITY

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

Volume 3, Issue 3 | December 2022

## Welcome Message

Hello, "47" family!

Happy December! Welcome to this year's third issue of *Many Signs, One Vision, One Community*, our school newsletter. In this issue, you'll find celebrations of recent events (including Pajama Day and Homecoming 2022), students of the month, articles by staff, and highlights of Mr. McDermott and Yahelis Vega '23. At the end are announcements of upcoming events and a calendar of important dates in the school year coming up soon.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out to us directly at the email address below. We'd really like to know what you want to see. Otherwise, we'll see you for our next volume in January!

With warm wishes for a happy holiday season,

### "47" Communications Committee

Ms. Hadley, Ms. Entin-Wald, Mr. Harrington, Ms. Helton, Mx. Howard, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Megan, Ms. Schwartz, Velinda Amelco '23, Santiago Montealegre '25, Evelyn Pomavilla '23

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# Recent Developments

## AP DINNER

*November 9, 2022*

Students in Advanced Placement (AP) classes and their families were invited to dinner in school on the evening of November 9, to learn more about the AP exams and how to prepare for them.



## TRIP TO MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

*November 14-15, 2022*

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, students from all grades participated in a field trip to the National Museum of the American Indian on Monday, November 14th and Tuesday, November 15th. The Museum, run by the Smithsonian Institution, focuses on the history of the indigenous populations of the United States and specifically New York State. Students were able to see exhibits that included historical artifacts as well as contemporary photography by native photographers.

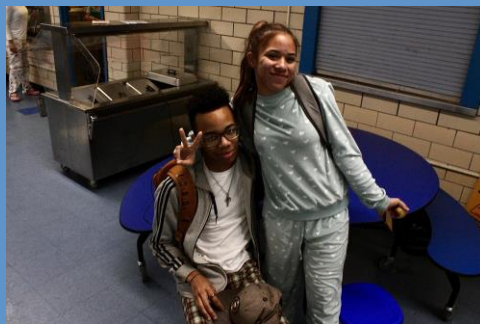


## SPIRIT WEEK

*November 21-23, 2022*

From November 21st to November 23rd, "47" celebrated Spirit Week. On Monday, students wore colors to represent their grade teams and were given beaded necklaces with their team colors. 9th grade wore purple, 10th grade green, 11th grade was blue and Seniors red. Tuesday was Pajama Day where students and teachers alike wore pajamas or comfortable clothing to school. Students and Staff were given "47" pajama pants and sweatshirts. Wednesday was Homecoming, and students were encouraged to show school spirit by wearing blue and gold, our school colors.





## HOMEcoming

November 23, 2022

Contributed by Mr. Christopher Harrington

The Annual 47 ASL Homecoming is *the* feature event of the fall for students, families and staff, a chance to come together in positivity and peace, to celebrate life and a very special community. It's an opportunity to go beyond academics, to interact as a family, to honor one another, to laugh and be free. This year's event was rich in passion and abundant in happiness, as the day featured special activities, panels, performances, and a community meal.

A special advisory-community-building activity started the day off. As students and teachers gathered to learn more about one another, discussing personal interests, ideas, and notions, debating pertinent issues and laughing at the ever-evolving witticisms the student body possesses. It was a great way to loosen up for the entertainment to come.



Next up were the “How To” classes, where select teachers taught students and staff how to do several activities, where specific skills and methods were introduced. This was both educational and relaxing as students gained insight into the larger world the teachers reside in. Highlights included: Mr. Suel’s culinary exploits, as he showed students the art of steaming bamboo; Mr. Peter’s classic origami techniques, an artform fusing logical and creative know-how; theater improvisation and square dancing with Ms. Gerstein, activities that brought sheer joy and amazement to the participants; pop-up card marking with Ms. Moise and Ms. Vargas, an art method both practical and enchanting; chess with Mr. McDermott, the fabled game that had students in introspective and cunning moods; and everyone’s favorite: balloon animals with Mr. Severin and Ms. Hadley. Other “How To” classes included sashiko clothes making, book making, video game making, learning Swahili, sticker making, writing in script, cued speech (possibly the most challenging of all classes), basketball - library style, friendship bracelets, and the classic and obscure activity: werewolf.



Students and staff then transitioned to the auditorium to listen to former 47 ASL students in the alumni panel. It was quite remarkable to hear the stories and wisdom the former students possessed, not to mention the care and passion they carried with them for their former teachers and school. It was clear from every former student’s disposition that the resources and support 47 ASL had given them were essential and paramount to their current situation. They spoke with deep reverence for their years at 47 ASL, and current students were appreciative, asking pertinent and meaningful questions to the panel. Alumni included both students in college, and students who were not in college and currently working full-time jobs.



Everyone then walked up to the gymnasium where the stunt team, led by Ms. Helton, put on a dynamic and whirling showcase. The stunts and movements were both technical and free, highlighting individual prowess and massive team building. The



audience was enthralled, and happiness abounded. The homecoming court was introduced next, recognizing eight students whose academic excellence and commitment to the community went above and beyond. These students included: Ana Abreu, Memory Muchanyerei, J. Simpson, Amariah Tyler, Yahelis Vega, Isangy Hernandez, Brianna Vasquez and Isabella Ferguson. Yahelis Vega and Memory Muchanyerei were recognized as the “Top Tigers,” an award given out to the top two seniors.



The annual seniors vs. alumni flag football game (“Turkey Bowl”) followed, as students and staff huddled around the playing court to witness one of the most exciting events of the day. The alumni had some current collegiate football players on their squad, so it was going to be tough one for the seniors, but they played resoundingly, offering an instant classic. The alumni took home the hardware, defeating the scrappy seniors by a few scores. There was much individual mastery, but perhaps the most dynamic feature was the team chemistry and overall sportsmanship, both seniors and alumni were very gracious to each other, while still competing at a high level.







The day ended with a huge community meal in the cafeteria, where staff, led by the principal, Ms. Shama, had been preparing turkeys, roasts, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, desserts and many more culinary delights. The food was marvelous, the atmosphere electric, and smiles were found in every direction. The huge feast really put the idea of community in focus. The positivity and togetherness that sparked from the cafeteria that day was quite profound, as teachers, staff and families become one large family, truly invested in one another. Homecoming 2022 will be remembered and cherished for quite some time.



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# Students of the Month

## OCTOBER 2022

Congratulations to our October Students of the Month!

Velinda Amelco	Nicole Leal	Adia Rhodes Garcia
Madison Benjamin	Arisbeth Lezama	Brandon Rodriguez
Julenny Delossantos	Noah Linares	Jayda (Jay) Rodriguez
Denielyn De Oleo Sosa	Ace May	Jayra Rosario
Essence Hall	Consuelo Monsegur	David Santoni
Isangy Hernandez	Joshua (Jojo) Nunez	Yandiel Sojo Noel
Jessica Hernandez	Rachael Paidá Narvaz	Nadira Toro
Thomas Jimenez	Dainard Ortiz	Mati Torres
Alyssa Jones	Edwing Pena	Shamelly Vasquez
Adis Kolenovic	Trinity Ramirez	Nanci Zanes Lozado

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## Articles

### PSAT & SAT CORNER

*Contributed by Mr. Kevin Peters*

For this month's column, I thought I would give you some tips you can use to study for the SAT.

1. **Take a timed practice test.** Taking a timed practice test can help you get used to the speed and pressure. When taking practice SAT tests, set a timer for the amount of time you'll actually have on test day. You can also practice increasing your efficiency by timing individual questions. By becoming more comfortable with the time limits, you're less likely to make careless errors.
2. **Answer the questions you know first.** A common test-taking strategy for the SAT is to go through the current section you're taking and answer all the questions you know first. If you can quickly fill out the questions you know, you'll have more time to work out the questions you aren't as confident on. If a question is taking you longer than a couple of minutes to understand, skip the question and mark it in your test booklet to remind you to come back to it later.
3. **Eliminate incorrect answers.** When working on SAT questions for which you're not immediately confident on the answer, try eliminating answers you know are incorrect. If you can eliminate some of the four possible options, your chances of guessing correctly increase. Even if you have no clue what the correct answer is, you can sometimes eliminate answers based on the context of the question.
4. **Don't leave any questions blank.** Do your best to answer every single question. Budget time to go back to any questions you skipped and don't be afraid to just start filling in circles if you run out of time. Even if you don't know the answer, you should at least guess. Your score won't be penalized for incorrect answers, but rather totaled up



from correct answers. This means that your score has a 25% chance of being correct if you guess, while you'll have zero chance of getting points if you leave it blank.

## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

Our librarian, Stephanie Entin-Wald, has put together new [reading recommendations](#); students can borrow books in the Library or borrow ebooks and audiobooks in the Sora app.

Students had some maker fun in the library during their lunch periods on November 30. Lanyard making materials were available as students' creative ideas unfolded and they planned out and refined their designs to make keychains, bracelets and more. Stay tuned for more Library Maker Lunchtimes every month and see Ms. Stephanie with ideas for what sort of Maker activities we should try out for our future Library Maker Lunchtimes.



## WHAT'S GOING ON IN EACH GRADE

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 9th graders have just finished their second marking period. In Global History class, the students have been investigating the importance of trade and the effects it had on different civilizations. In English Language Arts (ELA), the 9th graders have been working towards writing an argumentative essay. We are learning about rhetorical devices and claims. The 9th graders are doing well with this topic and will be well prepared for their argumentative essay! In Physical Education (PE) the students have completed 3 different units, Fitness and Exercise, Volleyball, and Basketball. We are currently starting Badminton. The 9th graders as a whole seem to be resilient. They started off struggling, but at the end of the unit there was a significant amount of improvement in skills. In American Sign Language (ASL), students are learning about time and weather. Students will soon begin working on their project to "become the weather person" and record a video of themselves signing a weather report. The 9th grade students are also learning to graph and solve inequalities in Math. In Living Environment students are designing controlled experiments to test the effect of different variables on cellular processes. The students have accomplished much in this marking period! 9th graders who have World Dance learned about traditional dances that people do to celebrate being together and harvest time: Kuku from Guinea, Pow Wow dances from the land we are on, Bhangra from India, and Square Dancing. We took a trip to the Joyce Theater to see Complexions Contemporary Ballet and now students are choreographing their own dances using elements from all of these sources.





One example app designed by a Computer Science sophomore

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

We have been thoroughly enjoying teaching your 10th graders this year! So far this semester we have been learning a wide variety of interesting topics. In Algebra II, we are wrapping up probability and how we can use different data representations (such as Venn diagrams) to determine the outcomes of different events. With that, we are segueing into analyzing statistical data as well. In College Mathematics, students are graphing inequalities and systems of equations to solve problems in real-world contexts. In Global History, students have been time-traveling, going all the way back to the Industrial Revolution to explore how innovations in agriculture, production, and transportation led up to the major historical era. Then students come back to the future to investigate the long-lasting impacts of the Industrial Revolution by exploring topics such as fast fashion and artificial intelligence. In Earth Science, students have been focusing on Earth's interior and plate tectonics, exploring the movement of lithospheric plates and the geographical features that form as a result! Students have also been learning about the differences in density that result from heat flow cause the changes explained by the theory of plate tectonics. In ELA, students have been working on argument by reading

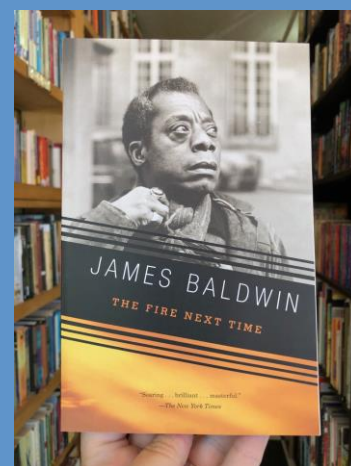
nonfiction texts about whether or not cash currency should be eliminated. For the next few students will write essays to argue their position on that debate. In PE, students are beginning their badminton unit! They will be taking part in skill development, looking at the rules and the evolution of the game, and learning different exercises that can help them improve. In ASL, Ms. Zaken has been teaching students how to describe people and clothing. We have been focusing on vocabulary related to gender, ethnicity, physical appearance, and clothing. As we learn more, we also include more detailed and complex language structures such as classifiers and grammar structures like shoulder shifting and list-indexing. Finally, in Computer Science Principles, students have just finished an app design unit and are about to dive deep into programming.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 11th grade is keeping themselves busy for the next few months! Students created their own performance pieces based on guidelines from the Gilder Lehrman Hamilton Program and are very excited to attend a special performance of Hamilton the Musical on Broadway on December 7. Stay tuned for photos from the trip! Ms. Princevalli will be starting SAT Prep for those students interested in preparing for the SAT, which will be offered on SAT School Day on March 22, 2023. The course will run from January–March after school on select days. More information to follow! 11th grade students are also preparing to take 2 Regents exams in English and Algebra 2 this January. Contact teachers for those courses for more information.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 12th grade are busy filling out college and financial aid applications for their plans after “47.” Many of them have already heard from colleges with acceptance letters! In ELA, the seniors have finished reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and writing an essay on it. Coming up on the reading list is *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. In Personal Finance, students have just finished a unit on personal checking and are starting a unit on savings accounts, while in Geometry, students have finished a unit on right triangle trigonometry and are now working on solving Regents-type problems. In Government, the seniors are studying Bill of Rights protections, focusing on the First and Fourth Amendments. They are exploring what people's rights are in society and how they can interact with law enforcement. In Digital Media, students have been creating films incorporating their own music, as well as working with double exposures in photography. On December 20, those students will see *Avatar: The Way of Water* in theaters. Meanwhile, in Studio Art, students are writing comic books to interpret songs, as well as doing surrealist paintings.



*The Fire Next Time is the next book on seniors' ELA playlist.*



# Comic Relief

## THAT DEAF GUY

Matt and Kay Daigle, with the permission of the artists

## THAT DEAF GUY BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



## Staff and Student Highlights

### MR. PATRICK MCDERMOTT, MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Q1: *What is your favorite way to spend a day off?*

My favorite way to spend a day off is to spend time with my family. I have six siblings and 13 cousins so there is always someone around to hang out with.

Q2: *Where's the next place on your travel bucket list, and why?*

Well growing up I was a big Lord of the Rings fan so New Zealand has been at the top of my list for years (since they filmed all the movies there), but I would also love to visit Ireland, Australia, Wakanda, and England.

Q3: *If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?*

I would have to pick the Buffalo Chicken pizza slice at my favorite pizzeria out on Long Island.

Q4: *What's your favorite season and why?*

It used to be Summer when I was a kid because there was no school and my birthday is in August, but there is nothing like watching the leaves grow back on the trees in Spring.

Q5: *What is something people are surprised to learn about you?*

Back in 2016, I applied to the US Government to be an astronaut at NASA.





## YAHELIS VEGA, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

**Q1:** *Tell us a little about yourself. How are you involved here at "47" and what do you plan to do after graduating?*

**My name is Yahelis. Everyone calls me Yaya. I'm on the stunt team and was on the volleyball team. I am a senior. After graduation, I plan to be a diagnostic medical sonographer.**

**Q2:** *What made you decide to run for "47" student body president?*

**When I was a junior, I heard a lot of my friends say they didn't like certain things about the school and they were too scared to speak up about it. I wanted to be that voice for my friends.**

**Q3:** *What has Student Government been up to so far this year?*

**So far we have been planning spirit days and weeks. Right now we are planning a winter formal (sneak peek!)**

**Q4:** *What are some changes you would like to see/make happen at "47"?*

**Some changes that I would like to see is outside lunch, especially for seniors. For me, I am not a fan of the school food and like eating out more.**

**Q5:** *What sets "47" apart from other schools? What would you say to someone considering choosing "47" as their high school?*

**I think how small it is, the small community helps you make friends faster. I struggled making friends and wasn't as social as a freshman. It feels more like home.**



## Important Announcements

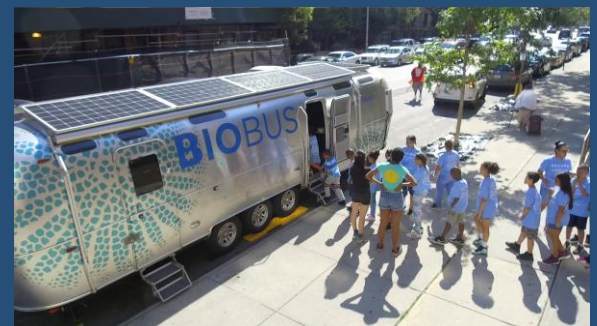
### FAMILY WORKSHOPS

We are happy to finally be returning to some of our traditions following the COVID Pandemic and we are looking forward to starting our Family Workshops again! We have been working with our Parent's Association to create workshops that might help support our community. The first workshop is: Addressing the Anxiety of Transitioning out of High School. Ms. Dunams, Ms. Rosario and Ms. Ortiz will be facilitating the workshop. Please call (929-269-3170) or email [Ms. Ortiz](#) if you are planning to attend and let us know your preferred language. Here are the days and times of the workshop:

- In person: Wednesday, December 14 at 9:00 am, in our school library
- Virtual: Monday, December 19, at 8:15 am on [Google Meet](#)

### BIOBUS VISIT

The Science Department is excited to announce that on December 15, Biobus, a mobile laboratory, will be visiting our school so students will have the chance to explore various organisms using research grade microscopes. You can learn more about the program on [their website](#).







## TALENT SHOW

Dancers, singers, actors, poets, musicians, DJs, rappers, visual artists, tech crew, and anyone else with a talent is encouraged to get involved in our annual Talent Show, which this year is on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Rehearsals are Thursdays and/or Fridays from 2:50 to 4:20 pm in the auditorium. See Ms. Gerstein as soon as possible for more information.

## DOE ACCOUNTS

Each student has an online NYC DOE account, and each caregiver can register for one! Student access their gradebook using these accounts and report cards post there. 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](mailto:dortiz@47aslhs.net)) for help getting set up!

## CLUBS IN SESSION

"47" is hosting more than 15 clubs this semester. Check out the [full schedule on our website](#).

## 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!

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# Calendar of Important Dates

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

### END OF MARKING PERIOD 2

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

### FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 (in person) and Monday, December 19, 2022 (virtual)

### WINTER RECESS | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, December 26, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023

### SCHOOL RESUMES

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, January 16, 2023

### REGENTS EXAMS

Tuesday, January 24 – Friday, January 27, 2023