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## **P.S. 130 IN CHINATOWN RECEIVES OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*OEM Launches New ‘Tween’ Preparedness Guide – “Choose Your Own Path to Preparedness” – and Ready New York Coloring Book for Pre-K and Kindergarten Students*

**June 17, 2014** — Recognizing the importance of teaching New Yorkers of all ages to prepare for emergencies, the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Department of Education (DOE) today presented the Ready School of the Year Award to Principal Lily Woo at P.S. 130, in Manhattan, for its outstanding commitment to preparedness education. The fifth grade teachers at P.S. 130 appreciated the importance of preparing for emergencies and worked with their classes to investigate natural disasters and create emergency plans. This year more than 15,400 students across the five boroughs have received emergency preparedness training through the Ready Schools program. OEM Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno was joined by Department of Education by Deputy Chancellor of Operations Kathleen Grimm, CEO of School Facilities John Shea, Council Member Margaret Chin, and Manhattan Deputy Borough President Aldrin Bonilla to present the award.

“The fifth grade students at P.S. 130, no doubt future emergency managers, developed outstanding emergency plans after learning about natural disasters,” said Commissioner Bruno. “OEM is proud to honor Principal Lily Woo and the students, faculty, and staff of P.S. 130 with the 2014 Ready School of the Year Award.”

“I congratulate the P.S. 130 students, teachers, administrators and parents for their successful work in preparing for emergencies both in school and also at home,” said DOE Chancellor Carmen Fariña. “The DOE and OEM have collaborated on a program that teaches us the importance of emergency preparedness, and I thank Commissioner Bruno and Deputy Chancellor Grimm for the commitment to ensuring schools teach this important lesson.”

“As a graduate of P.S. 130, I’m so proud of this school’s faculty, staff and students today as they accept this well-deserved award,” said Council Member Margaret Chin. “In particular, I’d like to congratulate Principal Lily Woo, my friend and high school classmate, who has devoted so much time and effort to these vital emergency preparedness measures. I look forward to seeing schools all across the city continue to work with the City’s Office of Emergency Management, in order to stay prepared and keep our students as safe as possible.”

P.S. 130 also helped OEM to pilot a new emergency preparedness storybook for students ages 9 to 13 years old: “Choose Your Own Path to Preparedness.” Part of the Ready New York suite of emergency preparedness materials, the new ‘tween’ guide leads young readers through a

series of actions and allows them to pick what they would do to prepare for and respond to an emergency, including a water main break and a blizzard.

“The fifth grade students in Ms. Rosie Silbermam’s class loved working with the new ‘Choose Your Own Path to Preparedness’ storybooks, and we are excited to officially launch them and distribute them widely to summer programs and to school children during the upcoming school year,” Commissioner Bruno said.

The “Choose Your Own Path to Preparedness” storybooks are accompanied by specially designed materials for classroom teachers, including monthly newsletters with tips, resources, and activities for language arts, math, science, and social studies. Posters are also available for display in classrooms to reinforce lessons taught in the corresponding in-school presentation and in the storybooks.

OEM also launched new preparedness materials for the youngest of New Yorkers with the introduction of a new the Ready New York coloring book. The book uses cartoon characters created by NYC youngsters themselves to teach the basic concepts of emergency preparedness in a fun and colorful way. The coloring books will be distributed during fairs and at pre-k and kindergartens across the city to help students and their families learn how to plan and stay safe. Both the “Choose Your Own Path to Preparedness” guides and the Ready New York coloring book are available for download at [NYC.gov/readyny](http://NYC.gov/readyny). New Yorkers can also request hard copies of the materials and a Ready New York for Kids presentation on OEM’s website, [NYC.gov/oem](http://NYC.gov/oem).

Helping to ensure that both children and adults in the Chinatown community are prepared for emergencies, the local Community Emergency Response Team, led by Team Chief David Yeung, conducted Ready New York presentations in Cantonese and Mandarin to 440 people in the past year. Ready New York guides are available in Chinese and 12 other languages as well as Braille and audio format to ensure that all New Yorkers can become Ready New Yorkers.

### ***About the Ready Schools Initiative***

During fall 2007, OEM and DOE launched the Ready New York for Kids preparedness program by distributing 1.1 million Ready New York for Kids guides to the City’s public school children along with classroom handouts for teachers. In 2008, OEM and DOE created a curriculum for children and teens to educate them on the importance of preparedness making a plan with their families and gathering emergency supplies, like stay-at-home kits and Go Bags and most importantly bringing this information home to share it with their families.

In spring 2009, OEM and DOE ran a pilot program in one Brooklyn school district, holding events at 14 schools and educating over 2,400 students over four months. In fall 2009, the program went citywide. Over the past five years, OEM staff have visited 266 schools, conducted 617 workshops and assemblies and trained more than 80,000 students. During the 2013-2014 school year, OEM’s Ready New York program completed 142 events in 60 schools throughout the five boroughs and trained more than 15,400 students in preparedness.

Ready Schools focuses on three key messages:

- **Get Ready: *Make a Plan*** – Have at least two phone numbers – one local and one out-of-state number – you can call in an emergency and practice the plan with adults in your home.
- **Get Set: *Prepare a Stay at Home Kit*** – During emergencies that require you to stay at home, have extra food and water for all family members and a battery-operated radio for news updates.
- **Get Ready to Go: *Pack a Go Bag*** – During emergencies that require you to leave your home, have a Go Bag with emergency supplies.

Ready Schools and Ready New York for Kids are part of OEM’s Ready New York emergency preparedness program. Launched in 2003, the Ready New York program includes 11 multilingual publications, video content, an advertising campaign, interactive web content, a speakers’ bureau, and extensive community outreach. Ready New York guides are available in 13 languages and in Braille and in audio format.

For more information about the Ready Schools initiative, visit [NYC.gov/readyny](http://NYC.gov/readyny) or call 311.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Nancy Greco Silvestri (718) 422-4888

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