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PS/MS 219 IN QUEENS RECEIVES NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Queens Students Bring Emergency Management Theater to Award Ceremony

Students at PS/MS 219 in Queens recently brought theater to their school assembly, all in the name of preparedness. Dozens of fourth and sixth graders performed two preparedness songs – one to the tune “Everything’s Coming up Roses,” from the Broadway musical “Gypsy” – the other an adaptation from the musical “Pippin.” Students also performed a skit about how to make an emergency plan. The mix of song and drama shared the key steps students need to know before the next emergency, and was part of NYC Emergency Management’s Ready School of the Year Award, presented to PS/MS 219.

“Thanks to the hard work of teachers and staff who used class projects and creative lesson plans to prepare for emergencies, the students at PS/MS 219 know the importance of an emergency plan,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “For their commitment to safety and readiness, we are proud to honor PS/MS 219 with the 2018 Ready School of the Year Award.”

“The families and staff of PS/MS 219 have all been affected by disasters large and small such as Hurricane Sandy or blizzards. These events are beyond our control,” said **Principal Fred Wright**. “We are happy that we have better skills to respond to these unforeseen situations with confidence to keep ourselves safe. We thank the NYC Emergency Management Department and Ready Girl for all the support we have received.”

NYC Emergency Management and the Department of Education presents the annual Ready School of the Year Award to a school that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to emergency preparedness. Over the course of three years, PS/MS 219 worked with NYC Emergency Management to integrate emergency preparedness lessons into the classroom. From fire and hurricanes to blizzards, the students learned how to prepare for varying emergencies. They also learned how to write an [emergency plan](#), how to pack a Go Bag, and how to gather emergency supplies.

Inspired by visits from NYC Emergency Management’s Ready New York team and emergency preparedness superhero Ready Girl, Sue Greenberg, special events coordinator and special education teacher at PS/MS 219, created this year’s emergency preparedness program.

“Children can read something in a textbook, but when they sing or act it out, they seem to remember it more easily,” **Greenberg** said. “If we educate our children at a young age and they share their wealth of knowledge with their friends and family, they will be prepared.”

During the 2017-2018 school year, NYC Emergency Management’s Ready New York program hosted over 270 presentations in NYC schools. NYC Emergency Management visited 38 schools and trained more than 14,000 students in Queens through the Ready Schools emergency preparedness program.

About the Ready Schools Initiative

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.

About Ready Girl

Ready Girl is a superhero and emergency manager who teaches kids about emergency preparedness. She is part of the Ready New York for Kids’ program, a joint initiative between NYC Emergency Management and the Department of Education, dedicated to helping educate young students about the importance of emergency preparedness. Since she burst onto the superhero scene back in October 2015, Ready Girl has taken her message all over New York City, visiting hundreds of schools, community centers and youth organizations, and dropping in on local fairs. She has trained thousands of kids throughout the five boroughs, getting every New York City kid ready for any emergency. To keep up-to-date on Ready Girl’s every move as she prepares kids for emergencies, visit her [blog](#), and visit NYC.gov/ReadyNY to learn more about the Ready New York program.

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