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**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION PRESENT READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD TO  
PS 97 IN QUEENS**

*Nearly 7,000 Students Across the Five Boroughs Received Ready Schools Emergency Preparedness Training This School Year*

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 Maureen Ingram at PS 97, the Forest Park School, in the Woodhaven section of Queens, for their on-going commitment to teaching students about the importance of preparing for emergencies.

“*The Ready Schools* program is an effective and fun way to teach children about the importance of preparing for emergencies,” said OEM Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno. “One of the best parts about teaching preparedness in City schools is that many students take the lessons they learn at these workshops and teach them to their families.”

“We want our children and the entire school community to be alert and prepared in the event of emergencies,” said Deputy Schools Chancellor Kathleen Grimm. “To this end, we have worked with the Office of Emergency Management and our school to incorporate the *Ready Schools* guides and curriculum to make sure students have the tools they need at school and at home.”

“The students and staff of the Forest Park School are extremely proud to be the recipients of the 2011 Ready School of the Year Award,” said Principal Maureen Ingram. “Commissioner Bruno and his team of dedicated professionals have provided our students, staff and their families with an understanding of how to be prepared and respond to potential disasters and emergency situations, we look forward to continuing our work with the Office of Emergency Management.”

Since the beginning of the school year, PS 97 has hosted a series of *Ready Schools* emergency preparedness presentations, training close to 600 students, parents, and staff. Over the 2010-2011 school year, OEM’s Ready New York program has completed over 90 events in 40 schools throughout the five boroughs and trained over 7,000 students in preparedness.

*Ready Schools* is part of the *Ready New York for Kids* program, which launched in 2007 with the introduction of two interactive emergency preparedness guides for students. In spring 2009, OEM and DOE expanded the initiative, introducing a pilot program to teach the lessons from *Ready New York for Kids* in schools.

After a successful pilot program in Brooklyn, OEM and DOE launched *Ready Schools* in all five boroughs at the start of the 2009/2010 school year. To date, nearly 27,000 public school students have been trained in emergency preparedness through the *Ready Schools* program.

*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 – which 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, it is important to have extra food and water for everyone in the house 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* preparedness program. *Ready New York* has grown dramatically since OEM released its first household preparedness guide in 2003. The program now includes 11 multi-language publications, public service announcements, a video, an advertising campaign, expanded web content, a speakers' bureau, a reprinting program, corporate partnerships, and extensive community outreach. *Ready New York* guides are available in up to 23 languages and in Braille and on audio tape.

According to OEM's third annual preparedness survey conducted in 2009, roughly six in 10 New Yorkers say they are prepared for an emergency, such as a natural disaster, fire, or power outage. The most common reason New Yorkers do not prepare for emergencies is that they have not considered it.

For more information about the *Ready Schools* initiative and the *Ready New York* program visit [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem) or call 311.

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