**September 6, 2018**

**Dear 6th Grade Families,**

MS 447 is delighted to offer incoming 6th graders an opportunity to experience our annual **Camp Bernie** overnight trip. Camp Bernie is a YMCA camp in Ridgewood, New Jersey, that offers ‘project adventure’ type activities. This will be the 12th year MS 447 6th grade students and staff return to Camp Bernie. The purpose of the trip is to have 6th graders **engage in team, trust and communication building activities**. This experience enables our students to bond and further their adjustment to middle school. The trip’s goals are achieved in a nurturing and well structured environment. Camp Bernie staff, MS 447 teachers and parent chaperones help ensure an invaluable experience for all. Camp Bernie information may be found on their website: [**www.campbernieymca.org**](http://www.campbernieymca.org)

**Camp Bernie and MS 447** have established a significant relationship by working together all these years. Our goal is to have **every MS 447 6th grader participate**. In the past we have had near 100% participation. To make this happen, we need your support. Fundraising is needed to reach those who may not otherwise afford the trip, as well as ease the financial burden on your family. Our candy sale, PTA scholarships, and family funding and donations allow for every student to participate. Please email if financial assistance is needed. Parent chaperones are needed, however there is limited space. Please email if interested.

**Please read and note some of the Camp Bernie basics.**

**TRIP DATES:** **Wednesday, October 17th - Friday, October 19th**

**TRIP COST: $240.00** –Includes lodging, food, programs and activities, and transportation.

**DUE DATES: ALL FORMS, September 26th.**

**PAYMENT IS DUE BY: October 8th\*. Candy Sale money can be turned in up until October October 15th.**

**Candy Sale:** Candy sales are **optional**. Children who wish to sell candy to offset the cost of the trip will be sent home with a 30 piece box of $2 candy worth $60 per box. Children will “earn” $30 towards the cost of the trip with each box they sell. The remaining $30 will cover the cost of the candy. For example, if a child sells 4 boxes, the cost for his/her trip would be reduced by $120. A student who sells 14 boxes will completely cover the cost of the trip. If you would like to donate the money raised from the sale of your candy to the scholarship fund, you should make a note of that on the candy money envelope. We are asking every family to sell at least one box of candy. No candy may be sold inside the school building. If you would prefer that your child not be given candy to sell, please notify Ms. Katz

**Candy Rules: NO candy may be sold by students in the cafeteria or school building. Once boxes are distributed, you are responsible for the cost of that box. One candy box is given out at a time. Anyone wanting more than one box at a time needs to contact the school.**

**The following documents must be returned to the school by September 26th:**

* **Registration and Payment Form**
* **2018 Camp Bernie Special Needs and Food Allergy Notifications**
* **NYC Parent Notification/Consent form**
* **YMCA Program Waiver**

Last year, and all the years past, we have had an amazing time. We are looking forward to sharing this exciting experience with your children! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me.

Thank You,

Mili on behalf of our 6th Grade Team

Mili Katz,

Head of Student Affairs (mkatz@ms447.org)