

**PS 87 Third Grade Students
Submit Letter to the
Department of Education
Chancellor Pushing to
Preserve Operating Budget**

Reported by Staff Reporter
Rong Xiaoqing from New
York

*Picture Caption: City Council
Member Gale Brewer Encouraged
the Children to Express Their Own
Thoughts.*

Yesterday (the 14th), third grade student representatives from Public School 87 from the Upper West Side arrived at the Department of Education to hand over to the staff of the Department of Education over 70 letters written by third grade students of that school addressed to Chancellor Klein. In the letters, the children expressed their worries over the City's cut to the education operating budget, requesting the Chancellor to preserve the operating budget to support their necessary educational programs.

Participating children Maya Velasquez and Kenna Wladis indicated that they like the school's current arts program and after school activities; if the operating budget is cut, these activities may be cancelled, and they would be very heartbroken. The initiators of this activity are some of the school's parents, one of which, Cynthia Wachtell, indicated that these letters were written by the children during class, which not only enhanced their writing skills but also developed their advocacy skills. City Council Member Gale Brewer, whose district includes PS 87, also came to encourage the children to express their own thoughts.

<http://www.nysingtao.com/stny>