



**FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PS11 PTA  
General Meeting  
Sept. 24, 2014 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Called to Order: 9:05 am**

**Welcome**

**Approval of June's minutes**

**President's Report (Nicole Dorrell and Jamie Sowlakis): [ps11ptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)**

**\*Financial goals:** Last year we hit our financial goals. This year, we are aiming a little bit higher, and we need your help to do this. \*Financial information available upon request

**\*New Family Social:** will take place on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9 pm at the home of Kathy Ellman. Please bring a beverage or a snack to share. This will be Kathy's last year hosting. If anyone is interested in taking over hosting in the future, please speak to one of the board members.

**Principal's Report (Bob Bender)**

**\*School size:** As of today we have 881 students.

**\*Kindergarten volunteers:** Thanks to all the parents who have helped by volunteering to escort new kindergartners from the gate and into the cafeteria during the past several weeks.

**\*New Assistant Principal:** Serena Mueller, our former math coach, has moved into this position.

**\*Pot Luck.** Chancellor Farina came to our Fall Potluck Social. She loved the energy of our school. She had to pick one school to walk some potential Department of Education funders through, and she picked us. She'll be here October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Special Programs:** A lot of specialty programs start next week. Fourth graders start hip-hop. Kindergartners start the Education in Dance program. The Science Exploratorium will open to Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. And 5<sup>th</sup> graders will start with Rosie's Theater next week.

**\*Going Paperless:** We are working hard this year to be as paperless as possible. Please check your email and listen to the robotic phone calls home...In addition, please check the website daily.

**\*Attendance.** Come to school every day on time. School starts at 8:50 a.m, at which point your child should be sitting in his or her seat. If you arrive after we've closed the gate, your child must go through the front door to receive a late pass. Please be mindful that scheduling **vacations** outside of official vacation days will look very bad on your child's transcript when it comes time to apply to middle school. Some of our highest performing students did not get into the middle school of their choice because of lateness and absences. In District 2, your child is competing with some of the brightest kids in NYC. The first thing middle school principals do, when evaluating applications, is look at a child's attendance record.

### **Parent Coordinator's Report (Stephen McGill)**

**\*Picture day.** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

**\*Flu Shots:** The Ryan Center is going to extend deadline for flu shots. If you want your child to get a flu shot at The Ryan Center, see Mr. McGill for the forms and return them to him or The Ryan Center mailbox. This year the Department of Education is requiring PreK students to have a flu shot, as well.

**\*Class Parents:** If you volunteered to be class parent, you will receive notification about a class parent orientation meeting soon.

**\*Afterschool at PS11:** Afterschool classes start on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **SLT Report (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn (PTA liaison) ([edrps11secretary@gmail.com](mailto:edrps11secretary@gmail.com))**

**\*Today's report given by Robin Broshi**

**\*Who we are:** SLT stands for School Leadership Team. Every school in the city has one. We meet once a month. One of our primary charges is to create a comprehensive education plan, which are a set of quantifiable curriculum goals. You can check out our PS11 website for last year's plan. We also sponsor special events. Upcoming events: **Literacy Night is September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm; Math Night is October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

**\*Street sign.** We have a new sign on our block warning drivers that it's a school zone. Unfortunately, it's not in a great spot. We are working to relocate it.

**\*Community Education Council.** Robin Broshi serves on our District 2 Community Education Council. Every district has a CEC. They are most notable for approving new school zoning lines, but also discuss other policy issues. Representatives also serve as advocates for families in the community. You can see the calendar on website and sign up for email alerts if you'd like to receive notification of what happens during the meetings.

### **Special Elections Vote**

**The following members were added to the executive board via election at this meeting:**

**Assistant Treasurer:** Michael Goldsman, Alli Areng

**Co-VP Community Events:** Liz Danneels

**Co-VP Communications:** Ivana Tagliamonte

**Members-at-Large (2):** Mark Millender, Shilpa Akella

### **Crossing Guard**

Please walk within the crosswalk lines, and walk bicycles and scooters when crossing the street.

### **Fundraising Report (Sarah Frankfurt and Yasmine Mahdavi ) [ps11annualfund@gmail.com](mailto:ps11annualfund@gmail.com)**

**\*How we fundraise:** There are three main sources from which we raise money: the annual fund, Comedy for a Cause, and the Spring Auction & Gala.

**-Annual Fund:** This money comes directly from parents. We need 85% participation, in this, to raise as much as we need and to qualify for grants. (Those who award grants use parent participation—measured via the number of families who donate—as one gauge when deciding whether to give grants to schools.) We need every family in school to give one dollar. If families can, we ask families to give \$500 per family. If there are families who would like to give more than \$500, we welcome it. We have had families give 5K. Large amounts like these are often used toward special class match fundraising drives. Donations are confidential. If you work for a large company, please check to see if they do corporate matches. <http://ps11chelsea.org/annual-fund/>

**NOTE:** People who donate to the annual fund before the Fall Festival will be entered in the raffle contest. First prize is an iPad, second is an iPad mini. Third prize is a gift certificate to Fairway. Any donation up until Oct 18<sup>th</sup> will be entered into that raffle.

**-Comedy for a Cause.** This is a comedy event organized, for the past several years, by Dara Gottfried, wife of comedian Gilbert Gottfried. Experience items—a one-on-one with a child talent agent, for example—are big sellers. If you have connections to anyone who can donate tickets—Saturday Night Live, fashion shows, concerts—please contact Dara and her team. <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11-comedy-for-a-cause/>

**-Spring Auction and Gala.** This occurs in the spring. It is one of our biggest fundraisers. <http://ps11chelsea.org/spring-auction-gala/>

#### **Smaller Fundraisers:**

**-Amazon.** If you go through the PS11 website and click on the Amazon button before you purchase, up to 8% of purchases go to PS11. <http://ps11chelsea.org/amazoncom/>

**-Fairway.** They became one of our sponsors in the last month of the school year last year. For every dollar spent, 3% goes back to our school, with a possibility of larger percentages if we spend a lot. We just got our first check for that month--\$500. It could be much larger, obviously, this year, if we all shop there. We were the first pilot program for Fairway. They've now rolled it out city-wide this year. You will need a card with a code on it to show your checkout person after shopping in order to credit PS11 with your purchase. To get a card, go on the PS11 website and put your information in. Your Fairway card will be mailed to you. There's a double rewards shopping day coming up--6% credit for PS11 for your shopping. An email will go out with the date. <http://ps11chelsea.org/fairway/>

**-Camp auction.** This is new. It will happen at the end of January or early February. If you have any connections to camps that you think might donate, you can download a donation letter from the PS11 website and have them send it in to the PTA.

#### **Community Membership Report (Rachel Glube & Colby Trane) [ps11volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ps11volunteer@gmail.com)**

We're a very involved school, and you will be asked to help out on a lot of things. Clipboards are being sent around the meeting. If you would like to volunteer but don't know what you want to do, email us and we'll help. One upcoming fundraiser for which we will need help: The Coin Drive. It will start in the beginning of October and run for two weeks. If a class in grades 2-5

raises the most money, it will win an extra pool period. If the winner is in K-1, the winning class will get an extra recess. We'll need people to help collect coins and bring them to the bank.

### **Fall Festival & Crafts Fair (Dan Ryan) (Chair)**

**Fall Festival will be Sat. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> from 11-4 at PS11.** Food will be from Jake's Saloon. You can win tickets to the Rockefeller tree lighting and a Giants game. There will be a bake sale, bouncy castles, an Etsy craft fair, and arts and crafts. We need volunteers to help run the event, as well as people to bake individually wrapped baked goods that can be sold for \$1. (Items must be nut free.) If you can't bake or won't be here or able to attend, there's an Amazon wish list for supplies for games, arts and crafts activities on the PS11 Fall Festival page on the PS11 website. <http://ps11chelsea.org/fall-festival/>

### **Enrichment Projects**

**-Science Fair.** Information went out earlier this week for the information session, for interested students and parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. It will be held on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 to 8:45 in the auditorium. Web Page: <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11-science-fair/>

### **-Farm to Table.**

We have chickens and a garden school food committee. We are a café to table school, which means anything grown in the garden can be used in the school cafeteria. We also have a farm market. There are volunteer opportunities to maintain the gardens, chickens, teaching healthy cooking, turn compost, apply for grants and pick up seeds for planting. There's an upcoming volunteer opportunity on Harvest Day, Oct. 22. We need volunteers to help in the cafeteria and garden as we harvest kale and herbs for the kitchen. Questions:

[PS11farmtotablegroup@gmail.com](mailto:PS11farmtotablegroup@gmail.com)

Web Page: <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11-farm-to-table-group/>

### **-Young Artists Program**

In this program, parents volunteer to come in and teach an art class once a week for eight weeks. Last year, we had printmaking, jewelry making, and collage, among other mediums. You don't have to be an artist to teach—having a love for teaching or art is enough. We have a show at the end of the eight weeks in a real New York art gallery. An informational meeting will take place on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please watch your email/the website/Facebook for details.

Web page: <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11-young-artists/>

### **-Library**

The library is completely run by volunteers. We need lots of new volunteers this year. Volunteers work in shifts from 9-12 and 12-3 every day. Contact [ps11library@gmail.com](mailto:ps11library@gmail.com) if you're interested.

### **-Chess**

We have an amazing chess team here at PS11. We just finished tryouts, and we now have 45 kids on the chess team. There's a chess tournament coming up on Columbus Day, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. If anyone wants to volunteer and help, it's a big fundraiser for the team. First graders will begin ten weeks of chess instructions, once a week, beginning November 3. <http://ps11chelsea.org/additional-enrichment/>

### **-Robotics**

We have some changes. Robotics for K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be run by Debbie Osborne through the afterschool program. Please see her about her plans for that program. Lego robotics for the upper grades is run through the Lego company. They issue a problem and the kids have to solve it. There's a competition at the Javits Center at the end of the problem-solving term. There is a \$400 donation/fee for this program, so that we can buy new robots for the kids and compete with other schools using them. <http://ps11chelsea.org/additional-enrichment/>

### **-Spelling Bee**

We will have our first spelling bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at PS11 this year. Class bees will happen Oct. 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>. The school bee will be Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. We need parent volunteers to help scoring tests. More information is on the PS11 website.

### **Adjournment: 10:15**