



FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PS 11 PTA

**General Meeting
October 15, 2014 9:00 AM**

Welcome / Call to Order: 9:05 a.m.

Approval of September's minutes

Presidents' Report (Nicole Dorrell and Jamie Sowlakis)
ps11ptapresident@gmail.com

***Participatory Budgeting (Matt Green from Councilman Corey Johnson's office).** There's a new initiative happening in our community called Participatory Budgeting. It's a process designed to reallocate a portion of city funds to the communities. It began four years ago in NYC. This is the first time it has taken place in District 3. We want to know what ideas residents have regarding ideas to improve the community in areas like public spaces, libraries, and schools. The process has just started. There will be three meetings happening very soon for people to come out and suggest ideas. Voting on ideas will happen next Spring. Ideas with the most votes win. Anyone 14 or older can vote.

Here are the dates and places for the three upcoming public meetings:

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-Oc. 21st - 2 p.m. Our Lady of Pompeii. 25 Carmine Street.
- Oct 28th - 6:30 p.m. Local 802. 322 West 48th Street.
- October 29th – (no time given yet). The Little Red School House. 272 6th Avenue.

For more information, email mgreen@council.nyc.gov

***R.J. Jordan (representative from the Department of Public Affairs Office of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer).** We are here to be another resource in the community. We will be checking in every other month at PTA meetings. In the meantime, if you need to reach us, call: 212-669-3745.

Principal's Report (Serena Mueller, Assistant Principal)

***Fall Festival.** Thanks in advance for all the hard work that has already gone into—and will go into—Fall Festival. The kids are very excited.

***Budget.** Specific thanks for supporting our budget. First grade started chess this week, and we hired four part-time intervention teachers.

***Parent/Teacher Conferences.** Next month we will have parent teacher conferences. Teachers will be reaching out to you to make appointments.

***PS11 Impresses.** New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina has named PS11 an exemplary example of health, nutrition and the arts. She will be bringing “the big five”—the superintendents of the 5 biggest city school districts in New York—to our school to show it off.

Parent Coordinator's Report (Stephen McGill)

***G&T.** Requests for G&T testing are now being accepted online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/GiftedandTalented/default>. The deadline to request testing is Friday, November 7, 2014. See Mr. McGill for books explaining the program, a time line, and sample tests.

***Kramer Levin.** This is the law firm that does pro bono work for families at PS11. Samantha Ford, the new liaison for the firm, attended the meeting. A representative from the firm is at the school after every Family Friday, at 9:30 a.m., in The Ryan Center, to consult with families regarding legal issues. The kinds of cases the firm typically takes are related to housing, public benefits and things that affect a child's ability to get an education. Services are free but there are some income limits.

If you can't make the appointed time, the firm can be contacted through Stephen McGill.

SLT Report (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn (PTA liaison)
edrps11secretary@gmail.com

***Literacy Night and Math Night.** Both were very successful. A survey regarding these events will be going out via email. If you attended and did not fill one out, please do so. If you attended and simply want to add a few thoughts, please feel free to fill out a new survey. If you did not attend and have feedback that would help us make the programs more accessible, please fill out a survey and share your thoughts.

***Curriculum Connection—Oct 27th:** Will be re-scheduled. Watch the website, Facebook page and your email for more information about the next one.

***Book Club.** Mr. Bender is launching a parent book club. The first book will be *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*. The teachers are reading it and will be incorporating themes from it in the classroom. The book club will meet once a week on Thursdays at 8 a.m. Childcare will be provided. Watch your email for sign-up information.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Riccardo & Todd Parmett)
(Assistant Treasurers: Michael Goldsman & Aili Areng)
ps11treasurererchelsea@gmail.com

***Cash on hand.** So far so good this year. *Financials available upon request.

***Chess.** At the last PTA meeting of last year, we voted to increase the chess budget by \$4,000. Now we have a variance of \$4K in the budget because we didn't vote on where we wanted to take that \$4K. The executive board of the PTA recently discussed it and recommends that the variance be taken from the Supplies budget. (Vote taken and approved.)

Fundraising Report (Sarah Frankfurt and Yasmine Mahdavi)

ps11annualfund@gmail.com

***Annual Fund.** Things are going well. Donations have started to come toward the annual fund, and we have received several corporate matches. *Financial information available upon request.

***Comedy for a Cause (Dara Gottfried).** The Third Annual Comedy for a Cause event will happen on February 10th at the Gotham Comedy Club. Tickets will go on sale on December 8th at noon. An all star group of comedians has signed on to perform, including: Gilbert Gottfried, John Oliver, Colin Quinn, Jim Gaffigan, Nikki Carr, Ted Alexandro and Seth Herzog (**Talent is subject to change without notice.**) Tickets prices will be \$75 for General Admission (back corners of the room); \$150 for G/A and 2 drinks; \$250 for VIP, which includes a 1 hour pre-show party, open bar throughout the show, tax and gratuity and preferred seating. Sponsorship tables are being sold now. Email Sarah Frankfurt (raderfrankfurt@yahoo.com) for more information on sponsorship tables.

Comedy for a Cause Auction: There's an online auction in conjunction with this event through an online auction venue called Charity Buzz. CB has a national audience, and they specialize in experiences such as tickets to Saturday Night Live shows, and things you can't buy, like tickets to fashion shows and roles in movies. If you have an idea for this, please reach out to the Comedy for a Cause team: dara.gottfried@gmail.com

Community Events Report Alexandra Levi & Liz Willette Danneels
ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

***Fairway.** Proceeds of your shopping go to PS11 when you use your PS11 Fairway card. The program now operates in all stores in NYC. So far there are 300 card-carrying PS11 families. We need people shopping. Cards don't have to be only for PS11 parents—you can encourage family members and neighbors to get one, too. Click on the Fairway icon on the PS11 website to register for you card. (It will arrive in the mail.)

Community Programs Report (Corrine Piscariu & Heather Zicko)
ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com

***Chess.** They had their first tournament at the school on Monday. More than 600 kids participated, 45 from PS11. The Rookie Team took first

place. Fundraising was successful. There will be a chess-a-thon at Fall Festival. Please sponsor your favorite chess player or challenge one of our players. The next tournament held at our school will be on Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th.

***Young Artists.** About 40 people showed up for the recent meeting re: young artists. The only change in the program this year: Kindergarten will not be participating. Young artists will start at 1st grade.

***Library.** They need volunteers. People are needed for shifts that run from 12-3 on Wednesday and Thursday and possibly Friday.

***Farm to Table.** Wednesday October 22nd is Harvest Day. Monday we will be harvesting kale and basil. Wednesday, Chef Cynthia and the kitchen staff will cook it and offer it to the kids.

***Work Day in the Big Yard.** On November 1st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a work day in the big yard—mulching, repairs, composting and more. Bring your pumpkins for composting. Seed packets will be given away and there will be refreshments.

Ps11farmtotablegroup@gmail.com

***Paddle 8.** Paddle 8 is an online auction of artwork, sales from which benefit PS11. If you know of any contemporary artists whose work sells at galleries or auction for upward of \$1K, please ask if they are interested in donating work to Paddle 8 to benefit PS11.

***Spelling Bee.** Round one of the spelling bee is today. We need volunteers Nov. 19th for the final event. Ps11chelseabee@gmail.com

Community Membership Report (Rachel Glube & Colby Trane)

ps11volunteer@gmail.com

***Fall Festival.** We need another 25 people to volunteer or we will have to start cutting games.

***Scholastic Book Fair.** Tuesday, Oct. 28th. The kids will all get a chance to purchase books on their own. We need volunteers to help set up

Monday night, the 27th. And we need volunteers Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to help staff the fair. ps11volunteer@gmail.com

Crossing Guard. Suggests speed bumps to keep bikes from going so fast down our street.

Adjournment: 9:58