



FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PS 11 PTA
General Meeting
March 19, 2014 9:00 AM
Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order: 9:05

Approval of January and February's minutes

Fundraising Report

***Annual Fund.** March-Matchness is on. The good news is that people have been donating. The bad news is that we're only at 51% participation. We really need to get to 85%, because the family that provides the match will not give the extra 25k unless we get to 85% participation. Representatives from the PTA will be out every morning in front of the school collecting. If you are a class parent, please spread the word with your class. Any amount helps.

***K&G Towels.** The children are drawing their portraits, each of which will go on a class tea towel. They will be \$15 each. The order forms will be coming home in the home folder today. The towels will be distributed in time for Mother's Day.

Auction/Gala

***Tickets.** Plans are moving along. If anyone has connections in the liquor industry please let Scott Coscia know (PS11Auction@gmail.com). There will be a one day early ticket sale on April 1st. Prices will be \$50 a ticket on this day only. On April 2nd the ticket price will go up to \$75 a ticket. VIP tickets will go for \$250. VIP tickets get purchasers in to an early cocktail hour, and give them priority seating, a meet and greet with celebrity judges, and a tequila tasting. All teachers are invited to the gala. Parents will have the option to buy a teacher ticket. You can buy tickets online:

<http://ps11chelsea.org/spring-auction-gala/>

***Auction items.** Last year we had more than 600 items in total to auction. This year we are at 100 items so far. Now is the time, if you have plans to donate. On the website, there is a giant spreadsheet that allows people to pick items that they want to go solicit on behalf of PS11.

***Corporate sponsors.** We have some corporate sponsors now, and room for more. If you work for a company and think they'd like to be involved, companies will get signage at the gala plus marketing advertisement. We have levels of sponsorship set up.

***Raffle.** If you sell 20 \$5 dollar raffle tickets, you get a free ticket to the gala. The prize for the raffle is an iPad.

Principal's Report: Bob Bender

***Robin Broshi** was unanimously elected to the CEC (Community Education Council) last week. Parents on this council have influence with the department of education and school chancellor.

Parent Coordinator: Stephen McGill

***Parent surveys.** Thank you so much for completing parent surveys.

***Pre-k application.** The application process has started. If you are planning on applying for a pre-k seat for next September, the deadline is April 23rd. You can apply online or at the enrollment office at 333 7th Avenue on the 12th floor.

***School tours.** The next tours are on April 8th and April 10th at 9:15.

***Track.** Mr. Nichols wanted me to let you know you will receive a form for your child to participate in track events that are coming up. Third, fourth and fifth grade students will be invited to join the track team. ***Yearbook committee.** Please look out for emails regarding photo submissions as well as ad placement for businesses, class ads and family ads.

Guest Speakers: Jenny Sheffer Stevens and Gigi Karabinakis

Topic: Standardized testing

Jenny and Gigi have started a committee on standardized testing. Jenny: I am neither strictly anti common core or standardize testing. In NYC, however, testing is high stakes. In NYC huge significance is attached to these tests. The city has linked standardized testing to grade promotion, middle school admissions, and even teacher evaluations. We should reject a system that puts disproportionate emphasis on tests widely acknowledged to be flawed. English language learners, students with disabilities, children living in poverty are all disproportionately burdened by this testing. Testing starts April 1st. We have two weeks to make change. If your children are in

pre-k through 2nd grade, now is the time to change the system before they reach testing age. It is rumored that standardized testing as a practice is coming even to 1st and 2nd grade. Grassroots parent mobilization is happening around the city. We will be holding a mini-forum Monday March 24th at 6:30. Location TBA.

For more information, or to join the mailing list, email:
jshefferstevens@gmail.com.

School Leadership Team (SLT):

***Sign.** We're working on a school zone sign on 21st Street to make it safer for the kids.

***Playground.** We're trying to figure out how to get rid of snow and ice better so as to preserve the option to play on the playground in winter.

***Curriculum Connection.** There's a curriculum connection coming up in May. The topic will be summer reading.

***Architecture night.** Tonight is architecture night. There will be a short presentation and then, for one hour, kids will have good time re-building their Chelsea neighborhood out of boxes in the cafeteria.

Volunteers report.

***Auction.** Volunteers are needed to start selling raffle tickets after the vacation in April. There will be a.m. and p.m. shifts. Sales will begin April 23rd and go to May 5th. The day of the gala, May 5th, we need about 80 volunteers to drive over and bring stuff to the restaurant, unload, help set up, help at the gala, and clean up. Please contact Rachel Glube or Lynn Bonds if you'd like to volunteer. To volunteer, email: PS11volunteer@gmail.com.

New business

***The NYC Children's Film Festival.** It ends tomorrow. So far it has been a big success

***Fairway.** They will be giving money to the afterschool program, and to the gala. We will be rolling out the community partners program April 1st.

Fairway is fitting their Chelsea and Murray Hill Fairways with machines.. Anyone who wants to support PS11 will get a card. Fairway will give 3% of every dollar spent back to the school. We're going to ask people to do a portion of their grocery shopping there. It could be an awesome fundraiser for us that could add up to tens of thousands of dollars

***PS11 Supporters on the Website.** There will be a PTA supporters page on the PS11 website. Corporate partners coming in will get acknowledged depending on the level of support. Please check out the page to recognize

them. And if you have a business in the community or work for one in our community and are interested in a sponsorship arrangement for the school or the gala, reach out to Alex Levi (kindergarten parent):

alevi@elementfinancial.com.

***Elections.** The bylaws call for us to create a nominating committee to reach out to potential board members. We need 3-5 volunteers to make up a nominating committee and reach out to potential board members. The committee now includes Kathryn Crosby, Mike Farrah, and David Friedman. Elections are in June.

***Lost and Found.** Stickers with your child's full name on them are worth the investment. If an item has a name on it, it goes to Steven, and he gets it back to the child. Anything else goes into the last week section. Kids can look through the lost and found at lunch. After two weeks have gone by, items are donated to Homes for the Homeless. Keep checking, if you've lost something. Sometimes it takes awhile for something to show up in the lost and found.

***Young artists.** The gallery show featuring the kids' work will be on May 18th. Some of the artwork will be up for sale at the gala.

*Financial information available upon request.

Meeting adjourned 9:46 a.m.