

P.S.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting October 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:06 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Gratitude for all families
- Gratitude for Debbie for organizing the 3rd grade farm field trip. The kids had so much fun and got to learn where the farm market food is grown and how it gets to us. Thank you to the chaperones, teachers, paras, and PTA for making this possible
- Spelling Bee is back - thank you to parents taking it on. It will be open to 4th and 5th graders. Today was the deadline to sign up
 - Date of spelling bee still TBD - want to see how many kids will be involved
 - Students will complete a written test and then 10 students from each grade will advance into the finals
 - For those who didn't send in the form to be involved in the spelling bee but want to participate, please email: ps11chelsea.bee@gmail.com
- 5th grade is forming a Student Council
- Currently accepting applications for 4th graders to be EB Lunch Leaders. These students, instead of having lunch and recess with friends, will sit with and help Kindergarteners at lunch, opening their milk, helping them put on their coats/gloves, etc. Last year 5th graders were Lunch Leaders, but because of lunch schedules, this year it will have to be the 4th graders
 - EB members have to be willing to miss their own lunch/recess period
 - Anyone who wants to volunteer can sign up for as many days/wk they want to be a Lunch Leader; they can serve 1-5 days/week
- 5th graders started workshopping the Addams Family

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- Teachers (and Bob Bender) have completed initial screening assessments - most are done 1:1 with children in Kindergarten/1st grade. Specialty teachers are doing phonics assessments.
- Parent-teacher conferences are coming up in a few weeks
- The Ryan Center is currently open now. Information is forthcoming from the Ryan Center regarding how they will handle flu vaccines this year

SLT Report - Courtney Kapes Lewis (ps11SLT@gmail.com)

- One priority is how the school can be helpful in procuring translation services for everything, from PTA meetings like this to notifications going home

President's Report - Lisa Cox & Joanna Cohn Weiss (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)

- Cassandra Gregov recently hosted a safety meeting to review how school handles safety - helpful to hear about how safety is being handled inside and outside the school

Budget / Finance Report - Maria Melendez & Ellie Sze (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- Fundraising has begun for the year
- Approx half of the donations for the month can from CharityBuzz auction from last year
- School staff and lifeguards are the biggest line item in September, due to the full year's expenses being taken in that one month
- Everything else is tracking as expected from an expense perspective

Fundraising Report - Jax Cohen & Mori Ninomiya (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)

- Thank you to those who have already contributed to the Annual Fund
- Created a "cheat sheet" that shows all the ways in which you can contribute to the Annual Fund:
 - [PS 11 PTA | Annual Fund Giving Tipsheet - Google Docs](#)
- We will be having a Thanksgiving pie sale

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- Order form will be sent out - families can put in orders next week through Nov 7th
- \$25
- All proceeds will going to the PTA
- Pies will be available for pickup only on Nov 21st
- Cannot send pies home with kids, so please keep that in mind
- Will have gluten free pies as well
- Auction ideas would be welcome - think creatively; old art in the attic may be someone else's treasure
 - Contact leecaroline@gmail.com for any ideas
- Spelling bee, farm trip, 5th grade play, fall fest, Rosie's - these programs are all funded by the PTA
- [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](http://givingfuel.com)

Programs Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Shelley O'Sullivan **(ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)**

- Garden Day is tomorrow - rain or shine. Planters will be installed
- PS11 Merch available for presale/order now, pickup in Nov. Email will go out tomorrow
 - [Home | PS11 Sarah J Garnet School \(square.site\)](http://square.site)
- Book fair will be held Oct 30 - Nov 3
 - An online portion will be available as well - email to be sent
 - Kids will go with their classes to book shop
- Library will be opening next week
 - Classes come to the library for 20 minutes
 - They will learn about the library, engage in fun activities, and will get to check out a book. Please try to remember to return the book each week
 - Need 2 more library volunteers - one volunteer each for Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons
 - ps11library@gmail.com

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- PS11 Post
 - Information is coming in a few weeks

Events Report - Lucy Flint & Amanda Moskowitz (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)

- Reminder to get tickets for Comedy Night - Nov 14
 - Adults only
 - [PS11's Night of Stand-up Comedy Tickets, Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 8:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- Fall Festival - Oct 21, beginning at 11 am
 - Please volunteer
 - [2023 Fall Festival — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
 - Anyone who wants to contribute to the bake sale - drop off the night before or the morning of
 - There will be bouncy castles
 - Kids will be safe and always have so much fun
 - Great way to meet other families/parents
 - Free
- Teacher appreciation committee - kick off meeting next week
 - ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

Membership Report - Kristina Hammond & Kirsten Magen (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

- Check out all the great opportunities to volunteer
- Can always email ps11volunteer@gmail.com for help figuring out what opportunities would be the best fit

Communications Report - Pia Padukone, Maria Thomatos & Berman Fenelus (ptaps11@gmail.com)

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- Will send key dates and contact info from PTA meetings for those who cannot attend
- If anyone is not receiving the PTA Digest, please email ptaps11@gmail.com

Community Q&A

- Lost and Found Instagram: @ps11_lostandfound
 - Please label your hats/scarves/hoodies/jackets and water bottles
 - Weekly posts on Instagram with items from the lost and found
- Minutes of PTA meetings are posted every month on the website - can always look at those
 - Reminder that we are working on renovating/updating the website - a new and exciting website will be unveiled. Minutes of past meetings are stored there
 - You can download the school calendar directly onto your own Gmail calendars

Adjournment 9:41 am