

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting November 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:03 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Introduction to Josefina - social worker who is at PS11 three days/week
 - She is helping with student committees, including the Student Council and Lunch Leaders
 - The students have elected Presidents and Vice Presidents for both committees
 - All committees are bilingual - Josefina helps with Spanish translation
- Lunch leading program
 - Students give up their grade lunch and recess to help Kindergarteners during their lunch and recess
 - We will be collecting 4th grade applications for Lunch Leaders on Monday, November 27th, to begin working on Monday, December 4th
- Student Council President and Vice President spoke
 - 5th graders
 - Goal is to create ideas to make school more fun
 - First job is to create Spirit Days for each month
 - First is Compliment Day: students will wear white t-shirts and write compliments on each others' shirts
 - Student Council needs funds to purchase 1 white t-shirt and 1 fabric marker for each student
 - Estimated cost of \$2000
 - Voting via Zoom poll

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

- PTA members voted to approve the request for funds
- In 2 weeks the 5th graders will go on their trip to Washington, DC, funded by the PTA
- 3rd grade show will take place on Wednesday, November 22
- Update to Family Fridays: Family Fridays to allow younger siblings (who are not yet school-aged) can attend. Recommend for caregivers to please take the younger siblings out of the classroom if they become fussy, to minimize the disruption to the class

Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- The deadline for middle school application is December 8

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

- Updating bylaws
- Discussed making content accessible for non-English speakers
- Student enrichment application proposal was accepted, part of Art to Remember

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

- Gratitude for team who worked on Comedy Night - great evening, a lot of fun, raised money
- Trivia night, Gala coming up in the new year
- Safety issues - reminder to call 911 first
- For trash/debris on the street – please call 311 or use the app

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

- Reviewed October fundraising
- Gratitude for donations, pie sales
- Grants/sponsorships are excluded from fundraising
- Big items for the month - Rosie's Theater and the upcoming 5th grade DC trip
- Please continue to encourage people to support the school: funding not only covers programs but also the little things like paper, printers, ink, laminating supplies, etc. which are not funded by the DOE

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

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

- November 28 is Giving Tuesday
- Now is the perfect time to make your Annual Fund donations
 - [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)
 - We are currently very behind on Annual Fund donations
 - Annual Fund pays for almost all the programs that happen in the school
 - Biggest months are November and December
 - Can give via Giving Tuesday or in other ways
 - Remember to try and get your donation in for the 2023 tax year
 - Make Annual Fund checks payable to: Friends and Family of PS 11
- Pie fundraising
 - Pie pickup is on Tuesday morning, November 21
 - Please make sure to pick up your pies at dropoff
- Corporate Match
 - if your company provides a corporate match, you do need to get that set up before the end of the calendar year
- Messaging to the parent population
 - Flyers are being backpacked
 - The goal is to raise \$1200 per student
 - We need to get these numbers up by the end of the year
 - 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](#)
- CharityBuzz
 - PS11 has a page on Charity Buzz, an online auction site
 - 2 floor seats to Nets vs Magic game on December 2nd, worth \$12,000
 - More details will be included in the PTA Digest with a direct link to the item:
 - [Charitybuzz: 2 Courtside Tickets for the Dec 2 Nets vs Magic Game at Barclays Center in NYC](#)
 - Please consider any other items you could donate – e.g., a talent, hobby, experience
 - This goes to a broader audience, so we are not tapping into just the parent community but also casting a wider net
 - Please copy and share the link on social media

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

Programs Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Shelley O'Sullivan

(ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)

- Art to Remember deadline - November 20
 - School fundraiser
 - [Art to Remember](#)
- Young Artists Program
 - Kickoff was last week
 - Please email ps11youngartistsprogram@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer (teaching, leading, facilitating, mentoring, or helping)
 - Jan 22nd will be the start; classes run once/wk for 8 weeks
 - Culminates in a gallery space - last year in Giant Room
- Library
 - Library is in need of one more volunteer for Thursday mornings from 8:30-11:15 am
- Chess program:
 - PS11 has an amazing chess program and hosts several tournaments
 - There are 2 tournaments left - January and March
 - Need volunteers to help the tournaments run smoothly – there will be three 2-hour shifts
 - concessions
- Book fair
 - Extremely successful
 - Thank you for supporting the school
 - Still looking for one co-chair
 - The next book fair is in March, so there is plenty of time
 - Can do it virtually
- Yearbook
 - Starting to plan the yearbook for this year
 - Fully funded by the PTA so that every student receives a copy
 - In need of a photographer – do not need to be a professional photographer
 - When parents attend events, please take photos. The yearbook committee will send around a Dropbox link for parents to share photos; this is how the yearbook receives the bulk of its photos
- Merchandise
 - Will be for sale at the 3rd grade show and at Thanksgiving Pie pickup
 - [Home | PS11 Sarah J Garnet School \(square.site\)](#)

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

- Lost and Found
 - Gets very full
 - Please label your children's coats, hats, water bottles, lunch boxes with their classroom number, as volunteers do bring items back to classrooms and kids get them by the end of the day
 - There will be an event where parents can come to the school and look for kids' items in Lost & Found
 - We also have a label fundraiser through Mabel's Labels, where a portion of funds goes back to PS 11
 - ['Mabels Labels: Support a fundraiser](#)
 - Please choose PS11 Sarah J Garnet School so we can get part of the proceeds
- Spelling Bee
 - Semifinals were last week
 - 4 kids are moving on to the finals
 - Dec 4th is finals – please volunteer

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

- Comedy Night
 - Great success
 - Special thanks to Lindsay Barnes who curated the entire lineup and also performed
 - Thanks to everyone on the team who volunteered and to all the families who attended
- Trivia Night is the next event, on January 24 at Raoul's on 8th Ave and 21st St.
- Staff Appreciation
 - Teachers, staff and administration are what make the difference in our children's lives
 - 3 people are hard at work making our appreciation as a PTA known to them, hoping to get a team of 5-10 people to work on this for this year and years to come
 - If interested in joining the committee, please email events: ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

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

- There are many opportunities to get involved, involving varying degrees of time commitment
 - Young Artists, chess, yearbook, staff/teacher/administration appreciation, events
- Please consider volunteering in different ways
- Email ps11volunteer@gmail.com for help figuring out what opportunities would be the best fit

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

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

- If anyone is not receiving the PTA Digest, please email ptaps11@gmail.com

Members at Large

- Grants Committee & Participatory Budgeting
 - o \$1M of funding where residents of community can vote on initiatives
 - o We have proposed yard repair, auditorium upgrades, and street safety; these initiatives are competing with ideas submitted by other residents
 - o Giving a “thumbs up” and building community awareness helps
 - o Links for all three idea submissions – phone and computer “likes” count as different votes/likes
 - o [PS 11 Theater/Auditorium Repairs - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](https://pbnyc.org)
 - o [Environmental Upgrades and Repairs to PS 11 School Yard - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](https://pbnyc.org)
 - o [Pedestrian Safety Improvements around PS 11 and other neighborhood schools - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](https://pbnyc.org)
- Grants team
 - o Chartered with the mission of going out to the world to find more sources of funds for our community
 - o This involves soliciting other organizations for grants for specific projects, or annual fund/operating fund use
 - o If this is something you'd like to get involved in, we are looking for additional members of the team

Community Q&A

- Congratulations to Dickson's on winning Chili Fest
 - o They picked PS11 as their charity
 - o Cash prize based on ticket sales
 - o A great support engine for the school

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- 3rd grade show
 - o Good luck on the show!
- Happy Thanksgiving

Adjournment 10:01 am