

P.S.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:04 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Gratitude
- Student Council Report
 - 5th grade has been working with Bob on the plans for the new playground – together, they reviewed the proposed designs for the new playground and selected their top 3 choices
 - Been working on Spirit Days for each month - one day per month for the kids to enjoy and have a shared experience - e.g. stuffy day
- Reminder: the kids go outside to play every day, so please make sure they are bundled up. Only on days where there is too much snow or rain do they stay inside, but for most of the winter they will be outside even when it's cold

Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- Reminder: our last school tour is on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:45 am
- Kindergarten and G&T Kindergarten applications are now open
 - Parents need to go to schools.nyc.gov and follow the prompts for enrollment
 - All families that need a Kindergarten seat, including PreK students, need to apply
 - Applications for grades 1-3 will open in early Spring

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

- SLT met last month and had a very rich conversation about how we're protecting student identity at school, and how to improve that
 - Began 3rd grade workshop to honor kids' identities - cultural, religious, family, etc., with a focus on using language to help build people up rather than making them feel small and diminished

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

- Gratitude

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- New website:
 - Amanda Moskowitz (from the Events team) has been leading the charge to design the new PS11 website. She worked very closely with Dawn Rosevear to ensure compliance. Thank you to the team who worked on it.
 - [Home - P.S. 011 Sarah J. Garnet School \(ps11chelsea.org\)](https://ps11chelsea.org)
 - Please email ps11website@gmail.com with any questions, edits, additions, bugs, improvement suggestions, etc.
 - Please send each individual edit/change **as a separate email** to help manage the queue
- Safety:
 - The 10th precinct has a new police captain
 - Captain Gault has been an incredible ally for the school and very responsive. He has helped us out in so many ways. He recently received a promotion and Captain Brathwaite is now in place. He joined the safety committee meeting this week
 - The Student Council had students write a letter of gratitude (a line poem) to Captain Gault
 - As always, please call 911 if you see an issue
 - Please text/call/ask the school safety agent to please call the precinct directly if the response isn't fast enough
 - Debris, trash - please report to 311 - numbers help to prioritize issues

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

- November is our strongest month to date, but we are still behind goal YTD
- The Comedy Night auction boosted our fundraising for the month
- Thanksgiving pie sales also helped

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

- Thank you for everyone's generous donations
- We want to finish off the year strong; this is your last chance to donate for the 2023 tax year
- Please let us know if you need anything, e.g., tax letters
- Corporate matches also like to have their donations in by year end
 - If you did a corporate match, please check on the status of the match. Oftentimes the matches have to be validated by us and we can sometimes miss them. Please check and let us know of status
- Please make your Annual Fund donations
 - [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)

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- [PS 11 Annual Fund 2023-24 \(paypal.com\)](#)
- Make Annual Fund checks payable to: Friends and Family of PS 11
- “Cheat sheet” shows all the ways in which you can contribute to the Annual Fund:
 - [PS 11 PTA | Annual Fund Giving Tipsheet - Google Docs](#)
- Winter Festival – Thursday, December 21st from 8:00 to 8:30 am
 - Special collaboration with Annual Funds and Merch – please come to the school entrance and drop off your checks, swipe your cards, and buy some cool PS 11 gear!
 - There will be coffee and treats

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

- Chess in Schools
 - A nonprofit organization that brings chess to schools in the city so that every child in school learns how to play chess, whether in class, in Debbie's after school program, or on the Chess Team
 - PS 11 has been chosen as a host school
 - A great opportunity to fundraise – opportunity to sell snacks, leftover Halloween candy, and drinks
 - It is difficult for parents who are onsite with their kids who are playing in the chess tournaments to run concessions themselves
 - The next tournament is MLK weekend. If your family is in town and available between 11 am to 1 pm, we would love to have 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to help sell concessions in the PS 11 annex
 - This will be a first time trial with kids helping, so it would be great to have parents come in to help as well
 - [MLK Jr. Day Tournament | Chess In The Schools](#)
 - [PS 11 Chess Club & Team — Impact Coaching Network](#)
 - Tuesday Chess Club has rolling admissions, so they will prorate you at any time
 - Email Angel alopezicn@gmail.com if your kids are interested in doing a trial class for the Tuesday Chess Club
- Gratitude to all the volunteers who help enrich the school
 - Garden committee - makes our playground look beautiful, planter boxes
 - Library - 30 volunteers who run the library
 - Book fair - kids love going to the book fair
 - Young Artists Program - beloved and popular program, and always needs volunteers to help
 - Yearbook - grateful for producing an amazing product

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- o Newspaper - kids love being investigative reporters
- o Merch - thank you for making the selection so cool!
- o Lost and Found
- Spelling Bee
 - o An amazing experience - 80 kids signed up
 - o Got down to Final 4
 - o Top 2 winners are going on to the Manhattan Spelling Bee in January – we wish them the best of luck
 - o Look out for a story about the Spelling Bee in the next PS11 Post!

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

- So grateful for all the volunteer involvement we've had this year – having more people involved makes our events more successful and a lot more fun
 - o Juliana and Tanya - instrumental to Comedy Night
 - o Tara and Hannah - Trivia Night
 - o Staff Appreciation Committee - amazing
- Trivia Night will be on January 24th
 - o Please sign up for a fun evening out
 - o This is NOT a fundraiser; this is for building community
 - o Price of ticket is to cover costs
 - o Raul's - 8th Ave and 21st St
 - o [Trivia Night for PS11 Families Tickets, Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- Gala
 - o Kicking off Gala planning in Jan
 - o If interested in being involved in the Gala in some capacity, please send email to Lucy and Amanda at ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

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

- Gratitude to all the family liaisons for their help organizing year-end activities
- And a huge thank you to all the families for all you've done to help the school – we appreciate the enthusiasm and engagement

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

- We recently sent out FAQ's about the Annual Fund

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- If there's anything else where you would find more information helpful – e.g., how the PTA works, where your funds go, etc. – and a blast email would be informative, please let us know: ptaps11@gmail.com

Members at Large – Becker Chase and Kiran Patel

- Participatory Budgeting
 - How we get money out of the city's budget into our budget
 - \$1M of funding where residents of the community can vote on initiatives
 - We are learning the process and doing our best to advocate for projects in/around PS11 that would benefit our school. Please join us in this effort, as it's a multi-year endeavor and we need folks to join in the process to submit proposals and work them year-over-year to get money into our school
 - Thank you for your support in our proposals for the auditorium, yard repair, and street safety
 - [PS 11 Theater/Auditorium Repairs - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](#)
 - [Environmental Upgrades and Repairs to PS 11 School Yard - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](#)
 - [Pedestrian Safety Improvements around PS 11 and other neighborhood schools - New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 \(pbnyc.org\)](#)
 - We are now getting price quotes and helping the City Council identify what projects are deemed most important
- Grants Team
 - Also needs help; if you do anything in this area, please reach out if you can help
 - Beckerchase@gmail.com
 - Kiranspatel@gmail.com
- Grants Committee & Participatory Budgeting Committee both need volunteers

Community Q&A

- Gratitude for our community at PS11 - wishing everyone for a happy, healthy holiday

Adjournment 9:43 am