

P.S.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting January 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:03 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Happy new year
- Weather:
 - It's starting to get cold outside; please make sure kids are bundled up and that their gear is labeled (e.g., hats, scarves, gloves). The kids go outside every day for recess unless the weather is too severe.
 - We are preparing for a possible snow day next week, which means a remote learning day. Teachers will send out any links needed to sign in. We will be offering specialty classes throughout the day, which will be voluntary. Attendance will be taken on remote learning days, so please log in for 8:30 am morning meeting. We have planned fun things for kids to do on snow days.
- The kids will have a new schedule beginning the last week of January. Some grades will have new specialty classes.
- Report cards come out at the end of the month.
- Reminder: Students are allowed to bring cell phones to school, but they are not allowed to have them on them during class; they must be in their backpacks. Smart watches are allowed but must be on school mode.
- Spirit Day on January 19 will be "Crazy Day" – the Student Council made sure to make it accessible for everyone, at no extra money or cost. Come to school with mismatched clothes, crazy hair, etc.
- Wednesday, January 17 is the 5th grade Rosie's Theater performance at 9 am. We will try letting parents into the cafeteria beforehand.
- 3rd graders started Circle in the Square – they are working with published playwrights to write their own scripts, and their plays will be performed on Broadway.
- 1st grade started chess program once a week.
- We recently sent out information on the new ELA curriculum: our teachers are getting trained in the new mandatory ELA curriculum. It is a 3-day training, so there will be 3 days in a row where kids will have substitutes in the classroom. The training is starting with Kindergarten teachers. Please send your kids to school - teachers will have lessons planned and attendance will be taken.
- This is the first year our 5th graders will be taking state exams on the computer. The DOE is transitioning year by year to computer-based testing. This applies to just 5th graders; they will be taking Math, ELA, and Science tests. 3rd and 4th graders are taking paper-based tests.

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- School safety open meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 28th at 11 am via Zoom. A communication will be sent out.

Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- PreK application is available now online for parents to apply.
- Kindergarten applications are still open – this is for students entering in September 2024.
- G&T program applications are open for September 2024.
- Please remember that current PreK families must still apply for Kindergarten at PS11 even if your child already attends PS 11 for PreK. PreK and Kindergarten are different programs.
- Picture day is taking place on January 30 and 31. Families should be able to see a link on the website and a note from Family Liaisons for the Stomping Ground website, which shows the schedule all the way to delivery date of photos, and how to order photos.

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

- We are going to be holding internal elections, as one member of the SLT had to resign
 - o Every SLT term lasts 2 years; this individual had 4 months left of this school year to finish out their term, so their replacement will be stepping in for the next 4 months and then will have to re-run for the next school year.
 - o Meetings are on Tuesdays in person at 3 pm at school.
- If anyone has ideas for workshops, please send requests to SLT for review: ps11slt@gmail.com
 - o We are accepting enrichment proposals for programs that the school could benefit from. The Young Artists program was originally an SLT proposal and has now been run for many years at the school.
 - o [SLTEPA-2015d.pdf \(sqspcdn.com\)](https://www.sqspcdn.com)

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

- Vote to approved December 2023 minutes, minutes approved
- SLT vacancy – as noted above, there will be an expedited election during the February meeting; please reach out to Courtney with any questions.
- After School sign-ups have moved to next Thursday morning, January 18.
- We had success selling merchandise before and after a recent event when parents were allowed to wait inside the school for the show to start due to weather conditions. We are considering doing that again, so please be sure to check out the merchandise before and after school events.
 - o We have specific dates where we need volunteers to sell the merchandise - Rosie's Theater next Wednesday, January 17 and the 2nd grade show on Friday, January 19
 - o Please let us know if you're interested in selling merchandise: tessie.k@gmail.com

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

- We had limited expense recognition in December, and it was another strong donation month for Annual Fund. We also had an increase in corporate matches.
- However, we are mid-way through the school year and we are still below 50% of our target for the school year.

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

- Thank you for the donations in December – we had another good month of individual donations to the Annual Fund
- We are behind on corporate matching. Please reach out to Mori and Jax with any questions. Many companies provide a corporate match, but you do have to fill out paperwork and provide the right information.
- We need to keep the fundraising going, and there are a number of events happening soon to support fundraising efforts:
 - Spring Gala: We are looking for any items that families are able to donate. Anyone who can donate an item or experience, please do so
 - Read-a-Thon
 - Charity Buzz
 - Latest item - one of our Kindergarten parents is a chef, and has donated an experience that is a meet-and-greet, family-style dinner at a restaurant in the West Village
 - Please feel free to share the link with anyone who might be interested – it doesn't have to be within the school community
 - [Charitybuzz: Meet Chef John DeLucie with a Curated Dinner for 4 at Ambra in NYC](#)
 - If anyone has similar experiences like this or knows someone who can donate experiences - dining, tickets to shows, backstage access, etc., please let us know: McKenny.Rachel@gmail.com
 - Charity Buzz goes out to the whole world, not just PS11, so it's another way to raise money for the PTA without having to ask just our community to donate; this allows us to extend fundraising efforts beyond our community
 - If you don't know whether your donation would work better for Charity Buzz vs Gala, please reach out to the Executive Board and we'll let you know
- Please make your Annual Fund donations

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- [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)
- [PS 11 Annual Fund 2023-24 \(paypal.com\)](https://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](#)

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

- Yearbook is in full swing.
 - Takes 3 months to design and put together
 - Need photos – please upload at least 10 high res photos for events
 - Please make sure only PS11 students are in the photo; we cannot include photos with students from another school or family photos. These can be group photos, activity shots, portraits, etc.
 - Need photos for the Fall Festival, 5th grade DC trip, 3rd grade market stands, 3rd grade show, Rosie’s Theater, 2nd grade show, 100th day of school. All listings are on the website, with links available for upload: [Looking for Photos!! 📷 \(ps11chelsea.org\)](#)
- K&G Valentines program
 - Valentine’s Day is on February 14th
 - We need volunteers for the week of January 22 to help prepare cards/supplies and organize giving to kids
 - We will need help Feb 14th AM to organize all the cards and distribute to the classes
 - This is an annual event where each child will make and receive a card for another child in their grade
 - Please email if interested in volunteering: johee.kim@gmail.com; babyjzkacz@gmail.com
- Young Artists
 - The program will be starting the week of January 22
 - Participants are selected through a lottery. Families will find out next week whether their child has gotten into the program
- Spelling Bee - Manhattan competition
 - 2 kids attending
 - 57 schools will be represented
 - From there, 2 students will move on to the citywide competition

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

- Staff appreciation takes place throughout the year, and we will be continuing throughout the year
- Trivia night is coming up on January 24
 - [Trivia Night for PS11 Families Tickets, Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
 - This is an event focused on bringing the community together
 - Any money above and beyond the cost of the event will be donated back to PS11
- Spring Gala
 - May 15th
 - Please email events if you want to get involved – in whatever capacity you can

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

- Need help selling merchandise
- 100th day celebration is coming up on February 9th
 - K, 1st and 2nd grades participate
 - We will circulate more information; we need volunteers to help make this a fun day for the kids

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

Members at Large – Becker Chase and Kiran Patel

- We have submitted price quotes for all Participatory Budget ideas
 - We have meetings with the agencies next week. We will review pricing and feasibility - city agencies must be willing and able to do the projects based on the costs and resources
- We are kicking off sponsorships for Spring Gala - anyone who wants to call around to businesses to help sponsor, please reach out to Fran Brown

Community Q&A

- The 3rd grade wax museum will continue this year
- Playground: unfortunately, the project renovation is going to be completed a year from now
- Attendance is taken every day, regardless of whether there is a substitute in the classroom
- There was a new curriculum introduced last year for math. This year we have a new curriculum for ELA, mandated for every school in District 2.

Adjournment 9:48 am