



**SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL**

**PTA General Meeting  
January 17, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

- 9:03 am
- Gratitude, especially for this week's Lunch & Learn about helping children's anxiety

**Principal's Report - Bob Bender**

- New cold weather recess policy incorporates both outdoor play and indoor activities
- Kindergarten has been newly included in chess curriculum
- Reduced class size application has been submitted to DOE, hoping for response late Jan / early Feb
- Prepared to pivot to remote snow days as needed
- DOE has promised to make a decision about snow days by noon the previous day
- Coordinating a book drive for schools in LA affected by wildfires
- A student group is starting a new program called "Find a New Friend"

**Parent Coordinator's Report – Joan Brothers**

- Gratitude for our custodian, Jose
- January is scholarship month - Save for College program - has \$100+\$25 to start once activated for K to 3rd grade families
  - <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/college-and-career-planning/nyc-kids-rise-save-for-college-program>
- Picture days - January 27, 28

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

- Lunch & Learn series for parents, noon video calls
  - Complete - Jan 15 - Anxiety - highly attended (100+ attendees!)
  - Feb 11 - Collaborative Problem Solving
  - Apr 4 - Executive Functioning
- Mandatory HIV curriculum (mostly germ-centric) starting on February 13, mandated by DOE
- Hand-washing device "Soapy" coming into school on February 13, to help students improve their handwashing with sensors and interactivity/feedback on their handwashing
- Book Club starting soon, starting with "The Anxious Generation"

**President's Report – Joanna Cohn Weiss & Pia Padukone (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)**

- December 2024 meeting minutes approval
- No major safety issues to report; please call police if any safety issues arise
- Open safety meeting held this month including NYPD representative

**Treasurer's Report – Peggy Kauh (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)**

- Presentation of Treasurer's Report
- Discussion about nature of expenses coming in large waves and quieter periods, thus it is imperative to give year-round so that all programs can be funded on time



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### **Fundraising Report - Becker Chase & Jax Cohen (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)**

- Request for feedback on holiday season giving drive
- Comedy for a Cause upcoming! 6% of net basis of annual fundraising goal. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ps11s-annual-comedy-night-at-the-gotham>
- Presently at 37.7% raised of 100% of plan, with a goal of 59% by end of January, Donations to annual fund can be given via: <https://ps11pta.givingfuel.com/annual-fund>
- Please inquire with your employers about corporate matching programs, "Friends and Family of PS11" is registered as 501(c)(3)
- Questions can be submitted to [PS11annualfund@gmail.com](mailto:PS11annualfund@gmail.com)

### **Events Report - Amanda Moskowitz (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)**

- Comedy for a Cause - January 28. Headlining acts; Zarna Garg, Sarah Cooper and MC Ophira Eisenberg
  - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ps11s-annual-comedy-night-at-the-gotham>
  - Most of your ticket cost goes directly to PS11 and is tax-deductible
- "Wine and whine" event coming up
- Morning Coffee dates with PTA and Mr. Bender for New kindergarten families to answer questions about school coming soon

### **Membership Report - Kristina Hammond & Kiran Patel (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)**

- Need more volunteers for Comedy for a Cause (check-in, donation acceptance)
- Need a Read-a-thon co-chair, a few weeks to commit in February
- Still looking for a volunteer to help with sound at upcoming PS11 shows (don't need to be a pro!)
- Possibility to hire a professional sound person at a school discounted rate.

### **Programs Report - Shelley O'Sullivan & Tara Murphy (ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)**

- PS11 100-year anniversary coming in February; incorporating 3rd-5th graders to complete a time capsule that will be buried in the school yard
- End of January - PS11 Post will be published
- School library taking book donations; specific titles needed:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ld\\_Das6BjD5NDtunMd284FgOymQ9oTzp3v8ZhlZ0X4E/edit](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ld_Das6BjD5NDtunMd284FgOymQ9oTzp3v8ZhlZ0X4E/edit)
- Questions can be sent to [ps11library@gmail.com](mailto:ps11library@gmail.com)
- Chess Team registration in February: <https://impactcoachingnetwork.org/chess-club-and-team/ps11>
- All girls city championship in March (call for volunteers coming soon)
- Registration for girls chess Tournament; <https://chessintheschools.org/tournament/2025-3-15nyc-all-girls-chess-championship/>
- Young Artists program - many amazing programs!
  - 8-10 weeks during recess; make sure your child is fully committed before enrolling
  - Must sign up by end of day Monday, January 20 at  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr2OYqtp8ceumcnYJ7Pxt4zCbngZVuftpd1dkS--Ff57jTQ/viewform>
  - Only way to guarantee your child a spot is to come teach a class. Questions can be sent to [ps11youngartistprogram@gmail.com](mailto:ps11youngartistprogram@gmail.com)



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- Merch ideas and feedback requested. Survey at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH94BjJYJ8Q3HRCKAkTVP86A77iSfOB4Lo3rkN8664FVxR5g/viewform>
- Merchandise purchases can be made at <https://ps11chelseanyc.square.site/>

**Communications Report - Marina Thomatos & Kirsten Magen (ptaps11@gmail.com)**

- Check the PS11 website: <https://ps11chelsea.org> for more information

**Members-at-Large - Sara Burke and Gelsey Jeffreys (ps11mlg@gmail.com)**

- Kindergarten breakfast details coming soon

**Adjournment 10:07 am**