



SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

**PTA General Meeting
February 13, 2026
Meeting Agenda**

Meeting opened - 9:05 a.m.

Welcome – Pia Padukone & Marina Thomatos

- Attendance (Sign-in form: [PS11 PTA General Meeting - 02/13/26 sign in](#))
- Gratitude

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- PS11 Pride hoodie day! All PS11 staff wearing their Staff appreciation PS11 Hooded Sweatshirts
- Gratitude from 2nd grade students for gradewide school shows
- Black History Month shout out to our school namesake: Sarah J. Garnet, first African American principal in the New York Public School system during the suffrage movement

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

- March 2nd at 7pm - Book club workshop on resilience (3rd workshop in series)
- May 29, at 7:40am-8:45am: Parent-Child book club series for grades 3-5 (The Anxious Generation / The Amazing Generation)
 - Request to complete the interest survey:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScinVNBcLIXyaV-uYxfYbWTUmalyzos6l76-w8mTqnY3q8RqA/viewform>
 - Discussed prompt for parents to have a discussion with their kids about appropriate social behavior and awareness of the dangers of social media

Parent Coordinator's Report – Joan Brothers (jbrothers@schools.nyc.gov)

- Request to fill out the school survey sent home and available online:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/school-quality/nyc-school-survey/>
- Pre-K applications opened on January 14, closing on February 27; Kindergarten offers will go out March 31st, sibling preference remains in place

President's Report - Pia Padukone & Marina Thomatos (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)

- Approval of [January 2026 General Meeting minutes](#)
- Update of PTA \$200k surplus proposed allocations, vote and approval by General attendees:
 - Arts & Assembly (\$90K)- Auditorium updates, Sound system upgrades
 - The Modern classroom (\$70K)- Technology upgrades
 - Literary & Research (\$40K)- Library updates

Budget Report - Peggy Kauh & Andrew Saleh (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- January update

Fundraising Report - Becker Chase & Jess Galland (give@ps11pta.org)

PS.11 PTA

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- Fundraising YTD update
 - At 45% of annual fundraising goal (versus YTD target of 55%)
- Comedy night recap - thank you to events and fundraising team
- Read-A-Thon Preview
 - Take a Deep Dive into READING! - March 6-15
 - Information coming soon, donations can be offered by anyone (family & friends)!
- Bender Bar 2025- Golden Ticket Nintendo Switch drawing
- Give! Give! Give! Link: ps11chelsea.org/donate & Corporate match reminder

Events Report - Jess Kahn Marks & Genevieve Gorin (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)

- Save the Date for the PS11 Gala- May 4th
- Gala Committee - Volunteer request for planning committee, reach out to ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

Membership Report - Gelsey Jeffries & Emma Wang (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

- Bender Bar Co-chair Volunteer request to continue the program!
- New York International Children's Film Festival fundraiser- \$2 of every ticket purchase goes to PS11: <https://nyicff.org/tickets/>
- Flexible Volunteer opportunity sign up request:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRAYwkC8PKnkfCeerfdVwEdABcXi8GSzwUdy2XucK553XlhA/viewform>

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

- The Young Artists program has started. The 8-week program will culminate in a gallery showing showing different styles of art including: different forms of drawing, crocheting, cyanotype and embroidery
- New Merch Update and new hoodies! Available for purchase: <https://ps11chelseanyc.square.site>
- Teacher Appreciation - Teachers loved the PS 11 hooded sweatshirts that were issued to all the teachers
- Library: Ordered new books specifically in the non fiction sections.
 - Prompt for parents to have their children return all library books back to the library
- Yearbook - please submit photos
 - Please use this link: <http://ybkpix.com>. Sign in using this login info: ps11yearbook@gmail.com, PASSWORD: ps112026!

Communications Report - Sara Burke & Kiran Patel (ptaps11@gmail.com)

- Look out for weekly digest in your inbox

Adjournment - 10 a.m.