



SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

**PTA General Meeting
January 13, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Welcome

- 9:03 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Gratitude for Stephen McGill, who single-handedly orchestrated 3 days of eye exams for the kids, thanks to Helen Keller International
- Portfolios will be going home first week of February
- January is when we give out grades - parents will receive an actual report card with grades on a scale of 1-4
- January is also when we issue "promotion in doubt" letters. These are not a final decision. The school rarely holds children back, but we will invite you in for a meeting to discuss the support we have. This does not mean your child is being held back, but there is a concern and we want to help them grow.
- Finished Kindergarten tours for Fall 2023 applicants. Note: if your family is zoned for PS11, your child will get a spot at PS11 for Kindergarten.
- Boys' locker room is under construction; we have created a "tent city" of 15 tents to serve as changing areas so that the pool wouldn't need to be shut down. Construction should be completed by April. Some updates to the girls' locker room will also take place once the boys' locker room is completed.
- Young Artists Program 2023 is beginning again
- DOE is no longer sending out notifications of covid exposure.

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Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- Deadline for Kindergarten/G&T applications is January 20 - please submit applications through MySchools by the deadline.
- Information for all other grades is not out yet, but the DOE website contains information about the G&T process; offers will be released in the Spring
- Pre-K applications will open up after this. Anyone with a sibling, please enter sibling information on the application to receive sibling priority
- January 31 and February 1 are school photo days.
- DOE is looking for parents to run for Community Education Council seats - parents are eligible to run for seats: [Community and Citywide Education Councils \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.nyc.gov/community-education-councils)

SLT Report - Alex Cordero (ps11SLT@gmail.com)

- One of the members was looking into a collaboration with the Whitney Museum; information was shared with teachers
- Still looking for organizations/individuals who can provide bilingual mental health services.
- Still trying to get a book club started, but there has been no traction - just need parent interest.

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

- Cada Empanada restaurant gave food to anyone in need over the holidays: [Cada Empanada](#)
- Dave Cox school safety update: Senator Hoylman and Councilman Bottcher are aware of our continued concerns.
 - The school is staying in close contact with the 10th precinct, who is providing police presence during drop off and pick up.
 - Specifically ask for sanitation through 311 if you see needles. [Loose Syringes · NYC311](#)

Budget / Finance Report - Maria Melendez & Kunal Prakash (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- Corporate matches received
- If we continue to lag in annual fund donations, programs for future years will be in danger

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Programs Report - Kristina Hammond & Kirsten Magen (ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)

- Bringing back some programs that had to stop due to COVID
- Farm to Table Program: Farmers' market, chickens; helps kids learn where food comes from and promotes healthy eating
- Sustainability projects - a 5th grader is trying to start a Green Team.
- Young Artists Program is always in need of additional volunteers
- PS 11 Math Club is looking to re-form; need parent interest to help
- Chess Club is opening enrollment for the spring semester. This is different from the after school chess program. They participate in weekend tournaments.
- Merchandise: Launching new logo tees and stickers in the next couple of weeks, so please keep an eye out for them.

Fundraising Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Mori Ninomiya (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)

- Would like to make sure everyone is aware of what the annual fund does and pays for.

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

- Comedy for a Cause, Gala upcoming
- Gala is May 17th - looking for help

Membership Report - Jen Dickson & Sarah Kim (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

- Family Liaisons should feel free to write about the need for annual fund donations in the weekly emails and include the annual fund flyer

Communications Report - Pia Padukone & Julie Carpenter (ptaps11@gmail.com)

- No updates

Community Q&A

- Reminder to please label your children's coats, hats, gloves, lunch boxes and water bottles
- Construction update. We must wait until construction is completed before the new playground can be approved.

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- Pool locker room updates.

Adjournment 9:54 am