**PTA General Meeting**

November 18, 2016

9:00am

1. **Welcome** / Approval of October Minutes

 - Alex called for the approval of the October minutes.

 - Minutes were approved.

2. **President’s Report** - Alex Levi and Mike Farrah (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)

 - PS11 has a new partnership with Label Daddy. There will be flyers going home soon. The PTA will receive 25% off of purchases made.

3. **Principal's Report** - Bob Bender

 - Introduced the new custodial engineer.

 - Announced that the school spelling bee went well and the winner was a 4th grader for the first time.

 - Quiet Lunch - There was a tremendous response. 400 hundred kids signed up. The SLT is evaluating and thinking about how to restructure the program. This is an important program and it will need a lot of parent volunteers to make it happen.

 - The current political climate has created a lot of fear and anxiety for our PS11 families and students. We are creating more opportunities to promote our K&G philosophy. Next week students will write Thanksgiving letters to each other. It is important to make a plan for kindness. Please help your student make a plan for kindness.

 - Thanksgiving Break - If you are a 3rd grade family and you are checking out your child early on Wednesday, please email your child's name, room number and if there is a sibling. Check out will be processed in the cafeteria. All other families, please email your child's teacher and let her know what time you will be checking your student out and your student will be waiting in the office for you. This is a one-time only policy change.

 - Discussed the Price Waterhouse financial literacy workshop for 5th graders.

 - Mr. Bender will be out for a week to have surgery starting December 5th.

4. **Parent Coordinator's Report** - Stephen McGill

 - Explained G&T testing. Testing happens in school the first week in January through early February. Parents will receive a specific date a few weeks before the test.

 - 5th Grade parents - middle school applications are due December 1st by 3:00pm.

 - My Student Accounts: This is the DOE parent portal. If you do not have an account, please email Mr. McGill.

 - Lateness policy - The policy can be found in the inside cover of your child's home folder or on the PS11 website.

 - Introduced Katy Walker of The Go Project. It is a nonprofit year round academic program that provides individual academic instruction. The early intervention program is for K-3rd grade students. If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Olivia Nunez, Senior Director of Community Engagement at 347-377-2317 or email onunez@goprojectnyc.org.

5. **SLT Report** -

 - There is a new chef for the school. Receiving positive feedback.

 - Excited about the Quiet Lunch program.

 - The Quiet Power book club kicked off on November 2nd.

 - How Children Succeed book discussion will take place November 30 at 8am in the auditorium.

 - The Gift of Failure book discussion will take place on December 6 at 8am in the auditorium.

 - HOP Website - Work in progress and continues to improve. Please keep providing feedback.

 - There should be locks on the cafeteria doors soon.

6. **Budget Report** - Michael Goldman (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

 - Budget was handed out.

 - $132,000 in revenue as of November (budgeted $700,000).

 - The PTA has spent $186,000 to date.

 - The Book Fair generates Scholastic book credit that is used to buy books for the classrooms.

 - There is a column on the budget that points out which grades benefit from which expense.

7. **Fundraising Report** - Sienam Lulla and Kate Daly (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)
 - Annual Fund: The $25,000 Match is still going on. We have to reach school wide 50% participation by December 15th. Currently, we are at 43%. Class parents were asked to keep going back to your classes to solicit donations. We are tracking fewer donations than this time last year. The suggested ask is $500 per student.

 - Paddle 8: There will be a meeting following the PTA meeting if you are interested in helping. If you can't make the meeting, please contact Alex ps11ptapresident@gmail.com.

 - Charity Buzz: Charity Buzz coincides with Comedy For a Cause. It reaches an international audience. It is a 3 week auction. Please email ps11comedyforacause@gmail.com if you have anything you would like to donate for the auction. Auctioning "experiences" (e.g., internships, meetings with agents, tour of a company, etc.) make a lot of money for the school. Last year we made 80k.

 - Auction: The PTA is using 501 auction website again this year. Hopefully all concerns have been addressed. There will be a meeting for volunteers interested in working on the Gala November 29th at 9am in the cafeteria.

8. **Membership Report** - Robin Lockwood (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

 - If you haven't already, please complete the volunteer survey so we can help direct you to volunteer opportunities that fit into your schedule and that you will find of interest.

 - 5th Grade Musical - In need of a graphic designer, photographers, back stage crew and videographer.

9. **Events Report** - Liz Willette Danneels & Santhi Yarlagadda (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)

 - Comedy for a Cause: Dara discussed the event. December 9th is the next meeting. December 16th tickets go on sale at noon. They sell out within hours. There are only a few sponsorship tables left. The event takes place on February 7th. There will be lots of big names and a few surprise guests if they are in town.

 - Art to Remember: 400 orders and made $5,200 net profit.

 - Gala - Annie Walsh announced that the Gala will be May 15th. Kick off meeting will be November 29th at 9am. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities. The theme this year is **Bollywood Style**.

10. **Programs Report** - Adrienne Filipov & Carrie Beth Griffith (ptaps11programs@gmail.com)

 - Library: The library is completely run by parent volunteers. They still need volunteers on Fridays. If you are interested, please contact Catherine Doyle at nycdoyle@gmail.com.

 - Chess: Our spirited chess team participated in a tournament last week and a team invitational. Two students won individual trophies. 14 students are going to attend nationals in Tennessee.

 - Farm to Table: Pumpkin Smash was a success. The 3rd Grade Farmer's Market is closing until the spring. Kindergarten harvested potatoes and lettuce. The new chef is using our produce. The committee is always looking for volunteers.

 - Spelling Bee: The school spelling bee took place on November 15th. We will be sending the top three 5th graders to the Manhattan Borough Spelling Bee in January.

 - Newspaper: Need a parent volunteer for graphic design. November issue is out.

 - Lost and Found: Fall "Come and get Your Stuff" event is taking place on December 16th. After this date, all items will be donated.

 - Young Artist: There are only 8 classes at this point. We need more parents to volunteer to facilitate classes. You only need to be creative and patient!

 - Book Fair: The school received $7,500 in credit for classroom books. $250 was collected by student donations. $1000 was spent to buy books for students who didn't bring in any money. There will be another book fair in the spring.

11. **Communications Report** - Michael Walsh and Aarti Sanan (ptaps11@gmail.com)

 - There will be a Sunday morning email next week because of Thanksgiving.

 - If you know of ANYONE not receiving PTA emails, please have them contact us.

 - Please note that you have to scroll down to receive all of the information in our emails. If you don't, you may miss important information.

Adjournment - 10:00am