

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PS 11 PTA

General Meeting

March 18, 2015

**Meeting called to order: 9 a.m.**

**Welcome**

**Approval of February’s minutes**

**Spring Gala/Auction (Larry Mills, Scott Coscia, Misha Mayers: Ps11springgala.com)**

**The event**. May 4, 2015. The theme is Havana Nights

**Gala.** Volunteers are needed before the event: to help with the raffle for the iPAD, selling raffle tickets, someone to oversee selling of raffle tickets. Day of event volunteers are needed to usher, set up, break down.

**Auction.** Things are rolling in. We have about 100 items. If you’d like to solicit a donation, forms are online. We’re looking for some big ticket items—free unpaid internships for your company, for example, are big ticket items. Notes will be sent around about other items that do well.

**Meetings.** The Gala/Auction committee meets Tuesday mornings inside the cafeteria after drop off.

**Tickets.** There will be a one-daysale for $50. After that, tickets will be $100. You can purchase them online. You can purchase a ticket for a teacher online, as well. Any teachers that want to come and don’t have a ticket paid for them will be covered by the PTA. All faculty and teachers are invited to come.

**Principal's Report (Bob Bender)**

**Kindergarten registration.** It’s coming up. We have 128 zoned kindergarten students and over 350 applications. We are opening up a 7th kindergarten class to accommodate them. If you are an out of zone district sibling make sure you come to see me.

**Superintendent visit.** She was here last week for her first evaluative visit of the school. She was blown away by the instruction and family involvement.

**Peter Pan**. It will be performed next Friday at 6:30 and next Saturday at 2 p.m. Free and open to everyone. This year we are closing the doors, so we will not be allowing people to stroll in 30-40 minutes late. All students will see the show Thursday or Friday in school. Friday night does sell out. Get here early.

**School survey.** It will be handed out at parent-teacher conferences. It is very important that you take the time to fill out the survey. We are measured not only by the quality of responses but the quantity of responses.

**Testing.** It’s happening next month. Everything will be fine. We have shortened the test prep. Test preparation is not teaching kids things they don’t know, it’s teaching them how to use everything they’ve learned in the context of a test. Just keep your kids relaxed. It’s not a big deal. It’s six days out of their life.

**Teachers.** There is new wording attached to a funding bill for schools regarding a new teacher evaluation system. In the new system, 35% of a teacher’s evaluation would be given by an outside resource. That means one person who would come into the school to observe the teacher on one day. Another 50% would be based on state test scores, even if you are a kindergartner or art teacher. And another 15% would be based on the principal’s daily observation. If you agree with that, great. If you don’t you can take action by emailing your local politician and governor’s office.

**4th grade camping trip.** It will be held May 21st and 22nd. Information will be going out soon.

**SLT Report (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn, Robin Broschi:** **edrps11secretary@gmail.com****)**

**School surveys.** Very important. They are an aggregate of information available about our school. The school doesn’t get to see actionable information in a timely manner. If you have concerns please bring them to someone inside the school.

**Evaluation Plan.** If you are not happy with the proposed teacher evaluation plan, there will be a rally on March 28th in front of the governor’s office to let the governor know a lot of parents and teachers are not happy with the evaluation plan.

**Pre-K.** The DOE just announced almost 600 new Pre-k seats in district 2. A bunch will be becoming available at the new school on 6th avenue. Please let people with pre-K age children know.

**Architecture Night.** Next Wednesday night is architecture night, also known as box city. There will be an educational component and then we will rebuild Chelsea out of boxes. Bring boxes next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. (Tape and markers also welcome).

**Treasurer’s Report (Laura Riccardo & Todd Parmett, Assistant Treasurers Michael Goldsman & Alli Areng:** **ps11treasurererchelsea@gmail.com****)**

**All good.** Things are going well. We’re trying to hit an 85% participation level for the annual fund in order to earn matching funds.

\*Numbers available by request.

**Fundraising Report (Sarah Frankfurt and Yasmine Mahdavi:** **ps11annualfund@gmail.com****)**

**Annual fund.** To get the 30K match during the March fund drive we have to get to 85% participation. We are currently at 62%. We need to get more than 100 families to donate what they can. Next week, for Family Thursday we will have a table set up for the annual fund. Please grab some forms for your class and ask the class to donate. Even a $1 donation helps raise our participation. When you donate, you are automatically entered into a raffle for an iPAD, Kindle or Fairway gift card.

\*Numbers are available upon request.

**Paddle8.** It’s live for 5 more days. There is 90K worth of art on the site. It ends at 3 p.m. March 23rd. We have 25 lots donated. All but 6% of the proceeds go to PS11. We currently have a total of 39 bids. There are only 7 works that people are actively bidding on. There are some great deals to be had. If you know anyone who loves contemporary art, let them know.

**Community Programs Report (Corrine Piscariu & Heather Zicko:** ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)

**Spelling Bee.** Colin, a PS11 fifth grader, will represent the school at NYC’s city-wide spelling bee this Friday. The event is a qualifier for the Scripps DC finals in May. (Follow up note: Colin placed third.)

**Farm to Table.** The chickens are laying multi-colored eggs--pink, white, brown and blue.

**Cooking classes** for grades K-2 are in full swing.

**Garden volunteers needed**. The group meets every Thursday after drop-off.

**Robotics.** FLL kids team competed Sunday. Finished 33 out of 80 teams. Melinda says Next year the focus of team efforts will be what to do about trash.

**Chess team.** PS11 brought home several trophies from the state championships in Saratoga Springs. Primary reserve placed 4th, and the primary elementary group placed 5th. Elementary varsity came in 12th place.

**Tournament.** PS11 will host a rookie tournament on Saturday, April 18th from 9-4. The tournament is for unrated players and beginners. If you have a student who would like to try it out, it’s a great first tournament. You don’t have to be on the chess team to participate. Any child who wins a trophy or medal automatically wins a spot on the chess team. We could use parent volunteers to help run the tournament.

**Community Events Report (Alexandra Levi & Liz Willette Danneels)**

 ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

**Fairway.** We’re still issuing cards. We’ve raised about 6k for this year. If you don’t have a card, go online to the PS11 website and ask for one. We are trying to finish contributions for food for the cookshop program. We have dry goods donated. We still need some produce. If you know anyone in that business, please let us know.

**Corporate partnership**s. We are looking for corporations to partner with.

**Community Membership Report (Rachel Glube & Colby Trane:**

**ps11volunteer@gmail.com**)

**Peter Pan.** Selling at the bake sale Friday night and Saturday afternoon. We also need volunteers back stage.

**Annual Fund.** If you pick up kids afterschool, please consider arriving a little early and giving out annual fund forms. You can give out cookies with the forms.

**Architecture Night.** We need people at the event itself, from 4:30 to 6 to set up and greet participants and help kids cut and rip tape. In the mornings, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 8:15 to 8:45 we need people to help collect boxes.

**Auction.** We need 150 volunteers. Please take a shift. We need a lot of help with this.

**Adjournment:** 9:46 a.m