



Ps/Is 229

Parent-Teacher Association

Date, Time, and Location: December 20th, 2022 6:00 -7:05pm. Zoom

Meeting called to order by Co-Presidents Jennifer Jansen & Jaime Palazzi at 6:00 pm.

Attendance: A quorum was reached.

Minutes: The minutes of the 11/14/2022 meeting were read and approved.

Officers' Reports given by Jennifer Jansen and Jaime Palazzi

Treasurers Reports The budget was read and accepted. Report attached.

Old Business was given by Co-President Jennifer Jansen

1. December 5th we had our picture retakes. We did not have many students and it went pretty quickly. Pictures should be back sometime in the beginning of January. Some pictures were returned today, they will be given out tomorrow morning.
2. December 6 th through the 8 th we had our annual Holiday Sale. We were sold out by the end of the 3 rd day, and we made \$2,546.19. Thank you to everyone who let their child participate.
3. Our Cutest Cookie Fundraiser ended last Tuesday and it raised \$239. We were supposed to get them today but due to them being short staffed, it has been delayed. I will pick them up and give them out on Thursday, we apologize for the inconvenience.
4. Our Nets fundraiser went very well, we brought in \$476.91 and wound up having to add more tickets. We are currently running another fundraiser, money is due March 1st and the game is for March 16 th . All info was emailed out.

2022-2023
Executive Board
Officers

Co-Presidents
Jaime Palazzi
Jennifer Jansen

Co-Vice Presidents
Paula Kabis

Treasurer
Stephanie Stephan

Secretary
Marta Maksymenko

Administration
William Kirk
Principal

Assistant Principals
Christopher Cantill
Kathleen Mai
Angela Tippell

5. We are also selling tickets for Jurassic World at Barclays. If you are interested in going, all money is due February 3 rd and the show is February 24 th .
6. This past Friday was our first Holiday Pajama Party since before the pandemic and it was another success, the kids had a great time. Unfortunately, I do need to bring up the fact that a number of decorations were stolen. They were brand new and they cost money, so if you have any of the decorations at your house, please bring them back, no questions asked.
7. Mr. Goldman's toy drive is currently ongoing. If you would like to donate an unwrapped new toy or book, Thursday is the last day to do so. You can drop all items at the box by security. It has been going very well so far, thank you to everyone who donated.
8. Senior dues are now past due. The money covers the cap and gown, t-shirt, diploma case, yearbook, pin, bag, and a video of the graduation ceremony. We have a videographer that films everything and about a week or so after the ceremony, you will be emailed a link to the video so you can download it.
9. PTA dues are still being accepted so you can still send them in if you have not done so.

New Business was given by Co-president Jaime Palazzi

1. I know I mention this at every meeting, and I sound like a broken record, but please read the emails and letters we send you! Please read the permission slips you sign! Every dance we have has the same rule: if your child attends NIA and they are attending the dance, they cannot go to NIA that day, they must be picked up at dismissal. Jen even sent out constant reminders about this. But on the day of the dance, we had parents emailing us, Linda and teachers, asking if their child could go to NIA. We also had some kids in the late room because of it. You have to read emails and letters. At the last meeting I mentioned possibly doing a Yankees fundraiser. I sent out a google doc to check interest and I sent it hundreds of people. I got 35 responses. Please read what we send you.
2. Although we do not have a date yet, we have one more dance left and that is for the middle school. It will be at the end of January and as soon as we

have more details we will let everyone know. Once again we will need volunteers to help decorate and chaperone.

3. The lost and found has about 2 more weeks before we cannot take any more items. This means that whatever your child loses will sit in the bin in the big gym and it will be up to your child to look for whatever they lost themselves. I will go through it occasionally to see if anything has names but that's it. Almost every item we get has no name on it and when I post pictures, I have maybe three or four people respond. It takes up way too much of my time.

4. Once again we are asking for snack shack volunteers. We need reliable people who will be able to help out a few times a month. You can make your own schedule and the hours are 11:15-1:45. You must be vaccinated. Before the pandemic, if we had to cancel a snack shack, it wasn't that big of a deal. However, it is now. With rising costs and school budgets being cut, we need every dollar. The funds from snack have paid for things from new smart boards, online educational licenses, requested books for classrooms all the way down to the agendas that are given out to students at the beginning of each year. We cannot afford to cancel any days but at the same time, Jen and I cannot always drop what we are doing to cover it, there are times we just have too much work. So please consider volunteering. Email us if you are interested.

5. Every month there is a safety meeting hosted by Mr. Cuthill that some of us attend. Once a year the meeting has to be open to parents. Next month, after the PTA meeting ends, I will turn it over to Mr. Cuthill and he will hold that public safety meeting.

Important Dates

1. December 26th - January 2nd - no school. We return Tuesday, January 3rd.
2. School is closed January 16 th for Martin Luther King Day.
3. Our next PTA meeting is January 17 th .

The Principal's report was given by Mr. Kirk

School Health Policy Updates

- As Winter Recess nears, the DOE strongly encourages all staff and students to get tested for COVID-19 before returning to school on January 3rd, regardless of vaccination status, and especially if they plan to travel. Staff and students can take a PCR, lab-based test, or a home test. An additional two tests will be distributed to all students and staff prior to the Winter Recess.
- As cases of respiratory illness such as flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are on the rise, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) encourages New Yorkers to get the flu vaccine, wear a mask while indoors, and regularly wash hands. In addition, DOHMH strongly encourages staying up-to-date on all vaccinations, including the new COVID boosters, if eligible.

Construction-Related Updates

- The remaining part of the project continues on Benson Avenue side of the building. There had been some delay when they discovered there were some deteriorated beams after excavation around the foundation of the original building. Therefore, we now expect wrapping up in the next few weeks.
- Landscaping and tree re-planting must to be moved to spring 2023 (April).
- The renovation of our multi-purpose room is moving towards a start. The project manager for the sound/lighting upgrade came to take measurements and photos a week ago. I am pushing for start in the late spring, when we can more likely use the schoolyard for physical education activities.

Our Newly Elected Student Government

- PRESIDENT - Alay Ali, class 804
- VICE PRESIDENT - Emma Obara, class 704
- SECRETARY - Kyle Huang, class 601
- CLASS REPRESENTATIVES - Cecilia Lacombe (301), Tiana Fecko (302), Evan Li (303), Emily Feng (304), Emily Huang (401), Marco Masseria (402), Nate Chan (403), Oleksandra Shcherban (404),.

Jennifer Chen (405), Emmanuel Kambouris (501), Dean Dole (502), Stanley Ng (503), Adriana Lin (504), Ann Marie D'Agostino (505), Liliana Cappone (601), Yuridiana Reynoso (602), Aiden Guan (604), Aaron Goldstein (605), Liya Chiu (701), Mina Ahmed (702), Natalie Chen (703), Humd Baig (704), Christopher Acurso (705), Tommaso Lipari (801), Lizbeth Perez-Mendez (802), Eleonora Gudyma (803), Daniel Lin (804), Robert Alessandrino (805)

Kindergarten Application Window

The application is now open with a deadline of Friday, January 20, 2023. All families who apply by the deadline will receive a kindergarten offer in April. Families can apply to Kindergarten in one of three ways: online at MySchools, over the phone by calling 718-935-2009, or by visiting their local family welcome center.

Middle School Applications and High School Applications

- High school offers will be released in March.
- Middle school offers will be released in April.
- If you have questions, you can speak with Ms. Kmec, guidance counselor or Ms. Abrams, parent coordinator.

Mid-Year Adjustments to School Budgets

On November 7th, Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks announced that the city will be "holding schools harmless from mid-year adjustments based on enrollment declines greater than projections.

- Because our enrollment is a bit higher than projected for this year, on or about November 17th, the school received an additional \$144k in Tax Levy Fair Student Funding as a result of Mid-Year Adjustment Round #1.
- Funds have been allocated for teacher planning, supplies, absence coverage, online supports for students (including XL and i-Ready Personalize pon), and afterschool opportunities.

Curriculum and Programming Updates

- We were notified last week that twenty-seven of our current grade 7 students qualified to participate in the DREAM program, which prepares them for taking the SHAT.

We applied and were accepted to participate in the Mouse Design League for the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, DIIT has confirmed per session funding for all of the professional development sessions. Two teachers, Mr. Foxman and Mr. Benjamin will be getting trained to work with our middle school students. Design League is an in-depth digital design program. Working in teams, students use human-centered design to create an original tech project to address a social need.

- One of our math teachers, Ms. Biesty, is preparing a group of thirty-four students in grades 4-6 to compete in the MOMS Math Olympiads. This is one of the most influential and fun-filled math competitions in the United States and around the globe, since 1979.
- We will be starting our ELA/Math support and Title III afterschool programs towards the end of January. The ELA/Math support will target students that have shown a need for extra support in preparation for the NYS ELA and Math Tests taking place in the spring. The Title III program provides additional support for ENL/MLL students.
- One of our physical education teachers, Mr. Wong, will begin a soccer program for grades 3-8 in January. The middle school group will meet on Mondays, The grades 3-5 group will meet on Wednesdays.

Homework over the December Break

- If teachers deem it necessary to assign homework over the break, I have asked that they ensure the amount of work is reasonable and allows for students and their families to enjoy travel and/or celebratory time during the break. Please discuss with your grade-level colleagues, so that cumulatively it is a reasonable amount. Do not wait until the last day to notify students and families of the assignments). Consider Wednesday or Thursday at the latest.
- Have assignments or projects due at the end of the week students return (by Friday, 1/6), instead of immediately upon return (Tuesday, 1/3).

A Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Joyful Kwanzaa goes out to all who celebrate! I wish everyone peace and good health for 2023!!!

AP Cuthill, AP Mui, and AP Tipaldi

- Any additional items of note

**There were no questions.
Students of the month were announced.**

Meeting Adjourned 6:45 pm. Mariia Maksymenko, Secretary

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