

2021-2022  
Executive Board  
Officers

Co-Presidents  
Jaime Palazzi  
Jennifer Jansen

Co-Vice Presidents  
Paula Kubis

Treasurer  
Stephanie Stephan

Secretary  
Mariia Maksymenko



Ps/Is 229  
Parent-Teacher Association

Date, Time, and Location: November 14th, 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 10/18/2022 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. October 19 th and 20 th we had school pictures. They should be back in a week or two.
2. Thank you to everyone who donated to the school's Breast Cancer drive. \$373 was raised for Maimonides Breast Cancer Center.
- 3.. October 27 th we held our first dance since the pandemic began and it was a success. Typically we have about 90 students but this time we had 160! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us decorate and chaperone.
4. On Halloween we also had our first Harvest Walk since 2019. It was so much fun and the kids had such a great time. The school raised \$4080 for MSK Kids, which is Memorial Sloan Kettering's pediatric cancer center. We had said that the student who brought in the most money would win a \$25 amazon gift card and we had a tie. Grace and Antonio from 2 nd grade both brought in \$500 for the cancer center so they both received a gift card.

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**Administration**  
William Kirk  
Principal

Assistant Principals  
Christopher Cuthill  
Kathleen Mui  
Angela Tipaldi

5. Another thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. We sold out of tickets and raised \$375.

6. This past Thursday, the PTA and NIA held their Friends Giving Thanks potluck dinner in the cafeteria. There was a nice turnout and there was a ton of great food. It was nice to finally be able to see parents in person. Thank you to Linda for organizing the whole thing.

7. 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.

8. 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 would just like to clear a few things up before I get to new business. We have been getting emails lately that do not pertain to us, and some of them are of a sensitive nature. If you need to let someone know about medical issues, like positive covid tests, please email Mr. Kirk. Ever since I emailed everyone about the NIA/PTA potluck, we are now getting emails about kids at NIA. You need to email either Linda or Eric when it comes to that, we are not NIA. We are also receiving emails about students needing guidance counselor services. You need to email either Ms. Kmec or Ms. Fagan about those things. I also need to address, for the first time in the 4 years that Jen and I have been doing this, the recent influx of rude phone calls or emails. Just as I mentioned last month in regard to anyone being rude at a PTA meeting, if you come at us in a rude or aggressive way, we do not have to respond to you. A lot of times, we are getting yelled at for things that have absolutely nothing to do with the PTA.

2. On to better news: Our Miss Chocolate fundraiser ended last week and our sales were higher than last year. We will find out next week how much we raised. The items should be delivered to us on the 22nd but we don't know what time it will get to us. We have a lot of students with big purchases, they won't be able to carry everything by themselves. I will be calling parents next week to arrange package pickups. The winner of the \$25

amazon gift card for bringing in the most money went to Ayden in K, he brought in \$380.

3. December 1<sup>st</sup> we will be starting our Cutest Cookie fundraiser. We did this for Easter and it was a big hit. You can order sugar cookies that are already decorated or you can order plain sugar cookies that come in a kit with icing and decorations so you can decorate them with your kids. Flyers will be going home in the next week or so.

4. December 5<sup>th</sup> will be our picture retake day for kids that were absent on picture day or they were in for pictures, you just don't like how they came out. When you get your child's pictures, if you do not like them and want new ones, please send the entire package back to the PTA as soon as possible! Last year parents held on to them until the day of and we were not prepared.

5. Our Holiday Sale will be December 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> which will take place during recess as it has in years past. Once we get more details, letters will go home to parents and we will post it on FB. Jen and I are going on Thursday to place our orders.

6. We currently have a Nets fundraiser going on so if you know someone who likes them, they make a perfect Christmas gift! The game is on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the money is due by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

7. Last week we had a rep from the Yankees reach out to us to do a fundraiser. I'm going to send out a google doc next week to see if there is any interest before going forward with it. Every ticket sold comes with a yankee backpack and a voucher for a free drink and free hot dog.

8. December 16<sup>th</sup> is our Holiday PJ Party dance and it is for grades preK -2<sup>nd</sup>. Letters will be going home soon. Please note that every child must have a chaperone (you must be vaccinated) and because of that we do have a limit on space so its first come, first serve for tickets. We will need volunteers to help us decorate. More info to follow.

9. The lost and found is awful, I cant even keep count of the coats we have that have no names on them. Last week I returned the same coat to the same kid three different times and they still didn't label it. Once we start running out of room, we can no longer accept items which means whatever is lost is stuck in a bin and that's it.

### Important Dates

1. Miss Chocolate items will be delivered on the 22nd
2. School is closed November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving
3. Cutest Cookie fundraiser begins on December 1 st and ends on the 13th
4. December 5th is picture retake day
5. December 6th -9th is our Christmas sale
6. December 16th is the Holiday Pajama Party
7. December 16th is also our next Spirit Day: Crazy Holiday Sweater Day
8. December 20th PTA meeting

## **The Principal's report was given by Mr. Kirk**

**Thank you to all of the families that came to last Thursday's PTA/NIA Friends-Giving potluck dinner!!!**

The food was awesome! Saying hello was great!! Seeing the children's smiling faces was the best!!!

### **Construction-Related Updates**

- The remaining part of the project continues on Benson Avenue side of the building. There has been some delay and therefore we now expect wrapping up in mid-December.
- Landscaping and tree re-planting has to be moved to spring 2023 (April). Estimated time of completion for substantial project is 4-6 weeks.
- 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.

### **Double-Parking Warnings**

I continue to hear from the senator's office and the councilman's office that community members complain about safety during our AM arrival and PM dismissal. A primary concern is the inability of emergency vehicles to navigate the streets with double-parked cars (sometimes on both sides).

I must continue to remind all families that at arrival and dismissal. we are asking you to find the closest legal parking spot and walk your child/children to or from the car. We realize this is a little less convenient, but we must do this to keep all children and families safe. In addition, this may prevent a ticket for \$150. We have handed out warning notes. The elected officials have made it clear that they will pressure the local precincts to hand out tickets.

## **Decisions Regarding the Option for a Screened Program for Middle School Admissions**

- On October 14th, I shared a three-page letter with Superintendent Pretto, detailing that based on community feedback, the decision at the time was to NOT establish a screened middle school program at PS/IS 229. Superintendent Pretto has promised that District 20 will continue to look at the different possibilities for district-wide programs at the middle school level.
- At the school level, over the next year, we will determine more carefully the wants/needs of our middle school students. We will research and plan the partnerships, structures, resources, and training necessary to offer quality programming that meets those wants and needs. Then, we will make a meaningful and informed decision, not one based mostly on the fact that there is a quickly approaching deadline before middle school admissions open on October 26th. Whether it is a program with a focus on Pre-Med, STEAM, or Journalism/Digital Media, expanded offerings can be made available to the many, not just one screened class.

## **The Middle School Application process is open now through December 1st.**

- The preferred method to apply is online with MySchools.nyc . Your child's middle school welcome letter contains a unique account creation code that you can use to create a MySchools account, if you don't already have one.
- If you have questions, you or your parent can speak with Ms. Fagan, guidance counselor or Ms.Abrams, parent coordinator.

## **The High School Application process is open.**

- The deadline for submitting the high school application and LaGuardia application being December 1st.
  - The preferred method to apply is also online with MySchools.nyc.
  - If you or your parent have questions, you can speak with Ms. Kmec, guidance counselor or Ms. Abrams, parent coordinator.
- Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)

All of our 8th grade students who registered will take the SHSAT this Thursday, November 17th. Grade 8 students that are not taking the SHSAT will have a regular school day.

- This test will take place for these students during regular school hours. Students have 180 minutes, unless they get IEP-related extended time.

### **Devereaux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)**

- Through use of the DESSA last year, we were able to build on each student's strengths while identifying the social-emotional skills we needed to support them in further developing.
  - The DESSA is a strengths-based social emotional screener that asks questions about areas of social-emotional functioning including decision making, relationship building, confidence, and others. This tool will be completed by the teacher who know your child really well, by December 2nd.
  - Teachers will be completing these questionnaires privately, without asking students any questions.
- Their responses will be based on what they already know about the students

### **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, we should receive additional funding. We can expect to see the mid-year adjustment in two rounds, with an initial round this November and a second round later this winter.
- This will hopefully allow us to provide some additional enrichment opportunities for our students.

### **AP Cuthill, AP Mui, and AP Tipaldi**

- Additional items of note

**The questions were answered.  
Students of the month were announced.**

**Meeting Adjourned 7:05 pm. Mariia Maksymenko, Secretary**

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