

2021-2022
Executive Board
Officers

Co-Presidents
Jaime Palazzi
Jennifer Jansen

Co-Vice Presidents
Paula Kubis

Treasurer
Stephanie Stephan

Secretary
Mariia Maksymenko

Administration

William Kirk
Principal

Assistant Principals
Christopher Cuthill
Kathleen Mui
Angela Tipaldi



**Ps/Is 229
Parent-Teacher
Association**

Date, Time, and Location: September 20th, 2022 6:00 -7:40pm. 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 06/22/2022 meeting were read and approved. Seconded by Maya Zumbo

Officers' Reports given by Jennifer Jansen and Jaime Palazzi

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

Welcome to the first PTA meeting of the year. For all of the new parents and guardians, we are going to explain how we run our meetings. Right now, the chat will only be used for attendance purposes. Then Jennifer will give old business, Jaime will give new business and then Mr. Kirk will give his Principals Report. AFTER his report, we will open the chat to questions and we will do our best to get to every one of them. If you have a question that is not answered, you can email us at PTA229@yahoo.com and we will get back to you. The meeting is being recorded.

Introduce the Executive Board :

Jennifer Jansen - Co President

Jaime Palazzi - Co President

Paula Kubis - Co VP

Mariia Maksymenko - Secretary

Stephanie Stephan - Treasurer

Board Members – Maya Zumbo and Rosina Lagana

Old Business was given by Co-President Jennifer Jansen

1. On June 22nd the Kindergarten Step Up ceremony took place in the schoolyard. It was windy but the weather held out and everything was perfect. Thank you to everyone involved, especially the Kindergarten teachers, for making it such a memorable day for the students and their families.
2. On June 23rd we held our 8th grade graduation. For the first time it took place outside of the school at the Dyker Golf Course catering hall. There was a morning and afternoon session and it ran very smoothly. Once again we lucked out with the weather and families were able to take beautiful pictures on the grounds afterward. Thank you to admin and all of the 8th grade teachers who helped to make that day so special.
3. On June 24th we were able to bring back our 8th grade Graduation Breakfast that was held in the cafeteria. The kids had bagels and fruit and pastries and they were able to hang out one last time before leaving PS 229. Yearbooks were handed out that day as well so everyone was able to sign their friends books.
4. PTA Dues are still being collected. You can either give cash or a check made out to the PTA of PS229. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted them.
5. Senior dues are due by October 28th. 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. If you are ordering a senior hoodie, the money must be in by September 30th.
6. The forms have gone out already for Senior Pictures which will take place this Friday. If you have not done so, please have them returned by Thursday. Pictures will be taken first thing Friday morning and we will be going back to taking one group outdoors picture. Please make sure your child is not wearing a hoodie or a tshirt with graphics on it.

7. Our Spiritwear fundraiser for school apparel is currently running, forms were sent home last week. If you have not received a form, please ask your child's teacher for one. It ends on October 7th so please make sure your orders are in by then.
8. If you ordered one of the Go Gold for Pediatric Cancer tshirts, and you had it shipped to school, it should be arriving here on the 28th. Thanks to everyone who purchased a shirt, we raised \$940 which goes directly to St. Jude. Friday September 30th will be our next Spirit Day – Go Gold, and we ask that your child wear the tshirt, if you did not purchase the shirt, please wear something gold.
9. Snack Shack started yesterday. For anyone that does not know, every day at lunch we sell chips for \$1 outside of the cafeteria for grades 1-8. It runs everyday from 11:15 – 1:45. If you are interested in volunteering, please email us! We do ask that you send your child to school with small bills. We keep getting 20's and sometimes we don't have the change.

New Business was given by Co-president Jaime Palazzi

1. This is important: every child has an OSIS number which is their student ID. It does not change and they keep this number until the 12th grade. If you already have your child's number, you are set. If you do not have it you can ask the teacher for it. If you cannot remember it, you can also ask the teacher however it is listed on their report card.
2. SEptember 21st, PTA will be holding their annual Back to School Bagel Breakfast for the teachers and staff.
3. Monday October 3rd, our Miss Chocolate Fundraiser will begin. For the new parents, some students will be receiving a catalogue that has tons of things in it from wrapping paper and chocolate to household items. Grades PreK through 5 will be receiving catalogues and you can order either online or you can fill out the form and hand it in to the PTA. Middle school students will be able to purchase online only. The student that raises the most money will receive a \$25 amazon gift card. The catalogues should be in next week and we'll hand them out.

4. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. On October 3rd we will be sending home ribbons for the students to color and they can either be “In Memory of” or “In Honor of”. The ribbons are \$2 for the first one and \$1 for each additional and they will be hung along the first floor of the school. They must be handed in by October 17th. Please make sure they are colored in PINK. We have a limited amount of breast cancer awareness bracelets and dog tag necklaces that we will be selling for \$1 during snack shack that week as well. All money from the ribbons and bracelets/necklaces will be donated to the Maimonides Breast Cancer Center as well as a days worth of snack shack. On Friday October 14th, we will have another spirit day and we ask that you wear pink.
5. School picture forms will be going out in October. Picture days are Wednesday October 19th and Thursday October 20th.
6. The Family Income Inquiry Forms need to be filled out! They are incredibly important because they determine the funding our school gets. A form needs to be filled out for each child you have in the school and the forms will only be used to help with our funding, nothing else. Please fill them out!
7. We have a lost and found and it’s located in the PTA office. If your child has lost something, please tell them to check the last place they had it as sometimes it takes a few days for items to get to us. We don’t look for things, they are brought to us. Please label your child’s items! Lunchboxes, water bottles, coats, etc. We have had to donate so many items over the years because they went unclaimed. If your child is missing something, please call or email the PTA. Please do not show up to our office.
8. We have been receiving a lot of forms that have not been filled out correctly. They are missing student names, parent names, email addresses we cannot make out. Please make sure to read the forms correctly before sending them in and please stop stapling money to the envelopes.
9. We do a lot of fundraising. Participating in a fundraiser is not mandatory but please know that every dime we get goes right back into the school.
10. We understand that people are very busy, but we ask that you read the emails that you are sent. There is a lot of information that you will need throughout the year so check the school website daily. The PTA has a FB page (Pta of PS/IS 229) and an IG account (ps229pta). Remember, we don’t just send out

emails for ourselves, we also send out emails on behalf of the administration.

11. We answer our emails pretty quickly so we understand that there are times a parent will email us because they are not sure who to speak to at the school. We can always send you in the right direction, but please know that we are a PTA. We cannot help with teacher situations, we cant help with your child's grades and we most definitely cannot change school policies.
12. For the first time since 2019, our Harvest Walk is coming back!! It's held on October 31st and it takes place in the schoolyard, letters will be sent home explaining it all. We are still working out the details but this year the money raised will be going to the MSK Kids pediatric cancer center at Sloan Kettering.
13. At next months meeting, we will be having an expedited election for a seat on the SLT, which stands for Student Leadership Team. A member has to step down so it will be an abbreviated year with a chance of reelection in May. The SLT meets in school (in person) on the third Thursday of each month from 2:45 to 5:45. The description is as follows (see attached). If you would like to run, please email us at 229elections@gmail.com All of this information will be emailed to everyone after the meeting.

Important Dates

1. September 23rd is Senior Pictures
2. September 26th and 27th there is no school for Rosh Hashanah.
3. September 30th is Spirit Day – Go Gold for Pediatric Cancer
4. October 3rd will begin our weeklong sale of breast cancer awareness items at snack shack, breast cancer ribbons will be sent home and Miss Chocolate begins
5. October 5th – No school for Yom Kippur
6. October 7th Spiritwear ends
7. October 10th No school due to Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples Day
8. October 18th PTA meeting
9. October 19th and 20th school pictures

The Principal's report was given by Mr. Kirk

PS/IS 229K is a New York State School in Good Standing

Curriculum and Learning

- ELA - Into Reading (K-5) and Into Literature (6th-8th) are new programs for us from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. We also invested over \$45k in leveled readers that will help teachers to build students' comprehension skills.
- Math - This is our second year using enVision Math 2.0, from SAVVAS (formerly Pearson). We will be placing greater emphasis on the use of manipulatives and problem-based learning.
- Science - AMPLIFY is a curricular program where students act as scientists and engineers through compelling hands-on investigations.
- Social Studies - WE will be working with District 20 to add components of the Civics for All curriculum, such as Project Soapbox. This is where students speak out on issues that affect them and their communities by crafting passionate two-minute speeches. These powerful speeches have lasting, transformative impacts on classrooms, schools, and communities.

Technology Upgrades in the School Building

- The WiFi in the building received a much-needed upgrade over the summer.
- Every classroom now has a new interactive Smart Board, computer, and printer.
- Other spaces like the library, main office, gymnasium also had new interactive Smart Board installed.
- We continue to acquire additional student devices through the Smart Schools Bond Act.

Health & Safety Protocols for this year (currently)

- NO more daily health screenings and in-school COVID surveillance testing will not be conducted.

- Students and staff who are exposed in school will receive home tests from their school and take two tests, at least 24 hours apart on day 4 and day 5 of their exposure.
- Schools will still be required to report positive cases of COVID-19 to the DOE's Situation Room.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days and can return to school on day 6 if they have no symptoms or symptoms are improving. They must wear mask until day 10 after symptom onset or date of positive test, whichever is earlier.
- Students and staff should stay home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses and get tested for COVID-19. Vaccination is considered the best way to reduce COVID-19 risk.
Vaccination is still required for all visitors entering school buildings.

Construction-Related Updates

- In about two weeks the remaining part of the project will be on Benson Avenue side of the building.
- Estimated time of completion is two months.
- The renovation of our multi-purpose room is moving towards a start. This interior project will include stage refurbishment, matching stage and wall curtains, sound/lighting upgrades, and movable bleachers.

Double-Parking Warnings

- Parents and guardians double parking on the streets around the school during arrival and dismissal times is a real DANGER to students and staff alike. I know it is not as convenient, but please do your best to find a legal parking spot and walk your child(ren) to and from the car.
- The school, the superintendent's office and even our elected officials have received complaints from neighbors in the community.
- Next week, we will begin giving out warning notes to people who are double-parking.

- The superintendent's office and local elected officials have contacted the 62nd and 68th precincts, so we expect more of a police presence and an increase in parking/traffic tickets.

The questions were answered.

Meeting Adjourned 7:40 pm. Mariia Maksymenko, Secretary

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