

Hybrid - PS 31 PTA Meeting - Friday, November 15, 2024 8:20AM - 9:20AM
Meeting Agenda/Notes

PTA Executive Board Members Present

Francoise Olivas, CO-President
Amy Yip-Ng , Treasurer
Heather Milburn , CO-Secretary
Natalie Gabriel, Board Member

School Update: Asst. Principal Gallo

- **Upcoming Non-Attendance Days:** Nov. 27-28 (Thanksgiving holiday); ***NEW*** Dec. 23
- **Parent Teacher Conference Round-up:** School had total of 698 parent teacher conferences
- **Importance of Getting to School On-Time:** Thinking of ways we can motivate not only students but parents, and helping set the expectation to get to school on time
 - Encourage families to have students come down to have breakfast earlier, so kids then have time to get to line-up. Grab-and-go available; 7:40am cafeteria doors open
- **Pie Sale Pick-up:** Our biggest order yet! **Pick up is on Monday, November 25,** parents MUST pick-up; no students are allowed to take pies home
- **Hydroponics Lab:** 2nd Grade now participating; 5-6 weeks sessions for each group/classroom. Had our first Farm Stand a couple weeks ago to much success
- **Chess Club:** Every Tuesday for Kindergarten just started (More details below)
- **School Tours:** Trying to prioritize in-zone tours which are happening

Ms. Kara's Updates: Karen Manber, Parent Coordinator

- **Middle School Applications:** Selections and submissions are **due December 9**
 - Next **Thursday, November 21 at 9am** IS 318 tour for PS 31 parents/students
 - 318/50/577/126 Meet and Greet more of a tabling event with brief presentation
- **Student Council:** Been very busy;
 - Book Buddies: First visit this past Thur. 4th/5th graders are visiting Pre-k & K classes reading a book and a jokes/tongue twisters
 - Today/Friday is the last day accepting donations for our canned food drive
- **Book Nook:** Opening Next week parent has to come with student Tuesday's & Friday's 7:40-7:55am
- **Student Newspaper:** Is underway end of Dec. our first issue will be coming out
- **School Book Club:** Happening during lunchtime with Mrs. Puma (4th/5th graders)
- Next **Tuesday, November 19** wear green for Climate Action Day, and highlight in classrooms
- Trash Club for community clean-up. Will schedule another upcoming date

Budget & Finances: Amy Yip, Treasurer

- See Published PTA Finance Report
- **Fall Fest:** More community building than fundraising
- Bake Sale
- **Pledge Drive:** This year we raised \$30K (last year did \$37K); Pizza Party Participation Winners: Mrs. Gelman/K-202; Mrs. Poole/5-413; Ms. D'Agate/2-311
- **Field Trips:** These have been happening (Amy mentioned a few recent ones). Teachers are in charge of selecting field trips, but if you have an idea please send along any suggestions for consideration that might align with what's being covered in class
- **Art Teacher:** Mrs. Gallo acknowledged that this has been taking a while due to DOE's set-up process. She is in the last steps of getting DOE approved. Will be 5 days a week and everyone will get art once she starts

Motion to Approve November Meeting Notes

The notes from the September meeting have been approved.

- First Motion: Stephanie Samperi-Gonzales
- Second Motion: Mrs. Gelman

Charleston Wrap: Lauren Fernandes, Co-President

- **Friday, December 6th** is the end date
- So far we've raised about \$2K; Hoping we can make \$5K
- Feedback is that people like the products, personalized picture gifts, and the colorful variety of wrapping papers

Winter Shop: Natalie Gabriel, Board Member

- Will run **December 9-12**
- Order has been placed for a variety of items, including some sustainable/consumable items (ie. whisks filled with Kisses, tea towel and cookie mix with spatula, terra cotta pots to plant paperwhites)
- **Schedule:** Dec. 9 : Set-up of space; Dec. 10: Grades 3rd/4th 5th; Dec. 11, Pre-K/K/1, Dec. 12: Make-up shop day
- **Volunteers:** Posted, but very popular as all spots have been filled for each day already
- **REMINDER:** Be sure to remind your kids to come in with their cash the day of shopping

Family Portraits: Lauren Fernandes, Co-President

- **Saturday, November 23rd**
- Sign-up on Parent Square for 15 min. slot for \$75
- Secured 1 photographer and looking for 2 additional parent photographers
 - ***Note:** Through our meeting request these were quickly identified. THANK YOU!
- Inside the gym, figuring out background, off-white likely

- Partnering with Minted for printed copies; You get 20% off the purchase price AND the school gets 15% of the sale (of which 100% of those funds go to PTA)

Chess Update: Sumi DeBenedittis

- About 60 kids currently participating in the program
- Kindergarten has been getting introduction to chess on Tuesday's
- Competitions have been frequent
 - October 13: Our team finished Top 3 in K-12 Under 1000 at the ICN Monthly Brooklyn
 - November 10: 4 students competed at the NY State Girls in NYC
 - December 6-8: 6 students signed-up for Grades Nationals in National Harbor, MD
 - March 8-9: NY State Competition in Saratoga Springs, NY
 - April 4-6: Girls Nationals Competition in Chicago, IL
 - May 9-11: Super Nationals VIII Competition in Orlando, FL
- Planning some Chess fundraisers as well like a movie night, bake sale
- Title 1 Chess grant, applied for 20 kids

Walk of Light: Francoise Olivas, Co-President

- **Friday, December 6th**
- Going to be a take-home project; looking to buy short-string fairy lights to give to each child to create something
- We'll do a flyer
- Start at the school and the walk ends at McCarren Park
- **Post Event Gathering:** Working with XGolf (across from William Vale) as a possibility, with drink/food specials
- Suggestion of Barry Park; Will do further venue research

Green Team Meeting Re-cap: Francoise Olivas, Co-President

- Met on October 18
- More sustainable Winter Shop gifts
- Looking to Ms. Lipponer for what she would like, how she would like to utilize the garden space, and what will thrive in a tactile/child environment
- We need more parent involvement/participation, and will look to post more on Parent Square to promote the group, it's activities, and Garden of Happiness support/stewardship
- Looking to plant daffodil bulbs on Meserole in front of the playground
- Working to get tree-guards for the trees on the playground side
- Arborist visited to take a look at our apple tree. Said our tree is amazing healthy (for the space it's growing in)
- Follow the Green Team group on Parent Square
- Next team meeting is **Wednesday, December 4**

Other Meeting Topics: General

- **Next Bike to School Event: Wednesday, December 4.** Will meet at McCarren Park and assigned “Bike Marshalls” will guide the group to their respective schools. Many nearby D14 schools are participating.
- Link your personal calendar with Parent Square to get event updates
 - Bottom of Parent Square home page click Events > Calendar Sync > Subscribe
- **FOLLOW-UP:** Flip Circus and possible assembly. They gave us tickets previously but on weeknights at 8, trying to coordinate a short assembly at the school. Or see about
- Ask Mrs. Holliday about the Lost and Found if you’re possibly missing anything left around

Meeting Notes 11/15/24
Kayla Santos-Cobo & Heather Milburn, Co-Secretaries

