

PS110 - PTA MEETING

FEBRUARY 7th, 2018

In Attendance:

Mrs Cano Amato, Principal

Annie, PTA Co-Treasurer

Amy Chalkley, Parent Coordinator

___ Parents

Tiffaney, PTA President

Mary, PTA Co-President

SUMMARY

PRESIDENTS WELCOME - TIFFANEY

Hello everybody, it's a little after 8:30 so we are going to get this train moving. Ms Cano is running just a few minutes behind schedule. We have Seth from camp who is going to come up and talk to us. They are donating to the fundraiser but they also have an amazing program for kids.

SETH - CAMP

Hi everyone, I am please to open the show, thank you. My name is Seth and I am one of the owners of Creative Arts and Music Program. We are in the neighbourhood. I'm also a parent. My kids go to the Children's Workshop School in Manhattan but we live here.

We are a creative arts, music, dance and performing summer day camp. We are at 361 Manhattan between Jackson and Withers. We are going into our tenth season this year. We started out a long time ago, very small. Now we have two sessions per summer that we run for five weeks on Manhattan Avenue. It's a performing arts dance and theatre studio called CPR that we use in the summertime. Once a week with teenagers in the fall. We are ages 4 through 11. All the kids in the morning take thematic classes based on our themes in visual arts, music, and dance. I'm a music teacher. In the afternoon they work on a show that we put together as a group. Each session has its own theme. This summer's themes are new wave Shakespeare. We are doing Twelfth Night with new wave

music. The second session will be afrobeat with Fela and music from Nigeria and probably a Nigerian folktale that we will put on as a show. In the afternoons they go to the park. I own the camp with two other artists, one is a dancer also in the neighbourhood and one is an artist. We work in schools throughout the year as teaching artists. We are licensed through the DOE. So when you see companies coming into the school to teach dance programs or theatre programs, we are one of those companies that works in schools throughout the year. In the summer we do our own thing. I asked to come and say hello today because we are donating a session to the auction here and it's a \$1,000 session so we like to come in and introduce ourselves to the schools. We are donating also to PS84 and to the Arbor school. They each have a camp fair so we aren't going in to speak at their PTAs. If you would like to visit us we'll have videos and big photos at PS84 this Saturday for their camp fair. Also, this Saturday at Arbor as well.

TIFFANEY

We also have a camp fair. We had one last year as well. You can speak with Amy Chalkley. I believe that it's in March this year.

I will leave a bunch of things, flyers and you can go online and find us. Hopefully we can raise a lot of money for the school. It's a \$1,000 session so maybe you can raise \$1,200 for the school. So thank you.

TIFFANEY

Ms Cano is here so we will do the Principal's Report. I will pass around the sign in sheet as well.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good morning everyone. I will try and keep my comments brief because I know that you have a lot on the agenda. Please forgive me as I am not quite myself. We are all being hit by everything that is out there.

COLD+FLU SEASON

I am just going to reiterated everything that you tell your children to do. So wash your hands, don't share anything with someone. We are doing all that here. I have teachers wiping down tables and chairs all the time. Collectively, we have to keep on the right track in keeping healthy for the next few weeks. It has been rather alarming the rise in flu cases.

If you feel that your child just might simply have a cold you might want to double check because from what I understand some of those colds might actually be the flu. So please just be mindful about what is happening out there.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our after school program begins on February 27th. Children in grades K through 5 will be invited for 14 sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 through 4:15. Ms Raciunas will be handling that program. This program is designed to give our students that little extra academic boost that they might need based on teacher observation and assessment. It's by invitation because we want to keep the classes rather small so that the kids get the individualized attention that they need.

SATURDAY ACADEMY

Saturday academy is only for children in grades 3 through 5 and that will be March 17th and 24th as well as April 21st and 28th. That's four sessions from 9am through 12pm and that's completely around the New York state math test and the state ELA.

PRE K + KINDERGARTEN ADMISSION

Kindergarten admissions has closed. All of you who had children in Pre K hopefully everyone registered their children for kindergarten.

Pre K admissions window opened on Feb 5th and will close March 30th.

I understand that our kindergarten registration is 400 applicants for 100 seats. So obviously, not everyone is going to get a seat. My big word is patience. Those of you who have been through the process know that at the eleventh hour things happen. Tara is the person to go to with regards to any registration questions but I have to tell you it's a long haul. What a lot of parents do is they wait to hear from gifted and talented and that doesn't happen until late spring. So they don't give up their seat until they hear from gifted and talented. The only thing that I am going to say is that as people decline and do not wish to accept the seat, they really have to call and tell us. Because sometimes they don't and we think the child is coming and the child doesn't show up. Then we have a seat that we didn't think that we had. Let's just be mindful of that and please spread the word that if you are not going to take a seat in either kindergarten or Pre k please let us know.

PROMOTION

Children in grades k through 5 that we felt were not making sufficient academic progress and were doubtful of being promoted in June were all notified but an official letter goes out at the end of next week.

RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK

Next week, February 12th-15th is Respect For All week. That is a DOE week just to be mindful of the fact that we should be respectful of one another all the time, not just next week obviously. Our teachers are planning activities with our students next week.

OUTDOOR RECESS

We are going out. Ms Raciunus who is sitting in the back, she and I are like we are going out. Please dress your children accordingly. Sometimes, some of the children don't come prepared and then they want to sit inside. We do not have personnel to watch children who don't want to go outside. Sometimes the child will leave their coat upstairs on purpose. So then we have to go find coats. Sometimes I get messages from home that say "My child is not going out because it is too cold". Unfortunately, we don't have anybody to watch your child. We are firm believers that we need fresh air. So we are going out provided that the weather allows but we need to be dressed accordingly. The kids don't get as cold as we do but please mittens and scarves and hats.

LOST+FOUND

Please be mindful that our lost and found is growing again by mountains. And coats, how do you not find your coat? I get the sweaters and the scarves, but coats? We have a couple of coats down there. So please look for your child's things. We are going to be moving them.

AMY: Can I just interject. The lunch boxes will go to the trash after a week or two. The other day, one lunchbox was forgotten and the entire room smelled was wafting out into the hallway. So we can't hold onto those things. If you put your child's name on it, it will get back to them. Please put your child's name on water bottles and lunch boxes.

MS CANO: Yes, please mark your child's belonging.

MID-WINTER RECESS

Next Friday February the 16th we are not in session. It will mark the beginning of mid-winter recess. We will come back to school on February the 26th. So we have mid-winter recess.

QUALITY REVIEW

And finally, just so all of you know, on March 8th and 9th we are going through a quality review. A quality review is a DOE structure that is designed to assess a school. It is done through the office of school quality. A reviewer will be in our building for two days with a rubric of 10 indicators and we are scored on those 10 indicators. This is the 6th quality review I have been through. We've had them almost every two years. It is a pretty intense two days. The teachers will be asked to speak to the reviewer. I will invite some parents to speak to the reviewer. The children speak to the reviews. It is a pretty comprehensive look at the building in a window of two days. Granted, in two days, you are not going to learn everything about us but the rubric is designed to get a pretty good snapshot of who we are as a school. That report when prepared will ultimately be placed on the school website and the public will have access to that report. The last one was two years ago and we did well and so we hope to continue to do that on the next one as well.

Any questions or concerns?

Q: Concerning the flu and cold season, are the children being given time to wash their hands? Is there anything that we can do to help that?

A lot of the teachers have hand sanitizer. The children are told to wash their hands every time they go in and out of the bathroom. There is soap and towels in the bathrooms and if anything runs out that gets refilled. I must tell you, we tell the children to do that but not everyone does it. Ms Raciunas and I are across the bathroom and so if I'm across from the girls bathroom, I will periodically go in there and remind everybody to wash their hands. The children's idea of washing hands is very quick. The best message is for all of us to keep saying it.

Q: In a couple of the classrooms there has been lice outbreaks. What are we doing to manage that?

Every single child in this school was checked. So 500 heads have been checked. When we know of a specific case in a specific classroom, we start from there. If there is a sibling then that child is checked and it kind of goes out in that way. We are not checking 500 heads every couple of months. The best thing that can be done is that if your child has lice

or nits is to call us to let us know. If we don't know it nothing gets done. Some parents are reluctant to call, others will call. Then we check heads. We call parents. We explain the treatments and then the hats will be followed through with the parents. According to DOE policy, a child with nits they aren't excludable. In the past, children who had nits they were not allowed in school. That is no longer the case. We all know that if the nits are not treated viciously, they will hatch into lice. If your child has nits and you are called, they have to be treated. The process is arduous, I'm not going to lie. You are literally combing out the nits and you have to use the special comb all those other things that are out there both the natural products and the other products but you have to stay on top of it. When the child comes back, the child is checked again.

Q: As a community do we know that we need to call you if our child has nits or lice?
It's in the parent handbook. It was posted on on our Facebook, but again, not everybody does it.

AMY: This last time I put it out on Facebook, I sent it on the portal, I sent out a video on how to check it. I called all the parents that had children with nits and explained the process to them. The nurse was gracious enough to tell me to tell the any parents that still didn't understand to come in and see her after drop-off so that she could explain it to them.

ANNIE: Just want to clarify something because it was a problem last year. If a the child has nits or lice, we should not just tell the teacher but also the office.

MS CANO: The parents should definitely tell the teacher and call the office but if they tell the teacher, the teacher will tell us. If a teacher is informed we hear it also. But that is true, call the office as well. Under the DOH, our school nurse is not required need to check children for lice. It doesn't fall under there scope of work. So, I have had lots of conversations about it because it seems like it is something that should fall under their scope of work. We have made arrangements here that the nurse will help but we have trained staff to do it. So that staff is being pulled from their assignments to check heads. And you can imagine that checking 500 heads here was a two day process here. The nurse is helping us but she is not obligated to do that at all. She can simply say no and I have no recourse at all. The best vigilance is our vigilance as a school community of parents and teachers to make sure that our kids are ok.
Anything else? What a great way to end on nits and lice.

Saturday, will be the film festival here again. I was at the last festival. We had a lovely turn out and a beautiful beautiful film. Lovely cinematography and lovely message. I am sure that this Saturday will be just as wonderful. We had lots of goodies, lots of treats.

I will end with the Purple Party on March 24th in Long Island City. There is the new flyer that's already out. It's a great evening. Adults only so that we get a chance to really relax and enjoy ourselves.

Thank you for all your continued support. Please rest and re energize over the break. I plan to do the same because I am not feeling myself these days. I'm really, really exhausted. So thank you all and enjoy the rest of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TIFFANEY

Hopefully a bunch of you are planning sticking around after the meeting. We are going to try and wrap up the meeting early. We have David Gumble from Access Mindfulness. He is going to be leading an hour long workshop on mindfulness for beginners. If you have time to stick around, it will be well worth it for you.

Fundraising Chair, I've mentioned it the last couple of meetings that we desperately need a chair for the fundraising committee. No one is doing backflips to do it. The really great thing is that Shannon, who has given so much of her time, has offered to spearhead the Yankees Event. The Yankees event will go on this year. Last year we had 88 people from the school showed up and we had our own little section and it was a really fun day to hang out with your kids. Everybody wore PS110 gear but it was just such a great time. Be on the lookout we will be sending out a flyer. We'll be working out a date within the next couple of weeks. The Yankee's give us discounted tickets so we are able to sell really great seats for \$40 a piece. It doesn't raise a ton of money but it is more of a community building event and it's a great way to spend some time with your family.

The next item on the agenda is the Book Fair Chair that we need one. Again, I feel like I have been saying this all year like we were in jeopardy of cancelling the book fair which would have been so incredibly sad. The reason that we have a book fair, we are not doing it with Word this year is because Word is doing an in house book fair this year. If you want to participate in a book fair using Word, you have to go to Word. The reason why we have book sellers come in is because we want to create a bookstore here because sometimes

kids don't have the opportunity to go to a bookstore. We are going to be working with Green Light Books in Dumbo. They do an amazing book fair. It will be here at the school this year. It's the week of April 16th. We have had Agnes, she has three children, all here at PS110 and then Stephanie De La Rouge is also one of the chairs. So we did have two chairs step up so the book fair is going on. If you have signed up for the book fair you should have been notified by them that they are having their first meeting this week.

The next item is the formation of the Nominating Committee for Executive Board Elections. Most people on the board this year have been here for two terms. We do have a term limit but that can be extended if nobody wants to volunteer. It does look like we do have some people who are interested. So we are going to form the nominating committee today. Yuli has already offered to act on the nominating committee. Sunny, Sunny will do it. Really, it's a pretty simple process, you have to be at the next three meetings. What they do, they will send out a letter to say that we are looking for nominees. In order to be a functioning PTA we need a president, a treasurer, and a secretary. In our bylaws, which I always have available at PTA meetings, there is room for co-presidents, co-treasurers, co-secretaries. So if you are interested in doing service for the school but are worried about the time commitment, find a friend that wants to do it with you. The only thing is that if you are running as co-presidents or co-treasurers you have to be on the same ticket according to the Chancellors rules and regulations. But a president and vice-president don't have to be on the same ticket. In the past they have had two co-presidents at war with each other. That is not the atmosphere here so like we are really lucky. The Chancellors rules and regulations had a bunch of amendments done and you are like what is going out in other schools. Why would this rule even come up. So Sunny, anybody else interested in being on the committee. It's not a huge time commitment. You send out a letter. You talk to people about the positions that are open and then you run the elections in May. Anyone else? We can get by with two but I would love three. You all want to run, that's why you are not volunteering, alright.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As Ms Cano said we do have Cineschool on Saturday. It is our PS110 film series sponsored by the French Embassy. I will have Nathalie Charles come up in a few minutes when we have committee updates and she will talk a little bit about the film.

We also have our Gala Fun!Raiser on March 24th at 7pm as Ms Cano said in Long Island City. Daniel Ashram has volunteered his studio. It's a gorgeous space right on the river. It is going to be a great night. We've already have amazing donations come in and we

actually have a theme. We are hoping that a theme and some jello shots will get everybody lubricated and that everybody will have a nice time. Fleur will be talking about that and she also has our new fancy postcards that we just had made.

With that, because we are trying to blow through this so that we can get to our mindfulness. So I'm going to turn it over to Annie.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ANNIE

Good morning all. I always have the fun stuff; the tax returns, the financial reports. A few things that before the audit. I just want everybody know that as a 501c3 we are required to do a 990 tax return. Those are due February 15th. Our's has been completed and is in the mail as we speak. We are also required to do a mid-year financial report to the school and to the chancellor. That report was due January 31st. That was also filed and completed on time so yay! The last thing is we are also, it is highly recommended that we do an audit especially if we are raising a particular amount of money. So the first year we were a 501c3 we did an audit, I was on the audit committee. The second year, which was last year, we did our second audit and Sandy was the chair of the committee. She has agreed to be the chair of the audit committee chair which is really great. This is our third year so we do have more of a system in place but we do need her to have a couple of committee members to help her with the audit. Like I said, it is fairly streamlined at this point. I give Sandy and the committee a years worth of the documents. It's documentation of expenses, of deposits, of the income, bank statements, you do reconciliation, you make notes of things that are missing or of concern, and you do a little report. We changed the time frame this year because the problem that we were running into was that July 1 to June 30 didn't match well with the school year. So we always had months at the end or months at the beginning that were not just congruent with our school timeframe. Now we are doing the period from May 1st to April 30th so I think that she needs to start the committee work in a couple of weeks. Is anybody interested, Reema. It is pretty good, yes one evening and then she wrote up the report.

I will let her know and Sandy will be in touch with you to set the time frame and hopefully I will be able to get her anything that she needs.

We do need to have a budget committee also. Sandy was the chair of that last year. She is less available this year so if somebody would be interested in spearheading the budget committee that would be great. It's relatively easy, you work with the executive board to

draft a budget for the following school year. You do sometimes go back and forth with a few small changes but because we have had a similar budget for a handful of years it is really mostly updating it. It is then presented at the May meeting and the PTA body votes on it and that's really about it. It is a pretty short timeframe and not super involved but somebody has to be somewhat familiar with excel spreadsheets. Anyone? If you know somebody that might want to do it please email Tiffany at ptaps110@gmail.com.

PARENT COORDINATOR REPORT - AMY

Hi everyone, I know that it is a cold day but we have a really fun Family Night planned tonight. Dr Sellessi, who was a guest here two months ago. She's coming and doing a talk about helping kids focus during the school day or during homework. She has all kinds of ideas and some of them might tie in to today's mindfulness talk. During that time, McCarren park tennis will do a little something with the kids up in the gym. They are bringing some nets and rackets. It's potluck so bring something that you share and there will be pizza. That is tonight from 6pm to 7:30pm. We'll have dinner from 6 to 6:30 and then the kids will break off to go upstairs to play some tennis and we'll meet with Dr Sellessi for about 45 minutes.

Our next family night on March 7th, same timeframe from 6 to 7:30. It will also be a potluck but we are doing a camp fair. We did one last year and we are doing one again this year. All the local and Brooklyn organization with some from Manhattan will be onsite. While they are talking about their camps they will also doing an activity with the kids.

Q: Will you be sending out a list of which camps that will be attending the Camp Fair.

I am just finishing getting them all signed up. I will be sending that out after. I will have a list of organizations that will be coming shortly. Occasionally some organizations sign up at the last minute and I let them. I just think the more the merrier.

TIFFANEY: We are going to be doing committee updates right now.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

FUN!RAISER - FLEUR

Hi everyone, I'm Fleur. We have exciting news, we have our brand new postcards. We have our Purple Party that will happen on March 24th. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year. I hope that everyone has put that on their calendars. Can I have a show of hands, who plans on coming on March 24th, awesome! Hopefully you can also rally the other parents around. We are also still looking for donations. If you look on your postcards when you get them you will see the link for Sandy's email if you have any questions about an auction item. You can also go to the PS110 website there is a 501 auction link there. It is super easy to upload your own auction item. If someone gave you a handbag that is still brand new that you don't like at all but you want to put it to good use, you could upload a picture of the handbag and the brand and it pretty much goes live right away. We are going to make the auction officially live for people to bid on three weeks before the actual event. That means that you can tell Mom and Dad, Grandma, people in other states. They don't have to come to the party to bid on the auction. Sandy gave me a little update this morning. They are a little low on actual physical things. We do have lots of gift certificates which is great because they are flexible. On the actual night the tables will look bare if we have no physical things. Last year we had champagne, sunglasses, jewelry, accessories, scarves, things that are nice for gifts anything like that would be really great. Leather jackets, Tiffany is saying. We have already about fifty things but we are lacking in physical things. We really also need more volunteers for the day of the event so setting up and running the bars. We are going to have two small bars in the space which is really nice. Mary over there will be taking care of that. If you have any questions you can ask her. We are good on the bartenders but we do need people to help set up and pack up on the night of. All the PS110 staff and teachers get to go for free so if you want to encourage your teachers that we want to see them there. Is there anything that I am missing there, no. It will be really fun and we will have a good time

CINESCHOOL-NATALIE

For the film committee, which is a new committee. We created it after we started the film series. If you would like to join the committee I will leave a sign in sheet up here and you can sign up. We are just going to plan for next year and hopefully we can have more than two screenings over the winter. The last screening for this year will be this Saturday. It is Tales Of The Night - Les Comptes de la Nuit. It's a wonderful animation movie with shadow puppets and you are in the theatre and the people get into different tales. So there is one of Africa, one of Tibet, one of Princesses, and one of dragons. It should be very

entertaining for the kids. For the screening, we open the doors at 2pm and the film begins at 2:30pm. We still need some volunteers for the screening mostly for selling tickets and bake sale. Also, if you can bake some goods or make some popcorn that would be awesome. You can send us an email to either the PTA or the film series email. I think that you all received the email from Amy about the film series. I think that's it for me.

ADVOCACY-YULI

Hi I'm Yuli from the Advocacy committee. Just a couple of things.

We will be bringing the lost and found that are left to PS23 next Tuesday morning. So go through it and find your stuff. If not it will be donated to a great school with kids in need.

We attended a legislative breakfast last Friday at PS380. So it's a breakfast that our CEC sets-up with local politicians to sort of hold a form and with representatives from the school to voice concern and give appreciation for the work that they do. The good news is that all these legislators and congressmen are all very pro-public education. In the current federal administration that is very anti public education, they are fighting hard against that. That was reassuring to know.

For us, our CEC meeting is tomorrow at 6pm at PS34 on 131 Norman Avenue. If you'd like to attend, that would be great. You can see what they are up to or not put to. And you can voice your concerns there.

We had a meeting with Ms Cano in trying to figure out how we can get the needs of our school known to our local politicians and legislators. We are going to plan a breakfast tour inviting the local politicians to come see our school and tour the school. This will be right after the DOE quality review so the school will be in tiptop shape. The kids will already be prepared. If you are interested in helping organize that meeting, we are having our first meeting tomorrow at 8:30 in from 205. The breakfast will probably be the second week of March right after the quality review.

TIFFANEY: Do we have anyone else from a committee that wants to give a report right now?

So just because Yuli touched on it, there are 32 CECs in the NYC school system. So there is a CEC for every district. Our CEC use to be a very vibrant CEC. They were really active and there was a lot of progress made. Our current CEC is, in my opinion, phoning it in if even that. They are suppose to have a meeting once a month and they are suppose to have a public form where people's voices can be heard. If you are looking to see change happen that is the place that you go first. They have a direct ear with supposedly with the superintendents and CPAC which is Chancellor's Advisory Panel. I will say that parent participation at our CEC meetings is dismal and so maybe that reflects. I don't know. They are suppose to send out agendas and we had not received an agenda until Yuli made a call recently and asked for an agenda. It was the first time all year that I received an agenda. The last few meetings there is no public form where people sign up but then there voices aren't heard. That's not acceptable but then we can't even voice our opinions because there is no public form. Like their last meeting started 20 minutes late so they axed the public form. So a lot of change can be made there but it is really not a vibrant CEC.

YULI

Just to add to that, I have been going to the CEC 2 in Manhattan and they have a diversity committee. They have CEC meetings. They have a communications committee to do all this outreach with PTAs and the parents in the schools. The diversity committee is working on equity and diversity in the schools. Their initiative right now is middle school applications; making it transparent and equitable to all the students and families and making sure that the school represents the district vs all the smart kids going to one school and all the kids that are considered less smart aggregating in another school. Social economic status as well as racial diversity. Our CEC is pretty far from that right now and I kind of want to work on nudging them in the right direction but that is going to require parents coming and voicing their concerns and holding them accountable. Because right now, no one is there to tell them their concerns. Since nobody is bothering them, they don't have their own drive to reach out to the school.

AMY

I would like to say that tonight's meeting is at PS34 so it's really close by. They are not great about sending out their flyers more than a few days before their meetings. I just got the flyer yesterday and posted it right away. If you go on their website they don't even post that. We have to push them to get it out there earlier.

TIFFANEY

Last year for parents with older kids, they had a great middle school principal panel. Which for parents that were looking for middle schools, had they known about it but they wouldn't tell anybody. It's just really sad and the fact that PS34 is so close. If you have time and the capacity just to check it out, come be a voice. They have food and you can bring your kids.

Q: I feel that I just hear the CEC meeting on the day of. How can that information get out there?

TIFFANEY: Yuli has posted all the CEC meetings for the year. It has been posted several times but if you aren't looking for it you could miss it. The CEC is the Community Education Council. When they got ride of the educational boards. It is like a school board.

AMY: I believe that any parent can sign up for updates on their website. They don't always list what they will be speaking about.

Q: Are they elected?

TIFFANEY: They're elected by executive board members of PTAs. The fact that we don't get agendas or invites to their meetings. There are guidelines, just like PTAs have guidelines for how they're run. They are held accountable to yet they miss the mark at every turn. If you have the capability to support and show for CEC meetings, please sign up for the advocacy committee because Yuli sends updates and we also send parent-wide updates through Amy as well. So I just wanted to touch on that. Thank you Yuli.

Does anyone have any questions or concerns before we get the minutes approved and wrap this up and move on to our workshop?

Approval of January meeting Minutes.

Special Speaker: David Gumble from Access Mindfulness "Mindfulness for Beginners: Tips for Reclaiming the Present Moment"