

**PTA MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 13th 2017**

In Attendance:

Mrs Cano Amato, Principle  
Mrs Raciunas, Assistant Principal  
Amy Chalkley, Parent Coordinator  
Fran Angone, Sustainability Coach  
Tiffany, President  
Annie, Co-Treasurer  
Shelly, Secretary  
Parents

**SUMMARY**

- Attendance+Punctuality: Children must arrival at school at 8:10
- Please fill out the lunch form online even if your child doesn't eat school lunch
- Please sign up for committees and volunteer to make your child's school a better place.
- Please donate time or money to the PTA

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Good morning everyone. I am the principal here at PS110. I have played a part in this school since 1984. I started out as a classroom teacher before becoming a teacher trainer, literacy coach, and assistant principal. This is my 12th year here as principal.

Our mission here at the school is to Grow Hearts and Minds; hearts, souls, and bodies. We have been doing this here at PS110 long before S.E.L. (social and emotional learning) became the norm throughout the DOE. We also teach THRIVE to our PreK kids. This addresses social and emotional training.

**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCUTUALITY**

We need ot have every child arrive on time. When a child is late it throws off the entire class; teacher, students, teacher's assistants. As of 8:20 some of the older kids may have already left their classroom and we must help them find their group. There is a lot of movement around the building.

If your child will be absent please call us to let us know. Our attendance aide will be calling home if a child is absent.

As for vacation and appointments, please try and plan these around the school vacations. There are 186 days of school. Just 10 days of absence can add up to a lot of lost education.

Please make sure that your kids are sleeping enough. If kids fall asleep during school hours, we let them sleep. They need sleep. Kids aged 3-5 years old need between 11 and 13 hours of sleep a day. Kids 6-13 years old need between 9 and 11 hours of sleep a day.

Breakfast is served everyday in the cafeteria for K-5th grade from 7:40 to 8:10. PreK gets breakfast served in the classroom. If your kids eat at home, please make sure that they have a good breakfast.

### TEST SCORES

We prepare for tests as we feel necessary. We have conversations about what we read and offer a consistent education. However, as you all know, we are not a test-prep school.

Last year our 3rd and 4th graders took the ELA and Math exams. On the ELA, they were 58% proficient an increase of 13% over the previous year. On the Math exam, they were 53% proficient an increase of 10% over the previous year.

This year the testing schedule is as follows:

ELA - April 11-12-13

Math - May 1-2-3

Science (4th graders) - June 4th

### CITY-WIDE EXPECTATIONS

The school follows the DOE's CEP or Comprehensive Education Plan.

This plan has five parts:

- Rigorous instruction
- Supportive environment
- Collaborative teachers
- Effective school leadership
- Strong family-community ties

This combined with a strong sense of trust within the school is what allows our students to be successful.

We are always available. Please feel free to stop myself, Ms. Raciunas or Amy Chalkley our parent coordinator if you want to voice any concerns or have any questions.

On another note, I want to make sure that everyone fills out a lunch form for their child regardless of whether they are getting school lunch. The lunch forms determine federal funding. We lost our Title 1 funding, which represents 400K, a few years ago. We may get it back but meanwhile we need to make sure that all lunch forms are filled out. You may do so online using the form that will be sent home with your child. Please fill out the form by October 31st.

### CURRICULUM NIGHT

This evening is curriculum night. You will get a chance to meet your child's teacher or teachers and visit his or her classroom. The teachers will discuss the school year and expectations as well as go over special programs being offered to your child; Italian, gym, art, STEM, music, etc.

## **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### **ART RESIDENCIES**

I have been coordinating the art residencies for the past 13 years. We have artists and art teachers come in and teach usually 10 to 12 sessions for each residency. The program is funded through the PTA.

K - Latin dance in the spring through Young and New York

1 - Drumming residency through Young and New York

2+3 - Musical theatre with Aleister King of Young and New York

4 - Ballroom dancing for 20 weeks through Theater for a New Audience

5 - Shakespeare play through Theater for a New Audience (includes learning about, seeing the play and putting on a scene)

This year we also have a grant for a visual art with literacy residency.

### **SUSTAINABILITY COACH - FRAN ANGONE**

I have been with the school for two years thanks to the Wildlife Fund to promote good sustainability and environmental. This has been done through:

- Waste reduction
- Reduction of energy bill
- Native garden in front of the school

Funding for me ends in December most probably. We will know by mid-October if funding continues for me to remain in the school. This could happen with the help of parent influence. Also, there are three ways to be involved in order to continue sustainability:

- Upkeep of school garden and long-term maintenance plan. There will be a training session if you are interested.
- Sponsoring and testing of home soils for high levels of lead.
- Any new parent with expertise to help the school maintain the program would be appreciated.

I also work with the green-wellness committee.

### **PARENT COORDINATOR - AMY CHALKLEY**

#### **AFTERSCHOOL**

Hello everyone, the options for after school programs are up to date on the website and a sheet has gone out with your children. There are four in house options and 12-14 pickup options.

Once your child signs up, teachers are notified by myself and by the parents.

If your child is absent, please notify the school as well as your afterschool program so that everything is clear at pickup time.

If you are still looking for an after school please feel free to come and see me. I am in the front office. You will need to contact the program directly to sign up.

#### LOST + FOUND

Any lost items are grouped together on a table on the first floor. At the end of the month any unclaimed items are donated to Schoola. They sell what they can online and return a portion of the profits back to the school. Anything that can't be sold gets donated.

Every year we have the same problem. We ask that you label everything that you send your child to school with lunch box, coat, water bottle, etc. If it is labelled then we know who to return it to. Otherwise it gets added to the lost and found table and it piles up.

#### FOOD

Please think about what you send your kids to school with. For PreK, please help them remember all the parts in their lunchboxes. Think about how hard containers can be to open. Make sure they can open it; have a practice run at home. There are six classes per session in the lunchroom at times. It can be chaotic and hard to help each child.

Also, sometimes there is a lot of food in the lunchboxes, too much. Have conversations about what they want to eat for lunch. We usually don't allow trading of food to avoid any problems with allergies. Please discuss this with your kids. Be mindful about what is being sent in.

#### FAMILY NIGHT

Family night is held every Wednesday evening on the same day as the PTA meeting. We have a potluck dinner and have either an art activity or guest speaker. Our first family night will be in October and we will have Leap organizing an art activity. Leap organises our 1st grade art residency.

#### SCOOTER PARKING

Please park all scooters in the Monitor school yard. The door is closed but not locked and we can not be responsible for any losses. Please do not block stairs or any exits as this can be a fire hazard. During a fire drill we need to evacuate 565 people in four minutes.

Parent question: Can we add a camera for the scooter parking?

Mrs Cano: A camera isn't possible. We have no budget for a camera and no one to watch.

Parent question: Why are there no cameras on the doors?

Mrs Cano: Doors are alarmed and locked but we don't have cameras. We are not a high risk school. When an alarm does go off, it is taken very seriously.

Parent question: When is the first lockdown drill?

Mrs Cano: We will do a soft lockdown sometime before October 31st.

Parent question: Can we park bikes in the park?

Mrs Cano: We can't control that space. It is at your risk.

Tiffany: We may have the possibility for a grant for a bike-scooter rack. We need someone to write a grant. We know that this is a problem.

Parent question: About the bridge demolition on September 24th, what is the school doing to check air quality?

Mrs Cano: The schoolyard gets cleaned and checked every day.

Parent: The demolition will happen on a Sunday at 5am. It will not be blown up finally. It will be lowered down on barges.

## **ACADEMICS - MRS CANO**

Here at PS110 we follow the Leader in Me program and try and get the kids into the seven habits:

- Persistence
- Engagement
- Good work habits
- Self regulation
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It's ok for kids to hear no, to have challenges, to be met with adversity, and to let them go. We believe that kids must try and make mistakes. Routines are put into effect for kids to succeed but also be challenged for PreK through 5th grade. On that note, kindergarten will start walking in by themselves as of September 25th. It is harder for the parents than the kids. Trust us, that we've been doing this for a long time.

## **TREASURER'S' REPORT - ANNIE**

### **BUDGET**

Our current budget was approved by budget chairs at the last meeting of the year in June. At the October meeting we will have an updated version of this budget. Right now, we do have more expenses than revenues but we have reserves from previous years. We would like to raise 113K. **ADDED NOTE : Our goal is to raise over \$140k in order to cover 100% of our expenses for the year and still maintain a (emergency) reserve.**

### **FINANCES**

The responsibilities for managing finances include:

- Online giving
- Reconciling bank account
- Submitting reports
- Checking system with double signatures
- Audit and budget as per the DOE
- Work with various committees to make sure that all finance needs are met

## **PRESIDENT - TIFFANY**

### **PTA MEETINGS**

We try to respect everyone's time. Usually the first meeting always goes over but otherwise it's 8:30 to 9:30. After the principal's report and the president's report we may have a guest speaker come in as well. If you have any ideas for guest speakers, please let us know.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

The PTA can be a full-time job. It is all volunteer run. It is a non-profit that supports the school with art residencies, special events, guest speakers. We have the opportunity to create great memories for our kids. Studies show that kids that have parents implicated have better grades and more respect for their peers.

We want you all to know that we have an open door policy both the PTA and Mrs Cano.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Parents night out on Sept 27th. The first drink is on us. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents, staff members, teachers, and the community.

Picture day will be Oct 5th with Stomping Ground Photos. Photographing 500 kids is no small feat. We need help straightening up the kids and keeping them smiling during the picture taking. Any time that you can give on that day would be greatly appreciated. Retakes for absent kids, or kids who's pictures didn't come out well, will be on Nov 10th.

Fall Carnival on Oct 21st. We don't yet have a chair. The spring fest was cancelled because we didn't have a chair. Last year we had an amazing fall fest and raised 6k compared to 2.5k the previous year. If any of you attended last year you know that we had an amazing haunted house.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT - SHELLY**

### **MINUTES**

We're trying something new with the minutes this year. They will be going out on the school website the week after the PTA meeting. That way everyone can read over them before the minutes get approved at the following meeting.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Feel free to communicate any ideas or concerns with us:

- Stop us at school and talk to us in person
- Email the PTA
- Use the anonymous box in the PTA room

## COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND RECRUITMENT - TIFFANY

Please fill out these forms today. They will also come home with your child. You can return them to school and they will find their way to us.

### DONATIONS

We only ask for money twice a year. This the first time we will ask. Please donate either monthly or with a one time donation online. You can also write us a check. Without any fundraising there is no art program.

### COMMITTEES

Please sign up for committees and if you have a special skill that you can contribute to the school, please let us know. It takes a village.

- **ADVOCACY** at the city, state, and federal levels. We need a chair. This person should attend the CEC meetings. There is a lot of info to hear and it's a great platform for change at the city and district level.
- **ART** hangs the artwork of the kids throughout the school for holidays and special events. Jody is the returning chair.
- **AUDIT** in keeping with the chancellor's rules. The committee will form in the spring.
- **BUDGET** will form in the spring for 2018-19
- **FUNDRAISING** we need a chair.
- **GRANTS** grant writing, grant research. Also if you see any grants that could be interesting for the school please let us know even if you aren't in the committee. Last year we did participatory budgeting instead of grants and got 175K for air conditioning for the school. Mrs. Cano: The 175k from participatory budgeting was for the rewiring that needs to happen for the air conditioning. The state grant from the previous year was for the air conditioning units themselves. Any state or city money requires a lot of patience.
- **LIBRARY** Donna and Juliette are co-chairs for this committee. The committee needs lots of volunteers as it is parent run. They need help weeding out books once a month or once a week, whatever you can give. There are always 2 to 3 parents per shift (especially for the older kids). This year's projects include a possible story time and library themes.
- **MARKETING+OUTREACH** a newsletter was started last year and will continue this year. Co-chairs Kaity and Cirus.
- **MERCHANDISE** Design and sell merch at meetings, events, online. Sandra is chair.
- **NOMINATING** will form as of February for the executive board votes for the following year. Nominees are announced in May and voting happens at the June PTA meeting.
- **TOURS** Hannah is chair. Tours start in November.
- **WEBSITE** Zack is chair.
- **GREEN-WELLNESS** need a chair. Last year's project was air quality plants throughout the school.
- **FALL CARNIVAL** need a chair. Based on last years successful template.

Also, Sept 19th is Dad's bring your child to school day.

## QUESTIONS

Q: What does organizing the fall carnival entail?

There is a really well organized plan from last year that just needs to be followed and tweaked. Donations and gifts are needed from local businesses. Six or so weekly meetings to organize everything.

Q: Photo Day, what are the volunteer hours?

Whatever you can give.

Q: What can working parents do?

They can volunteer for events that happen outside of school hours like the fall fest. Also, data entry and other administrative tasks.

Q: Can we get the PTA minutes at the family night?

No, this is too short notice.

Q: School lunch, how long is it? Who decides?

The length of the lunch hour is based on the contractual hours of the teachers.

Q: Grade 1 has no snack time. Can this be changed?

Unfortunately there is no space for a snack time during the Grade 1 day.

Q: Does the library need book donations?

No, please don't bring any donations to the school. You may offer up items to your child's teacher and they might accept them. Otherwise, please see Little Essentials online. It is owned by the mother of one of our students and gives at a local level.

Q: What can we do about the school bus schedule?

Please see Ms Hellsing at the school level. Otherwise, the office of people transportation organizes the routes. If you call them, they will tell you that your other option is to go to your zoned school. Also, see about creating a class or grade email list to see about carpooling with other families.