

Cluster teachers

Ron Regan, physical education teacher. Philosophy of physical education: develop good eating and exercise habits when we are young to reap the benefits later in life. Run, skip, hop, non-competitive fun introduction to sports. FITT. Frequency, intensity, time, type.

Lisa Taylor, library and media center. Ms. Taylor expressed thanks to the school for preserving and supporting the library. art education. All K, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classes have a library period. Reading to your children and listening to their reading can foster a lifelong love of reading. 3rd graders learn how to learn online resources. Ms. Taylor is also the sustainability coordinator. She will be working to make compostable plates, cups, and silverware available for publishing parties, and to offer reusable lunch bags to kids who bring lunch from home.

Michelle Hill, art teacher. Ms. Hill expressed thanks to the school for preserving and supporting art education. Ms. Hill recommended some apps and resources, galleries and museums.

JoEllen Schuleman, science teacher for grades 2 and higher. Ms. Schuleman expressed her thanks for the laptop cart and 3D printers. She discussed the value of inquiry and hypothesis generation - being wrong is an essential part of the scientific process. She encourages her students to be risk takers in science, and to independently develop experiments to validate or refute their hypotheses.

Saralisa Raff, movement teacher for grades kindergarten and first grade. Ms. Raff explained movement as a very structured physical time for the kids, with upbeat music, movement vocabulary, and methods of physical expression. She weaves culture, history, and community into her lessons.

Ingrid Camilo, music teacher, announced that it was her 22nd year teaching at PS199! Ms. Camilo discussed the curriculum. K and 1st have music and movement. 2nd graders do chorus. 3rd graders learn to play the recorder, learn about rhythm, and composers. 4th graders also do chorus and the students are placed in singing groups (soprano, mezzo soprano, and alto). The songs are discussed in the context of composition, poetry, and theme. 5th graders also do chorus, with the themes of growing up and moving on to the next adventure.

Presidents' Update

Areas of focus for this year's PTA are: Community, Participation, and Communication.

Amy Friedland was recognized for her efforts to launch the new PTA website.

Motion carried to approve the June 2015 minutes.

Science Center update

Representing the Science Center were Karen Cape, Michael Rabatin, and Amy Friedland. Some of their children, dressed in green, handed out fresh basil grown in the school's garden. Karen announced that as of this summer the committee has acquired sufficient funds to build the greenhouse science center. Thanks to Manhattan borough president Gale Brewer, City councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal and NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, The PTA, Devesh and Radikha Shah (PS 199 parents via Goldman Sachs Gives fund), and other parents and friends of PS 199. The plan is for the greenhouse to be open by Fall 2016. The committee will

continue to run the Earth Day event in the spring, as well as other events such as Dirt Day.

Chef Anne, WITS

This is Chef Anne's sixth year at PS199. She will be here two days a month this year. She will do tastings and WITS bits. Applesauce, 3rd grade nutrition class, playground solar cooked kale nachos.

Thank yous

Jenn Ligouri and Michelle Gere, Renee Eanes - K buddies and welcoming committee, K meet and greet

Corinne Glass - Community Cares collected school supplies for homeless NYC children.

Betsy Hart, Rebecca Krein, and Jamie Naylor for their lice check work with Lice Treatment Center.

Thank you to Spring Lake Day Camp for sponsoring the new K parent coffee.

PTA investments

Laptop carts - one in the science room and one for general use.

Overhauled PTA website - thanks again to Amy Friedland.

Volunteering

Volunteers are needed for our big and little events throughout the year.

The PTA is using iVolunteer to publicize opportunities. Check back on ps199pta.ivolunteer.com periodically to see new opportunities.

2015-2016 Executive Board Officers

PTA officers and PALs introduced themselves.

Co-Presidents: Andrea Steinkamp and Victoria Micalizzi

Vice Presidents: Renee Eanes, Imran Husain, Jenni Wolf

Co-Corresponding Secretaries: Lisa Ballard and Amy Friedland

Recording Secretary: Rebecca Zimba

Treasurer: Ed Aldridge

Assistant Treasurer: Danielle Winfield

Co-Fundraising Officers: Michele Riggio and Lara Bursor

PALs: Leslie Cawdron, Wendy Hutter, Blagovest Petkov

Next PTA meeting October 14th we will hold PAL elections.

Upcoming events

October 11: No School - Columbus Day

October 14: PTA Meeting

October 17: Walkathon

October 24: Diversity Event – Diwali Festival of Lights

October 30th: Halloween Parade (Grades K-3)

November 16-20: Scholastic Book Fair

November 20: Thanksgiving Pot Luck

Giving Tree Annual Appeal

This is the lowest cost PTA fundraising effort, and there are opportunities for corporate matching.

Contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

The Annual Walkathon, October 17th

Elizabeth Nunez presented the details about the Walkathon, including the walk from the pier, the amazing activities in the yard, and the food generously donated by local businesses.

Registration is entirely online, and you can sign up to help on the day of the Walkathon.

Diversity committee

Patricia Dinely, and Prashanthi Reddy

Diwali Festival of Lights on October 24th 3-7pm, with food, arts, and crafts, a performance in the auditorium from 5-6pm, and a Bollywood dance workshop in the gym.

Treasurer's report

Budget through June 30th, 2015 reviewed.

Budget through August 31st, 2015 reviewed.

SLT - School Leadership Team

Victoria Kopper, Liz Sutherland, and Ellen Shultz discussed what the SLT is and does. Eight parent members and eight teachers. They are responsible for submitting a Comprehensive Education Plan for the school, which specifies the school's goals in the students' academic, social, and emotional lives.

Overcrowding and re-zoning

Joe Fiordaliso, district 3 CEC president and PS199 parent.

Nan Mead5 district 3 CEC Vice President and PS180 parent.

PS 452 was created X years ago to alleviate overcrowding at PS199 and PS87. The city has allowed unchecked residential development with no regard to growing seats in the local schools, and we are again in an unsustainable situation. There are many opportunities for public comment, and the meetings are listed on www.cec3.org as well as the PTA website.

Louise Xerri pointed out that though re-zoning would help the future of the waiting list, it doesn't address the current overcrowding issue. She asked the question of what the DOE can do now to help us handle the student body of 912, 22% over official capacity.

Siblings have historically been grandfathered in at priority 1 even if the zone line changes and they are no longer in the zone.

PS342 is supposed to open 2018.

Principal's Q&A

Principal Xerri stood up to answer any questions; there were none. She thanked the parents and the staff who came to the meeting.