

Minutes from 9.26.18 General P.T.A. Meeting

Words from Ms. Hsu & Mr. Shevell:  
  
Smooth start to the school year- Tight Community in each classroom. We need parents to partner with the school- It helps children thrive. Be a class parent, volunteer for field trips or join the PTA board. Get other parents involved in PTA meetings. Fliers will be going home for parents to join the school leadership team. This team is made up of 50% staff members and 50% parents. They help with grants and funding school programs. The PTA funds many programs such as our new art program called  
Studio In A School, Curriculum Chess in classrooms and Dancing Classrooms for 5th grade classes.   
  
Library Update: Over $20,000 was raised and a book order was submitted. Books will arrive in next few weeks. Books are all hardcover non- fiction.  We received book donations from Random House and   
Simon & Schuster Publishing houses.   
  
We received 2 new after-school grants from our two council members. One will be a new partnership with 92nd Street Y and the other program is for gardening and planting in yard  with NY Horticultural Society.   
  
We will be continuing our “Read Ahead “ program. Once a week during lunch children can read with a mentor from one of our neighborhood organizations.   
  
Re: Construction on Second Avenue - They are replacing water pipes on 33rd Street around school Btwn 2-3rd Avenues. This does not affect the schools water supply or arrival/ dismissal on 32nd Street. The school is keeping in close contact with the city regarding any new developments.   
  
Re: Safety - We are required to hold a certain amount of safety drills so school is prepared in case of emergency. There will be 6 evacuation drills and 4 soft lockdown drills. Fliers will be sent home prior to lockdown drills. Staff and Administration are required to do yearly training and refresher course. Mr. Shevell will  hold an emergency procedures workshop in October for parents. This is done ever fall and parents are urged to attend. Date TBD  
  
Make sure blue emergency contact cards are submitted in the office and are kept up to date.   
  
State test scores for 4th and 5th grades have not been released yet.  Log into your NYC schools account to view scores. Reach out to parent coordinator  Vicky Ritter if you need to reset your password or set up an account.   
  
Goals for this school year:  
  
1.  Infusing Mindfulness-Work on social and emotional growth by learning skills and strategies to deal with stress and anger. Encouraging children and families to embrace our PDF homework policy.   
  
2. Work on strategies to improve our lower level readers and make sure all children  read their “Just Right Books”. It is also important to read to your child and initiate conversations.   
  
3. Diversity/ Race/Equity  
Our school is very diverse.   
“Every child/ family needs to be seen”.  Increase equity in our school district. Work on professional development with staff and look at race in the classrooms. We are infusing specific books into our classroom libraries.   
  
Words from our PTA Presidents:  
  
We want our community to be strong. Need PTA involvement. PTA funds the TA program, new art program “Studio In A School” and many programs and activities. Any volunteering is welcome and appreciated. Don’t need to sign up for permanent positions on board. Volunteer your time and stay involved. Need class parents to be liaison to PTA.   
  
Elections were held to fill few new   
co-positions.   
  
We want to improve safety in the school. There will be a special safety committee that meets regularly.   
  
Curriculum Night is 9/27. There will be 10-12 vendors representing after-school in the cafeteria. Ms. Hsu and Mr. Shevell will speak in gym at 5pm. Parents can also visit specialty teachers.   
  
PS 116 Parent Mixer is 10/4 from 7-9pm at The Gem Saloon  
  
1st Family as Buddies is Friday, 10/5  
  
Picture days are 10/10 and 10/11. Paperwork will come home in backpacks.   
  
Running club needs 2 more volunteers. Held on Friday mornings before school.   
  
5th grade committee will meet and volunteers are needed for fundraising.   
  
PS116PTA.com is the new PTA website   
  
Boo Bash is Saturday 10/27. Volunteers and candy donations needed.  