

PTA Meeting Minutes
2/14/18

Words from Ms. Hsu & Mr. Shevell

New art program Studio in a School finished the first cycle with lower grades. 2nd-5th grade teachers met with teaching artists to start getting trained. Second cycle with upper grades will start after the break. It will run end of February thru May. The final art exhibition for grades 2-5 will be at the first buddies in June. Emphasis is on the process vs. the eventual end project.

After the February break, K & 1 will start chess in the classrooms. On March 4th, we will have the 2nd PS 116 chess tournament which is open to everyone.

Pre K application period is open until end of March. We will have 3 classes with 54 students total. Children must be age 4 by 12/31/18 to apply and you do not need to be zoned to attend Pre K at PS 116.

Citizenship program flyers and emails went out. We need minimum amount of 15 people. This is a great opportunity. NY Historical Society is willing to host at our school.

The new library will need books. Can hold 3500 new books and non-fiction books are preferred to stock the library. Survey was sent to teachers for book wish lists. Some topics are world geography, biology, American history, black history, social studies, reading and writing and puberty. Amazon wish lists of book titles will be available so families can donate books. In addition, corporations are great to target for donations. Questions were brought up about supporting local small bookstores vs. amazon when purchasing books. This will be looked into.

On Thursday 2/15, we will hold the school's 3rd soft lockdown drill. Kids were told about it prior as well as flyers sent home to parents.

Puberty discussions will begin today and tomorrow for 5th grade classes with Mr. Shevell. Kids write questions on index cards.

On 2/28 at 8:45am after drop off there will be a cyber bullying/social media workshop for parents in the cafeteria.

There was a shift in indoor recess procedures. If children do not want to watch the movie, they can chose to read a book instead.

Words from PTA Presidents

Thank you to all class parents for disseminating info and class funds. They help pull together a community in the classroom.

Read-a-thon has closed and we raised over \$13,000. We will receive almost \$10,000 from that total. Classes with the most minutes read in each grade will win a pizza party. Kids will also get prizes directly from the read-a-thon themselves.

Please spread the word about our Pre K program. Do not need to be zoned for PS 116.

Dad's basketball is open to any interested PS 116 dads on Monday nights from 7-9pm in the gym. \$20 per person – no need to register – just show up!

There is a new circular bench by the tree from a grant the school was given. Ms. Hsu wants to get feedback before we order additional benches for the yard.

PTA met with school psychologist and counselor to get ideas about school needs. Looking into programs for bullying prevention, resiliency training and internet safety. 6-8 sessions long with training for teachers, parents and elementary children. We would like feedback from parents, as well as suggestions on what other schools are doing.

NY International Film Festival for ages 5-14 is coming up. Link is on the PS 116 website. The school will receive \$3 back for every ticket purchased.

Chocolate Rose Sale for Valentine's Day has been going on in the yard.

Box top contest sheets are due tomorrow 2/15. Please continue to collect box tops. Great easy way to raise money for the school.

Clorox wipes are desperately needed for the cafeteria. Please donate.

Falu Bazaar will be on 2/18. Falu is a parent at PS 116 and an amazing singer. She has a debut kids album. Support a parent. This was in our weekly e-blast.

Ronald McDonald House drive will be coming up. Look for updates.

Friday 3/9 will be the Dance-a-thon. Theme is "Just Dance". There will be a DJ and a raffle. More info to come.