

**PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**12/20/17**

**Words from Ms. Hsu & Mr. Shevell**

Happy holidays to all!!!

We want to highlight in-classroom programs and community events at our school. Ballroom dancing and new art program "Studio in a School" as well as other school events are wonderful community builders. Our school is very diverse and we need to provide enrichment thru our school for those families in need. The number of homeless families has risen in NYC and we have some of these students in our school. We want to try to partner up with the shelters and neighborhood hotels that house these families and offer assistance. "Operation Warm" is donating 120 new coats for families in need at our school.

Gifted & Talented testing letters went out.  
January 3-January 19 will be testing dates for grades K-2.

Updates:

Ballroom dancing classes for fifth graders has ended. They held an exhibition for the finale. Puberty discussions are coming up next in January.

"Studio in a School" has been very successful. Pre-K, K, and First graders will be ending their cycle. Older grades will start the new art program in February/March.

New chess club and team are going well. K and 1st graders will start classroom chess in February. Participation in the chess program has grown and we held our first tournament of the year in December.

Please remember kids go outside for recess if the real-feel temps are above zero. Please dress accordingly. This applies also to morning arrival in the yard.

**Words from PTA Presidents**

Book fair was a big hit! Books were also purchased for classrooms from teacher wish lists.

We held an Open House Tour this month for new families looking to attend our school.

We are looking into new technology tools to enhance the curriculum. Music has started using some and we are assessing their success.

We are trying various Fundraiser promotions for PS 116 such as Shutterfly & Tiny Prints - go thru link on our website. In addition, cutting box tops, Amazon Smile link and Fairway cards can be used and a portion of the proceeds are given back to our school.

116 Spotlight, which can be accessed thru our website, is a blog where 5th graders write entries on various topics.

TA Fund is still in need of donations. Please spread the word do we don't lose our teaching assistants in the lower grades.

Upcoming Events:

January 12 - Movie Night (tentative date – possibly held on January 19)  
January 24 - Mom's Night Out @ The Gem Saloon (owned by a parent at PS 116)  
February 9 - Dance-A-Thon

Chris O' Brien will be hosting a lecture on Cyber Security for parents.

We are looking into anti-discrimination/ bullying and bias training programs for kids, parents and staff.

Spring Auction will be April 26th at The Raise on East 30th Street. Initial forms went home regarding donations and volunteering. First auction meeting will be January 19th to get involved and volunteer.