

**Museum Alliance for Science and Technology
P.S. 154 PTA – General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 6:00pm
Multi Media Room**

Welcome

PTA President, Deb Capone opened the meeting by thanking the 3rd grade parents for hosting the potluck. The new PTA web site is up and running, designed to be a one-stop-shopping place. Other good news is that it looks like the 100th anniversary may have netted approximately \$8,000.00.

The next PTA meeting in May has been changed from a Friday morning meeting to Tuesday evening, May 12th in order to ensure that more people can attend to vote on next year's officers and the 2009-10 PTA budget. Voting on a preliminary budget in the spring will allow the PTA to get started sooner with programming in the fall.

The lunchroom volunteer program is going well. Orientations are scheduled regularly and volunteer slots are can be arranged to meet people's needs for time and frequency. Write to 154lunch@gmail.com for orientation times and scheduling.

Budget

The current PTA budget update was presented with a few amended line items that were voted on at tonight's meeting. Then Diana Plunkett reviewed the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget, explained changes and fielded questions. The Bulb fundraiser and ArtCards were eliminated. The Cinco de Mayo celebration was taken out of the budget because the PTA was unable to get someone to commit to coordinating this event this year. Icy sales have been added for this spring and will begin two times per week after school starting in May. The Chess Tournament is a new self-funded event. Band is going to move to an after school enrichment. The amount of funding for bio-degradable trays is reduced by 50% with the hopes of changing to a more affordable vendor. Lice Enders has been removed and will be substituted with education to the parent body including a demonstration at the fall PTA meeting. In-Class enrichments funding increased proportionally to the number of classes in each grade. Teacher mini-grants have also increased in amount.

Next Year's Executive Board Positions:

The Executive Board positions were reviewed for next year. Some positions already have nominees. At tonight's meeting, Nicole Bilu Brier and Emily O'Connor were nominated for Co-Vice Presidents of Fundraising and Bill Tipper for Vice President of Publicity. Connie Walsh, Debby Wattenbarger, Annette Tacconelli, Brenna Beirne and Lauren Knowles were nominated for Members at Large. The following positions are still open for nominees:

Co-President: Oversee all PTA meetings and weekly Executive Board meetings, and oversee every PTA event, fundraiser and function.

Executive Vice President: Oversees standing committees, attends meetings and makes sure the PTA is following DOE regulations and by-laws.

Vice President of Membership: Primarily responsible for implementing yearly PTA membership drive and will play vital role in keeping the community involved at school.

Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for maintaining open lines of communication between PS 154 and our local elected officials and institutions. Attends CEC meetings and makes sure that the greater community is aware of our school and what it needs.

Members-at-large: are elected in the Spring as well in as the Fall to give new families a chance to join the PTA. Members-at-large take on new issues and projects, chair events and generally help out in any way they can. Must also chair or co-chair at least one committee.

If parents are not interested in being on the Board but do have interest in committee work, the PTA has many committees to chair or co-chair:

International Food Festival, Boo Bash, Winter Festival, Spring Carnival, Art Craft Fair in Prospect Park, Poetry Extravaganza and Night, Meet the Author, School Concerts, Theatre, Chess Tournament (new), Movie Nights, Book Fair, Read-a-thon, Free Money, Weekly Newsletter, Graphic Design, The Green Team, The School Store, Lunchroom Volunteers (new), Sponsorships, Development, Class Parents, In-Class Enrichment Coordinators, PTA Meeting Coordinator (new), 5th Grade Committee (new), Class Trip Committee (new)

If you are interested in more information about committee work, please contact Deb Capone at depcapone@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

New Language Program at 154: We're introducing a new language program at PS154 and running a pilot session during the month of May, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am – 8:40 pm for a cost of \$120. Free demonstration April 23rd. This program will start again in September and run all year. For more info and a registration form, visit the "files" section of our listserve or email debcapone@yahoo.com.

Spring Carnival (MAY 16TH)

- The annual PS 154 Spring Carnival is Saturday May 16th from 11 - 4. The event is very well organized this year and each grade will have the opportunity to be involved in running a game or craft booth. The carnival will also include entertainment, rides, dunking booth as well as some new activities.
- Each grade will be responsible for a booth that will be open for about 5 hours in the afternoon. Kids are encouraged to help out at the booths, but there must be at least 2 adults at each booth at all times. Staffing times in hour shifts include: 10-11 for set up, 11 – 12, 12-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4 and then 4 – 5 for breakdown. Class Parents are responsible for scheduling their child's grades' booth. As in years past, each grade (not individual class) will be asked to put together a themed basket to raffle off.

Other interesting things happening at the Spring Carnival this year:

- **Cake Contest (NEW):** The idea is that parents/children will enter their cake in a competition in several categories -- best tasting cake, grossest (but edible) cake, prettiest cake, etc. Prizes will be awarded. The entry fee will be \$3.
- **Used Children's Clothing Sale:** Gently used and laundered clothing will start being collected on May 11th, which we will be sorted and then out for purchase. **ONLY** children's clothes and shoes will be accepted. Non-sellable clothing will also be collected on **the day of the carnival** which will be collected by our Wearable Collections <http://wearablecollections.com/> (a green company that shreds clothing and puts it to use for things such as insulation).
- Bring in items for our drum circle and drop off in PTA office – coffee tins, breadcrumb containers, formula cans, empty paper towel rolls, and plastic baby food jars (no glass

please).

- Playground donations - balls (soft rubber balls only), kickballs, chalk, skip-its, Hoola Hoops and bubbles (NO hardballs, jump ropes and basketballs) and for our "rainy day" boxes that we'll be making for each class (board games, cards, activity books and basic art supplies).

Art Crafts Fair in Prospect Park, May 9th: This event is open to the general community. Coordinator, Dara Oshin is still looking for vendors, please spread the word. Dara is also looking for donations for the raffle. The PTA will have a booth and we're looking for some people that can run a craft, do an activity, etc.

The meeting came to a close at 8:00pm. The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday May 12, 2009 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman