

PTA Meeting Minutes
9/20/17

Words from Ms. Hsu & Mr. Shevell

- Welcome back to a new school year! This is our 15th year with our very diverse community at PS 116. Teachers will be building on initiatives centered around engagement in all classrooms. One way to increase engagement is to bring "joy and choice" into the classrooms. Kids need to know they have choices. Our HW policy around Playtime, Downtime, and Family time (PDF) and reading continues to develop. The PDF log is very important as we partner with families to support these areas, which research has shown to benefit the academic and social-emotional growth in children.
- New School Programs for 2017-2018:
 - Studio In A School - With our art teacher Mr. McGreevy's retirement, thanks to donations to the PTA, every child in PK-5 will experience a visual arts residency through Studio in a School. This will include planning sessions with the teachers, 10 classroom visits by a teaching artist, follow-up art lessons in the classrooms, and an exhibition at the end of each residency.
 - Chess Club & Team - Coach Russ from Impact Coaching Network will be directing our school's chess programs. It will include after-school club, as well as cycles of curriculum chess in classrooms.
 - Dancing Classrooms - 20 sessions of ballroom dancing will be offered for all 5th graders with an exhibition at the end of the residency.
- Safety Drills:
 - We are required by law to have a certain number of safety drills and soft lockdown drills in the fall & spring.
 - Teachers are currently implementing age-appropriate safety lessons with students.
 - An Emergency Protocol Workshop will be held for families in October. All are encouraged to attend. Flyers will be sent home with more information.
- School Budget:
 - Our school budget is based on student enrollment by 10/31/17.
 - To offset additional costs, PTA funds help immensely with providing students with extra enrichment and academic support. Family donations allow us to have part-time teaching assistants (TA's) in K and 1st grades. The cost for the year is \$75,000 for 3 ½ TA's.
 - NYU students / interns are available if teachers want extra help, especially with class sizes in 1st & 3rd grades being bigger this year. It is up to the teachers if they wish to take on one of these NYU students.
 - PS 40 is at capacity in some grades, so the DOE is sending families to us. Our enrollment has decreased over the past 5 years, due to rezoning and new schools in the area. For the moment, until tenants move into the 30-some high-rises under construction or conversion, we have room for the extra students.
 - Please go online and fill out a meal application. Our school's funding is directly connected to this form. Paper forms were not sent home this year; instead, please check www.ps116.org for the link.

Words from Nurse Dawn

- She has been at PS 116 for over 7 years.
- 504 Medication Administration Forms (MAF) are required for a child to take ANY medication in school.
 - This 504 Medication Administration Form is needed for asthma, allergies, ADD/ADHD, and diabetes medications. In addition, NO over-the-counter meds, including Tylenol, may be administered by any staff at the school unless a current form is on file.
 - Students cannot carry their own medicine, nor self-administer medication, without the 504 MAF on file.
 - This form must be renewed each year. In June, Nurse Dawn sends home a blank 504 MAF form that can be filled out by the child's physician over the summer to ensure that the form goes into effect on the first day of school (provided the family submits it to Nurse Dawn by the first day of school).
 - Epi Pens – in addition to the nurse, these can be administered by trained staff members.
 - Inhalers – the nurse is the only person at school who is permitted to administer an inhaler to students. Further, the nurse on site may only administer an inhaler to students who have a current (up-to-date) 504 MAF on file.
- Students can be in school with a cold or cough, but no fever. If a child has 100 or higher fever, parents will be called for pick-up. Likewise, if a student vomits in school due to a virus, parents will be called and they will be sent home. If a child vomits at home in the morning, please keep your child at home.
- Children age 5 need a physical on file.
- Please update Nurse Dawn if new medical conditions arise.

Words from PTA Presidents

- Our mission is to make PS 116 the best school for our kids. Community building is most important. We need money and volunteers all through the year.
- There are still a few open positions on the PTA board. We need additional persons for the following committees:
 - Special Events Committee
 - Co-Financial Secretary
 - Community Building Events
- All parents are members of the PTA. Please pass along info to other parents. Partner with class parents to spread the word. Attend monthly PTA meetings, and please volunteer when you can!
- Library renovations are complete. Stocking with books now. This will be a great resource for our children.
- Upcoming Events:
 - PS 116 Mixer will be held on Thursday, 9/28
Comedian/ Wine & Food. \$25 a ticket
 - Class Picture Days - 10/5 and 10/6
- Sign up for e-blasts or text messages by texting #81010 on your cell phone - all info on PS 116 website.

- 116Kids after-school program will be starting on 9/25. Many great classes for all grades will be offered.