



The William T. Harris School

PTA NEWSLETTER

Office: 212.929.1743
PTA Voice Mail: 212.496.4520
www.ps11pta.org

February, 2005

Our Afterschool Program

The P.S. 11 Afterschool Program will begin a new semester of afterschool on Monday, February 28th. Starting this semester, we have made a major change in our class structure—the afterschool program will run in 2 sessions; 3:00-4:30 and 4:30-6:00. With your support and understanding, we hope that this change will make our program stronger, more enriching, and accessible to more students. We do understand that this change may be difficult for some families and we will try to accommodate you whenever possible. Please feel free to speak to us about your concerns.

The new schedule has been sent home in your child's backpack and is available in the afterschool office in the cafeteria. Registration will take place on Wednesday, February 2nd for 3rd-5th grade students and Thursday, February 3rd for K-2nd grade students. Registration can ONLY be done in-person. We will not accept any forms prior to the registration day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 917-653-0594.

Deborah Osborne

Calling All Volunteers!

Planning is getting underway for A Taste of Chelsea, P.S. 11's biggest fundraising event of the year. Volunteers are needed in many areas. If you can give a little bit of time or a lot, we need you! If you've already signed up to help, you will be contacted shortly. If you haven't signed up but want to, please call Pam Winberry at 212.977.9857 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 9 — Family Science Night,
6:30pm

February 10 — PTA Meeting, 8:45am

February 21-25 — Midwinter Recess
(School Closed)

Letter From the Principal

Dear Parents and Families of Our P.S. 11 Children,

Happy February! Since I have not met my deadline for the past two PTA newsletters and, in order to be able to better communicate and inform all of our families of all that is going on, I will be sending home my own newsletter. A bit more time and space, I feel, is the best way to accomplish this. I hope by the time you receive this newsletter you will already have received mine. I will continue to write a brief note for the PTA newsletter.

Please keep bringing your children to school. We are trying to improve attendance. The more the children come, the more they will learn. Attendance is at almost 93%, a few more children every day will get us to 95%.

Welcome back to Selina Hedigan, who was on maternity leave. Selina will be here every day as our math coach. We are also lucky to have Judy McVarish, a math consultant from NYU, working with our new teachers. I am working with Judy to set up workshops for parents to help them support their children's math instruction.

We, here at P.S. 11, thank you for all your support.
Sincerely,

Francis Del Monaco
Principal, P.S. 11

WORK HARD. PLAY FAIR. BE KIND.

From Your PTA Co-President

No one could have imagined the devastation created by the Tsunami. It was wonderful to see so many members of our P.S. 11 family eager to help. To date, P.S. 11 students have collected \$3,510.48. Close to \$2,000 of the collected funds came as loose change so it seems that many students, as well as adults, reached into their pockets to help. Every penny, nickel and dime is appreciated. Congratulations to everyone.

Valentine's Day means it's time for our bake sale. It's important that we have lots of cookies and cakes on hand. We don't want a repeat of last year's sale when we ran out of baked goods. This was not because sales were so brisk but because we did not have that many cakes and cookies to begin with. When some of the lower grades came down with their pocket change and sweet dreams, they found only crumbs. Let's not assume that someone else will take care of providing the treats. This year let's all be that "someone else." Your children will appreciate it.

Matthew Mallinson

Check Out These Websites

P.S. 11 now has a link to some databases that are great for Internet research. The NY State Library's NOVEL Project offers a free network to all public schools in the state—and you can access this site from your home computers. Go to one of the two links listed below, and use the passwords for our school.

There is an extraordinary amount of info available on these databases including lots of links geared towards kids, current newspapers, reference libraries, and links in Spanish text.

Please take a look. They're really useful and interesting.

<http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?group+empire>

The user ID and password for this site are both the same: harrisps11

http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/nysl_me_wths

The password for this site is: empirelink

**Thanks to Kinko's at 24th St. and 7th Ave.
for donating the printing of our newsletter.
212.929.0623**

Kindergarten Story Hours

Kindergarten classes have been coming to the library on Friday mornings for story hours this past fall, and will continue to visit during the spring.

As with our Pre-K story hours, parent volunteers are organizing these opportunities for the kids to share an introduction to literature, a craft project and a chance to use our terrific school library in Room 408.

Many thanks to our teachers; Ms. Hicks, Ms. Baker, Ms. Brandon, and Ms. Dillon—and all the parents; Didi Re, Marcia Pomerantz, Bob Greenberg, Hajrija Sabovic, Anita Lee-Yu, Gina Pierre, and especially Judy Dahill, for all their help in making this happen.

Jim Harker

Suggestions, Anyone?

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding how the PTA and/or P.S. 11 staff can improve our school, write them down and put them in the black suggestion box located directly behind security guard Jose Rodriguez's desk by the main entrance. Comments are distributed weekly to the PTA Executive Board, Principal Del Monaco, and key members of the P.S. 11 staff. All comments from members of the P.S. 11 community are welcome.

PTA Executive Board

Matthew Mallinson	Co-President	212.675.3462
Linda Osborne	Co-President	212.924.1797
Kathy Ellman	First VP	646.336.8649
Kim Reagan	Second VP	212.736.3814
Pam Winberry	Recording Sec.	212.977.9857
Sarah Cassidy	Corres. Sec.	212.727.7102
Jill Kern	Treasurer	212.675.3939
Gil Santiago	Chair, Facilities Comm.,	212.691.6058
Wini Schiff	Chair, Grantwriting Comm.,	212.539.0106
Lucia Santiago	Chair, Science Comm.,	212.691.6058
Martha Gallo	Chair, Community Outreach Comm.,	212.736.3974
Bernadette Drayton	Member-at-Large	212.736.0611
Vivian Rivera	Member-at-Large	212.989.8247