



The William T. Harris School

PTA NEWSLETTER

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

January, 2005

P.S. 11 Gets \$199,500 Grant!

Last March, PTA Co-Presidents Barbara Somlo and Linda Osborne gave Councilmember Christine Quinn and her Legislative Aide Danielle DeCerbo a tour of our school. They saw areas of our facilities that needed improvement and a proposal was sent to them on how they could help us. Councilmember Quinn responded right away by having new air conditioners installed in classrooms. She then further delivered for us by granting us \$199,500 in capital improvement funds for new auditorium seats, a new sound system for the auditorium, and computers/technology. The PTA Executive Board is now working with Councilmember Quinn's office and the P.S. 11 staff to implement the grant—including working with Con Edison to get the increased electricity needed to run these new air conditioners.

Please take a moment to drop a thank you note to Councilmember Quinn and her staff for their generosity to our school. Their District Office is at 224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206, New York, NY 10001.



PS 11's very own Rockettes were one of the many highlights of "A New York Holiday."

photo: Gil Santiago

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 12 — PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

January 13 — Family Science Night, 6:30pm

January 17 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(School Closed)

Remember the Annual Fund

If you're still working on your New Year's resolutions, we can help. Put donating to the P.S. 11 Annual Fund at the top of your list. Every dollar you donate directly benefits P.S. 11 students and is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Make your check out to "The P.S. 11 PTA" and leave it in the orange folder in the PTA mailbox in the Main Office. Every dollar helps and is much appreciated.

Thank You Very Much

The **2004 Holiday Fair** was another great night at P.S. 11. A wonderful Garrick/Golub musical production, "A New York Holiday," featured a fabulous cast of second-grade stars. The student-made craft sale, bake sale, raffle, and P.S. 11's own Santa Claus raised more than \$1,800 for classroom supplies. Thanks to all the teachers who sold their class's crafts, and all the parents who helped make the event such a fun evening.

And a big thank you to everyone who helped on the **House Tour** this year. The tour was a great success—and people are already asking to be contacted about next year's tour! It was a real team effort and we couldn't have done it without you!

WORK HARD. PLAY FAIR. BE KIND.

From Your PTA Co-President

Welcome to 2005 and the second half of the 2004-2005 school year! Thank you to all the P.S. 11 parents and families who have helped the PTA reach its goals to date by volunteering at events, contributing to the Annual Fund, attending PTA meetings, and doing all the other things you do to help our children. Much has already been accomplished, but there is still much to do in the six remaining months of the school year. So please look for notices in your Home Folders for news on upcoming events and ways you can continue to help your school.

Some PTA Updates: I'd like to welcome two new members of the PTA Executive Board, Bernadette Drayton and Vivian Rivera, who have both joined the Board as Members -At-Large. Bernadette and Vivien both have first-graders who are new to P.S. 11 this year. On everyone's behalf, I would like to thank them for volunteering to lend their voices and fresh insights to the Board. The PTA Executive Board is busy planning our Winter/Spring events and working to implement Councilmember Quinn's generous capital improvement grant to our school. Board member Wini Schiff is also spearheading the "T-Shirt Project"—having newly-designed P.S. 11 T-shirts made and distributed to every P.S. 11 student and staff member, free of charge. These T-shirts are being made to help foster school spirit and will be completely funded by the PTA.

The New Year is also time for the PTA to look ahead to the next school year. Before you know it, PTA Executive Board elections will be here, so please consider running for a position on the 2005-2006 Board.

Again, Happy New Year to P.S. 11 families and staff and all the best to you in 2005. Let's make this year another great one.
—Linda Osborne

School Leadership Team News

For the Teachers: Teachers are interested in getting together more in a casual environment to discuss issues and brainstorm. To that end, a room will be designated as a teacher lunch room, where they can stop by, gather, or just hang out together.

P.S. 11 Code of Conduct: The SLT will be working together to devise our school-wide student code of conduct. This will serve as a guide for all students, teachers, parents, and other school community members.

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

4th Grade Parents Take Note

The fourth grade camping trip may not happen. I am writing this not as a member of the PTA Executive Board but as a parent wondering what is up with many fourth grade parents? As things stand now, only one fourth grade class has fully paid for the camping trip. For years there has been an understanding, that if for some reason a child's parents could not pay for the trip, then the PTA and P.S. 11 would make up the difference. This year though there is such a gap that this may well not be possible.

The choice seems to be: Have only kids that are paid up go or cancel the whole trip. This is not a nice choice but neither is it nice that many fourth grade parents choose not to give anything toward a trip for their own kids. For families really in need, we as a community must and should give as best we can but neither the PTA nor P.S. 11 have endless funds and as important as this tradition of the fourth grade trip may be there are a lot of other monetary needs in our school.

So I ask fourth grade parents who have not yet paid—is there any way you can give funds to make this trip possible for all the fourth grade kids who wish to go?

—Gil Santiago

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