



**PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC**  
**General PTA Meeting**  
**November 15th, 2024, 9:00am Hybrid, Cafeteria & Zoom**

**Executive Board Attendees:** Sviatlana Fadzeeva, Lauren Fiore, Gaia Marchetti, Raphael Miranda, Asel Mukham, Liz Oved, Irene Ou, Kate Overby, Stephanie Strote, Tatyana Malinovskaya, Noah Strote, Stefanie Krzyzamiak, Courtney Grant, Sarah Najarian, Iris Fitzgerald

**Administration:** Louise Xerri, Sara Lise Raff, Brendan Beseda, Sharon Chung

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and Community Liaison Ben Amster

In-Person Attendance: ~20 people

Zoom Attendee Count: ~14 people

**Welcome and Call to Order:** PTA Co-President Sviatlana called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

**Minutes** - Sviatlana Fadzeeva announced a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Noah Strote and Kate Overby approve and second, with no objections.

Our next General PTA Meeting will be on December 12th at 9am on Zoom.

**Agenda Item**

- Welcome! Shout outs
- Special Introduction: Chess Instructor
- Special Presentation: Assemblymember Rosenthal
- Teachers' Update
- Minutes approval
- Administration Update
- Finance Update
- Fundraising Update
- Upcoming Events
- Q&A

**Thank you/Shout outs**

- Thank you Stephanie for leading the Fall Festival. Thank you to every single person that helped organize it, every single volunteer, every participant that attended. It takes a village to make an event successful. We are grateful, it was an incredible event.
- Shout out to Alfred and our treasurers for their financial research to ensure PTA funds are safeguarded.
- Thank you to our Garden chairs, Sherri and Alfred. It was a wonderful event with WonderSpark Puppets. They are working hard to winterize the garden,
- Election Day Bake Sale—Thank you to our Bake Sale Committee, volunteers who baked, and sold the baked goods.

**Lily Faerman, Chess Instructor**

- Began playing chess as a child in Moscow
- represented the US in the Youth world championship under 14 years old in Paris

- As an adult, began teaching chess and has been doing it for 20 years. Has worked in public and private NYC schools, NJ schools as well.
- Structure of class: 15 minute interactive lesson, ask lots of questions to lead students. Kids offer moves, ideas, and are encouraged to ask questions. Then they play the practice games while I walk around, observe the games, comment on their moves. At the end of the class we give a summary and kids can share tricks, tactics, strategies that they discovered in their games. Students are also encouraged to teach someone at home in order to practice regularly. They can also practice with a computer. Kids love to share with the class what they've been doing.
- Question: How do you deal with kids being upset about not winning, and how do you refocus them on learning versus winning or losing?
- Answer: I always address that topic and explain that the most important thing is the journey, the learning. They should be ready for winning, losing, and drawing their games because it's part of the learning process. I always tell them that even Grandmasters lose, even World Champions lose and I tell them that even I lose. It's ok for kids to lose their games too sometimes. I talk to the whole class and explain that it's not a bad thing to lose, the fact that you're upset shows that you really care and love the game. It's important to address this because if a child is only focused on winning, then they don't enjoy the journey. Chess is a tool to teach kids to be better human beings, to be more confident.
- Q: Which grades do you teach? I currently teach 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes and in the Spring I will begin with Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade.

### **Winter Chess Festival**

- Save the Date!
- Free community event on Saturday, December 14th 10am-1pm in the Cafeteria
  - Come and Learn How to Play Chess with PS 199 Coach Lily
  - Have your Chess Masters Join our Checkmate Challenge
  - Play Chess Puzzle Dash with Your Kids
  - Create Your Own Chess Crown and Get a Photo at the Photo Booth
  - Play Chess with Other Parents to Show off Your Checkmate Moves

### **Assemblymember Rosenthal**

- Presented PS 199 with a \$25,000 check for After School Program. Funds will hopefully be received in January
- If we need other things from my office, I'm just at 72nd between Broadway and West End. I go to Albany in January. Ben Amster, my community liaison will be happy to help you with whatever you need.
- The Education Budget in the State, we included:
  - 10 million dollars to train 20,000 teachers and TAs in best practices for evidence-based literacy instructional practices
  - \$24.9 billion in foundation aid \$934 million increase over last year's budget. We've put in 35.9 billion in support of public schools across the state
  - In other counties, like upstate, they know exactly how much each school district gets. But because we're five counties in New York city, it's impossible to parse that out. Which is, you can't make change if you don't know what the facts are. Hopefully this district gets what it needs. You have a good superintendent who advocates very well for District 3, but let me know [what you need].

- OMNY cards—wrote to the MTA and the DOE. This is not fair, we shouldn't pick and choose who gets the OMNY card. I am meeting with the MTA and will see the new Chancellor at noon, so I will bring it up to her as well.
- 71st street which is very busy where the McDonalds is. Met with the DOT and took a tour of the block, it's such a wide street. There's so much opportunity to make it a beautiful place, instead it's too busy. I asked them to redesign the block, everything is slow in city government, but I will continue to push that. There is a concern over the kids in McDonalds, when there is a gun fight, it doesn't really involve those kids, for the most part. its people coming from outside the area, they have a grudge against their "friend" and they have a gun. The police mostly come after there is an incident. I've talked to the 20 precinct commander, she says they're going to check in regularly. High school kids hang out at McDonalds, we need to offer kids in some of the high schools after school programming that's fun and educational; a place to hang out that's not the street. Of course McDonald's will always be a draw, we can't just say get out of here, but they can beautify their area.

**Teachers' Update from 1st grade teacher and UFT Co-chapter leader, Bethany Trench**

- SLT update—new subcommittees:
  - Equity and Diversity
  - Parents as Partners
  - Sustainability
  - Class Size Advocacy
- This new law changes our class size limits. Principal Xerri is amazing at working with our budget to keep our classes small. We can only do so much with the funding that we're given.
- Our school building has the space to accommodate smaller class sizes. UFT, CSA, and the DOE have come up with an agreement to get funding to schools that can make this happen now.

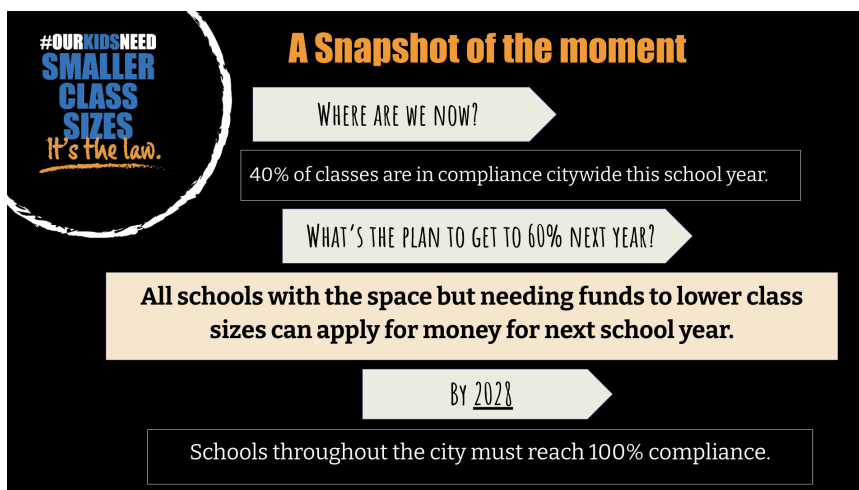


#OUR KIDS NEED SMALLER CLASS SIZES It's the law.

## What is in the law?

Grade Level	Current Contractual Limits	New Law Limits
Kindergarten	25	20
1st to 3rd Grades	32	20
4th to 8th Grades	32 (4th & 5th) 33 (6th to 8th)	23
High School	34	25

\*Phys ed will be capped at 40  
 \*ICT classes remain 60-40 ratio  
 \*No change to self-contained classes



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## Class size funding application

This year, schools can apply to receive ADDITIONAL funding for **next school year** to reduce class sizes. Principals and chapter leaders were notified **in late October** with a training session and a link to apply.

We pushed the DOE to create this application process to avoid having the city mess up on using the state funds again.

- Next SLT meeting is on December 13th

### Administration Update from Principal Xerri

- There have been teenagers not always behaving appropriately in the park.
- Attended a community youth meeting to discuss a couple issues that affect Mathew Sapolin Park. The police officer said they will be more active there after school. They plan to do positive outreach to prevent teenagers from smoking, gambling in the park. As a parent if you ever have concerns, you can

always let me know, or call 311. It is a public park and these are kids. Because it's a public space, authorities have more jurisdiction and ability to speak to individuals doing anything illicit.

- Happy Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for everyone, for our kids, for our teachers. Have a great weekend.
- Q: Where will funds go (\$25,000 from the Assemblymember)?
  - A: Not sure what the restrictions are yet. School wide programs must always have a licensed teacher.
- Q: Is there an update on the Art Teacher?
  - A: Happy to say we have hired a candidate as an art teacher. Onboarding with the DOE is a 2.5 week process, we're very excited. Once she starts I'll let her introduce herself to you through a letter. We're 99 percent there. We take hiring very seriously here in our school, there is an extensive process with lots of demo lessons and we want to make sure whoever works here will stay with us forever. That's always our goal.

### Parent Coordinator Update from Sara Lise Raff

- Thank you to the PTA—so many things that are done for the staff and many other people throughout the school building that are supported by the PTA. Coffee for the teachers during professional development, etc. It's the little things that matter to provide glue to the community
- Lost and found—gorgeous coats, school merchandise. Have to clear out by Thanksgiving. Please take a look, come on in the mornings after drop off. Best times: between drop-off and 10:50am, and 1-2pm.
- Thank you to Community Cares—successful Halloween Costume Swap and Coat Drive
- We do not do tours here at PS 199. Many reasons why, including safety. Be good ambassadors for our community. Anyone can call me, we have a beautiful website that showcases the community. Point any interested families in my direction
- Middle school applications are underway. Send anyone who's stressed out my way, we can calm down together

### Finance Update from our Treasury Team

## Finance Update



PS 199 PTA	2023-2024 Actual YTD as of 10/31/2023	2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Actual YTD as of 10/31/2024	% of Budget
Total Income	\$47,580	\$465,000	\$67,385	14%
Expenses				
PTA Donations to School	\$ 13,335	\$ 146,600	\$ 35,769	24%
PTA Funded Enrichment Programs	249,875	260,705	260,705	100%
PTA Operating Expenses - Fundraising Events	4,752	96,500	2,724	3%
PTA Operating Expenses - NON-Fundraising Events	4,087	33,250	5,123	15%
Total Expenses	\$ 272,049	\$ 537,055	\$ 304,321	57%
Net Position	\$ (224,469)	\$ (72,055)	\$ (236,936)	329%

### Savings Account / CD Account Update

- Current savings account earns 0.05% APR
- Proposing to move \$200,000 out of savings account to a 6-month CD account with a 4.5% APR (quoted as of last week)
- Both accounts are with our current bank - TD Bank

# Finance Update through 10/31/2024

## Income

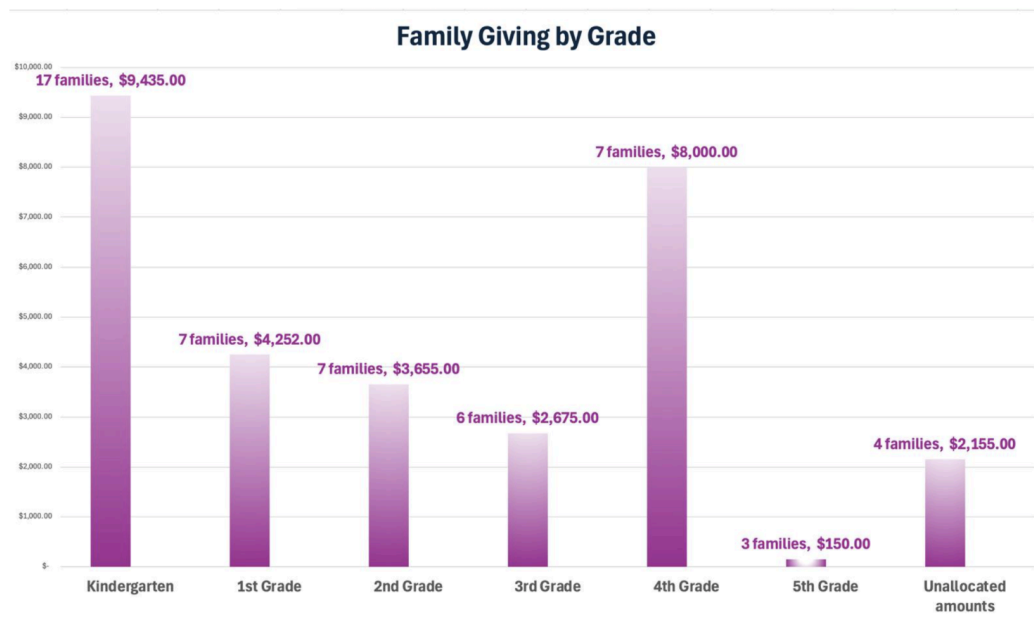
- **Family Giving** received \$30,322 through 10/31
  - Only at 23% of **Goal of \$130,000**
  - *Breakdown by grade on next slide*
- **Corporate Match** \$9,559 (38% of **Goal of \$25,000**)
- **School Store** Revenue \$6,562
- **October Events:**
  - **Fall Festival** Net Revenue \$9,200 (**42% higher than goal!**)
    - Total Revenue \$11,244 less Expenses \$2,724
    - Received \$500 sponsorship from JCC
  - **5th Grade Fundraising** (Pie sale) \$2,931. Activity picked up in November.

## Upcoming

- November & December Fundraisers:
  - **Bake Sale** (11/5)
    - Raised \$5,738
  - **Run Hard Be Kind 5K** (11/24)
    - Goal of \$19,000
  - **5th Grade Pie Sale**
  - **Giving Tuesday** (12/3)
  - **Wine Night** (12/5)
    - Goal of \$3,000

- Asel introduced a proposal to move \$200,000 from our savings account into a 6-month Certificate of Deposit account with a 4.5% APR. Both accounts are with our current bank, TD Bank.
- Irene Ou motioned to approve, and Kate Overby seconded with no objections.

## Please Give Today!



## Plenty of ways to donate!

- PTA Website  
<https://www.ps199pta.org/donations>

- [Paypal](#)



- Check payable to PTA of PS 199 (through Kidmail)
- Cash through Kidmail or to Co-Treasurers

- Thank you to every family for supporting our school through family giving.
- We appreciate when you can cover the fees.

# Finance Update through 10/31/2024

## Expenses

- **PTA Funded Enrichment Programs** donation made in July: \$260,705
- PTA Donations to Support to Pay for School Expenses: \$35,769
  - Includes classroom materials, office equipment, printer, toner, teacher class materials (aka startup fund with \$200 allowance per teacher)
  - 5th Grade PTA Contribution: \$3,479 (this year sweatshirts + \$606 related to last year)
- PTA Operating Expenses: \$7,847
  - Fundraising Events: \$2,724 (Fall Festival Expenses)
  - Non-Fundraising Events: \$5,123
    - Includes Hospitality & Community events, Teacher Appreciation, PTA Technology (Konstella, Website, other tech platforms)

## **Fundraising Update: Stephanie Strote**

- Donate your time, talent, and treasure. You can do all three. It's wonderful to see everyone coming together at the events. You see kids volunteering, kids enjoying. Please do reach out with any questions
- Ask us any questions. If you're not organizing an event, you can just show up for an hour or two and give us your time to run the event. All of the events are parent-run so we need your help!
- Upcoming
  - Work Hard Be Kind 5K—register, sign up to cheer, hand out water. It's a family oriented event, you can trot, run, ride on your scooter. If you can't make it, there is also the virtual option.
  - Giving Tuesday—we'll have a table set up outside with Noah's coffee. Please come and donate what you can, our goal is 100% participation
  - Wine Night—early bird prices, buy your tickets on the website, raffles at the event
  - Broadway Night—tickets will be on sale on the website. Variety of professional performing artists will put on an amazing show. Save the date for January 12th
- Teen-led workshop on Media Literacy and Media Wellbeing—Wednesday, November 20th at 8:45am

## **PS 199 Recommended Reads**

- Visit [ps199pta.org/reads](https://ps199pta.org/reads) for librarian curated list of books to check out at your local library, or purchase using our affiliate links to help the PTA earn a commission.
- Thanks to Alfred for help with the website, and our librarian Vicky Arancio for curating the list of books.
- Third grade students voted on the name for this webpage and chose PS 199 Recommended Reads
- We do have more affiliate programs—check out the website!

The PTA would love to hear from you, you can always email us at [ps199pta@ps199pta.org](mailto:ps199pta@ps199pta.org)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.