

PS199 PTA MEETING - APPROVED
December 16, 2016

- Motion carried to approve the minutes from the November meeting.
- Kindergarten connect is now connected; for current families with incoming kindergarteners, put PS199 as your first choice even if you are now zoned for PS452. See parent coordinator Allison Sansoucie if you have questions.

Teacher presentations:

Kindergarten — Jamie Zucker and Meagan Moulton

- Supporting our kids in reading at home/how we teach reading here at PS 199
- Handed out packet; presentation will also be on the PTA website
- Kids read “Just right books” because they’re just right for your children. We celebrate differences like differences in reading
 - (1) Comprehension
 - (2) Reading for meaning
 - (3) Fluency
- Level library
 - A/B – use pictures to help guide them through the book, read left to right. Use finger to point so as not to miss words. Use patterns.
 - C – get clues from the book. Multiple lines, kids are beginning to identify words using first letters, reading with fluency, plus the concepts from the previous levels (pointing, patterns, etc.).
 - D – beginning to use eyes to track the words (not finger), using first and last sounds in the words to identify them.
 - E – using comprehension strategies to attack the book, inferences, how do you feel about the book (talk about the book – will build comprehension)
 - F – no patterns, pictures not meant for support, comprehension is key
- TALK ABOUT THE BOOKS WITH YOUR KIDS!
- There are some incredibly high level picture books out there – e.g., William Steig.
- Read every night. Read everything you see in the world.
- Practice sight words.
- Talk to your child about everything!
- Resources:
 - Reading A to Z
 - Brand New Readers
 - Scholastic’s book wizard

5th grade presentation — Danielle Cione and Rachel Camhi:

- Standards for math practice
- Goal for mathematical practice: Think about accuracy and efficiency when you count, measure and calculate
- As there are different kinds of readers and writers, there are difference kinds of math brains.

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- Research shows that as kids get into higher level math, if they didn't understand the basic algorithms that we teach, they will not understand what they're doing wrong.
 - Multiplication methods:
 - (1) Partial Products – breaking up the numbers into parts and then do the operation (end up with “friendly” numbers)
 - (2) US Traditional
- *Always estimate before you calculate.

PCB update — Andrea:

- We were part of a pilot program for remediation because we have PCBs in the school. Our numbers went UP on the last reading. They are still below guidelines for what's appropriate for children. We are working with the SCA and the EPA on this. Had some heating and ventilation specialists come in. Apparently, the systems are clogged and the air is not circulating. Work will be done over the break to clean out these systems. The PTA and SLT are keeping on top of this. The pilot program is almost over but we have been assured that our issues will be addressed. And we have a special committee that is staying on top of it. And Louise has been a particularly strong advocate for our children on this issue.
- A parent asked about the impending nearby construction as a concern for the kids' safety. Louise said that she is already dealing with that as well.
- If you are interested nycsca.org, community environmental initiatives – can see reports about PS199 and can sign up for alerts.

Auction — Jenn and Gayle

- Same general layout as last year, much more space. January 9-13 – ticket pre-sale week, encourage people to buy that week because probably will sell out then like last year. 220 tickets already sold through Passport Program. Ticket upgrades vs. parent sponsorships this year. More info coming the first week back at school after winter break. PLEASE remember that donations drive the auction. Donate donate donate!

Treasurer's report – Ed

- Added a third column to reflect changes to the budget that were voted upon.

Principal's update

- Louise – Please make sure your kids are wearing their jackets, especially at recess. Also, some kids are play fighting too aggressively – please talk to your kids about this. Make sure your kids have down time to relax at home – they work a lot!

Meeting adjourned.