

**September
PTA Meeting
September 18th,
2026**

Welcome!



Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- PTA Co-President Report
- Principal's Report
- Afterschool Report
- Treasurer Report
- Fundraising Report
- SLT Election
- Questions, comments, ideas!

PTA Co-President Report

Who is the PS29 PTA? You Are!



Our Mission:

- Foster a vibrant, welcoming community within PS29 and with the greater neighborhood community.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between families, school staff, administration, and community leaders.
- Raise funds to provide a wide variety of educational and cultural programs, materials, and initiatives for our students.

2026-27 PTA Executive Board + Afterschool Director

Presidents



Kasey Noziska



Kathleen Passantino

Treasurers



Mara Furmanau



Elizabeth Germano

Secretaries



S. Rajini Pujari



Constantine
Sverdlov

Communications



Elizabeth Milch



Alli Mooney

Fundraising



Jutta Friedrichs



Jean Burke

Class Parents + Volunteers



Alicia Andrews



Dinah Herrity

Afterschool Director



Marie Isner

Fundraising - Where does the money come from?

2025-2026 Funds Raised (net):

- PS29+ Afterschool Program: \$167K (30%)
- Direct Donations & Corporate Matching: \$259K (46%)
- Auction & Community Events: \$117K (21%)
- Merchandise Sales: \$19K (3%)

Total Raised (net): \$562K

- Carryover Funds from previous years: \$45K



Where your support goes - What do we fund?

ENRICHMENT

Arts, Chess, Running Club,
Service Collective, Yoga,
Shakespeare, Ballroom Dance,
Author Visits, Health Talks, Lice
Checks (4 x yr)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teacher training and ongoing
education. After-school
counselor training

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Math Coach, Substitute
Teacher Coverage, Outside
of Classroom teacher &
staff

STAFF APPRECIATION

Teacher meals, staff
appreciation, gifts,
back-to-school
breakfast

SUPPLIES

Art, Music, Science,
P.E., Library & Tech,
Website, Office
Supplies

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE

AC units, water filters,
garden & yard,
maintenance,
furniture.

OPERATING COSTS

Insurance, Credit
Card Fees,
Software,
Accounting Service

Addressing the Gothamist Article (in numbers)

- **Source of data:** Annual report that all PTAs affiliated with public schools are required to file, fiscal year used for reporting is July through June
- **Period referenced in article:** July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 School Year
- **What this report includes:** top-level financial figures

DBN	School Name	School Code	Beginning Balance	Total Income	Total Expenses	Ending Balance
15K029	P.S. 029 John M. Harrigan	K029	\$1,013,755.00	\$3,062,634.00	\$1,944,016.00	\$1,118,618.00

- **What this report does not include:** Source of funding/income
Explanation of PTA activities
Non-profit type or designation

Addressing the Gothamist Article (in numbers)

	990 Tax Form	DOE Report
1. Beginning balance (cash in the bank)	\$1,013,755	\$1,013,755
2. Total Income	\$2,048,879	\$3,062,634*
3. Total Expenses	(\$1,944,016)	(\$1,944,016)
4. Ending Balance (1+2-3)	\$1,118,618	\$1,118,618

***The DOE report added beginning balance to the reported income**

Addressing the Gothamist Article (in numbers)

Why is there \$1M in PS29 PTA account?

- The opening balance snapshot is taken before the program support is paid
- During one pandemic year the PTA was not required to make a program support payment

Why do we need an opening balance?

- Program Support funds collected during school year are paid out in July
- After-school program runs payroll over the summer and required vendor prepayments before dues are paid
- Rainy day fund for emergencies, both at school and afterschool
- Some schools do not run afterschool programs through PTA or at all

Upcoming Fall Events

SEPTEMBER

- **Monday, September 21** Yom Kippur, NO SCHOOL
- **Wednesday, September 23** SLT Meeting 4:40 PM - **OPEN to everyone!**
- **Friday, September 25** PTA Movie Night, 7-9pm (doors at 6:45) **Toy Story 5 - Please Volunteer!**
- **Tuesday, September 29** Class Parent Meeting

OCTOBER

- **Friday, October 2** PTA & SLT Committee Fair, 8:40 AM - **Cafeteria.** Learn how to be involved!
- **Thursday, October 8** 29 Cheers - Parents' night out! 5-8 PM
- **Monday, October 12** Indigenous People / Italian Heritage Day, NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, October 15** October SLT Meeting - **OPEN to everyone!**
- **Friday, October 16** October PTA Meeting - **OPEN to everyone!**
- **Saturday, October 17** The Service Collective x PS29 Service Project - **Volunteer Opportunity!**
- **Saturday, October 24** D15 PTA Fun Run
- **Sunday, October 25** Fall Rummage Sale - **Volunteer Opportunity!**
- **October 26 - 30** Harvest Week - **Volunteer Opportunity!**
- **Wednesday, October 28** Photo Day - **Volunteer Opportunity!**

Instagram:
ps29ptabrooklyn

Principal's Report
with **Dr. Rebecca Fagin**

Welcome Back!

2026-2027



PS29 Values

PS 29 is a school that welcomes and strives to see and include every child and family in our diverse Brooklyn community. We believe that all of our children bring unique strengths and identities to their classrooms, and we work to affirm and empower every student academically, socially, and emotionally.

Academically, we value student choice, agency, and providing rigorous learning opportunities that offer access for all. Through our PS 29 Code for Living, we teach students that respect, responsibility, empathy and integrity are essential to becoming good citizens of our community, city, country and world.

Social justice, equity, and anti-racist, anti-bias work are critically important to us; we recognize that we can't change the world until we change ourselves, and to that end we continue to work toward uncovering implicit bias, dismantling systemic inequities, and examining both the past and the present with an equity lens.

PS29 Approach

PS 29 students are readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, musicians, artists, and makers. Across the subject areas, our teaching builds from what students know and understand, and incorporates opportunities for enrichment, real-world application, inquiry as well as explicit and coherent instruction that develops from one grade to the next. We value our students' creativity, encourage flexible thinking, and empower students to make their own choices about what they read, what they write about, and how they solve problems.

Enrichment opportunities abound at PS 29, including chess, STEM, dance, theater, yoga, running team, newspaper club, and many more. Our science teachers use our school's garden to engage students in learning about where food comes from and other important concepts related to sustainability. Affinity groups in 4th and 5th grade offer students with historically marginalized identities the chance to find community, as well as to plan schoolwide actions that support equity and inclusion. Allyship circles provide a space for all students to learn how they can be allies to their peers.

Our values and approach foster development of the whole child - through a balance of academics, enrichment, self-expression, restorative practices and our commitment to social-emotional development.

The **Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence (PROSE)** program is a joint initiative between the NYC Department of Education (DOE) and teachers' and administrators' unions (UFT and CSA).

- **Empowers High-Performing Schools:** Allows 280+ schools with strong leadership and collaborative cultures to bypass certain system-wide regulations and work rules for up to 5 years.
- **Driven by Collaboration:** Requires a joint application and voting process between administrators and staff to implement customized changes.
- **Fosters Innovation & Flexibility:** Gives schools the freedom to redesign schedules, staffing, and teaching practices to better fit their students' needs.
- **Focuses on Continuous Improvement:** Aims to boost student achievement and teacher effectiveness while sharing successful practices across the entire school system.

Construction Updates

Accessibility Goal: Multi-year SCA project to ensure full building accessibility for all students, families, and staff with physical disabilities.

Elevator & Garden Sheds: A new shed was added adjacent to the site for the upcoming elevator corridor, alongside a secondary shed in the garden.

Plant Relocation: Several garden plants were carefully moved to the front garden beds to make room for the new site footprint.

Play Space Preservation: The project footprint in the yard is being kept as small as possible to maximize outdoor space for recess.

Interior Work: The wall beside Safety Agent Grant's desk was removed to prepare for her desk relocation following ramp installation.

Project Schedule: Work continues on evenings and select weekends, with major construction planned for next summer targeting a December 2027 completion.

Future Communication: Progress updates will be shared regularly in the weekly Parent Coordinator Newsletter and at PTA meetings.

Cell Phone & Smartwatch Policy

- We have already posted the new policy on our website: ps29brooklyn.org/cell-phone-and-smartwatch-policy
- We have also begun to share this with families in multiple back to school messages via email
- ALL families will all receive a hard copy of the policy during the first week of school, which will need to be signed and returned to school. K-2 will require parent signatures only and 3-5 will require both parent and student signatures.
- Yondr Pouches will be given out to students in grades 3,4,5 to hold their device during the day and during Kids Club once the form is returned.

Class Size Policy

- Gov. Kathy Hochul has signed into law a landmark piece of legislation that will lower class sizes in every grade in New York City over the next six years. Parents and educators alike have been advocating for smaller classes for decades, and the passage of this legislation represents a groundbreaking change for our school system.
 - What would be the new class size limits as mandated in this legislation?
 - By September 2030, the city would have to cap classes at 20 students in kindergarten through third grade, 23 students for grades 4-8, and 25 students for high school classes.
 - When will this legislation take effect? Will class sizes automatically go down or will it happen gradually?
 - There will be a five-year phase-in period beginning in the 2023-24 school year and concluding in 2027-28 in which the new limits would apply to 20% of all classes each year until the smaller class sizes are achieved citywide.

Current Class Size Policy

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
*ICT classes remain 60-40 ratio		

Class Size & Funding

- At PS 29, overall, our staff is comprised of veteran teachers with our largest cluster of teachers in the 20+ year range of teaching experience.
- More years experience = higher teacher salary
- PS 29's "average teacher salary" increased from 119K to 128,247K this year. This is significantly higher than other schools, even many in our own district that are similar to us.
- NYC DOE Funds ("Fair Student Funding") is based on student enrollment (i.e., the number of students) and does NOT take into account the experience of your school staff
 - Funding per student can be different for different populations: grades 1-5 vs. kindergarten students, general education vs. students with IEPs, etc.
- School can only use FSF funds (not PTA funds) to pay for classroom and other essential teachers
- As you have seen in the past, with the support of our school's Education Action Committee, we have tried to raise awareness around class size issues and how they affect our school.
- We encourage families to join our Education Action Committee. They are looking for support with leadership, communication, and action.

Class Size Policy Updates

Summary of **Current Class Size @29** for 2026-2027:

Kindergarten	Class size of 20-23 students	Grade 3	Class size of 22-24 students
Grade 1 <i>*meets new Class Size Policy</i>	Class size of 19-21 students	Grade 4 <i>*meets new Class Size Policy</i>	Class size of 20-25 students
Grade 2	Class size of 24-25 students	Grade 5	Class size of 26-27 students

Since we have adequate space in the building, we completed an extensive application to request funding for full class size reduction back in the fall. Unfortunately, due to the extension of the time frame for NYC to reach 100% compliance with the new law, we did not receive any additional funding to further reduce class size this school year.

Construction Updates

Project Scope: A multi-year SCA initiative to ensure full building accessibility for all students, staff, and families.

Exterior Progress: Two new sheds are up (one for the elevator corridor, one in the garden). Plants were relocated to the front beds to maximize remaining yard space for recess.

Interior Progress: The wall by Safety Agent Grant's desk was removed to prepare for a future ramp and desk relocation.

Work Schedule: Construction will continue during evenings and select weekends, with heavy work scheduled for next summer.

Timeline: Target completion is set for December 2027.

Communication: Ongoing updates will be provided at PTA meetings and in the weekly Parent Coordinator Newsletter.

Digital Wellness & Tech @29

Traditional Learning First: Hands-on experiences, physical books, pen-and-paper, and face-to-face discussion remain the foundation of our classrooms.

Developmentally Staged Tech Use:

- **Early Grades:** Virtually screen-free; time is prioritized for play, exploration, and direct interaction.
- **Grades 4 & 5:** Gradual, guided tech integration used only when it meaningfully enhances a lesson.

Aligned with District Standards: Our approach fully aligns with the updated NYCPS artificial intelligence and screen time policy.

New Community Partnerships: We are joining **Common Sense Media's FACE program** (*Family & Community Engagement*) and partnering with **DopaMind** to bring new tech-wellness resources and workshops to families and staff this year.

PS 29 Family Buddy Program!

- Grounded in the belief that every family should feel they belong from the moment they walk through our doors, the new PS 29 Family Buddy Program is designed to bring new and returning families together, giving new families someone to turn to with questions, a familiar family to connect with, and a little extra support as they get to know PS 29 and the community.
- New families can sign up to be matched with a buddy, and current families can volunteer to help welcome someone new.
- The goal is simple: to make PS 29 feel a little more connected, personal, and welcoming for everyone.

Scan the QR Codes on the way out to get involved!

Treasurer Report

2026-27 Budget: Contributions

	2026-27 Budget	2025-26 Actuals	2025-26 Budget
Direct Appeal & Fundraising Individual Donations, Giving Tuesday, Corporate Matching	\$253,500	\$258,575	\$195,500
Afterschool Kids Club, including Emergency, and Courses	\$207,330	\$166,615	\$207,600
Fundraising and Community Events Benefit & Auction, Eat Pie & Shop, Block Party, Super Science Saturday, Rummage Sales, PS29 Cheers, others	\$125,285	\$117,430	\$105,500
Merchandise Sales PS29 Merchandise, Book Fair, Revenue Sharing, School Photos	\$18,400	\$19,440	\$18,600
Pass-Through Grade-Specific Activities, Family Support, Lice Checks, Teacher Appreciation Week	(\$23,060)	(\$25,096)	(\$11,100)
Carryovers Unused Professional Development funds from this year and PTA surplus from previous years	\$38,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Total	\$619,455	\$581,964	\$561,100

2026-27 Budget: Expenditures

	2026-27 Budget	2025-26 Actuals	2025-26 Budget
Program Support Supplements outside-of-classroom teachers & staff, math coach, substitute teacher coverage for professional development & absences, and art & music programs	(\$375,000)	(\$375,000)	(\$350,000)
Enrichment <i>Arts, Music & Theater</i> - Macbeth & Improv, 5th Grade Musical, Ballroom Dancing, Performances; <i>Math & Science</i> - Chess, Math, Read-Alouds, Author Visits; <i>PE & Health</i> - Running Club, Yoga, Health Talks	(\$76,780)	(\$72,406)	(\$68,000)
Professional Development Teacher training & ongoing education	(\$75,500)	(\$59,855)	(\$60,000)
Supplies <i>Supplies</i> : Art, Music, Science, PE, Library & Tech, Special Education; Website, Admin Costs, All Are Welcome Event, Teacher Meals	(\$40,715)	(\$41,359)	(\$38,061)
PTA Operating Costs Contract Services, CC Fees, Insurance, Software	(\$36,848)	(\$31,584)	(\$28,484)
Capital Maintenance AC Units, Water Filters, Garden+Yard Maintenance	(\$14,500)	(\$31,135)	(\$15,200)
Total	(\$619,343)	(\$611,339)	(\$559,945)

2026-27 Budget vs. Actuals as of Aug. 3, 2026

	2026 - 2027			2025 - 2026		
	Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Fundraising	(\$55,502)	\$604,515	1%	(\$36,145)	\$527,200	1%
Direct Appeal & Matching	\$2,172	\$253,500	1%	\$1,935	\$195,500	1%
PS29+ Afterschool	(\$55,010)	\$207,330	-27%	(\$33,008)	\$207,600	-16%
Community Events	(\$2,000)	\$125,285	-2%	(\$204)	\$105,500	0%
Merchandise Sales	(\$664)	\$18,400	-4%	(\$4,868)	\$18,600	-26%
Expenditures	(\$451,414)	(\$642,403)	120%	(\$373,865)	(\$571,045)	120%
Curriculum Support	(\$450,000)	(\$527,280)	85%	(\$375,000)	(\$478,200)	78%
Supplies	\$0	(\$40,715)	0%	\$0	(\$38,061)	0%
Capital Maintenance	\$0	(\$14,500)	0%	\$0	(\$15,200)	0%
Grade Pass-Through	(\$879)	(\$23,060)	4%	\$0	(\$11,100)	0%
PTA Ops Costs	(\$535)	(\$36,848)	1%	\$1,135	(\$28,484)	-4%
Profit/Loss	(\$506,915)	(\$37,888)	120%	(\$410,010)	(\$43,845)	120%

Notable Transactions

Fundraising:

- \$1,375 in recurring donations & \$797 in corporate matching for recurring donations
- \$575 in revenue sharing for 2025-26 Alexis Bittar sales event

Expenditures:

- \$450K for Annual Program Support
- \$2,000 payment to Service Collective
- \$1,325 payment to Social City for training for afterschool staff
- \$1,239 for PS29 merchandise

Afterschool Report

with **Marie Isner**

Training with Social City for PS29+ Staff

Summer and Fall 2026



Overview

PS29+ partnered with Social City this summer for four staff training sessions focused on supporting students with neurodiversity, strengthening family communication, and helping children self-regulate. The relationship is ongoing, with continued training planned throughout the school year.

Our goals:

- Identifying what's already working well at Kids Club for our students with neurodiversity
- Developing deeper intake protocols so we're aware of a child's challenges before they escalate
- Identifying best practices for delivering feedback to families
- Training staff on how to best communicate with dysregulated children.

From Reactions to Reasoning

Training session, "From Reactions to Reasoning," led by Social City staff trainer Amy Hernley, focused on helping students who are dysregulated find their way back to a calm state.

Staff learned a three-step framework — Regulate, Relate, Reason — for responding to challenging behavior: manage your own body and voice first, connect briefly and respectfully, then teach and problem-solve once everyone is calm.

The session also covered scripts for common situations (hitting, not following the plan, excluding others), calming strategies to teach students, and guidance on taking a break as a responsible form of self-management rather than a weakness.

Scripts for Challenging Moments

Hitting: "I won't let you hit." / "That's not a safe choice." / "Move with me or use the calm space."

Not following the plan: "First put the blocks away, then choose a place in the circle." / "Join now, or walk with me in a moment."

Excluding others: "We need space right now, but you may join the next round."

Reconnecting: "What happened?" "How do you feel?" "What do you need right now?"

Reframe instead of "Go say sorry!": "Let's think about how to repair this harm."

School Leadership Team (SLT) Election

SLT: School Leadership Team

- PS29 School Leadership Team (SLT) has **1** parent representative vacancies.
- Each vacancy is for a 2-year term and members need to have a child enrolled at PS29 for the two years of their tenure.
- **What is the School Leadership Team (SLT)**
 - Every school in New York has an SLT, as required by the Chancellor's Regulation A-655. The committee is made up of administrators, teachers/staff, and parents. We meet monthly to discuss policies and practices that affect your child's educational experience at PS 29. We have an equal number of parents and staff, which includes Dr. Fagin.
 - The SLT works on the development and monitoring of the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). The CEP is a strategic planning document that lays out the priorities, goals, and objectives for each school year.
 - In addition, each SLT member is required to serve on an SLT subcommittee to tackle more specific issues and initiatives affecting the school that are aligned with our school goals.
 - You will represent all voices of our school community. Our goal is to encourage the broadest possible participation and representation across all grades and sub-committees.

Candidates for 1 parent representative position on SLT

Josh Miller

STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

So my interest in joining the School Leadership Team (SLT) is a combination of feeling like I have a unique set of professional experiences to draw from, and a deep-seated belief that we must give back to PS29 and our neighborhood as much as it gives to us. My hope is that serving this school, in this small but important capacity, can make a difference in the lives of your children and mine. I promise to give it my all.”

Brittany Slattery

STATEMENT OF INTEREST:

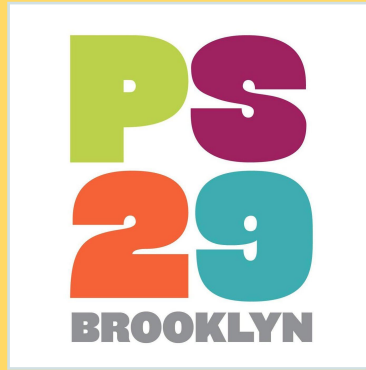
As a new PS 29 parent, it would be an incredible honor to serve on the School Leadership Team and contribute to a community that will play such an important role in my son’s (and hopefully my daughter’s in the next few years) life.

Throughout my career, I have brought together people with different perspectives, created opportunities for meaningful connection, and helped organizations translate shared priorities into thoughtful plans and action. I would bring that same collaborative, community-first approach to the SLT: listening closely to families, advocating for the needs of the broader school community, and working constructively with parents, teachers, staff, and administrators.

I’m particularly interested in helping strengthen family engagement, organize initiatives that bring our community together, and ensure that the range of experiences and perspectives across PS 29 is represented in the school’s priorities. I would be grateful for the opportunity to listen, learn, and contribute.

Thanks so much for your consideration and I look forward to becoming a part of the P.S 29 Community.

Questions, comments, ideas?



October PTA Meeting

Friday, October 16th

8:40 AM *in the* Auditorium