

**September
PTA Meeting
September 19th, 2025**



Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- Co-President Report
- Principal's Report
- Afterschool Report
- Treasurer Report
- SLT Elections

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

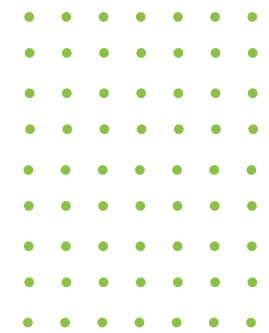
Welcome Back, Families!

PS29 Introductions, Vision +Priorities - 2025-2026





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.

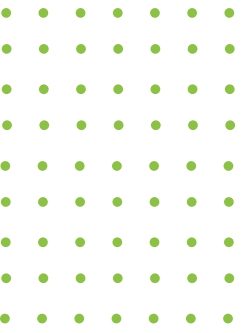


PS29 Approach

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.



School Goals

Priority 1: All Students Read Well.

We will continue to focus on early childhood reading, beginning in kindergarten! Our furthered development of science practices will support our work with Foundations in K-3 and other curriculums in 4th and 5th, and help to strengthen differentiated reading instruction.

Priority 2: All Students are Physically and Emotionally Safe.

We want to ensure that each and every one of our students feels connected to another adult (and in some cases “buddy student”) because research shows us that the students who have someone to talk to are far more likely to be successful, not only in school but in life. We want our students to see themselves and others in our classrooms - and to *be themselves* through their connections with others.

Priority 3: All Students have a High-Quality Academic Experience.

We want to better meet the needs of our K-2 students with disabilities, and all K-2 students who are struggling in math, by learning more about the MTSS framework and working toward systematizing “Tier 1 intensification” in the classroom.

Priority 4: All Students Graduate from College and are Career-Ready and Have a Strong Plan and Pathway to Economic Security.

Our teachers in K-5 will engage our students in at least three lessons designated for that particular grade level. As a result, there will be excitement generated and opportunities to apply some of these skills.

Priority 5: Schools are more inclusive and responsive to students and families.

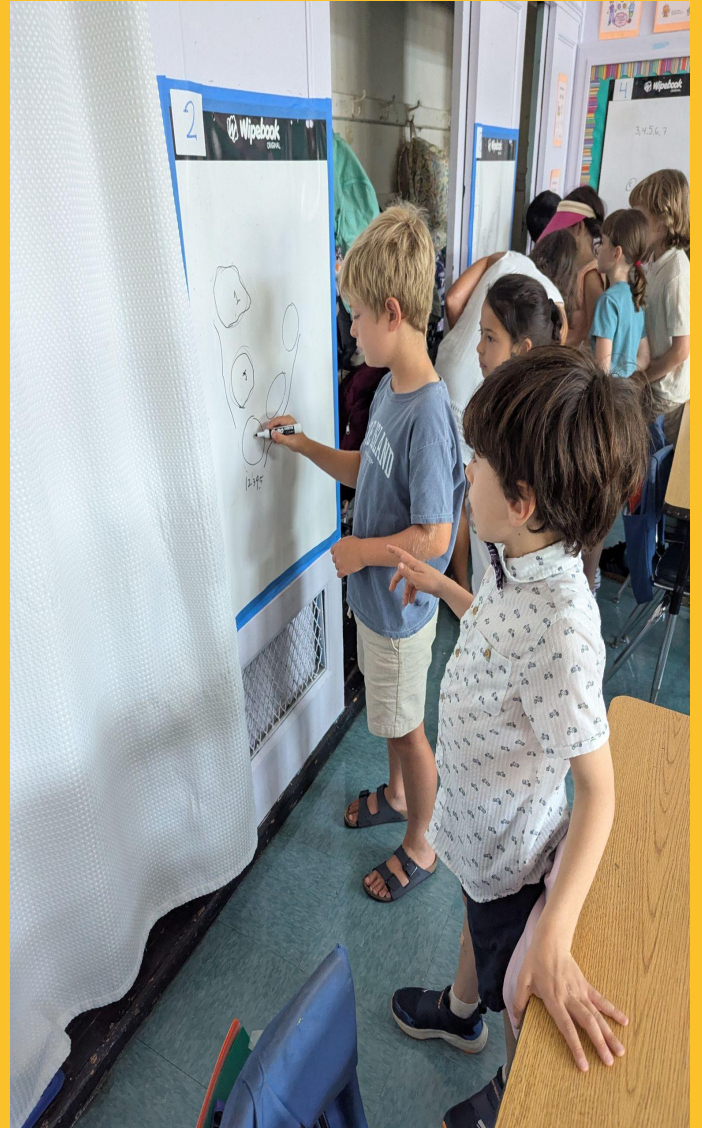
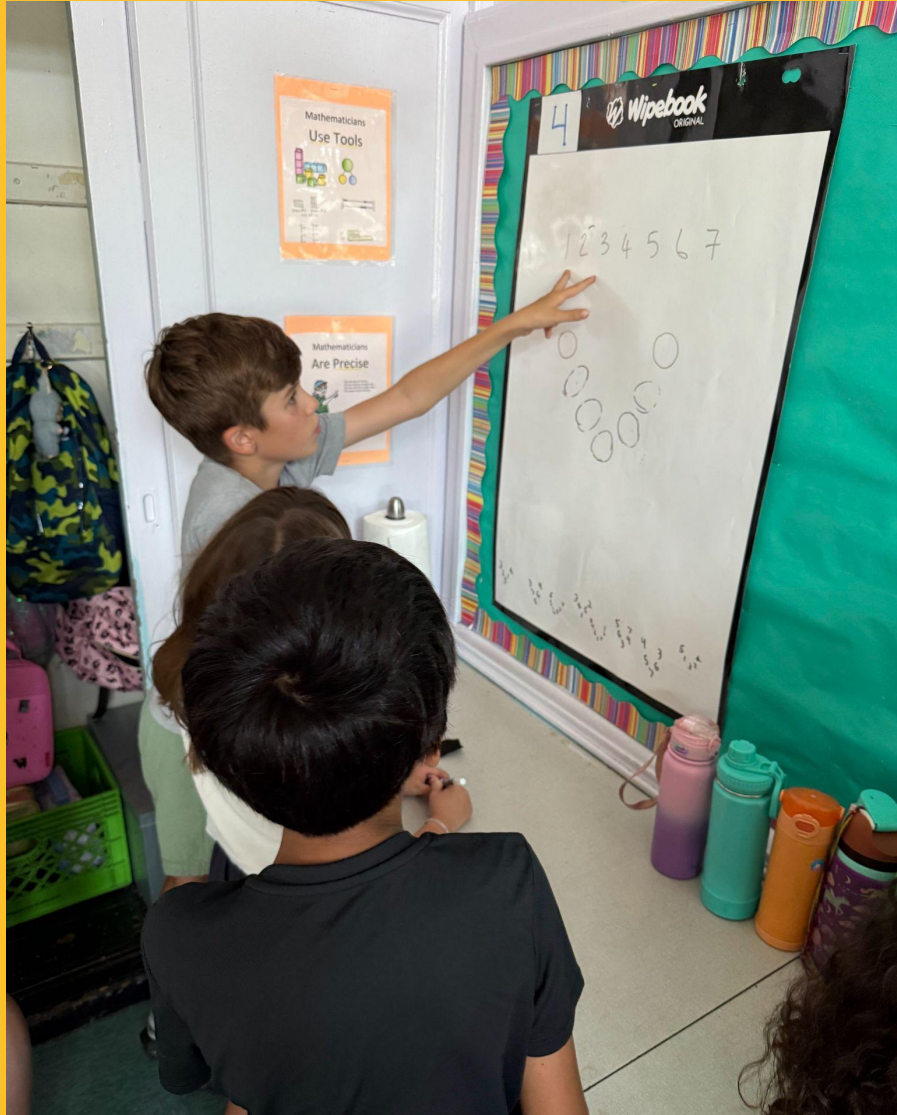
We will see an increase in family participation in activities sponsored by our SLT sub-committees (wellness, equity & service, and learning support).



WELCOME
to
P S 29!



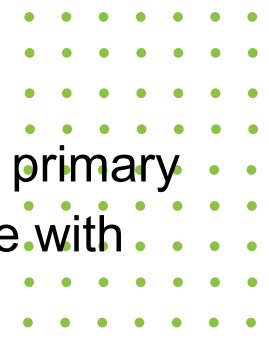




Structures that Support Our School Goals and Priorities

Goals/Initiatives	Structure
Wit & Wisdom: continue to differentiate reading instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recess PD period monthly for opportunities for professional team planning, sometimes with the support • Outside classroom staff/teachers create opportunities for small group differentiated reading instruction
Phonics support for ELLs/ schoolwide phonics work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push-in support from support staff • WIN periods • K-3: Foundations • 4th grade: UFLI curriculum • 5th grade:
Coherent SEL curriculum - Second Step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labsites for teacher intervisitation • Team planning • Anticipated Staff Developer support
Continuing to develop our use of <i>Building Thinking Classroom</i> practices in math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push-in support from Kim for teachers to deepen BTC work • PLC time devoted to BTC study; potential for lesson studies, lab sites and intervisitations • PLC time devoted to unpacking the MTSS framework, identifying areas of growth for our school, and learning about Tier 1 intensification methods • Pilot program with interested teachers and/or one grade team to experiment with these methods, as well as methods to monitor progress
Building understanding of the MTSS Framework and how we can create stronger and more effective systems of support for students struggling in math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage/Identity Month curriculum: Sara's work with ELLs, student affinity group's feedback to school community, specialty teachers' interdisciplinary lessons and projects, & classroom teachers' curriculum development • Support from Advancing Literacy + G&R & classroom labsites to showcase strategies for targeted support of students (e.g., one focus is students with ADHD/ADD)
ABAR work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage/Identity Month curriculum: Sara's work with ELLs, student affinity group's feedback to school community, specialty teachers' interdisciplinary lessons and projects, & classroom teachers' curriculum development • Support from Advancing Literacy + G&R & classroom labsites to showcase strategies for targeted support of students (e.g., one focus is students with ADHD/ADD)

Construction Updates



- Multi-year accessibility project managed by the School Construction Authority (SCA) with the primary goal of building spaces within our building that can be accessed by all people, including those with physical disabilities.
- Construction took place all summer long.
- The auditorium seating and floor have been upgraded.
- The cafeteria serving counter area has been widened. There is a new sink and three water fountains.
- The nurse's suite has had a major makeover and looks beautiful.
- The excavation for the foundation of the elevator and corridor extension has been completed. This space will ultimately include ADA-compliant single stall bathrooms and water fountains on each floor,
- Work will continue throughout the school year during the evenings and over a number of weekends.
- We are told that the project will meet its targeted deadline of one year from now with most of the heavy lifting happening over summer vacation.
- We will continue to keep you informed on construction progress in [this document](#) and during the PTA meetings: . . .



NEW 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.
- NOTE: A revision is being made to include “locking the devices during the day.” We will share these revisions shortly.

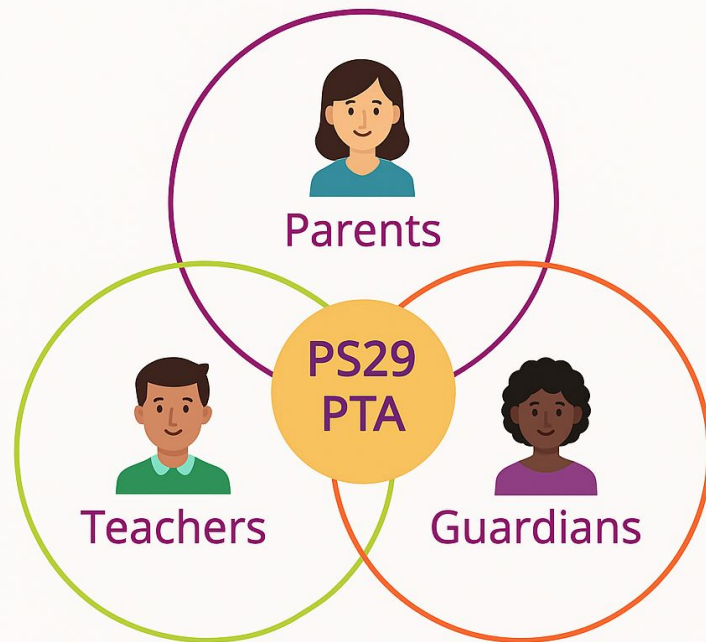


Thank you!



Co-President Report

What is the PS29 PTA?



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.

2025-26 PTA Executive Board

Presidents



Mariam Furmanau



Kasey Noziska

Treasurers



Rachel Moyse



Ben Houge

Secretaries



S. Rajini Pujari



**Constantine
Sverdlov**

Communications



Josh Hoffner



Elizabeth Milch

Fundraising



Allie Schroeder



Jutta Friedrichs

Class Parents + Volunteers



Alicia Andrews



Dinah Herrity

How the PTA Supports PS29

HOW WE RAISE FUNDS:

- PS29+ Afterschool Program (37%)
- Direct Appeal & Corporate Matching (34%)
- Fundraising & Community Events (18%)
- Carryover Funds (8%)
- Merchandise Sales (3%)



2025-26 Budget: Contributions

	2025-26 Budget	2024-May 2025	2024-25 Budget
Direct Appeal & Fundraising Individual Donations, Giving Tuesday, Corporate Matching	\$195,500	\$199,005	\$190,035
Afterschool Kids Club, including Emergency, and Courses	\$207,600	\$355,259	\$189,390
Fundraising and Community Events Benefit & Auction, Eat Pie & Shop, Block Party, Super Science Saturday, Rummage Sales, PS29 Cheers, others	\$105,500	\$89,533	\$111,700
Merchandise Sales PS29 Merchandise, Book Fair, Revenue Sharing, School Photos	\$18,600	\$15,645	\$10,000
Pass-Through Grade-Specific Activities, Family Support, Lice Checks, Teacher Appreciation Week	(\$11,100)	(\$5,332)	\$0
Carryovers Unused Professional Development funds from this year and PTA surplus from previous years	\$45,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
Total	\$561,100	\$679,110	\$531,125

2025-26 Budget: Expenditures

	2025-26 Budget	2024-May 2025	2024-25 Budget
Program Support Supplements outside-of-classroom teachers & staff, math coach, substitute teacher coverage for professional development & absences, and art & music programs	(\$350,000)	(\$355,000)	(\$303,000)
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	(\$68,200)	(\$61,008)	(\$104,000)
Professional Development Teacher training & ongoing education	(\$60,000)	(\$22,137)	(\$50,000)
Supplies <i>Supplies</i> : Art, Music, Science, PE, Library & Tech, Special Education; Website, Admin Costs, All Are Welcome Event, Teacher Meals	(\$38,061)	(\$24,347)	(\$23,000)
PTA Operating Costs Contract Services, CC Fees, Insurance, Software	(\$28,484)	(\$17,260)	(\$25,000)
Capital Maintenance AC Units, Water Filters, Garden+Yard Maintenance	(\$15,200)	(\$4,434)	(\$20,135)
Total	(\$559,945)	(\$484,186)	(\$525,135)

2025-26 Budget

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Total	(\$559,945)



Upcoming Fall Events

- **September 23 - 24** Rosh Hashanah, NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, September 25th** September SLT Meeting, 4:40-5:40pm
- **Friday, September 26th** PTA Movie Night, 7-9pm
- **Wednesday, October 1st** PTA & SLT Committee Fair, 8:45am
- **Thursday, October 2nd** Yom Kippur, NO SCHOOL
- **Monday, October 13th** Indigenous People / Italian Heritage Day, NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, October 16th** October SLT Meeting + October PTA Meeting
- **Monday, October 20th** Diwali, NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, October 23rd** 29 Cheers
- **Thursday, October 25th** D15 PTA Fun Run
- **Sunday, October 26th** Fall Rummage Sale
- **October 27th - 30th** Harvest Week
- **Monday, October 29th** Photo Day

Please consider helping with PTA Closet Cleanout, Saturday 09/20 10am - 2pm

Afterschool Report

with **Marie Isner**

Afterschool Report



- **Kid's Club started in full on the first day of school!**
- There are 75 courses running per week in addition to Kid's Club
- On average, we accommodate 329 kids per day between courses & Kid's Club
- Late Kid's Club enrollment has also grown from last year (4:20 - 6pm)

Fall Term Dates:

- Courses run until December 19th
- Kid's club runs until December 23rd, then reopens on first day after break

Treasurer Report

FY Budget Summary as of June-30-2025

NET CONTRIBUTIONS	2024-25			2023-24
	ACTUAL	GOAL	% of GOAL	% of GOAL
Fundraising	\$201K	\$190K	106%	78%
Merchandise Sales & Photo Day	\$14K	\$11K	127%	132%
Community Events & Activities	\$97K	\$112K	87%	106%
<i>Movie Night</i>	<i>\$2K</i>	<i>\$0.5K</i>	<i>312%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>PS29 Cheers</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>99%</i>	<i>263%</i>
<i>Rummage Sale</i>	<i>\$13K</i>	<i>\$8K</i>	<i>162%</i>	<i>174%</i>
<i>Eat Pie & Shop</i>	<i>\$13K</i>	<i>\$12K</i>	<i>111%</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Book Fair</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Super Science Saturday</i>	<i>\$8K</i>	<i>\$6K</i>	<i>141%</i>	<i>123%</i>
<i>Benefit & Auction</i>	<i>\$67K</i>	<i>\$75K</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>99%</i>
<i>Block Party</i>	<i>\$15K</i>	<i>\$10K</i>	<i>153%</i>	<i>122%</i>
After School Program (accretive to the budget with assessed parental fees)	\$283K	\$189K	150%	274%

Budget Snapshot as of August-31-2025

NET CONTRIBUTIONS	2025-26			2024-25
	ACTUAL	GOAL	% of GOAL	% of GOAL
Fundraising	\$2K	\$196K	1%	1%
Merchandise Sales, Book Fair & Photo Day	-\$4K	\$19K	-21%	0%
Community Events & Activities	\$0K	\$106K	0%	-1%
After School Program (accretive to the budget with assessed parental fees)	-\$33K	\$208K	-16%	-15%

Notable revenue in July & August:

+\$2K Direct Appeal & Corporate Matching

Notable expenses in July & August:

- \$25K in program support (moved from Professional Development)
- \$4K Merch Stock incl. shirts for Tie Dying
- \$1K Teacher Gifts
- \$200 Supplies for Back to School Hang

SLT Election

SLT: School Leadership Team

- PS29 School Leadership Team (SLT) has **4** 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 4 parent representative positions

Michael Rosen

Hello PS 29 community. I'm a proud parent of Kingston, who just started 4th grade.

Professionally, I'm a media and adtech executive with leadership experience across operations, revenue, and marketing. Translation: I organize chaos, set clear goals, and make sure good ideas turn into results (and revenue).

My nonprofit board roles at The New York Pops, UJA-Federation of New York, and Sandy Hook Promise have taught me to listen across viewpoints, steward resources, and keep mission first, all in service of making a positive impact on diverse communities in Brooklyn and beyond.

Closer to home, I'm a passionate advocate for the Columbia Waterfront District, working with community leaders and elected officials on a more inclusive process for any future Brooklyn Marine Terminal planning, all in the interest of transparency, early engagement, and tangible benefits for families, educators, and local businesses.

On the SLT, I will roll up my sleeves on the Comprehensive Education Plan, connect priorities to resources, improve two-way communication with families, and champion the arts and social-emotional learning in partnership with staff. If elected, you will get a steady collaborator who is present, practical, and accountable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Gribbon

My name is Sara Gribbon and I'm the mom of three children currently attending PS 29—Max and Louis are both in third grade, and Charlie is in first grade. This is my 20th year living in the neighborhood and my fourth year as a parent here at the school.

With three kids at PS 29, I've been lucky enough to experience 11 classrooms so far and have gotten to know so many of the wonderful parents, students, teachers, and staff members here. My family feels unbelievably fortunate to be a part of the PS 29 community. I have truly valued my time volunteering at events and serving as a tour guide and class parent. I am eager to contribute in an even more meaningful way by serving as an SLT member.

Professionally, I am the general counsel of a nonprofit organization that works for and with New Yorkers to promote economic opportunity and champion a more equitable city and state. I love anticipating and solving legal needs and collaborating and building relationships across my organization. As a member of my organization's leadership team, I work on strategic planning and priority setting every day, and I'm passionate about ensuring equitable opportunities for all. It would be an honor to be a part of the SLT and use my skills to help PS 29!

Cristina Botero

Hello, my name is Cristina Botero and my son Rio just started kindergarten at PS29. One of the reasons we chose to move to Brooklyn was this school and it has always been a dream for our family to be part of the PS29 community.

I grew up in Colombia in a very different school system, and I bring that perspective as both an immigrant and the parent of a Hispanic child. Professionally, I began my career in consulting and now work in hospitality, where I co-founded a restaurant group here in New York. I am passionate about education and about ensuring our kids have an enriching, inclusive, and exciting learning environment.

In my free time you can find me cooking, playing pickleball, running around Brooklyn with Rio's younger brother Leo (hopefully a PS29 pre-Ker next year!), or on the quest for the perfect croissant. I would love to join the SLT to become more involved, help foster PS29's incredible culture, and contribute to this wonderful community. It would be an honor to commit my time and energy to supporting our school through the SLT.

Chana Rosenthal

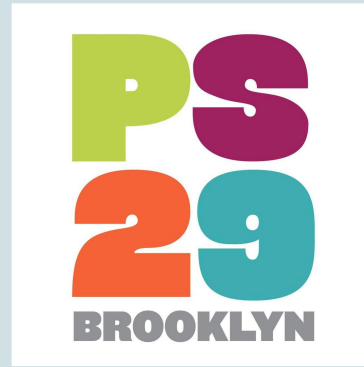
Hi, I'm Chana Rosenthal, proud mom of a 3rd grader here at PS29. From 2023–2025, I had the joy of serving as Co-VP of Fundraising, where I loved teaming up with fellow parents and the administration to bring ideas (and resources!) to life for our community.

Outside of school, I work as a business strategist and consultant, building on my earlier career as a designer and design executive at brands like Michael Kors, American Eagle, and Ralph Lauren. I also teach at NYU as an adjunct professor, where creativity and problem-solving are central to my work. I'm excited about the chance to join the School Leadership Team, pitch in where I can, and keep supporting the wonderful community that makes PS29 such a special place for our kids (and us parents too!).

Nicole Weber

Hello! My name is Nicole Weber and I would be honored to join the SLT at PS 29. My daughter Chloe has attended the school since kindergarten and is now in 4th grade. I have a younger son, Jacob, who just turned 3 and for whom I am currently navigating the IEP process with the DOE. My husband Simon attended PS 29 as well (many years ago!), and we are so grateful for all that the school has done for our family and for the community as a whole. Growing up, I attended public school in Manhattan and both Simon's mother and my mother are retired NYC public school special education teachers. I understand how much commitment, hard work and planning goes into serving kids each day and running an excellent school like ours, and I hope to join my fellow 29 parents and our incredible faculty to shape the school's present and future.

Professionally, I am a lawyer by training, now working in law firm administration as the Director of Career & Alumni Services and Head of the Talent Network at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. The program I lead is relatively new, and I have been a part of it since close to inception, for the past 7.5 years. My work includes managing a network of 4,000 firm alumni globally and providing career counseling services to lawyers at all levels. Working with company leadership to design policies and programming that best serve our lawyers and alumni has been a large part of my role, and I hope to bring this experience to serving PS 29 over the next two years as an engaged member of the SLT.



October PTA Meeting
Thursday, October 16th
6:30pm on Zoom