

**February
PTA Meeting
February 6, 2025**



Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- Co-President Report
- Principal's Report
- After School Report
- Treasurer Report
- VP Reports
- Community Report

Co-President Report

Upcoming Winter Events

- **Lice Out Live Demo** Monday, February 10th
- **Midwinter Recess - school is closed** February 17th - 21st
- **Super Science Saturday** Saturday, March 15th
- **March PTA Meeting (in person)** Friday, March 21st, 8:45 am
- **Eid al-Fitr - school is closed** Monday, March 31st

Upcoming Spring Events

- **Spring Recess - school is closed** April 14th - 18th
- **April PTA Meeting (on Zoom)** Thursday, April 24th, 6:30 pm
- **Rummage Sale** Sunday, May 4th
- **Staff Appreciation Week** Week of May 5th - 9th
- **5th Grade Play** Tuesday, May 20 & Wednesday, May 21
- **Benefit & Auction** Thursday, May 29th
- **Block Party** Friday, June 13th

PS29 Book Fair



Isabel Roxas, art from *Let Me Finish* by Minh Lê, Disney Hyperion. © Isabel Roxas

The PS29 Book Fair was a huge success! We made over \$4K!

- Huge thanks to **Mary Gallagher** and **Lianna Durney** for making this happen!
- Thanks to Fork & Pencil for bringing the books and hosting the book fair site!
- Thank you to all the kiddos who came and read!
- Thank you to all the teachers for the support!
- Thank you to all the parents who volunteered and bought the books!

The book fair will be back next January!



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

Navigating race and racism with our children can be challenging, but it is essential for fostering understanding, empathy, and inclusion. In this dynamic parent training, we will provide tools and strategies for engaging in **Courageous Conversations About Race**—empowering parents to discuss race with confidence and sensitivity.

Through practical guidance and reflective exercises, you'll learn how to address tough questions, confront biases, and model respectful, open dialogue. Whether you're seeking to raise anti-racist children or simply deepen your own understanding, this training will equip you with the skills to create meaningful conversations that promote growth, compassion, and social justice within your family.



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

- Two identical seminars but if there are returning participants, the second seminar will be tailored for a more in-depth training
- The seminars will be held on Zoom
- There will be schedule options for each seminars for parents to vote on [here](#)

First session:

Wed 03/05 at 9:30am EST

Wed 03/05 at 4:30pm EST

Fri 03/07 at 12:30pm EST

Second session:

Tue 03/18 at 12:30pm EST

Tue 03/18 at 4:30pm EST

Thu 03/20 at 9:30am EST

- The deadline to vote is Wednesday, February 26th

Lice Checks

- 2 out of 3 lice checks completed this year
- **SAVE THE DATE: Live demo on Monday February 10th with NYC Lice Out**

PS29 lice policy reminder:

- 1 child found with lice (school checks or self reported) >> entire class notified
- 3 or more cases of lice/nits per class >> **lice outbreak protocol** is implemented
 - Separation/isolation of outerwear
 - Periodic lice checks by the nurse and trained staff
 - Deep cleaning by PS29 custodial staff

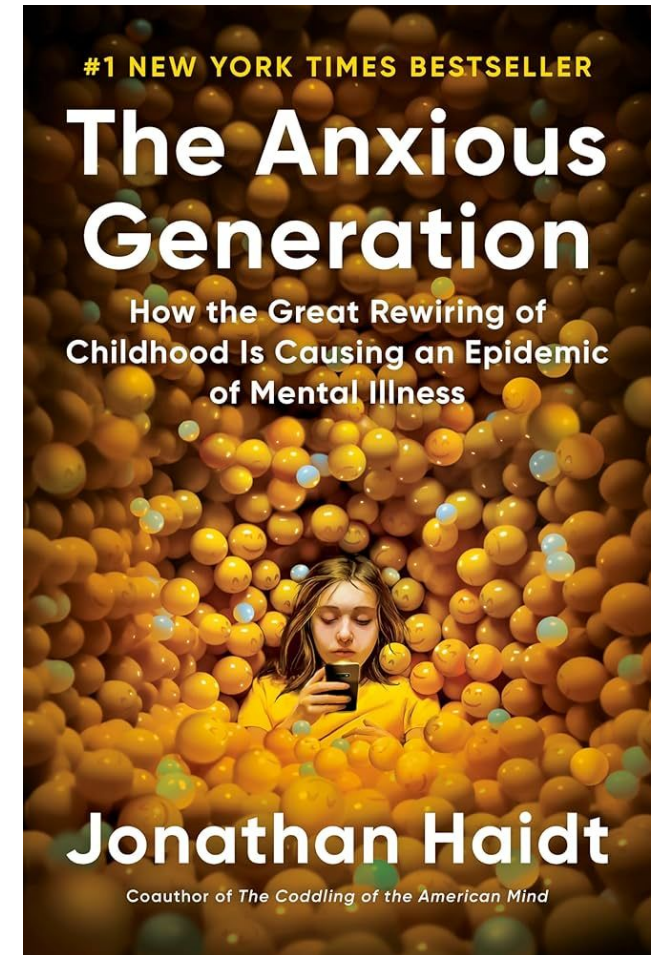


Please check your children's hair regularly!

February Learning Support Event

- The Learning Support Committee will host a think tank about the **rise of mental health issues** among youth. We will start this coffee and conversation by sharing a book: ["The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt.](#)
- Using an open conversation format, there will be opportunities to share our own experiences and put our minds together with the goal of building strategies for supporting our kids at home. Reading the book is NOT a requirement for attending the talk!

• **SAVE THE DATE: February 28**



2025-26 Open Board Positions

- Available positions for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Co-President
 - Co-Treasurer
 - VP of Fundraising (2)
 - VP of Communications
 - Co-Secretary (2)
- If you are interested in learning more now, email us at ps29pta@gmail.com.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, March 21st - Coffee and Meet & Greet with Board**



Principal's Report
Dr. Rebecca Fagin

Respect for All Week

We at PS29 strive to create a warm and inclusive community that is free from discrimination. Through classroom lessons and enrichment we teach children about tolerance and kindness throughout the year.

At PS 29 we will always work toward creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all. While we celebrate Respect for All Week, we also recognize that this pursuit is ongoing and must continue to be embedded in our school's vision. We are committed to this work.

We have a zero tolerance policy for harassment, intimidation, discrimination and bullying. If you have concerns for such behavior, please reach out to our Respect For All coordinator, counselor Haia Saadi, and/or our administrative team.

Black History Month

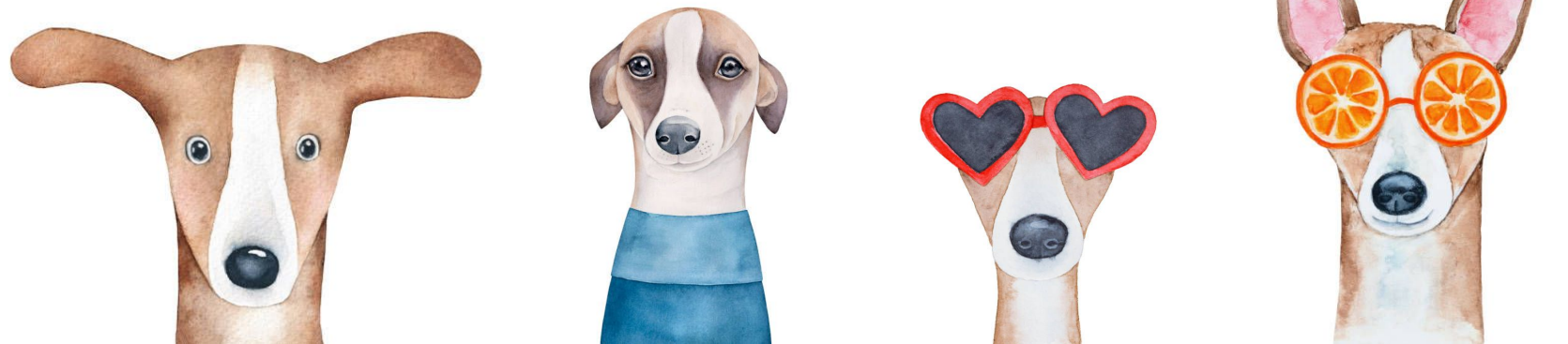
The school wide read-aloud this year is
The Year We Learn to Fly by **Jacqueline Woodson**



Wednesday, February 5th is the honorary World Read Aloud Day (WRAD), and so all of our students will be introduced to *The Year We Learned to Fly* on Wednesday. Our hope is that by immersing our 700+ students in the same text on the same day will help to engage our students more deeply and build community!

Comfort Dog Initiative

- His name is **Wave** and he is a 7 y.o. rescue
- Wave belongs to a former PS29 parent, Lauren McFarland. Lauren and Wave are a certified comfort dog team, which means that Lauren was trained to be Wave's "handler," and they regularly visit health care facilities, schools, and other settings to provide love, comfort, and support.
- Wave will visit the school at least twice per month for **one-hour blocks**
- Students may have the opportunity to "get to know" Wave, see him do tricks and interact with him for more individualized social-emotional learning opportu



Student Group for Divorced Families

Our hope is to create a space every month or every other month for students to come together and know that they are not alone. They will be able to make connections with one another with the facilitation of a trained professional. This is not a therapy group but rather an opportunity for conversations.

- A group of students will meet every month or every other month facilitated by our social worker, Loreta.
- There will be a read-aloud for students (grouped by age depending on how many students participate) that will anchor the conversation.
- K-3 students' conversations will be connected to the read aloud, while 4th and 5th graders may also have more open conversations.

NEXT STEPS

- Please discuss this with you children and decide together whether they would participate.
- Complete [this interest form](#) by Wednesday, February 12th, for each child that is interested in participating in the program.

Accessibility Project: Info & Updates

- School's page dedicated to construction information and updates is [here](#)
- PTA-compiled FAQ is available [here](#)
- Both the webpage and the FAQ will be updated at least monthly, as the administration meets with the construction team. Each new update will be added as an individual tab in the same document.
- Please use [this form](#) to submit new questions and concerns; answers will be added to the next update.

**After School
Report
Marie Isner**

Important Dates

- **Winter courses end** Friday, March 21st
- **Spring courses lottery open** February 12th - 26th
- **Lottery results loaded to portal** Tuesday, March 11th
 - **No fee drop period** March 11th - 18th
 - **50% drop fee period** March 19th - 22nd
 - **No refunds past this date** March 23rd
- **Kid's Club & spring courses start** Monday, March 24th
- **Spring courses end** Friday, June 13th

Device Policy at PS29+

- Adhere to the school's official policy, which can be found [here](#)
 - Devices are NOT permitted during both Kids Club and/or courses and should be kept in backpacks on silent or turned off.
 - If the teacher sees the cellphone or smartwatch out during Kids Club or course, the student will be reminded about the policy and asked to put the device away in their backpack.
 - If a second reminder is necessary, the device will be kept by the teacher and given back at dismissal.
 - On Fridays, we permit 5th graders ONLY to use devices brought from home, but still encourage them to play outside, weather permitting.
- If you need to reach your child, please call PS29+ office via phone or email:
 - Office 718-330-9277 x 1031
 - Cell 917-412-0054
 - info@ps29plus.com

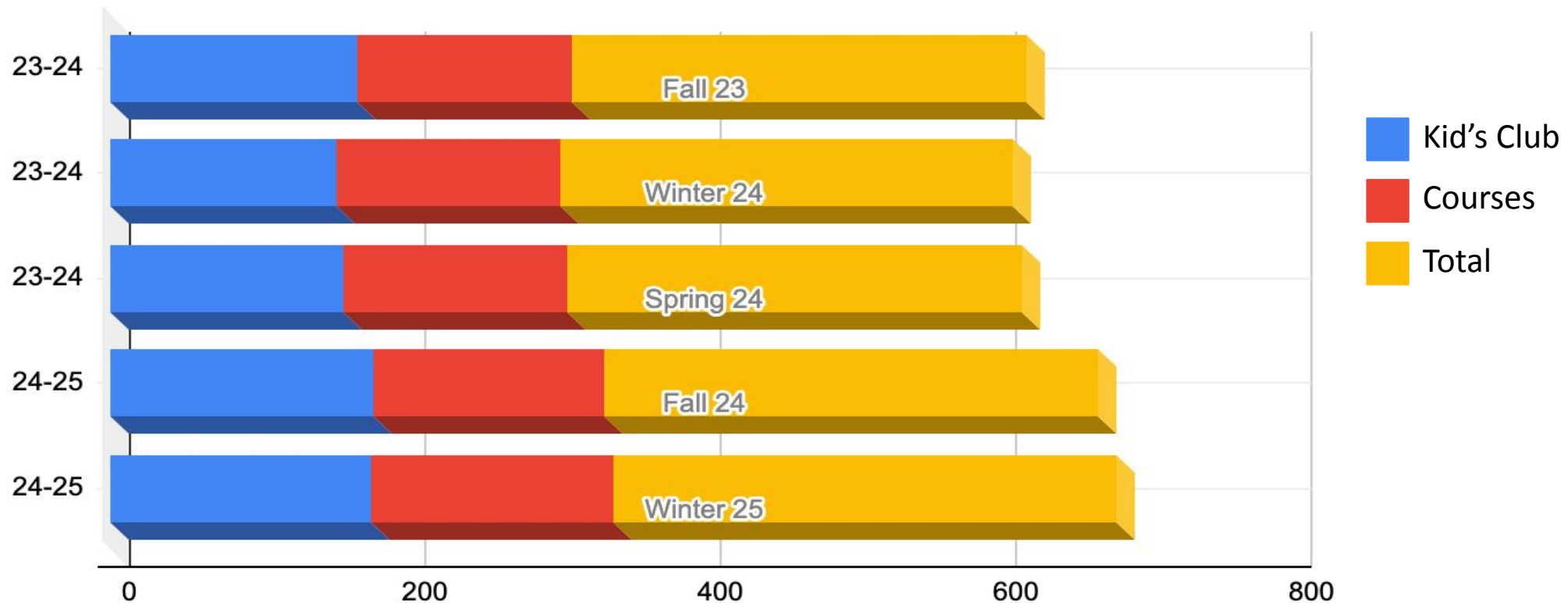
5th Grade play

- 5th Grade Play this year is **The Wizard of Oz!**
- Auditions!
 - Tuesday February 11th
 - Thursday February 13th
 - Sign up now in **PS29+ parent portal** under **Events**
- All materials and updates can be found at www.ps29plus.com/5thgradeplay
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The play will be shown on Tuesday, May 20th and Wednesday, May 21st.



PS29+ Afterschool Program Enrollment

- Enrollment at PS29+ continues to grow! Average number of kids in courses and Kid's Club grew from 305 last winter to 340 this winter, an increase of just over 10%!
- Of 715 students at PS29, 543 students (76%) use are enrolled in courses or Kid's Club plus many use the Emergency Kid's Club.



Activities for Indoor Kids Club

- Blue Blocks
- Scarves and yarn balls
- Magnatiles, Lego
- Board games, chess
- Coloring, word search

Treasurer Report

Budget Snapshot as of Jan-31-2025

NET CONTRIBUTIONS	2024-25			2023-24
	ACTUAL	GOAL	% of GOAL	% of GOAL
Fundraising	\$192K	\$190K	101%	71%
Merchandise Sales & Photo Day	\$4K	\$11K	36%	2%
Community Events & Activities	\$18K	\$112K	16%	4%
<i>Movie Night</i>	<i>\$2K</i>	<i>\$0.5K</i>	<i>320%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>PS29 Cheers</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>220%</i>
<i>Rummage Sale</i>	<i>\$6K</i>	<i>\$8K</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>83%</i>
<i>Eat Pie & Shop</i>	<i>\$13K</i>	<i>\$12K</i>	<i>108%</i>	<i>99%</i>
<i>Book Fair</i>	<i>\$4K</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Super Science Saturday</i>	<i>\$5K</i>	<i>\$6K</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>96%</i>
After School Program (accretive to the budget with assessed parental fees)	\$115K	\$189K	61%	59%

Notable revenue in January:

- +\$22K in donations incl. corporate matching
- +\$4K from Book Fair
- +\$400 from merchandise sales

Notable expenses in January:

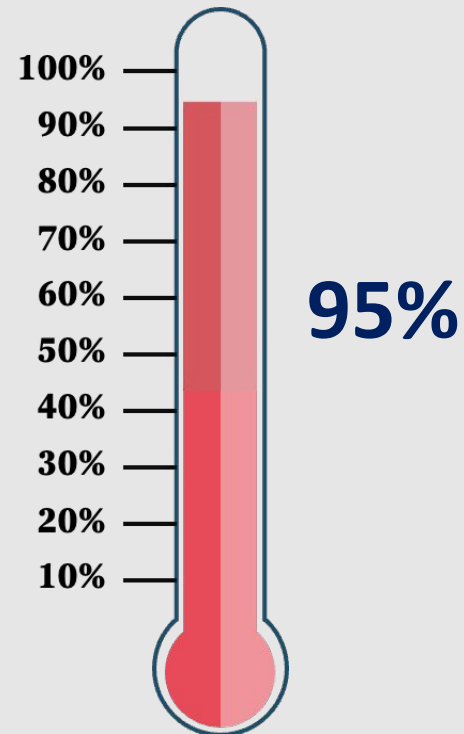
- \$19K for Yoga for Pre-K & K
- \$2K for school-wide lice checks
- \$2K for Lunar New Year Lion Dance

Fundraising Report

Progress - Direct Appeal*

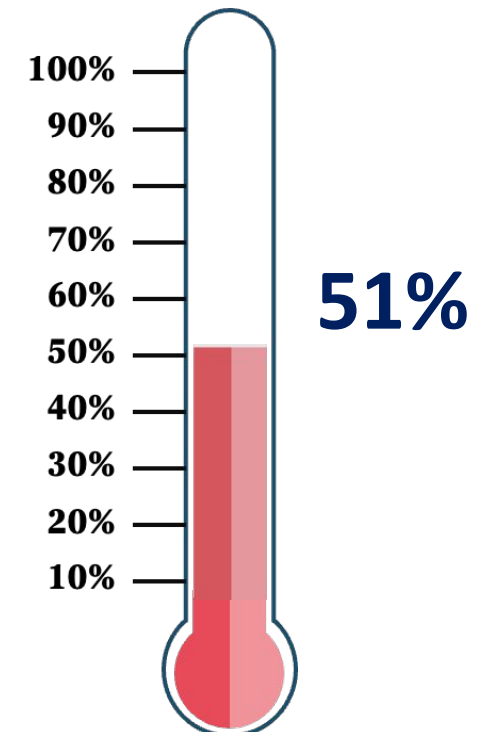
2024-25

**Goal:
~\$190K**



**Corporate Matching is included*

2023-24



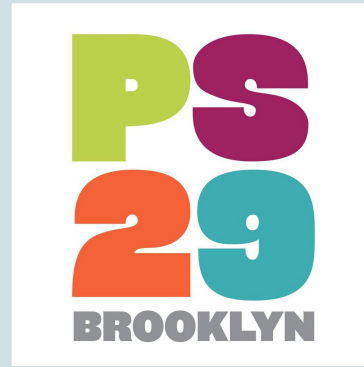
The Benefit & Auction

- **Thursday, May 29th, 7-10pm, Strong Rope Brewery in Red Hook**
- The planning and the outreach have officially began!
- We are actively looking for volunteers for the following sub-committees:
 - **Auction:** help with sourcing items for the silent and live auctions
 - **Event planning:** help with the event (most work done wk of 05/29)
- If you are interested, please email ps29auction@gmail.com and indicate which committee you are interested in working on.

Alexis Bittar x PS29 Holiday Shopping Event

Thank you to all who came out
to shop and support PS29!





**March PTA Meeting
Friday, March 21st
8:45am in auditorium**