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[PTA] TAG PTA Newsletter- November 2015

1 message

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NOVEMBER IS iPLEDGE MONTH!!!

TAG parents & families are encouraged to contribute to the school through this PTA fundraising drive. We are lucky at TAG. Many parents pay thousands to educate their children— but ours receive an excellent education tailored to gifted students for free. The funds raised this year will be directed towards next year's:

- **Singapore Math** in curriculum
- **Music program** for K-3rd grades and purchasing musical instruments
- **Physical Education & Recess Support** for K-8th grades plus recess support
- **Chess in curriculum** for K and 1st grades
- **Middle School Debate team**
- **Hiring assistant teachers** for K and 1st grades
- **Middle School basketball team**
- **Middle School theater program**

Every contribution matters, whatever the size! To make a tax-deductible monetary donation AND / OR a time donation, please make checks payable to "TAG PTA, Inc.," put "PTA-iPledge Drive" in the note line, and return it to your child's teacher or drop it in the lock-box

located in Ms. Bruno's office (Rm 106) OR pledge online at www.tagscholarspta.org, where you also have the option of setting up recurring monthly donations via PayPal.

Don't forget to ask if your company offers corporate gift matching.

PTA HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few updates on some of the initiatives the PTA is working on:

Phys Ed & Recess Assistant Teacher!

Welcome to the new physical education assistant teacher, Mr. Anthony Ferrante! Mr. Ferrante has over 8 years of experience working with young children as a phys ed instructor. He will be assistant the TAG gym teacher and guiding physical activities during indoor & outdoor recess.

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*

Welcome the new 1st grade Assistant Teacher!

Please welcome Ms. Vanessa Rivera to TAG! Ms. Rivera will be supporting both 1st grade teachers every day for the rest of the school year. She is currently earning her bachelors in Early Childhood Education & comes to TAG with over 4 years of experience working with children.

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*

The New Theater Program!

The after-school theater program for Middle School students will begin on Wednesday, November 4th, from 2:30 pm -4:00 pm in the auditorium. Farah Bala, teaching artist from Shakespeare in the Schools, and the participating students will explore the magical world of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Parent volunteers are needed for this 10-week pilot program. Contact the enrichment chairs [HERE](#).

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*

K-3 Music Instruction Begins!

Our amazing music program has returned, in the capable hands of Ms. Basia Revi, an internationally renowned opera singer who has performed at Carnegie Hall and been a Teaching Artist with the Metropolitan Opera. With passion, energy, and deep commitment, she is laying the musical foundations in rhythm, melody, and movement for our K-3 students that will prepare them for instrumental music with Mr. Faulkner. All K-3 students now receive one period of music instruction per week!

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov 1st:

Start of iPledge Month

Tuesday, Nov 3rd:

Schools Closed
(Election Day)

Thursday, Nov 5th:

1/2 Day
(11:05a dismissal;
Parent/Teach Conf)

Friday, Nov 6th:

Budget Mtg
@ 6pm
(in library)

Tuesday, Nov 10th:

PTA Mtg @ 6:00pm
(in cafeteria)

Monday, Nov 16th:

Picture Day

Monday, Nov 16th:

Last day to give in
Thanksgiving
BoxTops

Thursday, Nov 19th:

Enrichment Mtg
@ 8am
(in room 205)

Thursday, Nov 19th:

TAG's Basketball Team!

The enrichment committee is looking for parent volunteers to help out with the middle school basketball program. Practices are set to launch later in the fall, and league play is tentatively set to begin in January. To volunteer contact the enrichment chairs [HERE](#).

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*

Chess has Begun!

Students in grades K-1 have started their in-curriculum chess instruction taught by the renowned NYChess Kids! And new this year- the PTA has created a TAG chess team to compete in local tournaments throughout the year.

**Funded by the 2014 iPledge Drive*



Here are the rules for the Thanksgiving BoxTops contest:

- Each child who collects **50** BoxTops wins **ONE** dress down day
 - Each child who collects **100** BoxTops wins **TWO** dress down days
 - Each child who collects **150** BoxTops wins **THREE** dress down days
- Dress down days will be on November 23, 24, 25**

So get clipping! Leave your BoxTops in the dropbox in Ms. Bruno's office

WITH YOUR NAME & CLASS ON IT by

NOVEMBER 16th

HAND IN BOXTOPS EARLY & GET A CHANCE TO WIN AN EXTRA DAY!

Give in your BoxTops by October 26th and enter the lottery for a chance to win an extra dress down date (winner will be notified which day)!

Questions? Email TAGBoxTops@gmail.com



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Ms. Bruno is collecting canned & non-perishable food for the

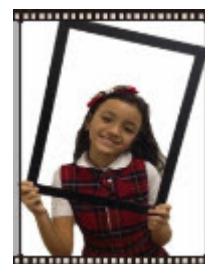
Exec Bd Mtg @ 6pm
(in library)

Friday, Nov 20th:
Fundraising Mtg
@ 8am & 6pm
(in library)

Tuesday, Nov 24th:
Grants Mtg
@ 8am
(in library)

**Thursday, Nov 26th -
Friday, Nov 27th:**
Schools Closed
(Thanksgiving Break)

Monday, Nov 30th:
Last day to enter
iPledge Raffle



PICTURE DAY

Picture Day will be held on **Monday, Nov 16th**. Forms will be going home via backpacks in the next few days. Any students who miss picture day will get to take their pictures on the re-take day; that date is to be confirmed. Volunteers are needed for Picture Day anytime from 8:00am-1:00pm. To sign up, [email Pamela Simon at pamsim777@gmail.com](mailto:Pamela_Simon@pamsim777@gmail.com).

Thanksgiving City Harvest Food Drive. All donations are welcome & can be left in her office!

The Blackboard Awards

Since 2002, the Blackboard Awards have been honoring excellence in education in NYC by celebrating schools, principals and teachers. Nominate TAG & Ms. Cesar by **November 4th!** It only takes a minute on blackboardawards.com.

FIELD DAY SUCCESS

TAG's first Field Day was a success! The kids had a blast while enjoying a day of running around & playing with friends. Thanks to the parents & TAG staff who devoted MANY man-hours to bringing this idea to fruition. And congrats to the winners! Be on the lookout for a survey to get your feedback so we can make the next Field Day even better!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Greetings and Happy Fall to everyone in the TAG Family. It is now November and the holiday season will soon be upon us...and there is also another very important season that will begin for the TAG PTA as well, and that is called iPledge. If you are not familiar with iPledge, this is our PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year and the money we raise during this season will go to fund many important initiatives like Assistant Teachers in classrooms and for Physical Education, our

music program for younger students so they can get exposed to music before they get it in curriculum in 4th grade, a middle school basketball team, theatre program and more. None of these programs and initiatives would be possible without the strong support and contributions from parents during the iPledge season. Your child will have a packet of information on iPledge, and we will be sending out emails and doing robocalls over the next few weeks asking for your support. We thank you in advance for your generous contributions (please note they qualify as charitable donations as we are a 501c3 organization), your support is crucial to making TAG the best school it can be for all our children.

Along with monetary contributions, iPledge is also about giving your time. As we move closer to the holiday season, the over-arching theme is about doing what we can to make our community the best it can be. Giving back to your community can take many forms, and at TAG we would like to ask you if you can give the PTA some of your time to help us put on events, champion enrichment programs, fundraise, or join a committee. The potential of our PTA is only limited by how much we get in financial contributions, but also in how much time is given to us by parents as well. We completely understand how busy everyone's lives are, so any time that you can give, whether it is an hour or a day, anything you can give matters. We will be having several events through the course of the year that are fundraisers and community builders, and we could use any help that you can give us along the way. Please check out our website to find out about our committees and contact the chairperson(s) of the ones that work best for you. You will also hear of calls for volunteers for events through our class parents, please consider giving some of your time when you see these messages go out. Together we can build a school that meets our lofty standards, that challenges our students to achieve as much as they can, and more importantly, sets them up to be great people and citizens who will someday make meaningful contributions to society themselves.

Thank you, and Happy iPledge Season to all!

Trina Edmundson & Anand Ragunath
TAG Co-PTA Presidents

THE LOCKERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Thanks to the success of last year's iPledge drive, the middle school lockers have arrived & been installed! TAG administration will be sending out letters listing the rules for using the lockers, then students are all set to load 'em up! Here's what middle schoolers are saying about it:

Aaron, 8th grade- "I feel proud of TAG for taking this big step"

Ashley, 7th grade- "I am happy that TAG is allowing us to use such a prize for our personal needs 🤗🤗"

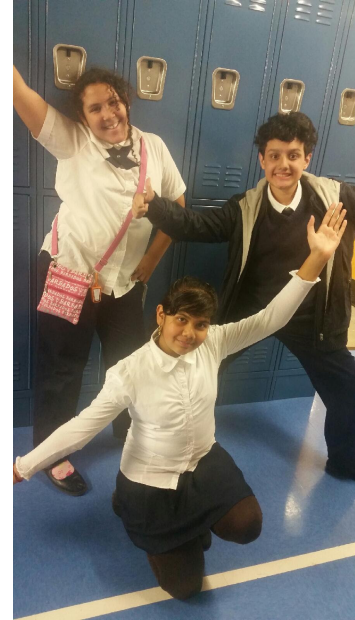
Melanie, 7th grade- "I like that it makes our backpacks lighter 🤗"

Brianne, 7th grade- "the lockers are more efficient so that we don't struggle with our heavy loads. Now we keep stuff here 🤗"

Norel, 6th grade - "THERE'S MORE SPACE!! 🤗🤗"

Itilise, 6th grade- "I think it's great so we don't have to lug around these heavy book bags".

Thanks to middle school student Journey Coates for getting this feedback!



THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING

We are off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year! But there are still some vacancies to be filled to make sure we meet all of our goals. Throw your hat in the ring for one of these open positions:

- **SLT:** TAG's School Leadership Team (SLT) is a board that is made up of 5 parents and 5 school administrators that sets goals and determine measures to assess yearly progress made on those goals. There are currently 2 open seats for TAG parents. To find out more about SLT email president@tagscholarspta.org.

- **Audit Committee:** The audit committee is responsible for conducting internal audits or coordinating external audits, as needed. This committee is essential for assuring the PTA is adhering to financial guidelines. We are looking for a chair for this committee. Interested? Great! Send an email to president@tagscholarspta.org.

- **Communications Committee:** This committee is responsible for providing information to the parent body via email, newsletters, the PTA website, and social media. The next meeting will be on Dec 3rd at 8am in the library. Come find out what's being planned & maybe become a co-chair.



POOR RICHARDS PLAYGROUND FACELIFT

Children at TAG and others at the Tito Puento Education Complex are playing this fall on a beautifully repainted playground at 3rd Avenue and 109th thanks to the efforts of dozens of volunteers led by TAG parent, Nate Hamlin, the city's Partnership for Parks Foundation, and the accounting firm of Marks Paneth LLP, the project's corporate sponsor. Over two days in July, 40 volunteers scraped, primed, and painted playground equipment, including climbing gear, a slide, and swing sets. They also cleared weeds from and planted the area's garden beds. Thank you to Mr. Hamlin, The Partnership for Parks Foundation and Marks Paneth LLP for the beautification of the playground! The next step is to use the \$150,000 grant from **Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer**. Although Poor Richard's Park is on a list of long-term capital projects known as the City Parks Initiatives (CPI), a Mayor de Blasio program which targets for renovation parks in poor neighborhoods, it was not included on the most recently announced [list by Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver](#). There is more work to be done to encourage our community to make the school yard useful and accessible to the public and the school children on East 109th Street. Park neighbors are encouraging people to **"like" the Facebook page of Friends of Poor Richard's Playground** (<https://www.facebook.com/poorrichardsplayground>) **to build support and publicize the progress of park renovations.**

Have feedback or an event/ article you'd like included in the monthly newsletter or the weekly digest? Email it to: communications@tagscholarspta.org

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