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THE SCHOLARLY NEWS

TALENTED AND GIFTED SCHOOL FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS PTA NEWSLETTER : :

OCTOBER 2017



PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Hello TAG Families,

Welcome back to TAG! Another exciting school year is upon us and the TAG PTA would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning families for the 2017-2018 school year. As you will see in the newsletter, our PTA has achieved great things over the last few years and we look forward to building to greater heights in the year ahead. We have 7 PTA committees: Fundraising, Enrichment, Membership, Budget, Grants, Communication and Audit, all of which can use your input and expertise. Please come out to the monthly meetings or contact the committee chairs using the contact forms on our website under "About TAG PTA".

Our goal as a PTA is to bring our community together and help fund initiatives for the TAG students and families to enhance the wonderful academic experience that TAG offers.

Our PTA website (www.tagscholarspta.org) has a calendar of our monthly general parent meetings, as well as our various monthly committee meetings, because this PTA is about you. We, as Co-President's, believe that the sky is the limit in terms of what we can do for our children, but we understand the tremendous amount of work that lies before us to make that happen. This is YOUR organization and we want you to be involved. Please don't hesitate to contact us, or any of our Committee Chairs, with any questions that you have.

Our motivation is our children. As parents, we have a unique opportunity to do great

things for them. Help us in making that happen.

Regards,

Nina Reiniger & Anand Raghunath

TAG PTA Co-Presidents

FUNDRAISING



————— **TO SUPPORT TAG SCHOLARS** —————

GET READY FOR IPLEDGE! This is our annual fundraising drive in which we raise the majority of the PTA's budget. The money we raise will have a profound impact on our children and their educational experience. Below are just a few of the crucial services and programs that we are hoping to continue to fund for the next school year:

- Singapore Math in curriculum for K-6
- PE and recess support for all grades
- Assistant teachers for K-3
- Graduation celebrations for 5th and 8th grades
- Prom
- Middle school theatre
- Middle school debate
- Field day for all grades
- Music program for K-3
- School wide Math Club and Chess Team

This year our IPLEDGE goals are \$170,000 and 100% participation.

Anything you can give will help make a difference for all the children of TAG. We are asking those families who can, to contribute \$1000 per student. We recognize that some families will not be able to afford this amount and want to reiterate that every contribution matters, whether it's \$100 or \$1000.

We are lucky to be part of such an incredible learning institution. Whereas other parents pay tens of thousands to educate their children, ours receive an excellent

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY GIVING TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP

As the new Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee Johnae and Jen are fully committed to helping all families feel at home at TAG and provide opportunities to be engaged in the TAG Community. We started summer by welcoming the newest members of the TAG family. Our former Co-Chairs passed the torch as we all worked together to make the Annual Welcome Picnic in June a great success with over 50 families attending despite the rain! A huge thank you to all of you who came out as attendees and volunteers... we won't ever forget the image of 2 parents making ice cream sundaes for the children in the pouring rain while balancing umbrellas and sporting ponchos.

Over the summer, we introduced 2 new events: the incoming Kindergarten play-dates in the park. They were opportunities for the new students and families to spend time together before school started and banter with families of former Kindergarten students. Our school-supply ordering program returned for its 2nd year and made preparation for the 2017-18 school year much easier for many families!

We kicked off our Back-To-School season by getting the weekly emails up and running, recruiting Class Parents, co-hosting the New Parent Orientation/Welcome with Administration, and welcoming parents at Back-To-School Night!

This year our goal is to bring back most of our events and initiatives and introduce some new ideas. We are looking forward to keeping our TAG families engaged in the many aspects of TAG life!

Membership events planned for October:

See weekly Class Parent Emails for details and dates.

You must enter a graduation year in your Parent Directory contact to get Class Parent emails (www.tagscholarspta.org/sign-up-for-updates--committees).

Botanical Garden Scavenger Hunt

(Oct 21st from 9am - 11am)



Apple/Pumpkin Picking

(Oct 28th from 10:30am - 2:30pm)



COMMUNICATIONS

PTA MEETING MINUTES

Our first PTA meeting of the 2017-2018 school year took place on September 19th. There was lots of discussion about the PTA budget, uniforms, and more. Here are some highlights:

- Fundraising Co-chair Namita Das advised the 2017-2018 Fundraising goal is \$250,000.
- Letters about IPledge (Fundraising's annual direct appeal) will going out on October 2nd. The goal is \$170,000.
- All parents are urged to join or update teacher/ graduation year on the parent directory (<http://www.tagscholarspta.org/sign-up-for-updates--committees.html>) as that is the only way class parents will be able to contact parents in their class.
- Details for after-school Mandarin, Piano, Chess, & Debate are now available on the PTA website (www.tagscholarspta.org).
- A list of proposed by-laws changes were distributed & posted on the PTA website. These changes will be voted on at the October 3rd PTA meeting.
- Revisions to the 2017-2018 PTA budget were distributed. Changes included adding a 3rd grade TA, increases to membership's budget, increase the music teacher budget, adding a second enrichment coordinator, increasing the physical/movement budget. There was much discussion about the lack of a science lab teacher and how that decision was made by TAG administration. Ms. Cesar & Mr. Dascal advised they get input from parents but ultimately removing Ms. Bernstein's role was their decision. Science will continue to be taught by the K-4 teachers in class.
- TAG administration is looking for a new technology teacher. Ms. DeAbreu will cover until someone is hired full time.
- The uniform policy was changed to a non-gendered uniform in order to get TAG in compliance. Per Ms. Cesar, the color change distinguishes upper grades from lower grades.

Want to read more or missed the last PTA meeting but still want to know what was discussed? All PTA meeting minutes are posted on the PTA website at

<http://www.tagscholarspta.org/pta-meeting-minutes.html>.

PTA WEBSITE PASSWORD

Don't forget! The password for the Parent Directory and the other locked pages on the PTA website is: scholarparent

BUDGET

NEW PTA BUDGET

At the September PTA meeting, the attendees approved many revisions to the PTA budget. Check out the final 2017-2018 budget at <http://www.tagscholarspta.org/about-tag-pta.html#PTABudget>. All parents are invited to the next Budget Committee Meeting on October 18th at 8:15am to discuss the budget process.

ENRICHMENT

AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES AT TAG

The PTA Enrichment committee is pleased to announce registration is now open for several after-school programs for TAG students! Click on the flyers below to get more info!

TAG After-School CHESS Program

FRIDAYS
FALL 2017



RATES: **TEACHERS:** **DATES:**

One session:
\$20 - semester
Two sessions:
\$240 - semester

John Hardin
Nathan Whipple
Nitai Leve

October 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17
December 1, 8, 15, 22

NON-Y PARTICIPANTS: Session 1 2:45 - 4:00PM

Y AFTER-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS: Session 2 4:15 - 5:30PM

Registration starts on 9/29 and ends 10/06. After that, parents need to contact enrichment directly to get permission to register.

REGISTER HERE:

www.nychesst02.com

CONTACT:

nychesst02@gmail.com

Phone: (212) 411-4130

LOCATION:

240 East 109th Street

New York, NY 10029

JOIN THE TAG MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

Debate - the discussion of the truth of a statement according to rules of argumentation. Participation can improve academic performance & develop critical thinking. Debaters develop civil & political engagement and oratorical skills. What is all that, you say? Well, come to the Debate meetings & find out!

WHEN: Fridays from 2:30pm - 4:00pm in Room 209 with Debate Coach Sheri Strosser

ELIGIBILITY: All TAG Middle School students & 9th graders with a teacher's letter of recommendation

TO JOIN: Email enrichment@tagscholarspta.org with:
- Parents first and last name
- Child's first and last name
- Child's grade and 8th period class
- Whether child participates in the Middle School Y program (or elementary school Y for 9th graders)

Interested? Come to the info session for parents & students on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH** from 2:30pm-4:30pm in Room 209.

Mandarin classes are coming to TAG! K-4 students of all levels are invited to begin or begin learning Mandarin in the 10-week session. Mandarin classes are offered in 10 Mandarin programs across NYC. There will be two Mandarin tracks. A beginner program focused on building a solid language foundation through songs, games and exercises, and an extension program that will challenge the students to improve their vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills while still having fun! There will also be NYC extension participating students can join.

WHERE & WHEN: TAG
100 East 109th Street
Room 209
New York, NY 10029
Phone: (212) 411-4130

TO REGISTER: Please contact the TAG Enrichment Committee at enrichment@tagscholarspta.org



Beehive Music Academy

A Community of Musicians, Educators and Students

FALL/WINTER 2017-2018 SESSION OF SMALL GROUP PIANO

TAG MIDDLE SCHOOL GET TO KNOW
SHAKESPEARE

THEATER CLUB
 Calling all TAG middle school students! Dive into the world of theater as we bring two of William Shakespeare's most exciting plays—Twelfth Night and The Tempest—to life! Middle School students are invited to participate in the after-school enrichment program where they will gain familiarity with Shakespeare's work and language through an active exploration of the basic elements of the two plays. Students will be invigorated and broaden their understanding of theater through collaborative partnerships with theater professionals!

WHERE & WHEN: The library in Twickenham from 3:30pm - 5:00 pm (Oct 24th - Feb 16th)
ELIGIBILITY: Middle School students that live in the SOFTIC-Y after-school
TO JOIN: Sign up at the PTA website (www.tagscholars.org) by October 17th.

Questions? Email enrichment@tagscholarspta.org

PTA CALENDAR- OCTOBER

(More info: <http://www.tagscholarspta.org/event-calendar.html>)

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

6:00 PM General PTA Meeting

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

8:15 AM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Monday, October 9, 2017

SCHOOLS CLOSED (Columbus Day)

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

8:15 AM Grants Committee Meeting

8:30 AM 8th Grade Parent Meeting

5:45 PM 8th Grade Parent Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

8:15 AM Communications Committee Meeting

Friday, October 13, 2017

8:15 AM Enrichment Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

8:15 AM Budget Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017

6:00 PM Exec Board Meeting

Friday, October 20, 2017

8:15 AM Membership Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

5:45 PM SLT Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

5:30 PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2017

8:15 AM Fundraising Committee Meeting

CONTACT THE TAG PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the board with your questions, ideas, and concerns.

Co-Presidents	Nina Reiniger Anand Raghunath	president@tagscholarspta.org
Co-Vice Presidents	Ilaria Mogno Jennifer Fiore	vicepresident@tagscholarspta.org
Co-Secretaries	Laura Lampert Rasheedah Harris	secretary@tagscholarspta.org
Co-Treasurers	Rebecca Yoftahie Trina Edmundson	treasurer@tagscholarspta.org
Audit Committee	Jenny Lam	audit@tagscholarspta.org
Budget Chair Co-Chairs	Eric Crump Ananda Chaudhuri	budget@tagscholarspta.org
Communications Co-Chairs	Ming-Yi Smith Pamela Simon	communications@tagscholarspta.org
Enrichment Committee	Brandee Williams	enrichment@tagscholarspta.org
Fundraising Co-Chairs	Namita Bhatt Anna Pan	fundraising@tagscholarspta.org
Membership Co-Chairs	Johnae Ferguson Jennifer Genuardi	membership@tagscholarspta.org

Have feedback or an event/ article you'd like included in the monthly newsletter?

Email It to: communications@tagscholarspta.org

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