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THE SCHOLARLY NEWS

Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars PTA Newsletter
January 2019

President's Message

Hello TAG Families,

Wishing everyone a very Happy New 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, Family Engagement, Budget, Grants, Communications 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. We have a strong volunteer culture at TAG that enables this. This is YOUR organization and we want you to be involved. 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. 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,

Denada Ramnishta and Kathy Fernando
TAG PTA Co-Presidents 2018-2019

Fundraising Update

iPledge Update

- As of Jan 2019, we've received \$102,206 in donations. This is **35% less (-\$55,694)** than what was raised for iPledge at the same time last year! Total participation this year is only 22% versus 40% from last year. **We need your help!**
- iPledge is our main fundraiser of the year, with a goal of \$250,000. That's 83% of the PTA's total \$300,000 budget. Our goal is 100% participation.
- **Who will win?** Class K-113 is in the lead to win the Pizza and Cupcake party with 58% participation, followed by 2-124 with 47% participation! Class 1-121 is leading the race for the most donated funds followed by K-113 again!
- The deadline for donations to be included in the race for Pizza and Cupcake party is **extended to January 31st**. Find out how your class is doing [here](#).

Spring Gala and Auction

We are looking ahead to the annual **TAG Spring Gala and Auction**, which is our school's largest fundraising event. It's a wonderful evening to mingle with other parents, teachers and staff.

At the Auction, the TAG community joins together to support our wonderful school through a silent auction with over 100 items in categories like food, fashion, vacation, sports, kids, beauty, and entertainment and a live auction, the pinnacle of the evening.

We want to make sure it is a huge success and kindly ask for your help.

Please volunteer!

- Attend the Gala and Spring Auction first planning meeting on Wednesday, January 16th at 6pm - [RSVP here](#)
 - [Volunteer for the following roles here](#):
 - Gala and Spring Auction co-chairs
 - Venue selection
 - Food/Drink
 - Entertainment
 - Auction donations
 - Please make a donation or help us solicit donations - [submit a donation form online here](#)
 - Share your donation ideas and contacts with our Fundraising team at fundraising@tagscholarspta.org.
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Enrichment Update

Winter Enrichment registration has been a success with over 100 students signing up for Enrichment programs.

We look forward to a great season of Enrichment programs that our scholars can enjoy and learn from. Please share your ideas and feedback to the Enrichment Committee at enrichment@tagscholarspta.org

Family Engagement Update

Ski Trip at Mohawk Mountain CT on Feb 9th

TAG Family & Friends Ski Trip will be at Mohawk Mountain CT on Feb 9th!

Ski/Snowboard Premium package **\$145 for adults and \$155 for kids** (12 and under):

- Round trip bus transportation (**We only have 28 seats remaining on the bus!**)
- All rental equipment, Express rentals set up in advance (ready for you upon arrival) and helmets -90 minute lesson for kids and 75 minutes lesson for adults
- Catered lunch, Beer & Wine in Tag's Private Lounge
- Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced leveled lessons all included!

Premium package without lessons \$115 for adults and \$110 for children

Premium package without lessons & bus \$105 Adults and \$100 for children

If you have your own gear you need the **Lift Package \$84.00** (includes everything in the premium package except rental equipment)

Lift Package without the bus is only \$64.00

Not a skier! Round trip bus, lunch and cocktails in private lounge is only \$40.00.

Purchase your tickets today by clicking the link!

<https://www.tagscholarspta.org/skitrip.html>

Family Outing at IPLAY America on Jan 21st

We're going to New Jersey so the kids can burn some energy at IPLAY AMERICA!

This family-friendly indoor Theme Park has over 200 games, rides, laser tag, go-karts, 4D theater and a full-service bar for adults. All TAG families & friends are invited to this day of fun. This trip will take place January 21, 2019 (No School day).

We have 2 non bus packages available: **Thrill Package is \$24.00 & Ultimate Package is \$27.00.**

Purchase your tickets today by clicking the link -

<https://www.tagscholarspta.org/iplay.html>



TAG's Snack & Paint event was amazing!

A message from Mrs. Battle the art instructor

I was extremely impressed with the children of TAG. I asked them to listen and feel the music. I explained the purpose of this class is not to just follow my direction but use the colors to visually describe how they feel or how they see the world in that moment. I viewed children that are aware of their own abilities and capable of operating with limited instruction. You all should be proud of them.

Thank you, Mrs. Battle





Apple & Pumpkin Picking was a hit!

TAG families & friends spent a day apple picking & more! That's a student at the top of the tree!





New Parent Mixer was a Success!

The Family Engagement VP's hosted a Welcome to TAG mixer for New families. We had over 60 new parents in attendance, members of TAG administration and PTA Executive Board members. It was a great night out with some healthy communication, yummy appetizers and complimentary drinks.



We look forward to seeing you soon! Please come and share your ideas of how we can keep TAG families engaged. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 29th at 8:15am in the TAG Library.**

If you have any questions, please email Family Engagement at membership@tagscholarspta.org

Grants Update

- Proposal to renovate student bathrooms submitted to City Council through Participatory Budgeting; currently in review (update expected end of January)
 - Preparing Manhattan Borough President and City Council Capital Funding proposals (due mid February)
 - In Curriculum STEAM: pursuing partnership with Cooper Union STEM Outreach
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Budget Update

The last version of the approved budget including amendments approved by the General PTA body [can be found on the PTA website](#). If you have ideas or suggestions for additions to the PTA budget, please use the [Budget request form](#).

Calendar of Events

You can access the updated TAG PTA calendar by visiting our website at <https://www.tagscholarspta.org/event-calendar.html>

PTA Executive Board

The 2018 - 2019 PTA elected members are:

- **Co-Presidents:** [Kathy Fernando & Denada Ramnishta](#)
- **Co-Vice Presidents At Large:** [Mark Levin & Pam Simon](#)
- **Committee Vice Presidents:**

- **Audit** - [Brandee Williams-Eps & Deirdre Pace](#)
- **Budget** - [Yuko Yoshida & Sharayfah Brown](#)
- **Communications** - [Rajesh Jayaraman](#)
- **Enrichment** - [Liz Butler & Sheri Simmons](#)
- **Fundraising** - [Olga Lakhina & Ami Artz](#)
- **Family Engagement** - [Trina Edmundson & Kate Chechak](#)
- **Grants** - [Richa Gulati & Makiko Yasuda](#)
- **Co-Secretaries:** [Laura Lampert & Rasheedah Harris](#)
- **Co-Treasurers:** [James Vasile & Johnae Ferguson](#)

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