



About Your PS 295 PTA



Welcome!

What we do

We hold events and programs bring our diverse school community together.

We raise funds that help the school provide programs in areas including music, dance, and technology.

When we meet

PTA meetings are held Tuesdays once a month, alternating between 6:00pm and 8:30am. You'll hear a report from Principal Linda Mazza and updates on PTA events and programs, and you'll take part in discussions about all aspects of school life. Real-time Spanish interpretation is available at all meetings. At evening meetings, we provide dinner, childcare, and homework passes for your kids (whether you bring them or not) so you don't have to deal with it when you get home. Bagels & coffee are served at the morning meetings.

How to become a member

You already are! We don't require dues to join. Every family is an important part of our school community, and we welcome all to our meetings. We do ask people to pay \$20/child if they're able (it's tax-deductible, too). If everyone did, we'd have \$10,000 in donations—enough to pay for our entire dance program! Just click the "Donate" button at the top of the PS 295 website at www.ps295.org.

Where the money goes

The money we raise goes straight back into the school. Some of the things that the PTA pays for, partially or in full, include:

- Supplies for Art, Drama, Science, Creative Movement, Special Needs, and classroom teachers
- A dance instructor
- After school homework help for third grade and up.
- Our wellness and gardening programs
- Field Day T-shirts
- Fifth Grade graduation day celebration & yearbook
- School-wide lice checks throughout the year
- A School Messenger system to communicate via phone to families in their preferred language
- A real-time interpretation system at all PTA meetings
- Bagels and Coffee at monthly Bagel Bits events, when the school invites parents to socialize and then into our children's classrooms.



How You Can Stay Informed About School Life



- **The Weekly Bulletin:** Each Thursday, you'll find a bulletin in your child's folder with the latest school and PTA information, including a report by Principal Mazza, reminders of important dates, PTA news and events, and more. This is the most complete and convenient source of information, so don't miss it! We'll also send a digital version to every member of the PS 295 Yahoo! Group (see below).
- **Class Parents** Class Parents share information from the teacher(s) and PTA; including updates about school and classroom activities (ie field trips, parties, snacks/supplies, news, events, etc). They also create and distribute a class directory so you can communicate with other class families. To volunteer to be a Class Parent, please email our VP of Parent Engagement: VPparentengagement@ps295.org
- **Parent Engagement hours:** (By Appointment Only) Every Tuesday afternoon (2:40pm-3:20pm) teachers are available to meet with you. Please request an appointment in advance by sending in a note or emailing them your request. You can also request an appointment by calling contact the Parent Coordinator (718-965-0390 x4105)
- **Bagel Bits** Every month or two, parents are invited into the gym for bagels and coffee from 8 – 8:30 (supervision is provided for children in the courtyard), and then go up to spend the first period of the morning in their child's classroom.
- **PS 295 Yahoo! Group** (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PS295PTA/>) This is the place to get answers from your fellow parents for all your PS 295 questions. Request to join or email VPparentengagement@ps295.org for an invitation!
- **PS 295 on Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/PS295>) Put PS 295 in your news feed for PTA updates, event photos, interesting links, and other good stuff.
- **PS 295 website** (www.ps295.org) Here you'll find news, events, calendar information, staff emails, PTA opportunities, afterschool programs, school history, and more.
- **PS 295 on Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/PS295Brooklyn>) Our tweets are short, sweet, and always worthwhile.
- **School-wide Email list:** Email VPparentengagement@ps295.org to be added

You can also often find Parent Coordinator, Sergio Borrero (SBorrero2@schools.nyc.gov) and various PTA Executive Committee Members standing at the courtyard gates during drop-off in the mornings. Come to us with any questions or concerns you may have, or just chat for a while as we gear up for another great day at PS 295!



Who Represents the Parent Community at PS 295



The PTA Executive Committee

Each spring, the PTA membership elects parents to serve in the roles listed below. Terms last two years, which means that every year some positions are open to provide new opportunities, while others have returning members to ensure continuity. The EC meets once each month to discuss PTA business, events, and programs, as well as various issues in the school and its community. You should feel free to contact your EC members any time you have questions or issues you'd like to talk over.

<p>Co-Presidents Tamara Damon President@ps295.org</p> <p>Vibha Ciecko President@ps295.org</p> <p>Vice President - Events Emilio Fontan Jr. VPevents@ps295.org</p> <p>Vice President – Parent Engagement Rebecca Stein VPparentengagement@ps295.org</p> <p>Vice President – Programs & Development Katrina Motch VPprograms@ps295.org</p>	<p>Co-Secretaries Janelle Gellizeau Secretary@ps295.org</p> <p>Katharine James Secretary@ps295.org</p> <p>Co-Treasurers Sara Kunin Treasurer@ps295.org</p> <p>Jasmin Castro Treasurer@ps295.org</p>
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The School Leadership Team

The SLT is an advisory committee consisting of equal numbers of parents and staff. We meet monthly to discuss everything from approving the school's budget and business plan, to its policies on homework and testing, to new opportunities for student enrichment. The SLT's membership includes the principal, UFT representative, PTA president, and additional members elected for two-year terms each spring.

The current parent members of the PS 295 SLT for 2017 - 2018 are Tamara Damon, Vibha Ciecko (co-presidents share a seat), Ellen Cerniglia, Naomi Josepher and Nomi Altabef. Staff representatives include Linda Mazza (Principal), Natalie Meade (UFT Representative), Lisa Pagano, Nina Phillips, and Joan Radigan.

If you have topics you'd like the SLT to discuss, questions about its proceedings, or other concerns, you can reach the group at slt@ps295.org



What We'll Be Doing Together



In 2012, the New York Observer called out PS 295 for having the “Best PTA Events” in all NYC—and that was even before we created Brooklyn Boogie Brunch and reinvented our Spring Arts Festival! It’s all thanks to the creativity, generosity, and hard work of parents like you. Our PTA events and programs are a great way for our families to spend time together and they help PS 295 provide the best possible experience for our kids.

PTA Events and Fundraisers

All our events need people to run them, to photograph them, and a crew to set up, make food, sell food, etc. If you can contribute any of these skills for any event, please contact our VP of Events VPevents@ps295.org. They will connect you to the event that’s just right for you.

please note all dates are tentative and events may be rescheduled/changed

CUPCAKE FRIDAYS - (one Friday a month at pick-up)

One Friday each month, kids (and parents) celebrate the end of the week with homemade cupcakes in the courtyard. It’s one of our favorite traditions! Lots of people bring them in; we just need a few to set up the tables and take the dollars.

FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS - (4 times a year) 6 - 9pm

A few times a year, we come together as a school on a Friday evening to just hang out and enjoy a low-key event. These are totally free gatherings, where there may be an activity going on and everyone brings something to eat and share with friends. Past events included dancing, Zumba, Game Night, face painting, sports activities and art projects.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY—October 18

Individual and class photos capture this precious year in each student’s life. This year we’ve got a new photographer we’re especially excited about, so we’ll need to help our kids look their best!

HALLOWEEN DANCE-A-THON — October 28

Throw a party our kids will never forget as they dance to raise money for PS 295! Held the Saturday night before Halloween, this popular favorite transforms the cafeteria into the spookiest nightclub in Brooklyn. Great music, delicious food, decorations that have to be seen to be believed—and one great costume after another. It’s a job you’ll love.

BOOK FAIR - November 15-17

What could be more satisfying than helping kids buy books? This is an easy one—all we need you to do is help set up and stock the shelves, run the register, and chat with happy customers.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE DAY/MINI HOLIDAY BAZAAR (TENTATIVE Dec 15)

A new event is possibly in the works for this year; a chance for PS 295 Families to showcase their culture with and shop for unique gifts at great prices - all made by members of our own PS 295 community! TBD

BROOKLYN BOOGIE BRUNCH - March TBD

People are still talking about this one! Last time around we rocked the afternoon away with musicians from Kirk Douglas and Mark Kelly of the Roots to Blue Lightning, the hottest under-14 band in town. We had to turn people away from this sold-out event, but you won’t miss a thing from your station selling food, painting faces, doing crafts, and other fun jobs.



PTA events and fundraisers (continued)

EARTH DAY - April 20

Every year PS295 students celebrate Earth Day! We might make art or plant seeds. Whatever we do parents are in the mix and students are learning to appreciate Mother Earth.

SILENT AUCTION - April (date TBD)

Parents, friends, and neighbors gather (without kids!) to enjoy an evening of music, drinks, fantastic artwork by local artists, and items provided by our wonderful community.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK - May 12

You're probably already familiar with this one. Half of Brooklyn turns out for a great day of truck-touching, food, music, crafts, and bouncy-housing at the block party of their dreams. And being on the TaT team is just as much fun as attending! The best part: knowing we'll raise enough money in a single day to pay a part-time teacher's entire salary.

SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL - June 1

The last event of the year—and one of the best. The centerpiece of the festival is the opening of the Student Art Show, which features work by every student in our school, but in the past we've also had live music, crafts and games. This one isn't about raising money—admission and events are entirely free!



PS 295 Parent-Supported Programs and Committees



At PS 295 our children's education is enriched by many programs. All programs are maintained by the school, but some are run by parents and all flourish with more parent support through committee action. Below are a few of the committees you can get involved with. Please email President@ps295.org for more info.

We always want to grow our programs. We need money and resources. Do you know how to write grants, fundraise or connect us to important community resources? If so, this section is also for you.

ARTS COMMITTEE

Want to brainstorm ideas for visiting artists, help our amazing art teacher get supplies, etc? Join the arts committee!

DRAMA SUPPORT TEAM

You'll find photos of our fabulous school musicals on our website and Facebook page. Guess who sews the costumes, paints the scenery, runs things backstage, and takes tickets at the door? That's right—you.

DIGITAL MEDIA TEAM

Like taking photos or video? Help us capture and share awesome events like the school play, dance festival, field day, and all our PTA events and programs!

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Created by a PS 295 parent years ago, our library is entirely parent-run! It's people like you who check books in & out, shelve, repair/maintain the collection, and arrange author visits to open new worlds to our children. Join the team and help keep this vital resource at its best!

POLITICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Relationships with elected officials play an important role in our school, helping us secure funding for essentials like computers and air conditioners as well as advocating for our needs at the city and state level. We need engaged parents to take the lead and keep us well connected.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Yes, the PTA maintains the school web site! If you can help keep our up and running with all the current info this committee is for you.

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

Help us get *all* the words out! We need parents to help us translate PTA handouts and communications into other languages

WELLNESS IN THE SCHOOLS (WITS)

We are proud to be a Wellness in the Schools (WITS) partner, which brings alternative menu options, healthy cooking demos, and other programs to the school. We are also a school composting pilot site—all of our waste is separated into compostables, recyclables, and trash. WITS meetings are once a month in the mornings and can always use more parent support.



Shop to Raise money for PS 295!

Merch - PS 295 Apparel

Wear Your School Spirit! Purchase PS 295 apparel (shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, hats, etc) and show everyone how much you love our school. Your purchases help support our amazing arts and academic programs. Please email Rebecca with any questions or requests at reb.stein@yahoo.com

Amazon:

You can earn free money for PS 295 every time you shop on Amazon.com! Here's how. Visit the PS 295 website at www.ps295.org. You'll find an Amazon ad in the lower right corner of our home page.

Click it and you'll arrive at the normal Amazon.com home page. Log into your account as you usually would, and shop the regular way. Because you clicked through the ad, the PS 295 will get a rebate of up to 15% of every dollar you spend—at no extra cost to you! It's free money for the school.

Key things to remember:

- This is completely private and secure. The school and PTA will never see your name, your credit card information, or what you've purchased.
- Anyone can do it. Please share this handout with your family and friends and encourage them to use our Amazon link every time they shop there! It won't cost them a thing, and it really adds up.
- This makes a big difference for the school! In our first year using this program, we made over \$5,000—money that helped us buy classroom books, art supplies, and other essential materials. We work hard all year on fundraising events to help the school. This opportunity is as easy as it gets—let's make the most of it!

Fairway:

PS 295 participates in Fairway's Community Partners program. 295 gets back 3% of all Fairway purchases. These "rebates" go to our arts and special needs programs.

What do you need to participate? Pick up a Community Partners card on the courtyard during pickup and dropoff from Gina Caroddo or email gcaroddo@gmail.com to arrange delivery of your cards. Friends and neighbors can also use the cards to support 295, so spread the love and pick up more than one!

BoxTops:

cut the BoxTops symbol off the top of your groceries and bring them to School. We send them in and they send us money. To hand in your BoxTops look for Lyle or any EC member in the courtyard.

Thanks for your support!