

WNS PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

*Jade McLachlan and Ali Karshan, Co-Presidents opened the meeting.*

## FINANCIAL UPDATES FROM PA TREASURER

*The PA currently has a bank account balance of \$39,000 after having recently allocated \$40,000 towards the Diversity Scholarship and Hardship Funds. The PA made \$1,200 from the Bake Sale, after expenses.*

## THE NAREA "WONDER OF LEARNING" EXHIBITION

*The PA would like to call on any and all WNS parents to consider volunteering at the exhibit in the Lower School by registering a time slot at [www.newyorkcitywol.org](http://www.newyorkcitywol.org).*

*This is not only an amazing exhibit which represents so much of what our school is all about, but a unique opportunity for parents to represent WNS as visitors come from far and wide to the exhibit (which closes in May).*

## OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Summer Camp: WNS is potentially hosting a summer camp for Lower School students which could include week long programs of "Construction Kids", gymnastics and basketball.*

*Lower School Tree Planting: A possible tree planting C-campaign for the Lower School building environs was discussed in detail as there is a desire to plant 6 trees in front of the school (2 on Meeker and 4 on North 7th). The 311 process had been deemed too slow, as it could take 2 years to obtain approval and then to plant trees. There would be the possibility of applying for permits from the city to take this forward, which would be a faster process but the expected cost is \$700 per tree (so 6 X \$700 would be \$4,200). The PA is considering a fundraiser to try to raise funds including an idea to have one tree dedicated to each of the 6 grades (Pre-K thru 4th) currently at WNS.*

*Fundraising with local businesses: A discussion was held about how to work with local businesses that want to offer discounts or fundraising opportunities to WNS families. The discussion centered on whether the PA should engage in fundraisers with local businesses or if we should concentrate our support on our annual spring gala. It was also discussed how we would decide which businesses to align with and what benefits are important to parents. There was no resolution to this and further discussions need to be held before coming up with a process or policy for the PA going forward.*

## SPRING GALA UPDATE (BETH CRONK)

*The Spring Gala will be held on March 28th in the Preschool Gym at North 5th from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The goal this year is to raise \$50,000. Ticket prices will be \$50 per person in advance and \$60 at the door. The PA is seeking volunteers and designated lead roles for a number of open positions. A save the date will be sent out shortly.*

## PA COMMITTEE UPDATES

*Sarah Mangerson mentioned that the PA Communications Committee was working with the administration on updating various school materials including the welcome packet that families receive before the start of each new school year. The PA, overseen by Beth Cronk, is still trying to create school spirit wear, and hopes ultimately thereafter to create a school store where it will be possible for families to purchase items reflecting the school mascot on it, Athena the owl, when the image is determined. Possible plans for Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5th were also discussed.*

*Anita Martin spoke about PA Diversity Committee initiatives including the success of the January Family Table event that hosted over 150 attendees. The Committee is working with WNS to find a permanent display spot for The Family Quilt installation. Positive feedback was provided on comment cards from the event and the Committee will work to plan a parent workshop on the topic of diversity in the Spring.*

*Ali Karshan, on behalf of the PA Food, Health and Wellness Committee, discussed the success of the January bake sale and the extremely positive feedback received. The Committee will potentially be hosting a yoga family night in the Spring.*

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES**

*ITC families are invited to a special Puppetsburg show at DONNA (27 Broadway) on Sunday, March 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The cost is \$25 per child and there will be an open bar of beer and wine for the adults (provided by DONNA). Puppetsburg does educational, interactive puppet shows for infants and toddlers age 0-4 years. The shows are 45 minutes long and involve dancing, instruments, and bubble time followed by a puppet story. Tickets are limited, please RSVP to kim.nguyen419@gmail.com.*

*The next PA meeting will be held March 4th at 7:00 pm in the Lower School cafeteria.*