

P.S./I.S. 78Q PTA

THE ROBERT F. WAGNER, JR. SCHOOL

48-09 Center Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 11109 (ECC)
46-08 Fifth Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Telephone: (718) 392-5402 - FAX: (718) 392-5434
Louis Pavone, Principal
Deana Rombone, Assistant Principal



December 12, 2016

Dear PS/IS 78Q Families,

We want to extend huge **THANK YOU** to all of the families who donated to the Recess Everyday Fund! In a short three-week period, **we raised \$21,000!** On December 9th all SLT members voted in favor of the new recess plan outlined below. We have been able to save money by re-negotiating the contract with Kids Orbit. The program will run from February 27-June 23, 2017 and cost \$26,048 for the remainder of the 2017 school year. There will be 1 supervisor at each site in addition to 3 staff members at the ECC and 1 staff member at the Upper School for a total of 6 Kids Orbit employees. Until we are granted approval for the street closure on 48th Avenue, it is imperative to have more staff placed at the ECC to ensure the safety of our children when traveling to their outdoor play areas. There will also be school aids and Learning Leaders at each site. The start date was pushed back to cut down on costs, give adequate time for Kids Orbit to hire staff, and have the Learning Leaders trained and scheduled to volunteer. Ronny Schindler, the Founder and Executive Director of Kids Orbit will be presenting at the upcoming PTA Meeting on December 14th. We encourage all parents to attend this meeting to learn about this program and ask questions! Please visit their website for additional information, kidsorbit.org.

In order to maximize attendance, the Learning Leaders training will be held on January 11 & 12, 2017 from 8:30 am-11:00 am in the Upper School Auditorium. All volunteers are required to attend both training days and complete provided paperwork with references. It takes approximately 1.5 months for Learning Leaders to complete background checks and approve volunteers. Ideally, we would like 4-6 volunteers in each school during both lunch/recess periods from 10:30 am-12:15 pm every day. Please note, parents may not volunteer for their child's grade. The school administration will coordinate and allow a more flexible schedule for our volunteers. The success of this program will help determine if we need to continue Kids Orbit in the future. We hope that you will all consider volunteering, as this will be an essential part of implementing a successful lunch and recess program. An additional lunch line will also be opened in the Upper School to help alleviate the current lunch line wait times and to allow our children more time to eat. Please keep in mind this is a pilot program and we will be re-evaluating the program this year to assess our needs for maintaining and continuing a successful daily recess program every year.

The PTA currently has \$50,000, including \$21,000 for recess. The PTA will also fund the following programs this year (The school will be updating their website ps78.com with detailed descriptions of all programs in the near future.)

Studio in a School-visual arts program-\$18,000

South Street Seaport program-\$7,200

Lincoln Center Arts Program-\$7,700

8th Grade Prom-\$2,000

Family Fun Night Expenses-\$1,000

www.psis78pta.org

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Recess equipment/games-\$1,000

Our total expenses for the remainder of the year will be \$63,000 including the recess program. We will need to raise an additional \$13,000 this year to cover these expenses as well as at least \$50,000 in reserve by end of school year to cover two TA's and other expenses needed for the 2017-2018 school year. If we decide to continue funding Kids Orbit, we will also need to raise funds before year-end to secure a contract for next year. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the Spring Auction, so we need volunteers to start planning this event now. Please contact lilly@psis78pta.org to be involved in our Spring Auction. We also have a new team of parents trying to raise additional funds through corporate sponsor donations. They will give a presentation on their work and strategies at the upcoming PTA meeting.

We are so thankful to everyone who has volunteered their time and donated money to help expand educational and enrichment opportunities for our children. **We need you now more than ever to help! Please consider donating to the Family Giving Fund as often as possible. No amount is too little! The school does not have the funds for extra programs, so we need to continue to raise a lot more money if we want to expand our portfolio of programs.** The more money we raise the more we can do! Look at how much we accomplished this year-we can all come together and continue building a wonderful school! Thank you to everyone who has worked countless hours over the years to implement daily recess for every child every day! We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Kind regards,

The PS/IS 78Q PTA