

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

THE ROBERT F. WAGNER, JR. SCHOOL

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Louis Pavone, Principal
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November 17, 2016

Dear PS/IS 78Q Families,

After careful consideration, The PS/IS 78Q PTA, SLT, and administration will discuss and finalize a plan to implement **daily recess for every child in both schools** at the next SLT meeting on December 9th. Each grade will "flip-flop" lunch and recess; half of each grade will attend lunch first, followed by recess, while the other half will attend recess first, followed by lunch. We will utilize two programs, Kids Orbit and Learning Leaders, in addition to school aides and staff to organize a consistent and safe daily recess routine.

Kids Orbit will place 4 employees per school in both lunchrooms and the indoor/outdoor recess areas. The program cost will be approximately \$55,000 for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. There will be opportunities for children to participate in organized games, utilize equipment purchased by the PTA, and/or free play. We will re-evaluate the program before the end of the school year to determine if we will renew the contract. Assuming we retain the same number of Kids Orbit employees, the cost will be \$80,000 for the entire school year. We will need to raise a total of **\$140,000 for recess by the end of the 2017 school year** in order to guarantee a recess program for the 2017-2018 school year. Please note, funding this program will not eliminate programs we have supported in the past or new programs moving forward. **If we cannot raise sufficient funds, we will not support the program next year.**

Learning Leaders (a parent/caregiver based volunteer program) will cost \$2,000 for a two day onsite training. All volunteers are required to attend both training days and complete provided paperwork with references for a background check. 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 following years. We are in the process of securing training dates for Learning Leaders and will send a notice home.

Our goal is to raise \$70,000 by December 9th, which is 50% of our recess fund goal. We are asking every family that is able to contribute to give **at least \$300 per child**, in addition to any donations already given or that you plan on giving to the Family Giving Fund. **Please fill out the attached Donation Form.** 100% of all funds donated within this time period, will be utilized for recess expenses. All funds donated after December 9th will go directly to the Family Giving Fund and allocated at the PTA's discretion according to the needs of every student at our school. This is the quickest and most equitable way to implement daily recess and we hope we can count on your support. Thank you and let's finally get our kids to play every day!!

Kind regards,

The PS/IS 78Q PTA