

The October General PTA meeting took place on October 16, 2008. It was opened @7:05 when Gail Whelan recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Gail explained that school t- shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase. It is recommended that they are worn during all school trips. She expressed her gratitude to the parents for paying their dues and participating in the fall fundraiser. The pumpkin sale is coming up and pumpkins will be sold for \$2 each. All classes will visit the sale at a designated time.

There was a speaker, Mary Leas, from the School Construction Authority to discuss the work being done. She explained that it is a capital improvement project which was awarded to Whitestone Construction. The work is being done on the interior and the exterior of the building. The auditorium is being upgraded. There will be fixed seating installed. It is also being made handicapped accessible. There will be a ramp put in outside and also a portable ramp inside. The curtains are being changed, the lighting is being upgraded, the stage is being refurbished and it is being painted. As a result it will have to be closed and unusable for a period of time. On the outside the parapet is being repaired. There are environmental specialists on hand to test for toxic substances and to make sure that the work is being done safely. There will also be fencing and iron work done. It is a \$3.5 million project. It is anticipated that it will be completed before August.

MaryAnn Hellenbrecht spoke about the Girl Scouts program. It is available to all girls from Kindergarten throughout High School.

Ms. Steppel stated that the school was off to a good start. It was a smooth opening. She thanked everyone for attending the Pta welcome breakfast. She also explained that the standardized test scores went up last year. It was a record high in Math of 96.3% passing. Reading scores were up 7.4%. P.S.133 also received another A on the citywide report cards. It was in the 95th percentile. It scored the 2nd highest grade in the district and was mentioned in the Bayside Times. Ms. Steppel also talked about the musical theatre program that has started for the 3rd graders. They seem to be enjoying it. There will be a performance at the conclusion. This year the Halloween parade will be done in 2 shifts due to the construction.

The meeting was concluded @7:50.