

The General Pta meeting took place on November 13, 2008. Gail Whelan opened it by reciting The Pledge Of Allegiance.

Gail stated that the fall fundraiser shipment is in and will be sent home any day. The book fair will take place next week during open school week. Parents were also encourage to visit their child's classroom to observe them as they interact in their classes. Next Thurs the pies purchased during the fundraiser will be available for pick up during Parent Teacher Conferences.

Family Fun night will be December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm. There will be line dancing and square dancing. Everyone is encouraged to come out and have some fun.

The holiday boutique will take place on 12/11 and 12/12 and volunteers are needed.

Ms. Steppel spoke about the upcoming state tests. Ms. Sabbagh was spending the evening doing math games with the children. Ms. Steppel also spoke about the musical theatre program that is currently going on with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. She has received positive feedback so far. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be performing for the parents on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Steppel also spoke about the budget being cut about \$63,000. She expected this to happen this year so there was money set aside in reserve. Next year the cut is expected to be cut further. As of now there will be no programs cut. She also spoke about a parent book club that will meet once a month in case anyone is interested. The \$100,000 grant that the school received from David Weprin last year will be used to upgrade the computer room. The current computers are about 7 years old.

Ms. Schwartz spoke about the upcoming state Ela tests that will take place in January. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take tests on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will take a 3 part test on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> part is reading passages and answering multiple choice questions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part involves short responses from procedural, fiction or non-fiction articles. On day 2 the children will listen to passages as they are read and they will be expected to take notes and answer questions. They will be expected to edit short passages. For 4<sup>th</sup> graders they will have to read two related passages and write an essay.

Ms. Schwartz stated that it is important that parents work at home to prepare and practice with the children. Reading and asking questions are two ways that can help. Reinforcing at home is crucial to their success. Ms. Schwartz will hold a morning and an evening workshop for parents of children taking the ELA tests in January.