



THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF LAGUARDIA ARTS

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

On behalf of the LaGuardia Arts Parents Association, we would like to welcome you, incoming and returning parents alike, to the 2011-2012 school year! We are all so fortunate to be a part of the LaGuardia community in which academic and conservatory excellence is offered to New York City's brightest and most talented kids! We can all look forward to an exciting year ahead, performances, events and exhibits of the highest quality.

Once again we must contend with budget cuts from the Department of Education. However by working together, we, the parents and guardians, can overcome these hurdles and do our utmost to preserve the LA! tradition of academic and artistic excellence.

We urge each and every one of you to become an active member of the LaGuardia Parents Association (PA). For those of new who are new to LaGuardia Arts a brief description of the LaGuardia Arts Parent Association will assist you in your participation. The general Parents Association meetings concentrate on the overall school issues and the academic programs with the entire school. The studio Parents Association meetings concentrate on the individual issues and needs of the respective studios. Both parts of the LaGuardia Association have officers and needs volunteers to carry out their missions.

All PA meetings, without exception, are open to every parent and guardian of a LaGuardia student. There are no fees or dues involved. All that is required is your time, your energy and your commitment to your child's education. To find out how to become involved with the LaGuardia Arts Parents Association, please check the school website at www.laguardiahs.org or contact any of us directly, as listed in this mailing.

We also encourage you to attend as many of the LaGuardia performances and exhibits as you possibly can. You do not have to have a child in the Music Studio to enjoy the Senior Jazz Band, the Opera, or a child in the Art Studio to appreciate the works presented at the Semi-annual shows. Your attendance at these events not only supports the school, it supports the artistic spirit of all our gifted students and the incredible efforts of the teachers who have mentored them. (Not to mention, you are guaranteed an evening of wonderful entertainment for a very nominal price!)

Enjoy the rest of the summer! We look forward to seeing you at our first general PA meeting on September 13th at 7 p.m. in the Little Flower Theatre. The first studio meetings are the same day however they will start at 6 p.m.

Once again welcome to the LaGuardia Arts family.

Judy Maeda and Marcus Marino
PA Co-Presidents 2011-2012

How to Find Out What's Going On

The Parents Association understands the importance of frequent communication between parents and the school. All of the latest information is posted weekly on the LaGuardia website: www.laguardiahs.org. The website includes: *The "Yellow Sheet" (the student weekly bulletin), *The school calendar, *Upcoming events, *Contact information for the faculty and PA officers, *Teacher web pages, * Performance calendars, and the * Virtual box Office for LaGuardia performances (not to be missed!)

IMPORTANT! To have the Yellow Sheet and important updates sent to you directly, along with specific information relating to your child's studio, please go to:

www.lagpa.parentschoolpartnership.com

and enter your contact information. You can also go to the LaGuardia website and click on "Receive the weekly bulletin by mail." As with last year the PA will continue being "green" and will send the minute of previous meeting via e-mail for your review prior to each meeting, instead of printing handouts every month. This is all the more reason to send us your contact information. The information you provide will ONLY be used for school and PA updates. Sign up NOW so that you can start receiving updates immediately!

HIGHLIGHTS of UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

The fall term begins, September 8, 2011 at: 8:15 a.m. for Freshmen and 9:00 a.m. for all others

The **first meeting of the Parents Association** is Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Little Flower Theatre. There will be elections for a Freshman member of the PA Executive Board and an incoming parent member of the SLT (School Leadership Team). Our school's Principal will be our guest speaker. Studio meetings begin @ 6 p.m. (Rooms will be listed in the lobby).

PA meetings are generally the first Tuesday of the month. We alternate studio and general PA meeting times so that more people have access to meetings. In October we will start with a general PA meeting followed by the studio meetings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!

The LaGuardia Arts PA welcomes all parents and guardians to join in our efforts to support our students. We raise money and solicit donations to support our extraordinary school with one-of-a-kind programs.

New ideas are always welcome, so whether you want to bring your gifts to an ongoing project or create your own, get involved! The PA continues to seek outside sources of funding from foundations and corporations. Your contacts, expertise and time are essential. And keep in mind; all the money raised directly benefits our students. A Volunteer Questionnaire will be available on the LaGuardia website in September. Please fill it out, so that we can contact you to enlist your help in our many endeavors.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

New Ideas? Comments? Questions? Please contact members of the Executive Board below at:

LaGuardia_Arts@earthlink.net

Place the name(s) of the person(s) you want to reach in the subject line. You can also go to the LA! Website under Parents Association and click on the name of the person whom you want to reach.

Executive Board Members

Co-Presidents: Judy Maeda and Marcus Marino

Co-Vice President: Lynn Hippen

Co-Vice President: **Position to be filled at first meeting**

Treasurer: Denise Madison

Assistant Treasurer: Ira Gershenhorn

Recording Secretary: Nancy Sanchez-Taylor

Corresponding Secretary: Mary A. Bergam-Dinerman

Assistant Corresponding Secretary: **Position to be filled at first meeting**

Community Involvement: Bob Rosensweet and a **co-position to be filled at first meeting**

Incoming Freshman Parent: **Position to be filled at the first fall meeting**

Academic Forum Co-Chairs: Robert Greenberg, Charlie Kramer, Claudine Meredith-Gujoon, Lorraine Waters.

Art Representatives: Lynne Hertzog & Miriam Hipsch

Dance Representatives: Lori Guastavino & Deborah Markewich

Drama Representatives: **Position to be filled at the first fall meeting**

Music Representatives: *Instrumental* Karen Cecere & Susan Garcia

Vocal Cheryl Meredith and Tiffany Della Vedova

Technical Theatre: Carol Baird & Melinda Moore

Auction Representatives: Jessica Sabat and Angela Wong

JOIN US AT THE ACADEMIC FORUM

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The Academic Forum (AF) is the Parents' Association group advocating academics at LaGuardia High School. The AF holds monthly meetings, usually on the third or fourth Wednesday, to disseminate academic information and discuss academic issues. Each meeting has a scheduled guest(s), and in the past these guests included school administrators, assistant principals, and the school's college office director. The AF is also a great place to network with other parents.

Some topics covered in previous AF meetings included:

- How to enroll in honors and AP classes
- Programming & testing
- Classroom curriculums
- Financial planning for college
- Look for AF meeting announcements in the Yellow Sheet and by e-mail. All members of the LaGuardia community are welcome!

LaGuardia Auction

A big *High 5!* to the LaGuardia community for the outstanding success of the 2011 auction, which

raised over \$200,000! Our goal for 2012 is to raise \$250,000 at this year's 5th **Annual LaGuardia Auction**, which will be on 5/5 (aka Saturday, May 5, 2012). **Save the date!**

Donations: Start thinking about what you might be able to procure! We ask every LaGuardia family to get at least 1 donation, either by solicitation or a personal donation. Donation forms and solicitation letters will be available by September on our auction website: laguardiahs.org/auction. Have a question? Email LaGuardiaHSAuction@gmail.com. We'll be happy to help!

Volunteering: We can't do it without your participation! The auction is an event with over 500 attendees. You can imagine the work that goes into creating and staffing it. Please plan on volunteering for a job large or small, year-long, month-long, week-long or day-of to help make this year's auction an even greater success! There are jobs for:

- people who can work from home with our online database and/or online auction
- outgoing people
- salespeople and solicitors
- graphic and web designers
- writers
- editors
- video producers
- organizers and managers
- ***any parent who'd like to get to know other parents and learn more about LaGuardia!***

Watch your email for the **PA volunteer survey** and information on how to find the right role to play or email LaGuardiaHSAuction@gmail.com.

Thank our donors! Lastly, if you won something at this past year's auction, don't forget to **redeem your certificates and thank the donor**. Please express your hope that they'll support us again in the coming year.

DANCE STUDIO PARENTS

Welcome to LaGuardia High School's Dance Studio Family! We invite you to attend our monthly Studio meetings where you can meet other dance parents and discuss what's going on in the Dance Department.

Most meetings will include guest speakers from the dance world, faculty members and alumni. Michelle Mathesius, AP of the Dance Department, attends all meetings, so it's a great opportunity to get important information and answers to your questions. Meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, either at 6 p.m., before the general PA meeting or at 7p.m, after the general meeting. Or first meeting of the school year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at 6 PM.

All meetings take place in Room 857. We look forward to meeting new dance families and catching up with returning families at the first meeting. Please try to attend! For more information about the Dance Studio, check out our website at www.danceaatlaguardia.org or contact our Dance Studio Representatives, Deborah Markewich and Lori Guastavino through the LaGuardia Website.

MUSIC STUDIO FAMILIES

Welcome to the Music Studio and a new school year! Right now as we are enjoying the last few days of summer, it's hard to imagine how busy our students' lives will be in just a few weeks. Days filled with practice, classes and lessons will give way to nights of study, more practice and finally, performance. It can be hard to keep up with all that is going on in your teenager's life. That's where your Music Studio Association comes in.

Music Studio AP Bernice Fleischer attends our monthly meetings to give updates on what is happening in the studio and guest speakers from the faculty are often invited to talk about what goes on in the studio classes and performance groups. Each meeting provides you with an opportunity to learn about volunteer opportunities for fund-raising, hospitality, and chaperone activities. And, of course, you will have the chance to get to know other Music Studio families. Maybe you will meet a new friend!

Please join us for the year's first Music Studio PA meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6 pm in Room 457. Light refreshments will be served.

Can't make a meeting? All meeting minutes and regular studio updates are posted on the Music Studio PA online forum. To join the email list, go to: www.lagmusic-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and subscribe. You will then receive an invitation to the forum.

Have a question? Contact us at: susan.11418@yahoo.com or CMEREDIT@cablevision.com

We look forward to meeting you!

Vocal Reps: Cheryl Meredith and Tiffany Della Vedova

Instrumental Reps: Susan Garcia and Karen Cecere

ATTENTION DRAMA STUDIO FAMILIES

Welcome to incoming and returning PODS! (**Parents Of Drama Students**)

We invite you to our monthly meetings and to participate in our active, supportive parent group. Discussions focus on issues that relate specifically to Drama students, their curriculum, events, and development. the meetings are a wonderful forum for sharing ideas, staying informed and networking with other parents.

Drama Coordinator, Sandy Faison, attends some of our meetings as well as fellow Drama Department Faculty, sharing information and answering questions.

This hard-working and energetic group of parents also helps out with raising funds (**A Big Shout Out to last year's PODS for raising over \$40,000!**), volunteering at events and representing the studio on various key committees and activities throughout the year.

Here is wishing you and your children a very successful and enjoyable year in the Drama Studio! We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 13th at 6 p.m. in the basement, Room G25.**

If you have any questions, please contact our Studio Reps:

Liz Hinden at lhinden@mac.com or

Jaci Israel at jaciisrael@msn.com

VISUAL ARTS STUDIO FAMILIES

Hello Art Studio Parents,

With school starting soon, we want to send a BIG welcome to all our new 9th grade families, plus an equally BIG welcome back to our returning families! Last year the art studio's school presence blossomed under the *dynamic* leadership of our new AP, Dr. Nina Lasky. A lot is in the works for the 2011-2012 year!!!

Save the Date: Tuesday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m. will be our first studio & PA meetings

Our first meeting will include elections for a variety of studio and school positions and Dr. Lasky will bring us up to date on Art Studio curriculum. So, please attend!

We invite you to learn about your child's day at these meetings throughout the school year. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Each meeting will feature two art students who will briefly share what happens in their art classes and then, we will focus on topics important to art studio families. Be aware that each month, the studio meetings alternate times with the General PA meeting. We'll keep you posted on dates and times.

If you have not done so already, IT IS IMPERATIVE to sign up for the Parents Association email list. Go to <http://lagpa.parentschoolpartnership.com/>

This letter and the annual appeal are the only communications you will receive from the Parents Association via US mail. There are many other important communications by email, so please sign up!

And...please don't hesitate to contact us with suggestions or concerns.

See you on September 13th.

Studio Reps,

Miriam Hipsh, miriamrh926@gmail.com and Lynne Hertzog, lynnehertzog@gmail.com

TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDIO FAMILIES

Greetings to all incoming and returning Technical Theatre students and their parents!

Although we are the smallest studio, our students are an important part of all the performances for music, vocal and drama studios. The tech theatre keeps evolving as our students increase their responsibilities and learn the latest technology. Your attendance at meetings will keep you informed on what's happening, and your input can help shape the future of our studio.

We also need your financial support. All students purchase supplies for tech classes, and we also ask for a monetary donation from every Tech family (in addition to your donation to the general PA). The PA will match studio donations up to \$5,000, so we can significantly increase our funds through the annual studio appeal. The money is used for outside consultants, special equipment, faculty honorariums, and pizza to feed our hardworking techies. We'd appreciate a minimum of \$150 per family, but will take whatever you can give.

There are many volunteer opportunities for parents to get involved and become a part of the legendary LaGuardia. Please join us at the first meeting of our Technical Theatre Studio Parents Association meeting on Tuesday September 13 at 6pm in the basement room G11, the Black Box Theatre. After September, our meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday of every month, either before or after the General PA meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting!

Tech Theatre Reps: Carol Baird, KinderdanceNYC@aol.com and Melinda Moore, moostack@mac.com



LAGUARDIA ARTS

The Parents Association of LaGuardia Arts

Annual Appeal 2011-12

Dear LaGuardian Parent:

Your young artist is about to spend an entire school year developing his or her unique talent under the guidance of seasoned experts while also receiving an exemplary academic education at a school that has been rated "Outstanding" by the DOE. And all of this is **FREE!** You will **never** receive a tuition bill!

The City continues to reduce the education budget. LaGuardia's funding has been cut significantly. The professionals who lead the LaGuardia community have worked diligently to absorb these reductions in funds to minimize the impact on our children's education. But they must have our help to continue LaGuardia's unique mission.

BY SUPPORTING THE LAGUARDIA PA YOU HELP SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT AND THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. THIS IS JUST SOME OF WHAT WE DO WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

- Matching grants for each Studio. That means money to pay for easels, dance coaches, power tools, sheet music, instrument repair, costumes, scripts, visiting professionals, accompanists, paint, reeds and more.
- Daily planners for each student.
- Substantial funding for the college office and college fairs.
- Assist students who need help with college application fees, testing fees, and school costs.
- Significant contribution to the costs of the audition process.
- Sponsorship of Rising Stars. This is the school wide talent showcase where you may see a sculptor play the piano, an actor tap dance, or a tuba player recite poetry. The students love this program.
- **100% PARTICIPATION:** We need close to 100% participation to qualify for many grants. We suggest a donation of \$500 per family but every dollar counts and no donation is too small. If you use our installment plan to pay \$50 for the next ten months, you'll reach \$500 by the end of the year. If you can give more than \$500, now is the time!

Donate at the levels below to become a **LaGuardia Star**: Silver, Gold or Platinum. All Stars will receive personal recognition in our programs throughout the year.

You can now make secure payments online with a credit card at www.laguardiahs.org/annualappeal. There you can donate at either a pre-set amount or enter your own dollar amount to both the general PA as well as your child's studio.

Email questions to lagappeal@gmail.com.

If paying by check or credit card by mail, please complete the form below and mail to:

LaGuardia High School Parents Association Annual Appeal
100 Amsterdam Avenue
New York NY 10023

The LaGuardia Arts PA is a 501 (c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE LAGUARDIA ARTS 2011 - 2012 ANNUAL APPEAL!

student: _____ grade: _____ parent: _____ address: _____ Apt # _____ city: _____ zip: _____ contact phone#: _____ email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500-\$1,999: LaGuardia Silver Star* <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000-\$2,999: LaGuardia Gold Star* <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000+: LaGuardia Platinum Star* <input type="checkbox"/> \$500: Suggested per family <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ other amount <input type="checkbox"/> Installment option: \$ _____ every month for _____ months *LaGuardia Angel program dedication: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous	<input type="checkbox"/> Check is enclosed --payable to LaGuardia HS Parents Association <input type="checkbox"/> Charge \$ _____ to my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX Acct # _____ Exp date ____/____ security code ____ Signature _____ <input type="checkbox"/> My gift will be matched by _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not sure if my company matches. Help me find out. My employer is: _____
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