Welcome to Wonderful 163!
Our community is warm, caring, spirited and diverse. We are fortunate to have an active parent association and a dedicated and talented staff. We are happy to have you as a part of our school community!

Our School Mission Highlights
PS 163 is a learning community that equips students with the tools they need to become academically outstanding, socially responsible critical thinkers. Our program of instruction and enrichment is rigorous, creative and inspiring.

The community is sensitive to the needs of each individual child. We foster respect and promote a peaceful environment. Students establish work habits and a love of learning that will lead them to success throughout their lives.

Instructional Program and Enrichment
Outstanding academics are the foundation of PS 163. Our teachers bring to life literacy, math and social studies curricula and give our students a solid grounding in science and technology. Our differentiated programs, Dual Language (DL), Gifted and Talented (G&T), General Education (Gen Ed) and Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT), meet the needs of individual learners and their families exactly where they are. Another significant aspect of our program is a deep commitment to the arts. Our students receive music, visual art, and dance/movement instruction. Many of the arts enrichment programs are made possible solely through parent support and participation.
The PS 163 PTA

The PTA is the Parent-Teacher Association at PS 163.

Our mission is to support and represent the parents of PS 163, act as a communication liaison between the school administration and parents and to raise funds to improve the experience of all students. We also work with city officials and local politicians on issues important to our school. We hold tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status as Friends of PS163, Inc.

State and city budgets only meet the most minimal needs of our students. The PTA raises funds to provide enrichment programs, augment educational materials, improve the physical infrastructure and build our school community.

As a parent/guardian of a child at PS163
YOU are automatically a PTA member!

There are many ways to participate in the school community! Share your time and talents and be a part of what makes PS 163 wonderful! We need you because:

1. It takes a village
2. A little goes a long way
3. Everyone has something to offer
4. Your child will benefit
5. You'll feel great

Every dollar or minute you can spare makes a difference!
Educational Enrichment

Vibrant enrichment programming is a hallmark of a PS 163 education. Our school partners with leading cultural institutions to give our students opportunities to create and grow in meaningful, challenging and joyful ways. Students in all four programs (DL, Gen Ed, G&T, ICT) are offered these sessions during the school day each school year:

- **Art**: 1 period/week, grades Pre-K thru 5
- **Computers**: 1 period/week, grades K thru 5
- **Library**: 1 period/week, grades K thru 5
- **Music**: 1 period/week, grades Pre-K thru 5
- **Physical Education**: 1 period/week, grades Pre-K thru 5
- **Science Class**: 1 period/week, grades K thru 3
- **Science Lab**: 1 period/week, grades 3, 1½ periods/week, grades 4 & 5
- **Clubs Elective**: 1 period/week, grades 3 thru 5
- **Chess w/NYChessKids**: 1 period for 12 weeks, grades K thru 5
- **Mexican Folk Dance w/YANY**: 1 period for 10 weeks, grade 3
- **Chinese Folk Dance w/YANY**: 1 period for 10 weeks, grade 3
- **African Dance w/YANY**: 1 period for 10 weeks, grade 3
- **NDI Yearlong Workshop**: 1 period/week grades 4 & 5
- **Voices of 163 Chorus**: optional after school, grades 3-5

Additional Offerings

The school partners with city institutions to offer additional enrichment including:

- **NY Historical Society** for in-class social studies enrichment.
- **Landmark West** for architectural literacy and awareness.
- **Film Society of Lincoln Center CineKids Program** for an introduction to hands-on film making culminating in a screening of students’ work.
PTA Dollars in Action

The enrichment programs, infrastructure projects & community events that make PS 163 special are made possible by PTA funding.

Enrichment Program Funding

The PS163 PTA funds 100% of these signature programs for all students:

- **NYChessKids** provides a solid grounding in chess for children at all skill levels.
- **Young Audiences New York (YANY)** brings in-class residencies teaching movement, music and storytelling.
- **National Dance Institute (NDI)** brings diverse dance genres to life for students with weekly dance intensives.
- **Library** is a gem for budding readers and bookworms alike, entirely (and heroically!) parent–run & funded.
- **Clubs** expose kids to new experiences from cooking new dishes to running around the Central Park Reservoir loop.
- **Chorus** builds on weekly in-class music sessions enabling the students to further develop their talents and love of music.

In partnership with the school administration, we fund **Indoor Recess Sessions** that keep everyone moving regardless of the weather.

We also coordinate after-school programs including:

- **Chess**: High quality instruction from NYChessKids instructors in small group settings.
- **LeAp**: Learning through an Expanded Arts Program (LeAp) is a low-cost childcare program held on site at the school.

School Facility & Infrastructure Support

The PTA covers DOE budget shortfalls for necessities including paper, toner, paint, rugs and furniture. Each year we provide grants to all teachers for classroom materials. We’ve funded the creation and maintenance of an eco-friendly, reading garden and formed a task force to safeguard the well-being of our students, teachers & staff.

Community Building

Our cultural diversity is the cornerstone of the school community. From new family play dates and potluck dinners to fairs and parties, the PTA is always looking for new and exciting ways to bring our community together and make it stronger.
How the PTA Raises Money

PTA hosted events raise funds that pay for enrichment programs. The two largest sources of funds are the Auction and the Annual Appeal, which account for approximately 70% of our annual fundraising efforts. Parties, events & sales account for the other 30%. Grants fund specific projects, programs and capital improvements.

Annual Appeal
“The Annual Appeal – Count on Me” is the PTA’s general fundraising campaign. The goal is 100% participation. Donations are accepted any time of the year, at any amount. Relatives, friends and neighbors can also give and many corporations will match donations. Give via the website at www.ps163pta.org

Annual Auction & Party
The Spring Annual Auction Party, featuring live, silent and online auctions, is the PTA’s premiere event. The auctions offer fantastic deals on products and services and promote local business, all the while raising money for our school. The party is a festive, themed, celebration of our school community.

Family/Community Focused Events
We offer many ways for families to have fun while connecting with each other, creating a strong sense of community and school pride while raising money for the school. Our seasonal events include the Día de los Muertos celebration in October, Noche de Amor party in February and the Spring Fair in May.

Twice a year, we host Rummage Sales as an opportunity to engage the community and reduce, reuse & recycle. Movie and Chess Nights are fun family nights that fund sponsoring programs. The Class Arts Auction gives you the opportunity to own a PS 163 student masterpiece.

General Fundraising
The PTA partners with companies that provide quality products & services appealing to a wide-range of our families including student photos, catalog merchandise, customized art keepsakes and PS 163 gear. We’ve also enrolled in various Rewards Programs that earn points when you shop. A percentage of sales from these campaigns goes into our fund pool.

We promote literacy & build our library with an Annual Book Fair, offering both English & Spanish titles. Voter’s love the treats & goodies at the PS 163 Election Day Bake Sale! Additionally, we apply for grants throughout the year to subsidize our initiatives.
How You Can Participate

There are many opportunities to participate at all levels and everyone has something to offer.

Earn Rewards for PS163
Shop and earn money for the school – at NO COST to you! Amazon, Fairway & others donate money to PS 163 for each dollar spent. Visit the Shop & Save for PS 163 page on the PTA website for details.

Attend PTA Meetings & PTA Sponsored Events
PTA meetings are held monthly and alternate between mornings and evenings. PTA events are scheduled throughout the school year. Visit the PTA website for the calendar of events and subscribe directly to the Google calendar.

Donate Funds
A monetary donation is the simplest and most direct way to benefit the school. Donations in any amount can be made throughout the year, either one-time or recurring, via cash, check, credit card or PayPal (via link on the PTA website.) All donations are tax-deductible.

Donate Time
Lend your skills, talents & experience to support the events & projects that make our school unique: work at a party, plant in the garden, decorate the lobby, solicit auction donations. Show your children service in action or get them involved, too! You’ll meet new families and have fun.

Be a Class Parent
Class parents take the lead in communicating class- and school-wide information to parents, help plan field trips and class celebrations, coordinate parent volunteers and act as a PTA liaison. It’s a great way to support the teachers & get to know the families in your class. Speak to your teacher for more information or to express your interest.

Lead a PTA Committee or Event
Share your vision by planning and directing an event or committee. Lead the charge to implement a new program or improve an existing one. It’s a rewarding accomplishment that can have a lasting impact on the school.

Take a seat at the table
As a member of the PTA Executive Board or School Leadership Team, your insights help create the school vision and shape the school community. Elections are held each June and are open to parents/guardians of enrolled students.
Be In The Know
Get the information you need, the way you need it.

Parent Coordinator, Walkiria Santana
(p) 212.678.2854 x.1153
(e) WSantana2@schools.nyc.gov

The Parent Coordinator is the first point for contact for families that have questions or concerns about the school. As a member of the school administration team, Ms. Santana works closely with school staff, the PTA and SLT to advocate for the school community and facilitate communication. Se habla español.

Get Text Alerts
Sign up for text alerts on school activities, PTA meetings, volunteer needs, school closings and much more. Text JOIN163 to 555888. You will receive approx. 5 texts/month and can opt out at any time.

Visit our website – www.ps163pta.org
The website is a repository of information updated frequently with announcements, events and procedures. Contact information for school administration, PTA Executive Board and School Leadership Team members is listed, as well as information on programs, committees, support opportunities and student activities.

Monthly PTA Email Newsletters
This weekly summary is a handy source of information on upcoming events, reminders and school news. Subscribe via the button on the PTA website.

Backpack Flyers
Check your child’s backpack! Important school announcements and information on upcoming events are sent home in both English and Spanish via homework folder.

Google Calendar Account
Current events are posted on the Google Calendar account. You can subscribe directly to the account at www.ps163pta.com/Calendar

Yahoo ListServe Group
Open to the entire PS163 community, this communications forum is used to share information, events & issues pertinent to our school community & education. It is moderated by the PTA Executive Board and our Parent Coordinator. Join the group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PS163NYC.

Community Bulletin Board
The bulletin boards in the east foyer and the main office have postings for school, district and city–wide events, camps, programs and more.

Twitter
Follow Principal Lopez on Twitter: @mrlopez163