

# techtalk

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE TECH PA

Tech Talk 10.03.22 Volume 11 / Edition 3

---

## Greetings from the PA Presidents

Dear BTHS families and caregivers,

Many thanks to all who attended our first PA general meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22. It was a pleasure and privilege to meet so many of you. Special thanks to Mia Lu for doing double-duty as translator; to Mary Huhn, our intrepid parent coordinator; and to Principal Newman for Zooming in just as our meeting adjourned. He will appear in person at our next meeting on October 20, when we'll hold elections.

Nominations for five freshman representatives and one freshman representative for the School Leadership Team (SLT) must be in by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, October 6. **No nominations will be taken from the floor on October 20.**

On Sept. 29, the PA hosted the inaugural Dinner with the Principal -- the first time in person after two years -- and on Sept. 30, Breakfast with the Principal. Thanks to Sarah Hu and Annie Wang, Co-Vice Presidents of Events and Volunteers, for organizing these gatherings. A reminder: only one parent or caregiver can attend the event **once a school year** (Some families registered a couple of times for various members.) Let us know 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel, as we can reach out to those on our waiting list.

Also on Sept.29, Sharon Mei and Kim Jalet, Co-Vice Presidents of Diversity and Community Engagement, kicked off their year with a vital discussion covering the Lunar New Year fundraiser, book club and strategies to strengthen our community's diversity.

And finally, we are finalizing our plans for SAT prep and will follow up with you all as soon as possible. Happy October to all!

Best wishes,

**Hamilton Cain and Mia Lu**  
Brooklyn Tech PA Co-Presidents  
papresident@bths.edu

---

## Important Dates

- **Oct. 5** - NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur
- **Oct. 6** - 7:00 PM - BTHS PA Workshop: Strategies for Writing the College App Essay Online
- **Oct. 10** - NO SCHOOL - Italian Heritage/Indigenous People's Day
- **Oct. 13** - Thursday - 6:00-7:30 PM Dinner with Principal Newman - at school
- **Oct. 14** - Friday - 9:00-10:30 AM Breakfast with Principal Newman - at school
- **Oct. 15** - Saturday - SAT administered at BTHS
- **Oct. 20** - Thursday - 6:00 PM BTHS PA Meeting - at school

- **Oct. 25** - PSAT administered to Juniors (in school)
- **Nov. 8** - NO SCHOOL - Election Day
- **Nov. 10** - Masquerade Ball - Seniors only
- **Nov. 11** - NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
- **Nov. 17** - Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **Nov. 18** - Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal
- **Nov. 29** - Tuesday - 6:00 PM BTHS PA Meeting - Online

For a complete view of important dates, see the [BTHS calendar](#) and [DOE calendar](#).

---

## **Online Workshop: Strategies for Writing the College App Essay** **7:00 - 8:30 PM, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022**

Participants will learn effective writing strategies and read successful models for writing the personal narrative, which is very different from the academic analysis and argument most high school students are trained in. Particularly, language choices are very different, as is the role of tone, and organization. Also, the college app essay asks people to share, to delve into themselves, and some students struggle with this inner journey. Awareness of all of the above can help the student and parent find the process more rewarding than stressful.

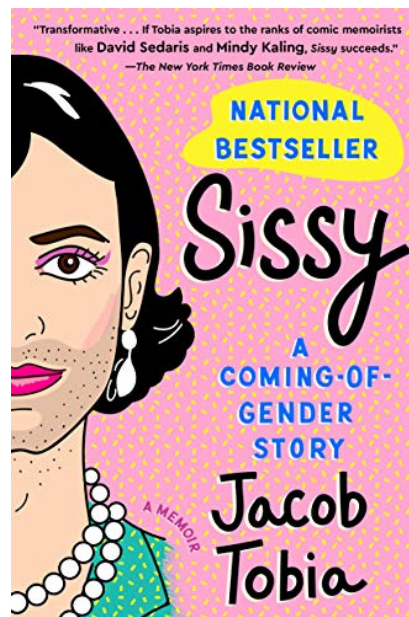
The talk will address how to write the essay as well as the contingent challenges/opportunities that come with writing personal narratives for college admissions.

Jonathan Shapiro has been helping students write as a teacher and tutor for more than 20 years. His tutees have been accepted to the most select schools, including Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, MIT, NYU, Cornell, and many, many more.

Jonathan's BA is in English from Rutgers College and his MFAs are from Sarah Lawrence College and the University of Washington. Currently, Jonathan teaches writing and literature at Fordham University and tutors writing for college application essays and academic and creative writing.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/M8Q69NzdSmY2GaJh7>

---



### **Social Justice/Racial Equity Book Club** Meeting Date to come...

The Tech PA's Social Justice/Racial Equity Book Club is happy to announce that the first book

discussion will be about *Sissy: A Coming of Gender Story* by Jacob Tobia.

“Sissy is a complex, introspective piece about gender and sexuality and how society's view can impact self-worth. Jacob Tobia recounts experiences throughout their life that have impacted them in the manner of their gender and sexuality and their self-acceptance. A heart-wrenching, eye-opening and giggle-inducing memoir about what it's like to grow up not sure if you're (a) a boy, (b) a girl, (c) something in between, or (d) all of the above.”

Our virtual meeting will be held in the coming weeks. This meeting will not be recorded as this is a safe space intended to be free of bias, conflict, criticism, or potentially threatening actions, ideas, or conversations. We ask that everyone be respectful as we have these difficult, uncomfortable, but necessary discussions. We look forward to having a lively and vibrant discussion.

---



## THANK YOU!!

### **Thanks to parent volunteers for helping clean up the PA room!**

Isabel Chan  
Jane Cheung (SLT Parent Representative)  
Xiu Rong Liu  
Christine Mui  
Polly Wong  
Joey Wu  
Susan Small (PA Senior Representative)

### **Thanks to parent volunteers for helping in the events of Breakfast/Dinner with the Principal!**

Xiaohua “Sarah” Hu (Co-VP Events & Volunteers)  
Xi Hua Li  
Fenfang Liu  
Lilan Mai  
Xiumin “Annie” Wang (PA Co-VP Events & Volunteers)

---



### **Dinner/Breakfast with the Principal**

Principal Newman is hosting a series of informal gatherings to meet with Tech parents and caregivers. These meetings are in-person and held in the principal's conference room.

This is your chance to hear Principal Newman's educational philosophy and learn more about our school. Parents can ask questions or just listen to questions from other parents.

No prior experience at PA events is required. Each session is limited to 25 seats. Accordingly, only one parent of each student will be permitted and proof of vaccination is required.

All seats have been reserved for the currently scheduled sessions. We're hoping Principal Newman's schedule will allow for some additional dates. Watch this space for updates.

---

### **September PA General Meeting**

The September PA general meeting took place on **Thursday, September 22 at 6 PM** in the Riggio Auditorium at BTHS.

The meeting was led by PA co-presidents Hamilton Cain and Mia Lu. Parent coordinator Mary Huhn was available for questions and Principal Newman joined by Zoom at the end of the meeting. Thank you to both of them.

The meeting minutes can be viewed [HERE](#).

---

### **Reminders**

**Blue Cards:** We need to have a digital blue card on file for every student. If you have not filled out the blue card, please do so **here**. Parents will not be able to access their NYC Schools Account without this. (And, that NYC SA will take some time to set up.)

**Lunch Form:** Everyone gets free lunch, however, our kids need to **fill out their lunch forms ASAP**, as it determines something far more important - Fee Waivers for SAT/ACT tests, College Applications and AP Exams. School Day PSAT and SAT are free for everyone. Every family has to fill this out every year. You can decide not to submit financial information, but please fill out and check that box.

**Students' Email:** Please go to the **BTHS.edu** website for information on how to set up student

email accounts. Use your **NYCStudents.net** account for information and schedules (see next item).

**Students' Schedules:** Your student should have received their schedules online. They are available through **Teach Hub** after they sign in with their NYCStudents.net account.

**Emergency Contact Information:** All families must update their info, in particular, their emergency contact information and student's health information, in the **NYC Schools Account**. This is different from the blue card, so we need full participation.

**Parents:** Because PupilPath is no longer used, you can follow your child's progress and grades on **the NYC Schools Account** (NYCSA). If you need need a creation code, please contact parent coordinator **MaryHuhn**. Please be patient, and Mary will get it for you.

**Gym Uniforms:** BTHS gear will be required for P.E. this year. Students can buy uniform items at the S.G.O. store on the 7th floor during the second week of school. Please wait for more information from your P.E. teacher.

---

## Shop to Donate

**The Tech PA benefits from the following vendors when you click through the links below or designate the PA as your charity.**

- Designate "Brooklyn Tech Parent Association" on **smile.amazon.com** as your charity or [click here](#) and a percentage of your purchases will automatically be donated to the Tech PA. Bookmark the page so whenever you shop, you're supporting Tech.
- Designate "Brooklyn Tech Parent Association" on your **Target RedCard**. Enroll your card in the "Take Charge of Education" program and Tech PA will receive a 1% contribution when you shop online and at all Target Stores.
- Shop at more than 2000 stores through **GoodShop** and **OneCause**. Choose "Brooklyn Tech Parent Association" as the school cause—the PA will receive donations at no additional cost to you.
- **Goodsearch** is a search engine run by Yahoo. Choose "Brooklyn Tech Parent Association" as the school cause and donations are made to the PA with every internet search.

---

Tech Talk Archives can be found [here](#).

*Co-Vice President of Communications: Lisa Marsh, Rachel Hall Danes  
Thanks to parent volunteers.*



Visit our  
Website



BTHS | 29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

[Unsubscribe knottingham@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:unsubscribe.knottingham@schools.nyc.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bypapresident@bths.edu](mailto:bypapresident@bths.edu) in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!