**PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES 2016-17**

**Bios & Statements**

**Co-Presidents**

**Imebet Blair-Carter,** parent to Saschael in 1102 and Tafari in 901. I currently share the Co-President position with Liza Murphy for the past 2 years. I served as an Advisory Parent while both my children were in MS, I served on the planning committee for both of my children’s 8th Grade Graduation, I was Corresponding Secretary for 2 years and act as backup to current Corresponding Secretary (in charge of Announcement), I have been the Coordinator for PT Conference for 5 years. I also participate in the annual student panels which is by far the most rewarding experience at ICE and there are many. I generally help out whenever and wherever I am needed.

**Liza Murphy**

I have served, with Imebet, as co-president of the ICE PTA for the past 2 school years.  Because I work full time and often have to travel, my involvement has been more "behind the scenes" than not.  I focus on 2 key elements: fundraising and written communications.  When the PTA and administration jointly create a budget, agreeing to a variety of new and establish expenses, I work to have the proper number of activities in place to ensure we raise the money that will cover those expenses.  In addition to that, I write most of the school-wide as well as individual letters that go to families from the PTA.  I introduced the practice of thanking donors for contributions, which sounds like a small thing, I know, but Imebet and I believe that acknowledging contributions will help keep them coming.  I keep a database of parents who are able and willing to create eblasts for communications and work with those parents to prepare and send out timely, and ideally engaging, eblasts.

**Vice Presidents**

**Annette Tacconelli,**

* **As ICE Construction & Beautify Committee** **Chairperson**, I have coordinated:
The development of the 518 Black Box Theater and the new ICE Sports Closet
Cleanup and organization of JD’s science storage room
Beginning of Academic Year Clean & Clear (approx 35 student & parents participate)
* **Photo & Senior Photos Chairperson** – (2 years in a row)
* Teacher Appreciation Day: free massages & group Tai Chi class
* Spring Fling: Live music bookings
* Summertime PTA exec planning: (2 years participation)

Upcoming projects: ICE darkroom, Exit Interviews with Senior families

I have also served as Grade Rep - hurray! An honorable and amazing duty!

**Lisa Bleyer**

**Patricia Janvier**

**Kemala Karmen**

**Co-Treasurers**

**Kirsti Craig**

**Andrea Santamaria**

**Cary Sanchez-Leguelinel**

Parent to Juliette 1002 and Isabelle 702, I have served as Co-Treasurer for the past 4 years and class parent for 601 in 2011 and 703 in 2012. I am nominating myself for the position of Co-Treasurer, to support Kirsti and Andrea, our wonderfully talented and dedicated Co-Treasurers, who have graciously volunteered for another year. I have also been asked to serve as PTA Recognition Award Coordinator.

**Co-Recording Secretary**

**Bridgett Davis**

Bridgett M. Davis is a novelist, essayist, teacher, filmmaker and curator. She is the author of Into The Go-Slow, published by Feminist Press and selected as a best book of 2014 by Salon, The San Francisco Chronicle, BookRiot, Bustle andThe Root, among others. Time Out New York named Davis one of 10 New York Authors to Read Right Now.

A professor at Baruch College, CUNY, she teaches Creative Writing and is Director of the Sidney Harman Writer-in- Residence Program; as mentor for the University’s Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, she facilitates writing workshops for female and minority faculty seeking to complete and publish their creative works.

**Astrid Reedy**

My name is Astrid Lewis Reedy. My daughter Zane is in 6th grade and has loved her first year at ICE. I am a graphic designer and textile designer and live in Brooklyn.

I was very active on the PS 321 PTA for 8 years where my 3 children attended school. I served on the Executive Committee for 2 years, first as VP Volunteer Recruitment then as VP Communications. My PTA contributions included designing the annual Poetry Journal, producing the annual fundraising Staff Concert, and co-chairing the Parents’ Diversity Committee. I also helped out designing flyers, posters, t-shirts, etc., as needed.

I enjoyed being involved in the PTA because it helped strengthen my connection to other parents, to the school administration and staff. I love the passion and energy I see in the ICE community and I look forward to an opportunity to serve on the ICE PTA in the coming year.

**Co-Corresponding Secretary**

**Meibell Contreras - (Website)**

My name is Meibell Contreras, I am a web developer, graduate in Computer Science in Venezuela. I have worked for several consulting companies, both in my native Venezuela and New York City. We moved to NYC 15 years ago.

I have two kids, Maya Delmont (7th grader) and Diego Delmont (6th grader in the fall 2016). We live in Harlem with my husband Sebastian Delmont who is also a computer scientist. We are strong believers in progressive education; our kids attended elementary school at CPE1, the oldest progressive public school in the city.

With the help of Nicky Lindeman (Designer) I created the ICE web site last year that I currently administer and update. As a member of the ICE PTA (Corresponding Secretary), I update the web site with events, announcements, calendars, etc. Besides that I created and administer the ICE talk mailing list and maintaining all grades emails account in mailchimp (during the summer before school starts). I want to represent 6th grade at the SLT because I understand how ICE works, I want to create an even better 6th grade experience, and even stronger school.

**Dawne Marx - (Announcements)**

**Grade Representatives**

**Meibell Contreras, 6th**

My name is Meibell Contreras, I am a web developer, graduate in Computer Science in Venezuela. I have worked for several consulting companies, both in my native Venezuela and New York City. We moved to NYC 15 years ago.

I have two kids, Maya Delmont (7th grader) and Diego Delmont (6th grader in the fall 2016). We live in Harlem with my husband Sebastian Delmont who is also a computer scientist. We are strong believers in progressive education; our kids attended elementary school at CPE1, the oldest progressive public school in the city.

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**Dianne Darbouze – 7th**

**Cynthia Copeland – 8th**

**Annette Tacconelli – 9th** (see above for bio)

**Emmanuelle Chiche – 10th**

**Brenda Hill – 11th**

My name is Brenda Hill and I am currently the grade rep for 10th grade. My son, Nemo, is in 10th grade, and my daughter Lena, is in 7th grade. I have been involved as an Advisory Parent or Grade Rep for the past four years. I appreciate all the work that the teachers do for our children, and like to be able to help out when I can. Being a grade rep helps me to keep in touch with the school and the PTA, and to be involved with my child's education.

**Irene Scarsella - 12th**

Irene Scarsella, currently an 11th grade parent. My daughter is Athena Foster in 1103. She has been an ICE student since the 6th grade. As an ICE parent, I have been a class parent 2 or 3 times and have been involved in a bunch of events and activities throughout my daughter's time at ICE ( especially during the middle school years: class trips, student panels, fair trade holiday fund raises, p/t conferences , and more). I know many of teachers, and 11th grade students as well as a handful of parents. I would be happy to be the 12th grade rep. during our kids last year at ICE.

**SLT Member(s)**

**Ilan Safit**

I am a father to a 6th grade student in Natalie Mack's advisory class, nominating myself to serve on the *School Leadership Team.* Currently holding the position of Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Pace University, I received my education in Philosophy, Literature, and Film Studies in Israel, the Netherlands, and the United States. An educator for close to 20 years, I taught a variety of courses in the fields of my academic expertise and also served for two years as a full-time high school English teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School, a faculty-run K-12 Waldorf school located in Manhattan's Upper East Side. In this former position as well as in my current position as a full-time faculty member at Pace, I gained important experience in facilitating and guiding the daily affairs of an educational community by participating in various administrative and executive committees. I hope to bring the lessons of my professional experience and my passion for education to ICE, a school and a community that are relatively new to me and my family, but that keep swelling our respect and admiration each day.

**Sarah Aucoin, SLT - incoming 6th grade parent**

Sarah Aucoin is the mother of a 7th grader (Artie) and an incoming 6th grader (Oscar) at ICE. She is the Chief of Education and Wildlife for New York City Parks and served as a member of the SLT at her son's elementary school for two years. In both her personal and professional lives, Sarah is committed to providing hands-on, experiential educational opportunities. As Deputy Director and then Director of the Urban Park Rangers for fifteen years, Sarah worked to link thousands of New Yorkers, including over 40,000 NYC school children each year, to City parks and to foster stewardship for our urban natural world through innovative, park-based education, mentoring, conservation and wildlife programs. As parents, Sarah and her husband, Brian, have sought out progressive schools and learning opportunities for their children, starting in pre-school and continuing through middle school, and have been committed and active members of each school community to which they have belonged. Sarah and her family live in the Bronx.

**Courtney McDowell, SLT - incoming 6th grade parent**

I am putting my name, Courtney McDowell, into the hat for SLT at ICE for the following reasons:

1) I enjoy thinking "big picture” about education and how learning happens.

2) I have not served on the SLT since my children were in First Grade at the Earth School, so I feel the need to contribute positively to ICE. Additionally, I will have two children at ICE next year, an incoming 6th Grader, Honey, and Desmond a 9th grader.

3) I have over fifteen years of experience working in public schools in NYC. In 2000, I co-founded and ran a non-profit that still brings mindfulness to public schools called Bent On Learning. For the past two years, I have taught full time in Harlem working with kids in grades K-3.

I really cherish NYC public schools and the communities they create—that’s the most important part of my bio…!

**Tania Zapata, SLT - incoming 6th grade parent**

My name is Tania Yaoska Zapata, sister of 7th grader Hillary Contreras and incoming 6th grader Eddy Contreras. I am 23 years old and currently residing in Brooklyn, NY. I graduated with honors and a Bachelor’s degree in Airport Management and a minor in Air Traffic Control from the exceptional Vaughn College of Aeronautics. I thoroughly love learning, teaching, and inspiring others and am looking for a way to continue giving back to the communities that have enriched my life. Since graduating, I have trained as an Air Traffic Controller and now work as a Sales Administrator for Strategic Financial Solutions, one of Crain’s 50 fastest growing companies in New York City, specializing in debt relief and financial consulting.

During the course of my education, I endured obstacles that I overcame through hard work, discipline, and positivity. That has given me a solid problem solving foundation with which to move forward. In my current position, I had a chance to aid in the restructuring of my Sales Support department to better fit with our growing company. From that, I learned how much I enjoy improving upon and implementing new systems so that the organization at hand can focus on the future of the company.

My background includes exceptional customer service, preparing business correspondence, processing reports and tracking sales progress. Prior to Strategic Financial Solutions, I was an Air Traffic Control Trainee where I provided Terminal air navigation to aircraft in domestic airspace, organize the flow of traffic in and out of the airport and using the correct phraseology and procedures to ensure adequate separation and safety of each flight. The task at hand required extreme attention to detail and being proactive. I also conducted research and gathered documentation in order to compile comprehensive reports to hand-off to the team.

As my passion evolved in the aviation field I always kept close my creative side. I would love to share that passion with the younger generation as many times aviation is a very well-kept secret. During high school I attended the HS of Fashion Industries where I worked in several medium of painting, collage, juxtaposition to name a few and developing black and white photographs. During my Junior year I was able to work in collaboration with “Allegri” and design a pair of boots and umbrella that was later displayed and sold at Saks Fifth Avenue. Art has given me a broad perspective that has allowed me to mix a creative and fun style with logical thinking.

There is a lot to experience in life and I feel that there is no better way than to open similar paths, cultivate and flourish the education of those who we serve as role models. As we thrive in our lives there is always those who has helped us flourish along the way. “For once you have tasted flight you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skywards, for there you have been and there you will long return”- Leonardo DaVinci.