

## **PTO Meeting December 11, 2013**

### **Principal Remarks:**

--Open House/Math Night --For math night, there will be a table for each grade level in the cafeteria with examples of the math the classes are doing. Parent volunteers will be needed for each grade to help man the stations.

The suggestion was made for next year to move the open house to earlier in the year and combine it with curriculum night. This change could be a good opportunity to raise people's awareness of the PTO and to get more people involved.

### **Fundraising—Lori Pescatore:**

--Craft fair: Turnout for the craft fair was lower than expected which was disappointing. The fair did well, but the final numbers aren't in yet.

--Annual drive: Going well—close to \$5,000 has been raised

--Raffle: Ends tomorrow

--Firefly Moon: Shopping tonight

--Coyote Moon: Many Peirce families went to the fundraising event

--Mrs. T made a very generous donation to the Principal's fund which can be carried over from year-to-year

### **Hospitality**

Cookie decorating this coming Friday

### **Science Garden, Landscaping—Dorothy Schuette**

--International Day will be on April 11

--Clean-up day was not very well-attended, but the people who did come worked very hard.

--Plantings will need to be done in the spring

--There are possible grant options, but volunteers would be needed to help maintain

--In general, the garden looks good, but more volunteers are needed.

A concern was raised about access to a first aid kit during evening school events where the nurse's office is locked.

The decision was made to keep a first aid kit, epi pen, etc. in the custodian's office since there is always a custodian at these events.

### **Teacher Representative—Alicia Coletti**

--An iTunes account has been set up for the iPad carts. All apps that are downloaded will be on all of the iPads.

--There was a question of what the budget will be for teachers to download apps (most of the apps are free, but sometimes there is a better version or better app that is not free.)

--Mrs. Hartley would like to use her budget for teachers to download apps.

--The suggestion was made to have each teacher start with a budget of \$10 and they can ask Mrs. Hartley if they need more money.

--The goal in Arlington is to have a 1:1 child-to-iPad ratio

--Colleen Flynn is the technical representative in the building

### **Community Outreach**

--The coat drive is still going, and it is doing well

--The turkey drive went well—20 turkeys and many side dishes were donated

### **General Discussion**

There was a great deal of discussion about how to encourage people to be involved in the PTO  
--It was suggested that people, especially parents who are new to the school, don't have a full awareness of how the money that the PTO raises is spent. People might feel as though they are always being asked for money without knowing the full scope and value of what the PTO provides (including money for teachers for their classrooms, field trips, 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, fun activities, etc.)

Suggestions for getting more people involved:

- Try to build on the sense of community
- Increase/improve visual presentation on the Peirce website
- Make a video about the PTO showing various activities. The video could be shown at the open house, and it could be put on the website
- Having parents who have been at Peirce for a while be advisors to new parents coming into the school
- Have more information going out about the committees to help generate interest
- Move the art show or other free events to earlier in the year