

**Peirce School**  
**Strive to shine: as a student, as a friend**  
**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2014**

**1) Co-Presidents' greeting - Amy Cooper, Emo Orrell**

Cookie Decorating was a huge success, thanks to Rachael Westover, Lori Pescatore, and the parents who baked the cookies.

**2) Principal's remarks - Karen Hartley**

**- Report on water damage over break**

Sometime Saturday PM one of our boilers gave out. Then, the computer that runs the boilers, for reasons unknown, shut down the second boiler. Pipes broke and there was a frozen waterfall coming out of the Park Ave. side of the building. A plumber was in on Sunday, and we were able to open Monday without any worries. But damages run in the tens of thousands of dollars. We will have to repaint. The library rug is drying out, but we may have to replace it if there's a risk of mold. (It's ten years old anyway.) The worst of the damage is in the reading room on the 2nd floor. Happily the district will pay for it. We also lost some 300 books. Other schools have offered to buy us some. A group of fifth graders has been making signs asking for donations of some of the favorite series that were lost.

**- Math Night/Open House**

Next Wednesday 1/15 from 6:30 to 7:30. Students will be able to show their families the math games they play in class, etc. Principal Hartley will be setting up in the cafeteria after lunch that day, if anyone is available to help out. The PTO could have a meet & greet table as well.

**3) Committee updates**

**a. Treasurer and Fundraising - Lori Pescatore**

Copies of the PTO budget were distributed. Lori notes that the Annual Fund Drive is steady. We received over \$1300 from school photos and about \$300 from the Box Tops program.

**b. Community Outreach - Jessica Callaghan**

Our Coats for Kids drive ends on Friday. No outreach planned for mid-winter. In the spring, we'll have our More Than Words, Cradles to Crayons, and electronics recycling day. Usually on Town Election Day, the first Saturday of April. Dorothy will see about scheduling.

**c. Hospitality - Erin Whalen**

Erin was absent. The Talent Show is our next big event.

**d. Enrichment - Jocelyn Willett, Sherri Bulmer**

- The kids loved the Rob Surette Hero Art program. Teachers like him too, and he has great messages. Very expensive, but we saved money on him this year.

- The Museum of Science does set programs for each grade level each year, so teachers can depend on them. MOS is also doing a bridge program for the second graders this year. The Aquarium is coming (in place of Mass Audubon). We have an owl program lined up. We will bring the teepee program back next year. There are also some new, free programs through Radio Disney.

**e. Library Enrichment - Jane Torregrossa**

Mrs. T was absent.

**f. Science Garden and Landscaping - Dorothy Schuette**

**g. Safe Routes - Flynn Monks, Mary Alice Vallarino**

Flynn and Mary Alice were absent. This Walk to School Wednesday was very cold!

**h. Teacher Representatives - Alicia Coletti, Daniela Hurley**

Ms. Coletti is out sick. No news or requests from the teachers.  
Each teacher now has a \$10 budget for iPad apps.

**4) How to help rebuild the library?**

Perhaps we could post a request on the A-List (Arlington community listserv) for donations of books and credits at the Book Rack. Also a notice in the newspaper. Mrs. T is compiling a list of the books we lost. It would be good to come up with a SignUp Genius type of wish list for these books, so we could avoid duplication and save Mrs. T having to field lots of inquiries about what's needed.

**5) Upcoming events**

**a. Talent Show**

Moved to January 24 (instead of 1/10, which was too soon after break)

**b. Pub Trivia Night**

Lori has other obligations in February, so she is moving Trivia Night to March or April instead. No kids at this event. It will be on a Friday or Saturday night at the Sons of Italy. Perhaps better to hold it in March before spring sports get underway. Lori is looking for help, especially with the raffle baskets. Each class will be given a theme, and room parents will coordinate the collection of the basket items. Krissie Delaney and Jessica offered to help assemble the baskets. Question of whether to allow teams, perhaps with random assignments. The trivia part will only be an hour or so, then time for mingling and raffle basket ticket sales (\$5). Maybe a silent auction.

**c. Read Across America**

Dorothy explained that Read Across America day is typically Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. This year 3/2 falls on a Sunday, so the official day is 3/3. Dorothy suggests we have our celebration during the last week of February (right after break) and the first week of March, rather than taking the whole month of March. The reading challenge was not as successful

last year. In a previous year, the kids had a trail of paper dragons, one for each book read, taped to the walls and circling through the school. But that was a fire hazard. Last year, we tried circling around library instead, but that wasn't as visible or exciting for the kids. Or maybe it was doing the same thing too many years in a row. So Dorothy is looking for new ideas for how we might celebrate and add some excitement. Do the teachers have any ideas of how to encourage reading? Also, do the teachers want to be involved, or would they rather have the parents run it all? Mrs. Hurley notes that contests usually generate a lot of excitement, e.g., which class can read the most, the reward of a PJ day. Another idea would be to have some sort of graphic that charts individual progress (e.g., moving a hot air balloon with the child's name on it across a giant map of US). Maybe something in the back lobby, something the kids can add to. The Read Across America site suggests incorporating Dr. Seuss into the celebration, but that's not as good for the older kids. Other years we've had guest readers during the first week of March – parents and community members e.g., Officer Hogan – but this involves scheduling and planning. Also, the kids already love their own teachers' own read-alouds, so a guest reader may not be that special to them. Maybe a group storytime in the cafeteria in PJs, coordinated with one of our Peirce Pride all-school assemblies.

**d. International Festival**

Set for Friday, April 11. Held every other year or so, International Night is an opportunity for the school community to showcase the diversity of our cultures. The potluck is always very successful and delicious. Sometimes we have hired performers, but students and family members have also performed. Dorothy will schedule a planning meeting some evening soon and announce it in the Wednesday e-mail bulletin.

**e. Electronics Recycling Drive**

**f. Art Show**

Scheduled for Friday, March 21. EMO and Emily Crandall are holding a planning meeting, with cocktails and munchies, on Friday 1/31 at 7 PM at EMO's house. In light of the second grade moon projects, Emily has suggested that the stage art be a moon landscape this year.

**g. Teacher Appreciation**

Krissie asks Mrs. Hurley to ask the teachers about their wish lists.

**Upcoming dates**

Fri. 1/10	Last day of Coats for Kids collection (bin by office) Peirce Pride Savings Bank (Fridays 7:45-8:15 AM, back lobby)
Mon. 1/13	Castle of Chess (Mondays 2:15-5:45 PM, room 121)
Tues. 1/14	Early release (1:00 PM); lunch will be served; Mrs. T's open

Wed. 1/15 Math Night/Open House (6:00-7:00 PM)

Mon. 1/20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no school; Mrs. T's closed

Fri. 1/24 Talent Show (6:30-8:00 PM, cafeteria)

Tues. 1/28 Early release (1:00 PM); lunch will be served; Mrs. T's open

Fri. 1/31 Planning meeting (w/ cocktails!) for Art Show (7:00 PM, Emo Orrell's house, 220 Forest St., RSVP to [emo1967@mac.com](mailto:emo1967@mac.com))

Wed. 2/5 Walk to School Wednesday

Wed. 2/12 PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 PM, library)

Mon. 2/17-Fri. 2/21 Presidents' Day; February break; no school; Mrs. T's closed

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